

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
201 N DIVISION AVENUE
POLO, IL 61064
Address Service Requested

Join us for online Worship
Sunday mornings at 9:00am!



February 7th 10:30am
Indoor Worship
Call for a reservation!


St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Church Phone: 815-946-2919
Email: stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net
Website: stmarkspolo.com
Reverend Terrie Wilder
Pastor's Phone: 815-677-3443
Email: tfwilder@gmail.com

FEBRUARY

2021

February 2021 St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Polo, Illinois 815/946-2919

E-mail: stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net Pastor Terrie Wilder: 815/677-3443 Website: stmarkspolo.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Pastor's Sabbath 9:00am Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	2 Pastor Text Study	3	4 10:00 Prayer Partners	5	6
7 9:00 Online Facebook worship 10:30 Indoor Worship – Call for a reservation	8 Pastor's Sabbath	9 Pastor Text Study Work Second Hand Rose February 9-13th	10	11 10:00 Prayer Partners 7:00pm Zoom Church Council meeting	12	13
14 9:00 Online Facebook worship No indoor worship Happy Valentine's Day!	15 Pastor's Sabbath	16 Pastor Text Study 9:00am Quilters	17 Ash Wednesday 4:00pm Online Facebook Worship	18 10:00 Prayer Partners Deadline to submit articles for March Newsletter	19	20
21 9:00 Online Facebook worship No indoor worship	22 Pastor's Sabbath	23 Pastor Text Study	24 Lent 4:00pm Online Facebook Worship	25 10:00 Prayer Partners	26	27
28 9:00 Online Facebook worship No indoor worship						



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL

LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

201 N. Division Avenue, Polo, IL 61064

Email: stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net

Church office for a message: 815-946-2919

Pastor Terrie Wilder: 815-677-3443

Mission statement: *St. Mark's ELCA is a community of believers who gather to hear God's Word in Christ; worshipping, serving, and proclaiming God's love for all people and the world.*

St. Mark's Annual Congregational Meeting is on hold at this time. We will be holding the meeting in the spring/summer when we are able to gather as a group.

Committee leaders! – Please still submit your annual reports to the office as soon as possible. We will produce the annual report now, but will hold to the meeting when we are able to.



Sunday, February 7th 10:30am

St. Mark's will have an indoor worship service.

Worship is limited to 30 people. Masks worn over the nose are mandatory and social distancing still applies. Please enter through the parking lot door.

Please call 815-946-2919 or email stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net to reserve your place.



Communion will be offered. This service is especially for those without computers or internet. If all goes well and the congregation is compliant, plans for worship indoor March 7th and 21st are possible.

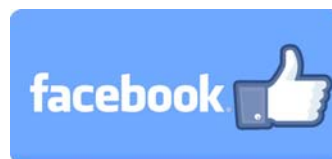
Join us for Worship on Facebook!

Sunday mornings at 9:00am

All you need to do is log on to St. Mark's Lutheran Church Polo Illinois Facebook page www.facebook.com/stmarkspolo. The website is open to the public.

Pastor Terrie will be doing a shortened message with a short sermon and then **offering communion for the community the first Sunday of the month only**. Have a piece of bread or a cracker handy along with juice or wine and we will share the Lord's Supper together virtually.

Pastor will continue to email worship on Saturday evening for Worship at home.



Welcome new members Kayla Hunt and Amelia Rosquist by private baptism.



Pastor's thoughts....

1 Peter 5:10-11

¹⁰*And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.* ¹¹*To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.*

Siblings in Christ,

1 Peter 5:10-11 has been my favorite bible verse since 2003. This was a year that so much of my life changed and consequently I entered ministry with you at St. Mark's. I arrived in Polo 14 years ago this month. 1 Peter has an important message; both for those who feel alienated from society and for those who find themselves comfortable within it. Many of the people to whom it was written lived as outsiders in their communities. Others had grown up in the area and knew the local culture well but had left the faith they were raised in to become Christians. Whether they were Jews who had become Christians, or foreigners who had moved into the area, or natives of another region who had converted to Christianity, they were regarded by the insiders as strangers, as other, and different. 1 Peter calls them to embrace their difference and live it out with total commitment, seeing it not as a disgrace, but as a priceless gift.

Our differences are gifts also just as is described in 1 Peter. We are all so uniquely different and this time of pandemic isolation has pointed this out in our society and in our personal lives. Yet as different as we may all be from one another in experience or circumstance, we are still of the same species; the human species.

Suffering is one experience that brings us together. When someone we know is suffering we rally around them. When we suffer, often, others rally around us. This last year has been a kind of suffering that tests us. We are tested to see if we can really *"love your (our) neighbors as ourselves"* Mark 12:31.

As 1 Peter writes: ¹⁰*"And after you have suffered for a little while"*, God of grace will restore you! God of grace will support and strengthen you! The God of grace will establish or firmly accept you! God is the power beyond all power who has called you to into God's own being through Jesus Christ!

In this verse of 1 Peter, there is the promise of God's love and faithfulness to us. In this, we find our faithfulness to God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁰*"And after you have suffered for a little while"* God will set us back on course. We may feel as though we have suffered a long while and wonder how much longer. In the historical timeline of the world, we are reminded that we are suffering for *"only a little while"* in order that we can keep each other and ourselves well.

Whether you are an outsider or an insider, no matter whether you feel as though you belong or not, the good news is that being loved, honored, and welcomed by God frees people to love, honor, and welcome others. Outcasts become family. Where divine love lives and grows, no one is a stranger, an outsider, or an alien. God's love creates a secure and lasting home for all.

Have hope. Have patience. Keep the faith! To God be the power, forever! Pastor Terrie

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December Finance Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
10,449	7,168	3,281

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If you would like a Devotional book for January, February, March please let Pastor or Lori know. One will be sent or dropped off at your home.

Lenten Services will be online beginning with Ash Wednesday February 17th. Wednesdays February 24th, March 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th also. All will be able to be seen at 4:00pm and beyond. The theme this year is “Created for Community.”

Ash Wednesday February 17th on Face book by 4:00pm

Created for Community: A Midweek Lenten Series

On Face book by 4:00pm each Wednesday

February 24th Week 1 - In community with creation

Mark 4:35-41 *Jesus calms a storm*

March 3rd Week 2 - In community with all the saints

Mark 9:2-8 *Jesus is in conversation with those who have gone before him*

March 10th Week 3 - In community with our neighbor

Mark 2:1-12 *A community comes together to bring a neighbor to Jesus*

March 17th Week 4 - In community with those on the margins

Mark 5:1-20 *Jesus crosses barriers to attend to those on the margins*

March 24th Week 5 - In community with Christ

Mark 10:32-45 *Jesus reminds us that we are walking the way of the cross*



May your Ash Wednesday be a time of reflection and promise.

LENT
WALKING WITH CHRIST

HANDMADE SCARF DRIVE

Handmade scarves of any kind needed!

Join us in helping Vicki Sauter collect handmade scarves for Romania!

Drop scarves off at St. Mark's and we will deliver them.

134 SCARVES FOR ROMANIA



- Handmade
- Crocheted
- Knitted
- Sewn
- Winter Fabric
- Neutral Colors

Benefits

THE KIDS & STAFF
AT POINT OF HOPE

Drop off at:
ACF Mission Office
416 E. Dover Rd.
Princeton, IL 61356
Tim: 815-303-1725
Pastor Vicki: 815-973-2819

#SHARETHEWARMTH 



ST. MARK'S SPECIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

December 28, 2020

I. Decision concerning the process of an Annual Congregational Meeting

According to St. Mark's current constitution and By Laws (page 20 Congregational Meetings B1.02) a meeting shall be held during January. A two week notice is to be given by mail and in worship (page 13 Congregation Meetings C10.03). Quorum is 10 percent of the congregation which is 30 (page 13 C10.04).

2 proposals for a solution:

- A. The council can override the constitution and recommend an Annual Meeting to be held in the spring or summer when everyone can gather outdoors or in a safer environment.
- B. The council can recommend a budget be proposed for a ballot vote by members and call another meeting as an annual meeting later in the year. This would include new council members voted on as well as a full book of written reports for review. Current council members are asked to serve until the meeting is held (page 14 Congregational Council C12.02).

If this is decided upon, a mailing will be done with proposed budget, paper ballot and cover letter January 7th. Ballots will be collected in the church parking lot, preferably in person, on a Saturday. Proxy ballots or absentee mailed ballots are not accepted according to the constitution (Page 13 C10.05).

Discussion ensued surrounding the two proposals. A motion was made to postpone the annual congregation meeting to a later date when the congregation can meet safely. Motion carried.

A Finance Committee will meet to create a proposed budget for 2021. Members of the committee include; Lisa, Lori Christen, Terry, Amanda, and Pastor. Committee will meet January 11, 2021 at 5 p.m.

Discussion surrounding resumption of in-person worship ensued. The Worship Team Committee will meet January 6, 2021 at 5 p.m. Members of the committee include: Toni, Kent, Merla, Pastor, and Cindy.

II. Declaration of changes at First State Bank Shannon/Polo

Along with updating check signers on our account, St. Mark's will need to decide who the "Owner of the Account" will be.

The council of St. Mark's Lutheran church is asking that Sara Thorngren be added as "Owner of the Account" at First State Bank Shannon/Polo.

A motion was made to name Sara Thorngren as the "Owner of the Account" at First State Bank Shannon/Polo. This was approved.

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2021 offering envelopes are available for pickup. Lori is usually in the office on Thursdays, but please call before making a special trip to pick yours up. If you need your offering envelope box delivered to you, please call Pastor (815-677-3443) or Lori (815-440-0561).

If you are interested in signing up for electronic giving in 2021 or adjusting your current donation amount, please contact Lori.

Council Highlights from the January Church Council Meeting

Correspondence: Pastor received a thank you note from Bill Hare regarding the recent \$525 donated from St. Mark's Lutheran Church members toward the Honduras Project. Pastor was notified that former Pastor Tetzlaff died in Christ January 8th. He served St. Mark's for 19 years. A motion was made and approved to donate \$50 in memory of Pastor Tetzlaff to the charity Homeward Bound of Western North Carolina.

Treasurer's Report: The church was blessed with generous donations from the Christmas envelopes. Income for the month of December was \$10,449 with expenses \$7,168 with a favorable balance of \$3,281 for the month. The Finance committee met to discuss and create a budget for 2021. Council approved the budget. Mission support offering on behalf of the church was discussed. It was decided to send \$375 (budgeted monthly allotment) to the Synod. Pastor reported that Renee Boyle and Lori Christen prepared the 2020 W2's and completed the paperwork for the second round of PPP (Paycheck Protection Program). Additionally, it was reported the annual report is nearly completed.

Pastor's Report and Worship Plans: Online worship continues as well as phone calls and cards being sent. The worship team met and proposed an indoor worship service on February 7th at 10:30 a.m. with a limit of 30 in attendance. Attendees must call the office and pre-register. Masks and social distancing would be required. An offering basket and communion cups will be on a table as they enter similar to outdoor parking lot worship. Cindy offered to sanitize surfaces in advance. The hymnals have been put away. If people are compliant, the team recommends the first and third Sundays in March allow the same worship format. Easter may have 3 services with registration this year. It was motioned to proceed with an indoor service on February 7th utilizing the outlined guidelines. Motion carried.

Hospitality: The team has been making intermittent wellness calls.

Polo Council of Churches: Scheduled to meet in February.

Property: The heating system at church has been erratic, but seems to be under control at this time, however the water pump has recommended to be replaced. One estimate has been received, \$1,500 for parts and \$500 for labor. Merla and Lisa will work to get 1-2 more estimates for the water pump replacement. Thank you to Oran Wilder for putting the nativity set away. Special thank you to Ryan Nelson for plowing out the church parking lot.

Old Business: Our annual meeting is pending. Outgoing members; Terry has indicated he will stay for another term, while Amanda and Cindy will continue to serve until they are replaced at the annual meeting.

New Business: The status of funeral services were discussed. The council recommended that if a funeral is conducted in the church, guidelines from IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health) and CDC (Center for Disease Control) should be observed.

Ways to Help Polo and Beyond:

- 1) Sending a check directly to the Polo Food Pantry 115 North Green Avenue .
- 2) Mailing cards to residents of care facilities is always a good idea:
Polo Rehab 703 E. Buffalo, Polo 61064 (Linda Scholl and Jessica Kimpel)
Pinecrest 414 S. Wesley Ave, Mt. Morris 60154 (Barb Bowen)
Provena Center 1372 Woodside Dr., Freeport 61032 (Hazel Pontnak)
Regency Healthcare 612 West. St. Sterling 61081 (Tammy Karrow and Trudy Karrow)
Wesley Willows Rockford 61103 (Sibyl Acker)
- 3) Make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response (if designated to a specific disaster, please indicate in the memo line):
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009
Give by phone Call 800-638-3522 to make a donation with a credit card. Operators are ready to assist you Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Central Time.
- 4) Continue sending offerings to St. Mark's by mail or dropping in the mail slot at the north front door.
THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ARE SENDING OFFERINGS



Where do Lutherans donate?

Lutheran World Relief

Founded by Lutherans in the United States at the end of World War II, grounded in Lutheran theology and building on decades of experience, Lutheran World Relief tackles global poverty by helping people adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being.

We work with people based on need, regardless of race, religion or nationality and we do not evangelize.

We provide aid in emergencies and help families restore their lives. We partner with communities to build and grow rural economies. We break the cycle of poverty, so families and communities can thrive.

Our goal is to help people build self-sufficiency and create new community-owned approaches to problem-solving that will last long after our projects end.

Visit www.lwr.org where you can shop for specific items to send to those in need or you are able to just donate money to be used where it is needed most.

ELCA

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its ministries depend on gifts from members like you. With your gifts, we are doing incredible things. We are opening doors to new communities of faith, helping people break the cycle of hunger and poverty, identifying and preparing future leaders, responding to disasters and emergencies, and so much more.

Your gift will be used to provide support for ELCA church wide ministries where it is needed most. You may also designate your gift for one or more of our church wide ministries by selecting from the menu.

<https://www.elca.org/>



We would love to have everyone on our email list for faster communication. If you need to be added to have changed your email please call the church office and leave a message or email the church at stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net

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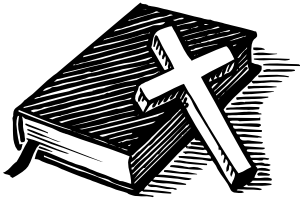
Happy Anniversary

Happy 70th Wedding Anniversary to Kenneth and Betty Obendorf on February 17th!
If you wish to send them a card, their address is 207 W. Colden, Polo, IL 61064.

New address for:
Ed & Marian Schnulle - #216
c/o The Meadows of Franklin Grove
510 N. State St.
Franklin Grove, IL 61031

Sympathies to the family of Gary Parke who died in Christ January 8th.

Thank you



Prayers for Healing: Brad Shippert **Prayers for those in care facilities:** Sibyl Acker, Barb Bowen, Tammy Karrow, Trudy Karrow, Jessica Kimpel, Hazel Pontnak, Jeanne Scholl, Linda Scholl, Ed and Marian Schnulle. **Prayers for those in military service:** Logan Albrecht, JJ Bardell, Bryan Connell, Dustin Knapp, Brad Reigle and Travis Roop

Birthdays

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

Anniversaries

1 Sandy Stahler
Kaci Hall
2 Jim Matznick
Abigail Yingling
Karen Fetterman
4 Cory Nelson
5 Pam Jenkins
Connor Lincoln
6 Kim Bowman
Deborah Slager
9 Alicia Garrett

11 Harold Folkers
Tim Rienstra
Amy Sikyta
15 Oran Wilder
16 Amanda Carroll
18 Alek Slager
19 Amy Schmidt
22 Barb Bowen
23 Mark Rienstra
Casey Thacker
24 Carter Merdian

5 Jay & Amy Schmidt
14 Stacy & Sara Morrison
17 Ken & Betty Obendorf

Obituary for Andrew J. Tetzlaff

Andrew John (“Andy”) Tetzlaff died on January 8, 2021, in New Albany, Indiana. Born on May 18, 1930 in Albion, Nebraska, he was 90 years old. He was preceded in death by Dora May (McGrew) Tetzlaff, his wife for almost sixty-six years.



Andy had a remarkable life, one which mirrored much of the American experience in the 20th Century: born on a small farm in the Midwest, losing that family farm in the Great Depression, being drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict, getting married to the love of his life, and raising six healthy children.

The child of Herman and Emma Lind Tetzlaff, Andy was one of six children: Oscar, Art (his twin brother), Velma, Elsie and Esther. He spent most of his young life in rural Nebraska and was from “strong German stock.”

Andy had vivid recollections of growing up during the Great Depression. His clearest memory from his childhood is “the first man in a suit” that he’d ever seen: the banker who came to repossess their farm. Without the family farm, they were forced to move to a tiny house in nearby Petersburg, Nebraska, where his mother raised chickens and grew vegetables in a struggle to feed their family. The challenging situation worsened when his father suddenly passed away; Andy was in junior high school at the time.

In 1946, while in high school, Andy was a passenger in a tragic car accident. Six people were in the car: the driver and three passengers died. One passenger was seriously injured. Andy, according to newspaper accounts at the time, was “cut and bruised.” The vehicle “hit the concrete abutment on the left-hand side of the road, after coming down a grade, and rolled down a ten-foot bank into a ravine.” In the brutal cold of a Nebraska winter in early February, Andy (then 16 years old) “crawled up the bank onto a gravel road to flag down a passing car.” For years, Andy would not speak of this accident to anyone. Only in his latter years did he discuss this tragedy.

Despite these challenges, Andy graduated from Petersburg High School and went on to college, getting his teaching degree from Nebraska State Teachers College at Kearney, Nebraska. He was soon working as a teacher.

Andy and Dora May met at a small school in Bartlett, Nebraska, where both were young teachers. As Dora May recounted it, she was teaching a music class when a “handsome stranger” walked in and joined in the singing. His beautiful voice – a hallmark during Andy’s entire life – was one of many things which captivated Dora May. They were soon dating; they married in Orleans, Nebraska, on March 1, 1952. Music remained a bond throughout their marriage as they performed together, he singing, she playing the piano.

Both continued teaching until Andy was drafted into the military. Andy served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict, retiring as a Sergeant. When he left the military, he felt a “calling” to become a minister and enrolled at the Seminary at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois.

Andy had a gift for preaching rivaled only by his gift for singing, and – after several “student pastor” assignments – was given his first parish shortly after graduation. He spent nearly ten years at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Altona, Illinois. In 1968, he accepted a calling at St. Marks Evangelical Lutheran Church in Polo, Illinois, where he preached until his retirement.

Their first children were twins, Jay and Sheila. Within just a few years, they had two more children, Stephanie and Jonathan, so they had four preschoolers simultaneously. In the following years, Clark and Andrew were

born. When Andrew started first grade, Dora May returned to teaching for many years, focusing in the Special Education area.

Struggling to support six children on a limited income, Andy and Dora May still managed to provide college educations for all. They were also able to plan for retirement by purchasing a small plot of land on Paulsen Lake in northwestern Wisconsin, paying cash from their meager savings. Over several years, with multiple eight-hour drives between Polo, Illinois, and Osceola, Wisconsin, they built what became known as “The Log Home” on the property, doing much of the labor themselves. They also had the invaluable assistance of Max Donaldson, the father-in-law of their daughter Sheila.

They lived in their beloved Log Home in Wisconsin for thirty years, the only home they ever owned. Their prior residences were rentals or parsonages. Andy worked as a Substitute Pastor during his many decades in Wisconsin, enjoying preaching in many churches throughout the northwestern part of that state.

For 13 years, Andy and Dora May were “snow birds” for several months each year in Mesa, Arizona. During the winter months, Andy was the pastor at a small church in a retirement community near Mesa.

Shortly after Dora May passed away in 2017, Andy moved to an assisted living facility in southern Indiana, near the home of his daughter, Sheila. Sheila’s tireless support during his final years was invaluable.

Andy was a man of strong opinions, and he expressed them openly over his lifetime. As a small-town minister in the rural Midwest, his vocal support in the 1960s for the ministry of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., was not always popular. Similarly, his strongly-expressed opposition to the Vietnam War and his support of campaigns to ban nuclear weapons were also controversial to some parishioners and townspeople.

Andy and Dora May vocally and financially supported minorities, Native Americans, the lesbian/gay community and others suffering injustice, discrimination or oppression.

Andy is survived by all six of his children, along with six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by Dora May, the love of his life during nearly sixty-six years of marriage; she passed away in February 2017. He is also preceded in death by all five of his siblings.

Andy and Dora May lived in Asheville, North Carolina, for four months in 2015-16 near their son Jonathan C. Tetzlaff. With their son, they were regular attendees at Asheville’s Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Because of risks related to COVID-19, no memorial service will be scheduled at present. In coming months, however, we will be establishing a date for such a service, which will be held at Grace Covenant. All will be welcome to attend and celebrate Andy’s life. The family would like to thank the skilled caregivers at The Villas at Guerin Woods, Georgetown, Indiana, for their care and dedication in Andy’s final years.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Homeward Bound of Western North Carolina (<https://homewardboundwnc.org/>) or any charity which helps the homeless, fights poverty or supports social justice.

