

**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!

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Projected indoor Worship  
November 15<sup>th</sup>.



**St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
Church Phone: 815-946-2919  
Email: [stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net](mailto:stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net)  
Website: [stmarkspolo.com](http://stmarkspolo.com)  
Reverend Terrie Wilder  
Pastor's Phone: 815-677-3443  
Email: [tfwilder@gmail.com](mailto:tfwilder@gmail.com)


**November**

A decorative border consisting of a row of colorful autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, yellow, and green.

**2020**

# **November 2020 St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Polo, Illinois 815/946-2919**

**E-mail: [stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net](mailto:stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net) Pastor Terrie Wilder: 815/677-3443 Website: stmarkspolo.com**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>9:00 Online Facebook worship</b>  No outdoor worship	<b>2</b> 9:00am Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	<b>3</b> Pastor Text Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10:00 Prayer Partners	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>9:00 Online Facebook worship</b>  No outdoor worship	<b>9</b> Pastor's Sabbath	<b>10</b> Pastor Text Study	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10:00 Prayer Partners 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>9:00 Online Facebook worship</b>  10:30 Projected indoor worship	<b>16</b> Pastor's Sabbath	<b>17</b> Pastor Text Study  9:00am Quilters	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10:00 Prayer Partners  <b>Deadline to submit                      articles for December                      Newsletter</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>9:00 Online Facebook worship</b>  10:30 Indoor worship	<b>23</b> Pastor's Sabbath	<b>24</b> Pastor Text Study  7:00pm Polo Council of Churches at Crossroads	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  <b>Happy Thanksgiving</b>  	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>9:00 Online Facebook worship</b>  10:30 Indoor worship	<b>30</b> Pastor's Sabbath	<b>December 1</b>  <b>Work Second Hand Rose                      December 1-5</b>				

**Head Usher**  
Merla Brooks

**Altar Guild**  
**Help Needed**

**TELLERS**  
Julie Hoak, Phyllis Dyer, Sharon VanOosten



# 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 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.*

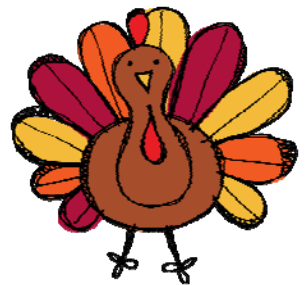
### **November 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> – no indoor OR outdoor worship.**

*We are hoping to start indoor worship November 15<sup>th</sup> as long as guidelines and council decision allow.*

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### **Polo Lifeline Food Pantry Thanksgiving Baskets**

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and we are once again asking for your help to ensure that every family has something to be grateful for. We are providing Thanksgiving turkeys and dinners to our families in need in Polo. Each turkey dinner cost is about \$16 per family. If you can sponsor a family or two please send your donation to Polo Lifeline 113 N Green Suite A , Polo IL 61064.



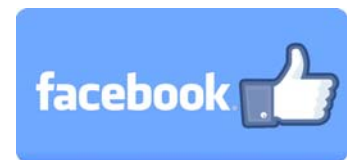
***Your generosity is greatly appreciated!!***

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### **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](http://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.**

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### ***Thank you for your offerings!***

We truly appreciate everyone who has mailed and dropped off donations to the church during this time of need. St. Mark's is doing our best to stay connected and are praying for a time when we can all safely meet in person again.

About Pastor Terrie

By now most of you have heard that I broke my ankle. So here’s what’s happened.

The morning of October 15<sup>th</sup> I had done my chores outdoors with the chickens, watered the flowers, put out some bird seed and turned to go in the house when the rain boots I was wearing slipped out from under me on a wet muddy, grassy incline and I was on the cold wet ground. My left boot took an unnatural direction and I was in trouble.

At the Emergency Room an x-ray showed that I clearly broke the fibula (smaller outside bone). October 22<sup>nd</sup> after Dr. and covid clearance I had surgery. A titanium plate and 7 screws put me back together again. Pain management was challenging however I got some good medication for which I am grateful!

So far, I’ve had 2 weeks to reflect on this challenge and in-between being grouchy and frustrated; mostly I have been in prayers of gratitude! I am so grateful for the skilled surgeon and staff, so grateful for pain medications, so grateful for the scooter, wheelchair, walker, boot, pillows and ice packs! I am so grateful for my husband pulling me up and setting me down and cooking for me and running errands and tolerating my grumpy moaning. I am so grateful for the phone calls, friends, family, cards and prayers. Thank you to my church family for your patience with me. Thank you for my renewed attitude of gratitude. Thank you God for healing my lame leg, my mind body and spirit.

Because of a covid year, I have worked to improve prayers by telephone. Please call for a prayer anytime. I would love to have a phone prayer with you anytime.

God bless us all with patience and deeper faith in these increasingly darker fall days.

Gratefully, Pastor Terrie



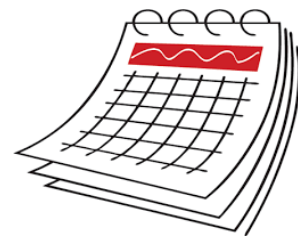
St Mark’s Schedule:

**Every Sunday in November:**

- 9:00am Online Facebook worship video
- 10:30am Indoor Worship at St. Mark’s (starting Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>)

**Thursday Mornings:**

- 10:00am Prayer partners in the Fellowship Hall



**November Tellers:** Julie Hoak, Phyllis Dyer, Sharon VanOosten

**November Altar Guild:** Help needed!

**Head Usher:** Merla Brooks



September Financial Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
6,475	7,251	-776

Pastor's thoughts....

**Psalm 46 (NRSV)**

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
- 3 though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.
- 6 The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- 7 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.
- 8 Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
- 9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.
- 10 "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth."
- 11 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

As I write, our national conversation seems like a roaring tumult, a crashing sea. Though I lean in one direction, I don't really fit in either "camp." I don't want to speak. I don't want to rock the boat. I don't want to alienate. But I want to do the right thing. I want to respond to God's call no matter the cost. The waves are not only around me, but within me. Where is my refuge? Where is my stronghold?

Here it is, in the Lord God who says to be still (or stop, or let it go). The Lord was a refuge for King David and for Martin Luther in even more tumultuous times. Why should I fear? I am called to spread God's Kingdom here on earth in word and deed, as is the whole church. When confused and fearful, perhaps it's best to retreat to the fortress, be still and know, let go of fear and anxiety and wait for direction. The enemy—who is left, right and all around—is overcome with truth and love.

**Prayer**

O God my fortress and refuge, free me from fear and grant me courage and wisdom to speak and act in truth and love according to your will. Amen.

You are all in my prayers, God bless you with peace, Pastor Terrie



**2020 PCCC Christmas Baskets**

This year, St. Mark's is responsible for donating 200 jars of grape or strawberry jelly. A sign up sheet is available at the back of the church. 3 volunteers from St. Mark's are also needed to help drop off, sort, pack and deliver baskets.

- December 10<sup>th</sup> 5:00-7:00pm: Drop off our donations to Faith Discovery
- December 11<sup>th</sup> 5:00-6:00pm: Sort & Pack at Faith Discovery
- December 12<sup>th</sup> 9:00am Delivery of baskets (Pickup available after 10am)



Questions, call Faith Discovery Church:  
Jeremy Heller 815-441-5986, Jan Martin 815-440-2561 or Calvin Carver 815-677-5832

## St. Mark's Quilters have been busy!!

Although we were unable to have Blessing of the Quilts this year, our Quilters were busy working from home. They recently donated 14 quilts to Focus House (Boy's home), 8 quilts to Hope of Ogle County (for battered men, women & children) and 14 quilts to PADs Shelter (for homeless women and children). We are thankful for these resourceful workers and all the people who donate sheets and other large pieces of fabric. We also thank Thrivent for the funds with which to purchase batting to place in the quilts to make them extra warm. You are all truly agents of God's kingdom.

The quilters' cupboard of completed quilts is now bare. If you would like to donate sheets or large pieces of fabric, they can always use them. Special thanks to Thrivent for the funds to purchase fill for the middle layer of the quilts and to the person who wrote the grant. Thank you to everyone who has designated St. Mark's as a recipient of their Thrivent dollars. And, if you would like to help restock the completed quilts cupboard, helpers are always welcome. They need people to cut fabric squares, tie knots and sew edges. Lots of the work can be done at home. Please consider sharing your time and talents with this beautiful ministry.

**When the recipients wrap up in the fabric of love that these Quilters have poured out, we all pray that they will feel the love of Christ.**

**Blessings Quilters! Everyone makes a difference, one stitch at a time.**



“We want to give a special THANK YOU message to the Community of Quilters at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Polo for their donation of {{BEAUTIFUL}} quilts for the youth at Focus House. These pictures are just a few of them...how amazing are these!! Thank you for thinking of our youth!” - **Focus House**

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

**Worship When We Gather Indoors**

The church council and Pastor Terrie are taking the health of our congregation very seriously and we do not want participate in the spread of Covid19. Therefore, because the numbers are higher now than in June, we are pulling back on our opening. At this time we are hoping to go indoors November 15<sup>th</sup>. That will be decided at the November 12<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

When we do, the following procedures will be in place:

- Masks will continue to be worn (extras will be available)
- Hand sanitizer will be available (You may also bring your own if you'd prefer.)
- Seating will be limited to every other pew. We ask that you limit seating in each pew to 2 people, observing social distancing, or 1 family per pew.
- The liturgy will be spoken, and, while there will be music, there will be no group singing.
- There will be disposable bulletins, no use of hymnals. Please take a bulletin from the table in the back of the church.
- We will have a place for you to leave offering envelopes.
- As you greet one another before and after worship, please refrain from hugs and handshakes except with members of your household.
- There will be communion during the worship service. Grape juice and wafer will be safely and individually packaged and picked up with your bulletin. Please dispose of your containers as you leave the building.
- If a participant who has attended a worship service tests positive, the Ogle County Health Department will be consulted
- All those participating, leaders or congregants, will be asked to not come if they have been in confirmed contact with someone who has COVID-19 within the last two weeks, they have a temperature, or they have traveled out of state in the last two weeks
- Participants will be asked to not linger and mingle after the service but quickly disperse in an instructed fashion by row entered.



All members are encouraged to consider their own situation and risk status before deciding when to return to worship or other gatherings in the building. **Our worshipping community will continue to include an active online video for the foreseeable future.** We will continue to serve members of the St. Mark's family who cannot be with us physically, so we will strive to make our virtual presence deeper and richer.

Finally, there is always the risk that we will need to move quickly to a fully online community again if there is an outbreak. Please stay connected with our Face book page, website, and provide an email for those announcements.



**Church Council did not meet in October**

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

- Prayer Partners meet on Thursday mornings at 10:00am. With the weather cooling down, we have moved inside to the fellowship hall while still wearing masks and social distancing. Join us if you are comfortable while we pray for our congregation and the world.
- Second Hand Rose has opened for business and Carol's Christmas Cupboard is also open.

*Children and adult Sunday school is on hold at this time.*

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**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)



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.

- 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**



**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/>

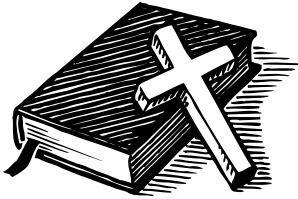


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We would love to have everyone on our email list for faster communication. If you need to be added or have changed your email please call the church office and leave a message or email the church at [stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net](mailto:stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net)



## Thank you

Thank you St. Mark's family and friends for all the donations of sweat pants, hoodies and coats that were collected and delivered to Miss Carly's in Rockford.



Reigle and Travis Roop

**Prayers for Healing:** Kent Anders, Lyle Reap, Lyle Printz, Shelby Jean and Richard Hose, Karla Gipe and Brad Shippert **Prayers for those in care facilities:** Sibyl Acker, Barb Bowen, Lois Garman, Tammy Karrow, Trudy Karrow, Jessica Kimpel, Hazel Pontnak, Jeanne Scholl and Linda Scholl. **Prayers for those in military service:** Logan Albrecht, JJ Bardell, Bryan Connell, Dustin Knapp, Brad

### November Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### Birthdays

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 2 Carol Garkey<br>Stacy Morrison            | 11 Paige Peterson                    |
| 3 Hazel Pontnak                             | 12 Michael Ambeau                    |
| 4 Julie Acker<br>Lucas Bender<br>Joyce Gatz | 13 Darlene Barnhart                  |
| 5 Gracie Bailey                             | 15 Andrea Mullens                    |
| 7 William Hoak<br>Mary Jane Wagner          | 20 Scott Thorngren                   |
| 9 Dan Nelson<br>Logan Albrecht              | 23 Hurley Boothe                     |
|   | 25 JoDee Bardell                     |
|   | 29 Kent Sorenson                     |
|   | 30 ReAnne Kurschner<br>Parker Wolber |

#### Anniversaries

- |   |
|---|
| 8 Randy & Dawn Mitchell                                   |
| 22 Aaron & Melissa Johnson                                |
| 23 Ken & Jennifer Yingling                                |
| 26 Richard & Shelby Jean Hose<br>Michael & Cindy Sullivan |

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## Christmas Poinsettia Orders

Anyone wishing to have a poinsettia in the church in memory of a loved one or wishing to present a poinsettia to the church for Christmas, please fill out the below form. Please mail or bring to the church office by Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the poinsettia is \$13.50. If you are planning on buying a poinsettia elsewhere for the church, we would still like for you to fill out the information and return it to the church office. Thank you.

Message for church bulletin:

“Presented to the church to the Glory of God by \_\_\_\_\_

OR

“Presented in loving memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Are you ordering through the church? YES / NO

**Please make checks payable to “St. Mark’s”**



[www.LOMC.org](http://www.LOMC.org)

## Below are a few upcoming activities at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center in Oregon, IL.

### Household Getaways At LOMC

LOMC offers households a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a safer place to relax, reflect, pray and bond as a household. Household Getaways are designed for 4-6 people with a 2-night stay at either our modern Freedom Tree Village or comfortable Retreat Cabins with bunks. Experience beautiful LOMC and Oregon, IL in all seasons. Special rates are currently available for a limited time. Visit [www.LOMC.org](http://www.LOMC.org) for details.



### LOMC 5K Benefit

In this extraordinary challenge brought on by the pandemic, LOMC is raising funds to continue this vital ministry. Over 70 families have enjoyed the space and place to distance themselves from COVID-19 and regroup as a household. Help LOMC continue to provide a safer place for small group and families to experience the Word and world of God. Over 30 teams and sponsors are running/walking on Nov. 1 and you will make a difference to LOMC and outdoor ministry. LOMC in Oregon, IL welcomes your help in raising over \$12,000 by visiting [www.LOMC.org](http://www.LOMC.org) to make a donation.



### RETREAT (Together) for Small Groups

LOMC has designed a safer experience for small groups to retreat in the outdoors. Bible study, prayer, planning and other retreats are available for your small group of children, youth, adults or families. Comfortable modern facilities with individual rooms and bathrooms in Freedom Tree Village and safer Retreat Cabins (with bunks using reduced capacity limits) can host your event. LOMC in Oregon, IL hosts groups of all kinds throughout the year. Visit [www.LOMC.org](http://www.LOMC.org) to find out more about our RETREAT (Together) experience today.



### Donate To LOMC

Since the pandemic, LOMC cancelled summer camps and has seen 70-80% less guests. Despite receiving donations and a PPP loan in late spring, funds are quickly being depleted as we keep LOMC a vital place of safer ministry together. Your help has never been needed more to keep facilities cared for, grounds tended to, bills paid and staff on payroll. Without help from many sources, LOMC will need to make decisions that will limit the ministry greatly. Visit [www.LOMC.org](http://www.LOMC.org) to find ways to help from Thrivent members to AmazonSmile and financial donations.