

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
201 N DIVISION AVENUE  
POLO, IL 61064  
Church Phone: 815-946-2919  
Email: [stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net](mailto:stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net)  
Website: [stmarkspolo.com](http://stmarkspolo.com)

# February

## 2024



# February 2024 St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Polo, Illinois (815) 946-2919

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Work Second Hand Rose January 30 <sup>th</sup> - Feb 3 <sup>rd</sup>		<b>1</b> 10:00 Prayer Partners	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>9:00 Sunday School</b> 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Bowl/Food Drive	<b>5</b> Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:00pm Church Council meeting at St. Mark's	<b>8</b> 10:00 Prayer Partners	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship / Souper Bowl Sunday	<b>12</b> 5:00-6:30pm Community Meal at FUM	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>Worship 7:00pm in</b> <b>Forreston</b>	<b>15</b> 10:00 Prayer Partners	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship 11:30-1:00 Confirmation	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00am Quilters	<b>21</b> <b>Lent</b> <b>6:00 Supper</b> <b>6:30 Worship in Polo</b>	<b>22</b> 10:00 Prayer Partners  Deadline to submit articles for March Newsletter	<b>23</b> 4:30-7:30pm Brookville UM Church Fish Fry	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>6:00 Polo Service</b> <b>workers supper at St.</b> <b>Mark's</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Lent</b> <b>6:00 Supper</b> <b>6:30 Worship in</b> <b>Forreston</b>	<b>29</b> 10:00 Prayer Partners		

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<b><u>Tellers:</u></b> Evelyn Meyer, Linda Shank, Mark & Sandy Stahler
February 4	Beth Wiegmann	Merla Brooks		
February 11	Sandy Stahler			<b><u>Altar Guild:</u></b> Karen Gilbert & Joan Rienstra
February 18	Julie Hoak			<b><u>Head Usher:</u></b> Steve Sorenson
February 25	Amanda Carroll	Amanda Carroll		



# ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL

## LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

201 N. Division Avenue, Polo, IL 61064

Email: [stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net](mailto:stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net)

Church office: 815-946-2919

Website: [stmarkspolo.com](http://stmarkspolo.com)

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.*



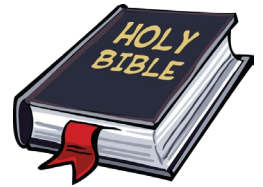
### Bible Bowl and Food Drive

**February 4<sup>th</sup> after worship**

\$6 for Pizza buffet and Salad Bar

Prizes: Trivia: Top 3 group and individual scores

Food Drive: Top group and individual by weight



RSVP not required but appreciated: [Lisa.hinrichs@gmail.com](mailto:Lisa.hinrichs@gmail.com) or 815-298-8009



### "Souper" Bowl Sunday is

**February 11<sup>th</sup>**

Bring cans of soup donations for the Polo Food Pantry.

Wear your favorite team shirt!



Below is our schedule for the season of Lent. We alternate weeks between Forreston and Polo. See the sign up sheet on the table at church if you would like to bring soup, sandwiches or dessert for our quick meals before Lent services.

Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14 <sup>th</sup> )	7:00 p.m. in Forreston (no meal)
Lent February 21 <sup>st</sup>	6:00 supper, 6:30 p.m. worship in Polo
Lent February 28 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 supper, 6:30 p.m. worship in Forreston
Lent March 6 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 supper, 6:30 p.m. worship in Polo
Lent March 13 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 supper, 6:30 p.m. worship in Forreston
Lent March 20 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 supper, 6:30 p.m. worship in Polo
Maundy Thursday (March 28 <sup>st</sup> )	7:00 p.m. in Polo (no meal)
Good Friday (March 29 <sup>th</sup> )	7:00 p.m. Community Service in Forreston
Easter Sunday (March 31 <sup>st</sup> )	Faith Lutheran Church 6:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. St. Mark's Lutheran Church 10:30 a.m.



*Pastor's thoughts ...*

Hello St. Mark's Lutheran,

Good morning, good evening, good afternoon, good night, whenever and wherever we got you today, welcome to another month held gently in the loving arms of God! First a quick shout out to all those joining in the reading the bible in a year challenge... keep it up! You are amazing! And for anyone who wants to participate there are more reading sheets available, and starting right now is a fine time to start (whether you read extra and catch up or finish next year when you started). Thinking of reading the bible, the recent gospel readings have me thinking about our call to discipleship. Beloved, we are all called to follow Jesus, to be disciples who learn and disciples who are sent. So, for our February newsletter here's some teaching and some questions to ponder.

Jesus taught that we need to abide in him, be connected to him, in order to bear fruit. A disciple who follows Jesus closely should be someone who is following closely enough that the "dust of his feet settles on our clothing." This relationship is a constantly enriching experience of growing in the goodness and glory of God. Are you nurturing this relationship? Is it life-giving and challenging? Discipleship begins here.

Who is your Paul or Priscilla in your life? A Paul or Priscilla is someone who is in a position to teach you, mentor you and show by their more mature or deeper understanding the ways of Jesus and the Kingdom of God. Some of the Pauls and Priscillas in my life are in heaven now, but they had a deep impact in shaping my faith and walk. Some of my Pauls and Priscillas are authors or preachers or podcast hosts who invest in me without knowing me personally. Who are you being mentored by? Who is investing in you? Who is causing you to grow in your faith and walk?

When the Apostle Paul came to faith, it was after he had done serious harm to followers of Jesus. He had them put in prison and worse. When believers heard that Paul had also become a believer in Christ, it is understandable that they doubted it. Paul had a difficult time meeting even the apostles. Finally, Barnabas met with Paul, befriended him, and through his position, introduced Paul to the other leaders of the church. Barnabas's name means, "son of encouragement." Do you have a friend in Christ, or a group of friends in Christ people who know your flaws, hold you accountable as equals in faith, and love you warts and all?

Lastly, Timothy was a young man who became a believer in Christ, who wanted to serve God, but didn't have someone in his life to invest in him. Paul took him under his wing, taught him, encouraged him and then sent him on important errands to put his learning into practice. Who are you pouring your life into? Who are you teaching to know and follow Christ? Who is the person or people you are leaving a legacy of faith with?

I encourage you to dive into those questions and see where the Holy Spirit leads you. I'm excited for another spiritually renewing Lent with all of you. Get ready because Ash Wednesday is just around the corner on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Praying God watch over you all and keep you in good health.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Scott

**St. Mark's Youth**  
**Sunday School**

**February 4<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00am-10:00am



**Quilters are looking for help!**  
The Quilters are looking for people to make quilt tops at home and bring them to church for us to assemble. We have fabric squares you can use. You do not need experience, we can teach you! If interested, contact Joyce Gatz.

**Confirmation Class dates:**

February: 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

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!

**Brookville UM Fish Fry & Bake Sale**

Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>

Serving 4:30-7:30pm

Adults \$15

Children ages 5-12 \$8.00

Children 4 & under FREE

Dine in or Carry out

Brookville UM Church, 17725 W. Chambers St. Polo, IL



**Polo Community Meal**

The next meal will be held February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at Faith United Methodist.

**Polo Lifeline Food Pantry Needs:**

Potatoes, sugar, toilet paper, coffee.

**If you would like a Devotional book for February and March, please let the office know. One will be sent or dropped off at your home.**

**December Finance Report**

Income	Expenses	Net Income
11,938	7,710	4,228

## **Minutes from the Polo Council of Churches Meeting November 28, 2023**

President Jeff Davidson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm on November 28, 2023 at Crossroads Church. Those attending were: Sharon Miller, David Poole, Suzanne Sorenson, Don Hay, Marilyn Schwartz, Merla Brooks, Marla Buskohl and John Barry.

Devotions for advent included a story for us to think about and giving thanks to God for understanding others.

Secretary report was approved as presented.

Treasurer Marilyn Schwartz gave a report on bills paid and deposits made since our last meeting. Balance on hand is \$1722.01. There is a concern regarding the current low balance in the account and the need to reimburse Pine Creek for the Christmas basket supplies. We will have more discussion at the January meeting. During December, Marilyn sent the yearly request for dues and paperwork to the churches. We hope to hear from each congregation for 2024.

Sharon Miller gave a report on Second Hand Rose stating it was a successful year of sales. The store plans to be open during the Christmas festival in December. Thanks to the volunteers and Sharon for their service to this worthwhile project in polo.

Lifeline food pantry served 107 families in November. Needs are toilet paper, cereal, sugar and snack foods. Monetary donations are always welcome.

Our Table will be December 11, 2023, which is the second Monday of the month. This will continue until June.

Vesper services are happening at Polo Rehab with Crossroads Church covering for December. St Mark's Lutheran Church will take the month of January in 2024.

Christmas baskets and Christmas star is being coordinated by Pine Creek Church. These are amazing programs for our community and thanks to all for your work and support.

New business:

Vacation bible school was discussed regarding a change in dates. More discussion to follow.

Pennies from Heaven: a majority vote passed the motion to set up a separate checking account with the name, Pennies From Heaven. A committee of Kathy Wragg (coordinator), Jeff Davidson, Marla Buskohl, Suzanne Stout, Don Hay and Marilyn Schwartz will be signatories on the paperwork. Two signatures will be required on each check. The guidelines have been given to each person attending the November 2023 meeting. This program will be in place to assist those in need under the direction of the above steering committee and coordinated by Kathy Wragg. The Polo Senior Center will have applications and area churches are encouraged to send those in need to Kathy Wragg during the hours of 9:00 and 2:00, Monday thru Friday. Phone number of Polo Senior Center is 815-946-3818.

Next meeting: January 23, 2024 at Church of the Brethren. Our winter time is 2:00 pm.

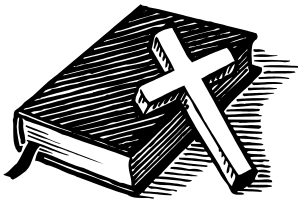
Secretary, Marla Buskohl

## Thank you!

- ~ Thank you to Cindy Schryver for making the lovely cards in the Free Cards box.
- ~ Thank you to Ryan Nelson for plowing our parking lot and to high schoolers Logan Nelson, Nolan Hahn, Jeffrey Donaldson, Mercer Mumford, Gage Zeigler for shoveling the sidewalks after our snow storms.
- ~ Thank you to all others that have helped to shovel, put out salt and keep our walkways clear of snow and ice.
- ~ Thank you to our confirmation students for taking down our Christmas decorations.
- ~ Thank you to Charlie Gall, Steve Sorenson and anyone else who helped when we discovered we had a gas leak.

“The Staff and Board of HOPE of Ogle County thank you for your support of victims of domestic violence. Your generous donation of two large bags of quilts is greatly appreciated! Community support like yours makes it possible for us to provide necessary services in a welcoming way to our clients.”

*Please let us know if someone needs a thank you.*



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

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

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

## February Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

1	Sandy Stahler	11	Harold Folkers
	Kaci Hall		Tim Rienstra
2	Abigail Yingling		Amy Sikyta
	Karen Fetterman	15	Oran Wilder
4	Cory Nelson	16	Amanda Carroll
5	Pam Jenkins	18	Alek Slager
	Connor Lincoln	19	Amy Schmidt
6	Kim Bowman	23	Mark Rienstra
	Deborah Slager		Casey Thacker
9	Alicia Garrett	24	Carter Merdian
	Merla Brooks		

### Anniversaries

5	Jay & Amy Schmidt
14	Stacy & Sara Morrison