

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!

July 5th & 19th - 9:00am
Parking Lot Worship
and Food Drive



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

July 

2020



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL

LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

201 N. Division Avenue, Polo, IL 61064

Email: stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net

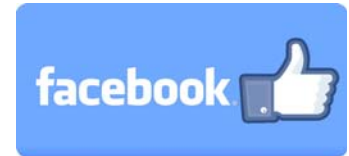
Church office for a message: 815-946-2919

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.*

Join us for Worship on Facebook!

Every Sunday at 9:00am



What you need to do is log on to St. Mark's Lutheran Church Polo Illinois Facebook page www.facebook.com/stmarkspolo . If you are already connected to the Facebook page, it will be easy. The website is open to the public so access should be easy. Pastor Terrie will be doing a shortened message with a short sermon and then **offering communion for the community of participants on June 7th**. 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.



Parking Lot Worship is Coming!

Sunday July 5th and July 19th at 9:00am

Beginning Sunday July 5th and after a 2 week distancing July 19th St. Mark's Re-opening Task Force and St. Mark's Church Council has recommended a plan suggested by the Ogle County Health Department, State guidelines and ELCA guidelines.



Here are the guidelines to follow:

Bring your own lawn chair. You MUST wear a mask

Do NOT come if you are not feeling well

No singing however music will be provided

An offering box will be provided. Bring food for the Food Drive

Communion will be with individual communion packages July 19th only. Sunday Facebook worship will continue.

Only attend if you feel safe

Fireworks Food Drive at St. Mark's

July 5th at Worship and Tuesday July 7th in the Parking Lot

• Shopping carts will be out to collect items July 5th at Worship

• Parking lot collection Tuesday July 7th 9:00-11:00am

These items are badly needed: **toilet paper, bread, flour, sugar, and mandarin oranges.**

Checks to the Polo Lifeline Pantry are always welcome



Pastor's Thoughts...

Jeremiah 28: 8-9 *8The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great realms. 9As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet."*

This passage from Jeremiah was included in our readings recently and I was overwhelmed how much the old world sounds like our world today. It is interesting how the "War, famine, and pestilence," prophesied by the ancient prophets, continue to be present with us today. We would prefer to listen to people speak of peace instead as in the days of Jeremiah.

We who have been baptized into Christ should welcome people who speak the truth and we should offer comfort to those who protest, to those who are fighting for justice as our baptismal vows tell us "to work for justice and peace." We should eagerly listen to those who working to educate us about the pandemic and we should support those who suffer in war, poverty, hunger and all the rest. But we are tired.....We are spoiled and because we are not sick, or black, or at war, or hungry, or poor, or oppressed.....we find it very difficult to listen to the truth of bad times as the prophet reveals.

We must remember that those who reveal the truth of all these current fears and injustices on the daily news feeds sound like Jeremiah. We cry out how long will the war, famine and pestilence surround us? Be reminded that the world of God is in all of this.

We are blessed to be in the faith of Jesus Christ a true prophet of God who is God. The truth in Christ saves us, turning us from sin to honesty, from death to real life, from despair to hope, from lies to love. Christ empowers us to face our foes and keep living in the hope that peace and justice will be restored

God bless you all and may God give you the patience and persistence that you need to live your faith, Pastor Terrie

Please let me know if you or anyone you know needs prayer or help...or both.

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St. Mark's May Financial Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
6,508	7,804	-1,296

June Projected Deficit: approximately \$2000

A huge thank you to those who have been mailing and dropping off your donations to the church! We greatly appreciate them to keep us going through this difficult time. Please continue to support St. Mark's! Offerings can be mailed, dropped off through the mail slot or brought to the parking lot worship on July 5th and 19th.

Thank you!!

If you would like a Devotional book for July, August and September, please let Pastor or Lori know. One will be sent or dropped off at your home.

Congratulations 8th Grade Graduates!

Nathaniel Yingling Ellia Escobar Alivia Schmidt Carter Merdian

Fundraiser Supper

Each summer St. Mark's has a fundraiser supper usually in August. This year Lisa Hinrichs will lead the supper and it will be changed to a Curb-side Pickup and Delivery supper. The date has not been selected yet. Watch for details and let Lisa know if you would like to donate money for the meat, donate other items and/or would like to help with the event. Lisa's number is (815) 298-8009.



Currently there a few things happening at St. Mark's:

- Confirmation students finishing 7th and 8th grades are meeting every Monday on Zoom for classes. Please pray for these 9 students as they complete their studies and prepare for confirmation. Those who finished 6th grade who would normally begin in the fall may be deferred for a while yet.
 - Prayer Partners meet on Thursday mornings with their own folding chairs and masks to pray. They meet in the parking lot shade at 10:00am and socially distance while praying for our congregation and the world.
 - Second Hand Rose has opened for business and Carol's Christmas Cupboard is also open.
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FREE FAITH ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

Check out the link below for Sparkhouse Family Sunday School for the bible lesson for music, activities and downloadable sheets to inspire faith in your home with your children! Scroll down for the lesson video and activities.

<https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/promos/family-sunday-school/>

Ways to Help Polo and Beyond:

- 1) Sending a check directly to the Polo Food Pantry 115 North Green Avenue .
- 2) The Polo United Methodist church is giving out “Grab and Go” lunch bags and can use monetary donations for Food Bank purchases. They are accepting checks made to: Kidz Café 702 E Dixon St Polo, Illinois 61064
- 3) 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)
Here is a list of residents that would benefit from receiving cards at the Polo Rehab Center:
Nancy B., Cecelia C., Joy F., Marjorie G., Shirley H., Grace M., and Betty W.
- 4) 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.
- 5) **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**



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

St. Mark's is looking for a new Treasurer!

After 7 years, Renee Boyle will be retiring from her treasurer duties. We would like to thank her for volunteering her time and doing an amazing job for so many years!



Please let Pastor Terrie know if you or someone you know would be interesting in taking on the Treasurer duties as soon as possible. Tasks include reconciling accounts monthly, reports for council and quarterly payroll tax. Lori Christen processes and pays the bills. Renee will be able to train and assist the new person.



Council Highlights from the June Church Council Meeting

Gathering: Thank you provided to Lisa Hinrichs for setting up WebEx meeting last month for the church council to meet remotely. Birthday wishes to Kent Anders June 11th and Lisa June 14th. Also 10th anniversary celebration to Sara and Scott Thorngren June 14th. Michelle Knight and Rev. Paul Gebo were married June 3rd. Michelle will graduate Wartburg Seminary next year.

Treasurer's Report: A copy of the May financials were provided. Income for the month of May was \$6,508 with expenses \$7,804 creating deficit of \$1,296.

Pastor set up a Zoom account due to the amount of meetings online from the pandemic for a monthly fee of \$14.99. Our Synod has a shortfall of \$20,000 and may lay off some people. Kent provided a motion to send \$400 to the Synod, second provided by Sara, motion carried.

May Treasurer's report was approved.

Worship & Hospitality: The Hospitality and Mission teams continues periodic phone calls to connect with the church family. The church directory is updated with new information. We continue to email and mail monthly church newsletters.

Education: A 6 week Zoom confirmation classes will begin next week with 9 students to complete their learning. A confirmation event will happen when we can invite more people which may even be in 2021. Sunday school and adult Bible study are on hold at this time.

Local and Global Mission: Committee will work on upcoming food drive in the month of July.

Fellowship: Discussion of holding a curbside & delivery roast beef dinner in August was held. Many voiced support in exploring the idea of making the dinner a possibility. Many volunteered to assist.

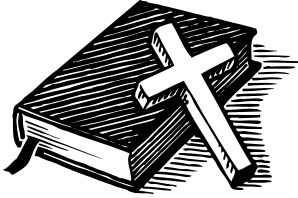
Property: Sara volunteered for cleaning the church and watering plants for the month of June. Merla requested assistance of volunteers to weed the church property.

150th Celebration: The celebration is on hold at this time. Thank you Merla for getting logo wear to everyone. Anyone interested in ordering any of the logo wear should contact Merla.

New Business: Pastor has a request to have the old paraments from St. Mark's altar guild to have 3 stoles made in various patchwork colors; one to keep at church for future leaders, one for Pastor Terrie, and one to present from St. Mark's at Michelle Knight's ordination next year. Pastor will cover the costs to have them made. A motion was provided and approved to have 3 stoles made from church paraments.

Thank you to Suzanne Sorenson, Charlie & Linda Gall, Kent Anders and Hailey Walker for helping trim bushes. The front of the church still has weeds that need pulling.

Congratulations to Vicar Michelle Knight and Reverend Paul Gebo who were married June 3rd in a private ceremony. The couple's new address is 640 Main Street, Stockton, Ill. 61085 for cards. Michelle will graduate Wartburg Seminary next year and contributions may be made to Wartburg. St. Mark's is called by our constitution to help seminarians that we sponsor.



Prayers for Healing: Erika Harshman, Kathy Mitchell

Prayers for those in care facilities: Barb Bowen, Tammy Karrow, Trudy Karrow, Jessica Kimpel, Hazel Pontnak and Linda Scholl.

Prayers for those in military service: Logan Albrecht, JJ Bardell, Kevin Calderone Jr., Bryan Connell, Dustin Knapp, Brad Reigle and Travis Roop.

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

3 Joey Bardell
4 Erika Decker
5 Tony Karrow
7 Travis Roop
Sydney Brown
10 Veronica Acker
Matt Slager
11 Rodney Garkey
Elsie Hackbarth
13 Hannah Grobe
14 Lyle Reap
Linda Shank
Yasmine Bargas
15 Brian Lopez
Josh Christen
16 Tom Suits
Paige Roop
Natalie Nelson
17 Joan Rienstra
19 Ashley White
Kevin Dyer
Mark Wooden

20 Robert Hoak
21 Tim Gipe
Robert Bargas, Jr.
22 Jerry Hose II
Grace Gabaldon
24 Jeanne Scholl
25 Pamela Lotz
Barb Grobe
26 Brady Bushman
Raymond Lopez
27 Lyle Grobe
28 Ellia Escobar
29 Kalah Mitchell
Pat McPherson
30 Larry Hackbarth
Amy Bardell
Kathy Toms
31 Kale Grobe
Kameron Grobe

Anniversaries

3 Leo & Joan Rienstra
5 Charles & Linda Gall
6 Andy & Lisa Hinrichs
8 Scott & Melanie Armstrong
11 Kenneth & Laurel Smith
Josh & Lori Christen
12 Mike & Kim Bowman
16 Sharon & James VanOosten
21 Brent & Beth Shipman
26 Cliff & Amy Bardell
27 Dan & Amanda Powell

The Fifteen Funniest Church Bulletin Bloopers!

1. The Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7:00. Please use the back door.
2. Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.
3. Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
4. Ushers will eat latecomers.
5. Don't let worry kill you off - let the church help.
6. Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
7. The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.
8. Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to the church secretary.
9. Potluck supper: prayer and medication to follow.
10. This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
11. A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
12. Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
13. The third verse of Blessed Assurance will be sung without musical accomplishment.
14. Announcement in a church bulletin for a National Prayer & Fasting Conference: "The cost for attending the Fasting & Prayer conference includes meals."
15. Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM . All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done.

