

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)



2023

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

E-mail: [stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net](mailto:stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net) Website: [stmarkspolo.com](http://stmarkspolo.com)

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday    | Saturday  |
|--|---|--|--|---|-----------|-----------|
|  |   |  |  |   | 1         | 2         |
| <b>3</b><br><b>NEW WORSHIP TIME</b><br>9:00 Adult Bible Study<br>10:00 Social Time<br>10:30 Worship<br>11:30-1:00 Confirmation   | <b>4</b><br>Happy Labor Day!<br><br>Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose | <b>5</b>   | <b>6</b>   | <b>7</b><br>9:00 Worship & Hospitality meeting<br>10:00 Prayer Partners | <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>10</b><br>9:00 Adult Bible Study<br>10:00 Social Time<br>10:30 Worship  | <b>11</b>   | <b>12</b><br>Work Second Hand Rose<br>September 12-16 <sup>th</sup>                    | <b>13</b><br>7:00pm Church Council meeting at St. Mark's | <b>14</b><br>10:00 Prayer Partners                                      | <b>15</b> | <b>16</b> |
| <b>17</b><br><b>Joint Worship in Polo</b><br>9:00 Adult Bible Study<br>10:00 Social Time<br>10:30 Worship then Potluck<br><b>Blessing of the Quilts</b><br>11:30-1:00 Confirmation<br>2:00pm Timberlake Playhouse "Church Basement Ladies" | <b>18</b>   | <b>19</b><br>9:00am Quilters<br><br>Deadline to submit articles for October Newsletter | <b>20</b><br>9:30am Worship & Music Meeting              | <b>21</b><br>10:00 Prayer Partners                                      | <b>22</b> | <b>23</b> |
| <b>24</b><br>9:00 Adult Bible Study<br>9:30am Worship<br>10:30 Social Time   | <b>25</b><br>5:00-6:30pm<br>Community Meal at FUM                     | <b>26</b><br>7:00pm Polo Council of Churches at St. Mark's                             | <b>27</b>  | <b>28</b><br>9:00 Constitution meeting<br>10:00 Prayer Partners         | <b>29</b> | <b>30</b> |

| <u>Date</u>  | <u>Worship Assistant</u> | <u>Altar Flowers</u> | <u>Greeters</u>      | <u>Acolytes</u> | <u>Tellers:</u><br>Barb Grobe, Kathy Mitchell,<br>Joan Rienstra |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|---|
| September 3  | Merla Brooks             | Laurel Smith         | Lyle & Marcia Printz |                 | <u>Altar Guild:</u><br>OPEN                                     |
| September 10 | Cliff Bardell            | Merla Brooks         |                      |                 |   |
| September 17 | Lisa Hinrichs            |                      |                      |                 | <u>Head Usher:</u><br>OPEN                                      |
| September 24 | Kent Anders              |                      |                      |                 |   |



**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.*

---

**Fall Worship Time Change!**  
Starting September 3<sup>rd</sup>  
9:00am Adult Bible Study  
10:00am Social Time  
10:30am Worship



-----  
**Joint Worship & Potluck in Polo**  
**Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**

St. Mark's has invited Faith Lutheran to join us for worship service in Polo.  
Worship will be at 10:30 with a potluck following.

.....

**Blessing of the Quilts will be**  
**September 17<sup>th</sup> during worship**



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

**St. Mark's is trying something new for children's Sunday School this year!**

- 10:00am Children & parents arrive for Social Time snacks
- 10:15am Children go downstairs and begin Sunday School
- 10:30am Parents stay upstairs and worship begins
- 11:00am Children come up and join worship as the sermon ends and then children's message will be given, followed by the remaining of worship service.



We are hoping to have 3 main teachers that rotate every three weeks. A helper will be needed each week. This can be anyone from the congregation! All materials are provided. We currently have 2 teachers lined up, but are looking for a third to get the program started. Please contact Renee Boyle at 815-973-6903 if you are interested in teaching or helping once in a while!

Hello people of St.Mark's,

Well here we are again with the exciting, challenging, too early, too late, terrifying (depending on your perspective) beginning of the school year. The kids are back at school and after a short summer break, and many of the parents are finally breathing a sigh of relief. After all the back to school shopping, schedule receiving, class finding, teacher meeting, etc. there is finally that steady pace of school. This time of year is important to kids, parents, teachers, and schools, but it is also important in the church.

During the summer months the church often sees the pews a little less full, while families are traveling, vacations are being taken, and grandparents are visited. It is a great time to sit back, relax, and really enjoy the glorious nature around us whether for you that means camping, hiking, walking, or watersports it is a great time to see our Creator's hand at work. There really is something special in seeing a beautiful sunrise when you know the rest of your morning will be spent fishing, hiking or lounging by the pool/lake. Sunsets are never quite so nice as when you know the evening will be filled with family, friends, food, and fun (maybe even fireworks). Summer vacation... even a staycation, if you get one, gives us that important down time away from work and worries to reenergize for the months ahead.

Although taking a relaxing vacation and enjoying God's creation is certainly wonderful, one of the greatest things about this time of year is getting back together after our time apart. The summer vacation season has come to its close and it is now that we come back together to share stories of our journeys. I'd love to hear about where you've been and who and what you saw while on your travels. Now is a great time to share in each other's joys and sorrows, triumphs and failures, and in so doing we build up our relationships... we build up the body of the church.

So I hope that your summer was great, illuminating and invigorating. I hope too that now that the normal flow of life and school has resumed you can reacquaint yourself with friends here at St. Mark's, refreshed and refocused, brimming with new energy, and full of new ideas on how we can reach out into our community and within our church to make this our best year yet. St. Mark's is a fantastic place full of fantastic people and when we come together to share our hopes and dreams, our triumphs and failures, our joy and sorrow I truly believe that God works through the body of this church... where our hands and feet become His hands and feet and our dreams, planning, and hard work can and do make a difference for our community and the world. Remember... "We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop." ~ Mother Teresa. Looking forward to an amazing Autumn season with all of you.

Peace and Blessings to you and yours,

Pastor Scott

.....

**Confirmation tentative dates:**

September: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>

October: 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>

November: 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<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!

### Church Basement Ladies

"Inspired by the book Growing Up Lutheran by Janet Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson, this funny and down to earth musical comedy about four women preparing food for multiple events at church will have audiences howling with laughter."

#### **Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm at Timberlake Playhouse in Mount Carroll**

- Tickets are \$25 each, 25 seats reserved (highlighted in Yellow on back page of newsletter), Talk to Lisa if you need more accessible seating that avoids any steps.
- Minimum of 10 people
- **Reservations and payments needed by 8/27.** Call Lisa Hinrichs @815-298-8009 to reserve.

We will have a Potluck after Church that is open to everyone before heading to the playhouse.

### **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 signing up to be 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](mailto:impact@svcc.edu) or call (815) 835-6650 or visit [www.svcc.edu/impact](http://www.svcc.edu/impact)



**Sauk Valley**  
Community College

.....

### **Save the date! CROP Walk is October 1<sup>st</sup>**

This year the CROP Walk for Hunger will be held in Mt. Morris on October 1<sup>st</sup>. You can choose to walk 1, 3 or 5 miles. Check in is at 1:00 and the walk begins at 2:00pm. Please let Tracey Anders know by September 10<sup>th</sup> if you would like to participate so she can get your shirt ordered.



-----

### **Altar Guild volunteers needed for September, November and December**

Easy instructions with pictures are in the cabinet in the upstairs kitchen. We would be happy to help anyone learn. Serving on altar guild is an honor and a privilege. Preparation of the Lord's Supper for the congregation reinforces with physical elements those beliefs most basic to our traditions. Let the office know if you would like to help!

## Church Council Secretary's Report

St. Mark's Council July 13, 2023, 7:00 p.m. In Person Meeting

**Members:** Pastor Scott, Trish Patterson, Steve Sorenson, Hailey Walker, Cindy Schryver, Mary Calderon  
Pastor Scott – Opening Prayer

**Secretary's Report by Trish Patterson was reviewed and approved. Cindy motions to approve. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hailey.**

**Treasurer's Financial Report for June 2023 – Hailey motion to approve. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cindy.**

### **Committee Reports:**

**Pastor's Report: Pastor Scott:** Doing visits. Synod assembly went well. Forreston vacation bible school is in Forreston next week.

**Finance (Lisa):** No information available

**Worship & Music (Trish):** They met in June.

**Hospitality: (Hailey) –** Met on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Move the ice cream social to the Polo Senior Center 2-4 pm. It is on July 16<sup>th</sup>. The band of Denny Jacobs will be performing. Will give them \$100 for playing. Thrivent funds were used for supplies. Proceeds will go to Neighbors in Need and the building fund.

**Fellowship (Lisa):** Timber Lake Playhouse "Church Basement Ladies". Sept 17<sup>th</sup>? Joint church service at St. Marks followed by a potluck followed by TLP show.

**Education Committee (Renee):** meeting at the end of the month per Pastor

**Memorial (Cindy):** Nothing to report

**Property (Steve):** tuckpointing issues. Water leaking up by the cross, problems by the chimney. Steve read over the quote from Simons Masonry. Total quote was 33,435.00 for 4 items. 30% down to start project. We are going to get a price for just 2 of the items to be done. Everyone think about where we want to pull the money from. Boiler – a treatment will be put in.

Key box – move it? Steve will talk to the Polo Fire Dept

**Polo Council of Churches (Pastor):** nothing to report

**Liaison (Trish & Lisa):** Met on July 9<sup>th</sup> after joint service. We will be meeting again on Nov 12<sup>th</sup> after St. Mark's church service. Pastor evaluation not needed. Pastor brought up a Mutual Ministry committee. He would like to have one. He will announce in church and ask. We shared with them that we will pay for pastor to do St. Mark's visits.

**Vision (Pastor):** will meet soon.

### **Old Business:**

- Discuss plans for service on first Sunday in August (Aug 6<sup>th</sup> Forreston Sauerkraut Days & community service at 9:30 am) – Have service here and ask Cliff to lead worship.

### **New Business:**

- Council Nomination Committee – table until next month
- Closing Prayer by Pastor Scott
- Change council meeting day from Thursday to Wednesday.
- Pastor Scott is scheduled to be off on Saturday's.

Motion to adjourn by Trish. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hailey. Adjourned at pm

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, August 9th, 7:00 pm in person

**Respectfully Submitted by: Trish Patterson**

## July Finance Report

| Income | Expenses | Net Income |
|--------|----------|------------|
| 7,042  | 6,774    | 268        |

### **Polo Community Meal**

The next meal will be held  
September 25<sup>th</sup>, 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 September, please let the office know. One will be sent or dropped off at your home.**

.....

*We would like to welcome our new/returning member Kim Printz to St. Mark's!*

**Thank you!**

~ Thank you to Merla Brooks for leading worship while Pastor was gone.

“To all who helped with our mother’s (Jeanne Scholl) celebration of life service – Thank you! There are so many details that so many of you had a hand in preparing and helping with. Everything was perfect. We know our mom would have been proud of her St. Mark’s family.

With gratitude and Blessings, Paula, Susan, Terry & families”

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



**Prayers for those in need of healing:** Barb Grobe, Richard Hose, Shelby Hose, Trudy Karrow, Tommy Knipple and Pat McPherson.

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

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

## **September Birthdays & Anniversaries**

### **Birthdays**

### **Anniversaries**

1 Chelsea Schryver  
2 Jeri Anne Hose-Ryan  
5 Ryan Nelson  
6 Raina Lopez  
7 Tyler Horner  
8 Allison Hickerson  
9 Emily Richardson  
Morgan Patterson  
Reese Mekeel  
Michelle Knight  
10 Lori Christen  
11 Hailey Walker  
14 Colton Gunder  
16 Jeffrey Hackbarth  
Chad Karrow  
Lois Garman  
17 Evelyn Meyer  
Brady Wolber

19 Carrie Woodin  
Seth Bauling  
Rebekka Powell  
Owen Schmidt  
20 Clayton Weaver  
Colton Schwarz  
21 Levi Slager  
Scott Sorenson  
Tim Hinrichs  
22 Britt Thorngren  
24 Nora Mitchell  
25 Ilene Cain  
26 Martha Hose  
27 Michelle Bowman  
Brody Massolle  
28 Justin Grobe  
29 Toni Massolle  
30 Kurt Altenburg  
Lorin Gatz

1 Dennis & Toni Massolle  
2 Ron & JoDee Bardell  
8 Craig & Cindy Bauling  
12 Eric & Jessica Boren  
15 David & Pamela Lotz  
23 Chad & Sara Nelson  
30 Jeff & Martha Hose



If you know of any milestone birthdays or anniversaries, please let us know so we can share it with our Church Family. If you have a photo, please send it along and we'll put it on Facebook. Please email it to: [stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net](mailto:stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net)