

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)

March

2024



He is Risen

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

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> <b>9:00 Sunday School</b> 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship 11:30-1:00 Confirmation 11:30-1:00 Sundaes at Senior Center	<b>4</b> Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	<b>5</b> Work Second Hand Rose March 5 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6</b> <b>Lent</b> <b>6:00 Supper</b> <b>6:30 Worship in Polo</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00 Prayer Partners	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	<b>11</b> 5:00-6:30pm Community Meal at FUM	<b>12</b> 7:00pm Church Council meeting at St. Mark's	<b>13</b> <b>Lent</b> <b>6:00 Supper</b> <b>6:30 Worship in Forreston</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00 Prayer Partners	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Congregational Resourcing Event at Sauk</b>
<b>17</b> 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship 11:30-1:00 Confirmation <b>Wear a hat/cap to church!</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00am Quilters	<b>20</b> <b>Lent</b> <b>6:00 Supper</b> <b>6:30 Worship in Polo</b>	<b>21</b> 10:00 Prayer Partners  Deadline to submit articles for April Newsletter	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00 Prayer Partners <b>7:00 Maundy Thursday worship in Polo</b>	<b>29</b> <b>7:00 Good Friday Worship in Forreston</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>Easter</b> 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship						

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Tellers:</u> Julie Hoak, Phyllis Dyer, Sharon VanOosten
March 3	Cliff Bardell			
March 10	Tracey Anders			<u>Altar Guild:</u> Carol Suits
March 17	Lisa Hinrichs			<u>Head Usher:</u> Hailey Walker
March 24	Kent Anders			
March 31	Beth Wiegmann	Easter Lilies		



# ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL

## LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

201 N. Division Avenue, Polo, IL 61064

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Pastor Scott Ralston

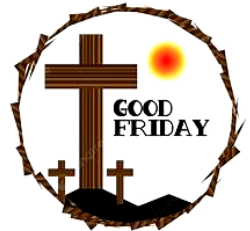
Mission statement: *St. Mark's ELCA is a community of believers who gather to hear God's Word in Christ; worshipping, serving, and proclaiming God's love for all people and the world.*



Maundy Thursday

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.

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.




Our offerings collected during Lent this year will go to LOMC to sponsor our confirmation kids.

Alleluia  
He is  
Risen



### March Madness Food Collection "Use Your Noodle" to help fight hunger! March 17<sup>th</sup> – wear a hat/cap to church!

I  pasta The Polo Food Pantry is in desperate need of many things at this time. During March, we are challenging St. Mark's to "use your noodle" to help fight hunger. Lets see how many noodle items we can collect! It can be bags/boxes of pasta, mac & cheese, Ramen noodles, cups of noodle soups, cans of Spaghetti-O's, Beef-A-Roni, etc. **On March 17<sup>th</sup>, use your noodle and wear your best hat or cap to church! It can be silly or sophisticated!**



Hello St. Mark's Family-

Welcome to the beginning of Lent. Now a lot of people believe Lent is a time when we give something up. It really is much more than that, it's a time for spiritual discipline, a time for growing in our faith, a time to remember all that our Lord has done for us and to consider what we can do in response. Beloved, we know it is not a requirement that we Give Something Up for Lent, but some people do take Lent as an opportunity to practice some mental, physical, or spiritual discipline which can be a very healthy pursuit. Now what if instead of giving something up, we found some things to focus on.

-Focus on giving thanks, "In everything give thanks." That said real people have issues, lamenting is understandable. Try to find ways to give thanks as a discipline this Lent.

-Take time in prayer, Bible study and devotions. Try getting up 15 minutes earlier and take time to build your relationship with God through prayer and devotion!

-Concentrate on people's best points. We all have faults. It is a lot easier to have people see us in a better light when we overlook theirs first.

-Let your speech be generous and understanding. It costs so little to say something kind and uplifting. Why not check that sharp tongue at the door?

-Work on building up the discipline of love. "Love covers a multitude of sins."

-Trust God with your struggles. Anxiety is spending emotional energy on something we can do nothing about: like tomorrow! Live today and let God's grace be sufficient.

-Make some time to volunteer at your local food pantry or spend some time serving at a nearby soup kitchen. Time in service positively affects you and the community.

-Give one evening a week to visit some lonely or sick person. Why isolate yourself in front of the "tv, phone, etc." Give someone a precious gift: your time!

Whatever you decide to do, whether you "give something up" or not, I pray your Lenten journey lead you to new insights, strengthening and deepening your relationship with our precious Savior. Beloved, God desires a relationship with you beyond Sunday morning, a relationship that becomes the foundation of all that we are... and I hope you find that and more.

Have a truly blessed Lent,  
Pastor Scott



**A volunteer is needed for April Altar Guild!**

Please let the office know if you are able to help even for part of the month.

We can teach anyone how to do this!



**St. Mark's Youth**

**Sunday School**

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

9:00am-10:00am



**Confirmation Class dates:**

March: 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<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!

**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.

**Polo Community Meal**  
The next meal will be held March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at Faith United Methodist.

**Polo Lifeline Food Pantry Needs:**  
Tuna, coffee, eggs, juice, cheese slices, ketchup, mayonnaise, sugar, flour.

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



January Finance Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
7,195	8,276	-1,080

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
Council Minutes December 13, 2023**

**Members:** Pastor Scott, Renee, Cindy, Mary, Lisa, Hailey, and Steve

**Opening prayer** – Steve Sorenson

**Treasurer's Report:** Memorials from Bonnie Volz and Ed & Lola for \$1200. Reviewed actual numbers compared to previous year and all agreed that the. Cindy motioned to approve, Steve seconded.

**Committee Reports:**

**Pastor's report:** Shut ins are all up to date. Central conference meeting, music planning with Cheryl. Confirmation going well. Looking for donations for shut in gift packets.

**Finance (Lisa):** Reviewed 2024 budget and areas that are increasing as well as areas that should decrease. We were able to maintain a balanced budget for 2024 with the proposed changes.

**Education committee (Renee):** Confirmation on a break and will resume in January.

**Property:** recycle dehumidifiers. Steve donated one, need another donation.

**Liaison committee:** Reviewed Yoking agreement and made a few recommendations for changes.

**Closing prayer:** Pastor Scott

**The council went into a closed session to review and approve Pastor's 2024 salary package.**

**Next church council meeting Wednesday, January 10, 2024. Lisa motioned to adjourn and Cindy 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
Council Minutes**

January 9, 2023 7:00 p.m. – Via Zoom

**Members:** Renee Boyle, Steve Sorenson, Cindy Schryver, Hailey Walker, Trish Patterson & Lisa Hinrichs all present. Mary Calderon and Hailey Walker not present.

**Attendance and Quorum:** declared by Renee Boyle

**Opening Prayer** – by Pastor Scott

**Secretary's Report:** provided by Trish Patterson - Nov meeting - Lisa moves we accept the secretary's report, Renee 2<sup>nd</sup>. - Approved

**Treasurer's Financial Report:** provided by Lori Christen - Trish moves to accept the treasurer's report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lisa. Approved

**Old Business:**

- Nominations for 2024 council - final nominations due – Cindy is working on trying to get ahold of a couple of people.
- 2024 Budget – discussion by Renee and Lisa to the council. Steve moves to approve the 2024 budget. Trish 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- 2024 Yoking Agreement - Steve moves to approve the yoking agreement. Renee 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**New Business:**

- Annual Report preparation - committee reports due to Lori by tomorrow! – talked about annual meeting agenda
- Donation to Council of Churches – we need to send in our 2024 donation. It is \$100. We never sent in for 2023. – Lisa moves we pay a total of 303.00 for 2023/2024. 100.00 for 2023. 100 for 2024 and 103.00 from neighbors in need will go to council of churches. Steve 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Pastor's Report** – He did see everyone in December.
- **Worship & Music (Trish)** – They will meet in March
- **Property (Steve)** – review terms for Dec and Jan re: thermostat. Repair gas leak this week. It is up to Nicor. The parsonage has a wire hanging down. Not fixed yet. Property management company to look at it. Frontier issue.

**Next meeting:** Congregational Meeting - Sunday, January 28th after worship

Wednesday, February 14th - Renee out of town and it is Ash Wednesday. Move to Wed. 2/7. Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

Closing prayer by Pastor Scott

**Vote to Adjourn Meeting** – Renee motion to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trish. Adjourned meeting at 8:15 PM

Submitted by: Trish Patterson

# St. Mark's Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2024

- 11:35 M: Meeting led by Renee Boyle, Church Council President.
  - Opening prayer by Pastor Scott.
  - Renee declared a quorum, 41 people present.
  - Motion to approve the agenda by Cliff Bardell. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tracey Anders.
  - Nominating Committee – nobody offered to be on this committee.
- 2024 Synod Delegates, June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Hailey Walker and Merla Brooks offered to go. Motion by Tracey Anders to approve Hailey and Merla go to the Synod meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kent Anders. Motion passes.
- Hailey Walker and Cindy Schryver will continue to be on the church council for a 2 year term. This was done by a ballot given out to each member to vote. There is one position open.
  - Secretary's Report – motion to approve Secretary's report by Tracey Anders. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lisa Hinrichs. Motion passes.
  - Financial Reports – Lisa Hinrichs talked to congregation. Motion to approve the Financial reports by Hailey Walker. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Charlie Gall. Motion passes.
  - Committee and Organization Reports pages 9-14.
- Page 14 is the Liaison Committee report and Yoking Summary. Lisa Hinrichs talked about this. We re-adjusted the joint services dates. Starting church time for Lenten services will be 6:30 PM, not 7:00 PM.
- Motion to approve the Yoking Summary shared Pastor agreement by Don Nelson. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cliff Bardell. Motion passes.
  - Constitution/By-Laws – motion to approve the changes to the constitution by Lisa Hinrichs. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trish Patterson. Motion passes.
  - Pastor motions to adjourn the meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Gall. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Submitted by Trish Patterson

**Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Merla Brooks on February 9<sup>th</sup>!**

**Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Harold Folkers on February 11<sup>th</sup>!**

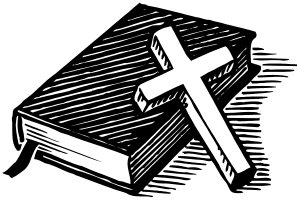
*Thank you!*

~ Thank you to all who joined us for our Bible Bowl and special thank you to Lisa Hinrichs for planning it. We collected 121 lbs of food and \$185 to donate to the Polo Food Pantry!

~ Thank you to all who donated soup last week for our Souper Bowl food drive. We collected and donated 150 cans to the Polo Food Pantry! Thank you to Chelsea, Kent, Tracey, Hailey & Charlie who helped count, bag, load and deliver all the cans!

~ Thank you to Chelsea Schryver for updating our children's activity bags and putting them in our pews.

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



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

**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.

### **March Birthdays & Anniversaries**

#### **Birthdays**

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Ashley Nelson   | 17 Marco Powell    |
| 3 Nathan Groth    | 18 Lori Wolber     |
| 4 Cassie Mekeel   | 19 Mary Ann Olson  |
| 5 Matt Rienstra   | Beulah Nelson      |
| 6 Brian Suits     | Bob Mitchell       |
| 7 Laura Lopez     | 20 Joyce Folkers   |
| Levi McBride      | Nathan White       |
| 8 Ron Shuman      | 21 Sandra Woodin   |
| 10 Beth Wiegmann  | 23 Marcia Barnhart |
| Jenny Baker       | Hunter Barnhart    |
| 11 Mark Boyle     | 24 Marilyn Nelson  |
| 12 Katie Mottaz   | Shannon Gipe       |
| 14 Bobby Boothe   | 26 Becky Patterson |
| Shelbi Massolle   | 29 Dawn Mitchell   |
| 15 Ashley Haye    | James Grobe        |
| 16 David Baker    | 31 Ashley Boothe   |
| Jennifer Yingling |                    |

#### **Anniversaries**

- |                           |
|---------------------------|
| 9 Larry & Deborah Slager  |
| 23 Harold & Joyce Folkers |
| 26 Dan & Janet Brown      |

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### **Easter Lily Order Form**

Easter Lilies will be available this year for \$15.00. If you would like to purchase one, please return this form by **March 15<sup>th</sup>**.

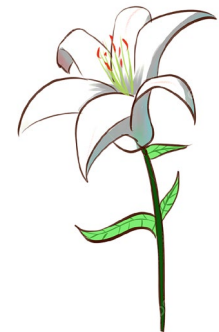
Please include your cash or check payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church with this form and put them in the offering plate, mail to the church or put in the secretary's mailbox.

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

OR

In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_



Are you ordering through the church: YES / NO

If you are bringing a lily but you are not ordering it through the church, please fill out this form if you would like your information in the bulletin.



# **Sundae Sunday**

**March 3** @ 11:30 to 1:00



PASS "Tree of Life Community Center" 101 E Mason

## **Join us for Ice cream Sundaes with all the toppings**

**Cost \$3.00 for Adults**

**\$2.00 for kids**

**The proceeds of this event go to fund the Polo Council of  
Churches new Charity "Pennies from Heaven"**

**This charity is for the sole benefit of people facing a hard-  
ship in the Polo Community.**

**(no one gets left behind)**

## Thrivent Choice®

# By the numbers

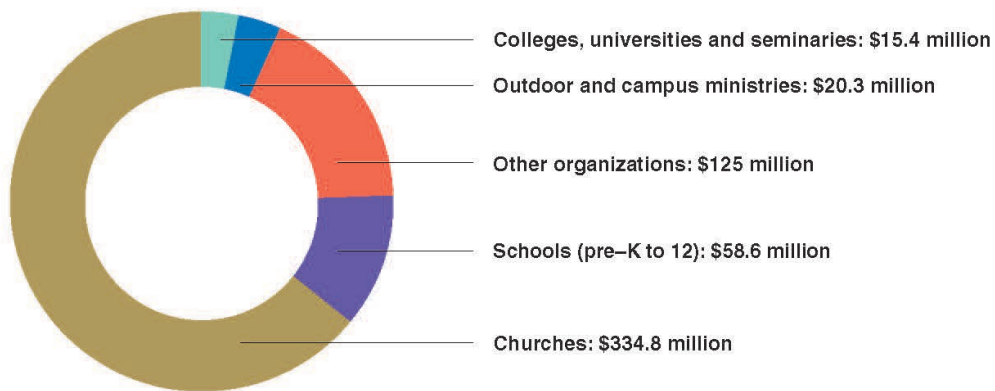
Thrivent Choice is a charitable grant program that gives eligible Thrivent clients with membership the opportunity to influence where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable funds each year. Clients are invited to direct Choice Dollars® among thousands of enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches, camps, schools, seminaries, campus ministries and more.

### Choice Dollars highlights

- More than \$550 million in Choice Dollars grant funds was distributed to churches and other nonprofit organizations since the program was introduced in 2010.
- More than 45,000 churches and organizations are enrolled in Thrivent Choice.



### Thrivent Choice Dollars charitable outreach by organization type



The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent clients with membership and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grant decisions, including grant recipients and amounts, are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program's Terms and Conditions available at [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice).

