

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

201 N DIVISION AVENUE

POLO, IL 61064

Church Phone: 815-946-2919

Email: stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net

Website: stmarkspolo.com



2023

October 2023 St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Polo, Illinois (815) 946-2919

E-mail: stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net Website: stmarkspolo.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Children's Sunday School 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship 11:30-1:00 Confirmation 2:00 CROP Walk in Mt. Morris	2 Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	3	4	5 9:00 Constitution Meeting 10:00 Prayer Partners	6	7
8 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	9	10	11 7:00pm Church Council meeting at St. Mark's	12 10:00 Prayer Partners	13	14
15 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship 11:30-1:00 Confirmation	16	17 9:00am Quilters Work Second Hand Rose October 17-21 st	18	19 10:00 Prayer Partners	20	21
22 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	23	24 Deadline to submit articles for November Newsletter	25	26 10:00 Prayer Partners	27	28
29 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	30 5:00-6:30pm Community Meal at FUM	31				

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Tellers:</u> Melody Reap, Lorin & Joyce Gatz
October 1	Beth Wiegmann	Leo & Joan Rienstra		<u>Altar Guild:</u> Marilyn Nelson
October 8	Julie Hoak			
October 15	Tracey Anders	Becky Patterson		<u>Head Usher:</u> Marilyn Nelson
October 22	Trish Patterson			
October 29	Kent Anders			



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LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

201 N. Division Avenue, Polo, IL 61064

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Pastor Scott Ralston

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 Youth Sunday

Begins October 1st

9:00am-10:00am

Sunday School will be meeting the first Sunday of every month.

Ages 3 and up welcome!

We are looking for volunteers to help with this. There is a sign up sheet for 2 volunteers on the first Sunday of each month. All materials will be provided.

Join us and invite a friend!



Special Congregational Meeting November 5th

There will be a special congregational meeting on Sunday, November 5th following worship. This will be to approve changes made to our constitution so it can be ratified at our annual meeting in January. Copies with changes will be provided before the meeting for any questions.



Save the date!

Fall Supper November 4th

Watch for more details soon!



Chimney work began this week! Donavon Merriman and his team have started work to stabilize and cover the chimney as approved by our congregation. His initial inspection reported a small number of bricks in need of repair, along with discoloration on 5-6 feet of the chimney. Based on his experience, he estimates that the discoloration can lead to water damage within 3-5 years. This would require significantly higher repair costs. He also discovered the cap was cracked in multiple places. Weather permitting, work will continue on the stucco chimney covering.

Hello St. Mark's Lutheran,

Here we are deep into September. Football has begun in earnest. Jackets and scarves that had been stashed away are coming out again. Even an evening's ice cream is starting to be replaced by an occasional hot tea or cocoa, and a startling transformation grips the trees as their green leaves become gold, orange, and red in preparation for winter's embrace. What a beautiful time of year in God's great creation.

This week in church we had our combined service and it was awesome. I look forward to many more of those in our future. This week we talked about forgiveness and how important that is. I hope that wasn't too uncomfortable, but I also hope that I gave us all pause to really consider who in our lives we need to forgive and of whom we need to ask forgiveness.

I know it isn't always easy. But I think at the end of the day, forgiveness is an offering to God. And as we offer and receive forgiveness we honor God with those exchanges. A great comfort for me is that I'm never doing it alone. Christ in my life, the Holy Spirit in my life is guiding me and walking with me.

As we seek to know Christ more, we may find that our relationships can grow and develop in many ways like through asks of forgiveness "heaping coals on heads- making an offering", bible study, prayer, worship, and conversations with other believers. This month I hope we can all wrestle with the ideas of forgiveness and "who" Jesus is in our lives, and deepen our relationships along the way.

As our seasons change, as in our gospel we see Jesus beginning his movement toward the cross; let us take some time to offer and ask for forgiveness, think about who Jesus is, also considering for a moment that in the lives of the people around us (loved ones, co-workers, friends, and acquaintances) that we might be the only Christ they come to know. Beloved, Christ's calls u to love one another as He has loved us, and to truly forgive in these ways to become the best Christians we can be. Which is not only good for us, but good for our neighbors.

Autumn is a beautiful time to experience God's blessings and glory in the changing of the leaves, but perhaps the biggest blessings and changes of the season won't only be in the beautiful creation surrounding us, but will be in the lives of those we serve and love, and in us as well.

Peace and Blessings to you and yours,
Pastor Scott

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Confirmation Class dates:

October: 1st, 15th, 29th

November: 12th, 19th

Confirmation will be held after worship from 11:30-1:00 with lunch provided. Make sure to check the Team Reach app to stay up to date!

Confirmation Middle School Youth Retreat – November 17th -18th



Our middle school youth are planning to attend an overnight retreat at LOMC November 17-18th. This will be a fun event including worship, team building games, hiking, crafts, and dancing/karaoke. Please let Pastor or Renee Boyle know soon if you would like to attend or for more details!



Do you want to earn free tuition at Sauk?

Sauk Valley Community College has a program called IMPACT. By doing volunteer work, you can earn free tuition. St. Mark’s is now a Volunteer Partner so you can earn volunteer hours while serving your church.

For more information regarding SVCC's Impact Program, please email impact@svcc.edu or call (815) 835-6650 or visit www.svcc.edu/impact



Polo Community Council of Churches Meeting – July 25, 2023

PRESIDENT JEFF DAVIDSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM AT FAITH DISCOVERY CHURCH. THOSE ATTENDING WERE: MARLA BUSKOHL, PASTOR JOSH BROWN, DAVID POOLE, SHARON MILLER, MARILYN SCHWARTZ, PASTOR SUZANNE STOUT, MERLA BROOKS AND SUZANNE SORENSON.

DEVOTIONS WERE FROM THE PARABLE OF “SOWING OF THE SEEDS”.

SECRETARY’S MINUTES WERE READ AND APPROVED.

TREASURER’S REPORT SHOWED A BALANCE ON HAND OF \$1439.78. REPORT WAS APPROVED.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE’S:

SECOND HAND ROSE HAS HAD SLOW SUMMER SALES. THEY ARE ASKING FOR MEMBERS TO SAVE BANANA BOXES AND BRING THEM TO THE SHOP.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WAS HELD JUNE 5, 7, AND 9 WITH 7-14 CHILDREN ATTENDING EACH DAY. THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS AND COB FOR HOSTING AND ORGANIZING.

KIDZ CAFÉ SERVED A TOTAL OF 892 MEALS DURING JUNE AND JULY. EXPENSES WERE: \$3271.49 THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED SERVE AND GAVE DONATIONS.

LIFELINE PANTRY REPORTS THE FOOD TRUCK HAD DELIVERED FOOD BUT NUMBERS ARE INCREASING FOR GIVING OUT FOOD AND SUPPLIES. LISTS OF NEEDS ARE AVAILABLE, MONTHLY.

OUR TABLE, THE COMMUNITY MEAL, WILL RESUME IN AUGUST. FDC AND PINE CREEK CHURCHES WILL SERVE. HOURS ARE 5-6:30 EACH MONTH.

DURING TOWN AND COUNTRY DAYS IN JUNE, ST. MARK’S CHURCH MEMBERS HANDED OUT WATER AND VISITED WITH PEOPLE. THANKS FOR THEIR TIME AND TALENTS ON THIS PROJECT.

REMINDER TO CHECK THE SCHEDULE AS TO EACH CHURCH’S MONTH FOR VESPER SERVICES AT POLO REHAB.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD REGARDING THE SVCC IMPACT PROGRAM. THE GOAL FOR POLO IS \$600,000 TO COVER THE TUITION AND EXPENSES FOR INTERESTED STUDENTS TO ATTEND SVCC IN THE FUTURE. 25 VOLUNTEER HOURS ARE NEEDED FROM EACH STUDENT TO BE ACCEPTED.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE SEPTEMBER 26 AT ST. MARK’S LUTHERAN CHURCH AT 6:00 PM. (WINTER HOURS)

Secretary's Report - St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council

August 9, 2023 In person meeting

Members: Pastor Scott, Cindy Schryver, Renee Boyle, Steve Sorenson, Mary Calderon, Hailey Walker

Opening prayer – Steve Sorenson

Secretary's Report by Trish Patterson was reviewed and approved. Steve motioned to approve and Mary 2nd it.

Treasurer's Financial Report for July 2023: Neighbors in need was discussed and the St. Mark's money that is given out and received will be kept on a ledger on the outside of the envelope. The Honor system will be kept in place for this system. Hailey motioned to approve and Steve 2nd it.

The income from the ice cream social was \$741.00. The expenses were \$179.00. The \$562.00 that was left, \$500.00 went for the building fund and \$62.00 went for neighbors in need. Renee motioned to approve and Hailey 2nd it.

Committee Reports:

Pastor's Report: Pastor Scott: Polo Council of churches agrees to go together for neighbors in need. Vacation Bible School in Forreton went well. Pastor is going to PLC September 18-20. It is \$100 plus housing.

Finance (Lisa): No information available

Worship and Music (Trish): No information available

Hospitality (Hailey): Meeting August 10

Fellowship (Lisa): Potluck and Theater planned for Sept 17

Education Committee (Renee): Informal meeting planned for Sunday school kid's parents and ask for their input.

Memorial (Cindy): Nothing to report

Property (Steve): Tuckpointing quote estimate is 29,100. Pest control before tuck pointing needs to be done and is in planning process.

- \$4,500 rental of lift
- \$12,875 chimney
- \$10,945 grind and tuck pointing
- \$780 repair to cross

Paying for tuck pointing from church funds are

- \$12,000 building fund
- \$4,800 kitchen fund
- \$6,500 Handicap access
- \$5,000 undesignated

We also talked about another quote appointment for tuck pointing planned at 9:00am Saturday August 12, 2023.

Steve motioned to collect funds and Renee 2nd the motion.

Liaison committee: Nothing to report

New business: Schedule as August 27th congregational meeting to vote on tuck pointing.

Closing prayer: Pastor Scott

Next church council meeting Wednesday September 13, 2023. Steve motioned to adjourn and Renee 2nd.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting August 27, 2023 11:30 AM

Video power point given by Renee Boyle, church council president on the chimney & tuckpointing proposals. We had 33 people for the meeting so Renee called a quorum.

Donavon Merrimen from Mt. Morris, IL – stucco \$9700 chimney with lift rental for 1 month 7-10 days to complete. Tuckpointing \$2500-\$3500. They will do a full inspection of tuckpointing.

2nd Proposal – Simmons - \$29,700 for chimney & tuckpointing.

We have \$12,800 in the building fund account.

Start in approximately 3 weeks.

Council Recommendation: to use Donovan – chimney \$9700 and up to \$3500 for tuckpointing.

Motion by Joan Rienstra to approve using Donovan and 2nd by Steve Sorenson.

It was discussed to call 2 of Donovan's references to see how they are to work with.

Yes votes – 29 None opposed. Motion passes.

Minutes taken by Trish Patterson, council secretary

August Finance Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
8,564	7,885	678

Polo Community Meal

The next meal will be held
October 23rd, 2023.

Polo Lifeline Food Pantry Needs:

Sugar, canned fruit (except mixed fruit), lunch meat
Ketchup, juice boxes, coffee, tea bags, chicken noodle soup, cream of mushroom soup, cheese, syrup, any kind of meat.

If you would like a Devotional book for October, November, December please let the office know. One will be sent or dropped off at your home.

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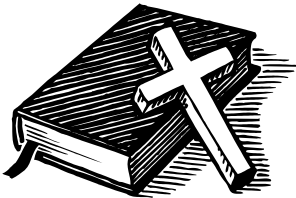
Thank you!

~ Thank you to all who attended and helped with our potluck with Faith Lutheran this month.

~ Thank you to all who helped with the funeral and luncheon for Bonnie Volz.

Sympathies to the family of Linda Scholl who died in Christ on September 11th. Graveside services were held.

Please let us know if someone needs a thank you.



Prayers for those in need of healing: Richard Hose, Shelby Hose, Tommy Knipple, Pat McPherson, Mary Ann Olson and Lyle Printz.

Those in care facilities: Sibyl Acker, Tammy Karrow, Jessica Kimpel and Marian Schnulle.

Those in Military service: Bryan Connell, Dustin Knapp, Brad Reigle and Travis Roop.

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Maycie Powell | 15 Richard Hose |
| 3 Betty Hook | 16 Kortney Heckman |
| 4 Brenner Bushman | 17 Carolyn Altenburg |
| Miles Bushman | 18 Don Nelson |
| Lexi Christen | 20 Michael Hecathorn |
| Aubrey Richardson | 22 Shirley Clayton |
| 5 Lydia Kelly | Karen Olsen |
| Marcia Printz | Andy Hinrichs |
| Randal Gabaldon II | Chloe Bartelt |
| 6 Cassandra Hinrichs | 23 Mason Peterson |
| 7 Brad Long | 24 Jeff Meyer |
| Julie Merdian | Suzanne Sorenson |
| 10 Michelle Gunder | Ian Slager |
| 11 Pam White | 25 Melanie Wyatt |
| 12 Renae Shrader | 26 Margery Immel |
| Karen Reap | 27 Samantha Hinrichs |
| Marian Schnulle | Tracey Anders |
| Westley Bauling | Jonathan Heath |
| Sarah Wiegmann | 28 Colten Meyer |
| 14 Trevin Woodin | Shauna Gipe |
| Barret Clothier | 29 Julie Albrecht |
| | Kimberly Barnhart |

Anniversaries

- 6 Lorin & Joyce Gatz
- 11 John & Pam White
- 12 Joe & Amy Merdian
- 20 Ed & Karen Olsen
- 23 Ryan & Robyn Nelson
- 26 Amanda & John Carroll
- 27 Oran & Terrie Wilder