

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!

August 2nd, 16th & 30th
9:00am
Parking Lot Worship



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

August

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



All you need to do is log on to St. Mark's Lutheran Church Polo Illinois Facebook page 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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Parking Lot Worship continues Weather permitting

Every other week - Sunday August 2nd, 16th and 30th at 9:00-9:30am



Here are the guidelines to follow:

Bring your own lawn chair. You MUST wear a mask

Masks and 6 foot distance required

Do NOT come if you are not feeling well

No singing however music will be provided

An offering box will be provided. Noisy can for loose change will be on the table for Neighbors in Need in this difficult time and donations to the food pantry may be brought.

Communion will be with individual communion packages at each service.

Thank you to our task force for these decisions. St. Mark's is following the Ogle County Health Department, State guidelines and ELCA guidelines.

Worship online will continue every Sunday by email, Facebook and our website.

Question: "When can the St. Mark's congregation gather in the building again to worship?"

Answer: "The building is very hot inside without any air conditioning. We are not allowed to use fans to cool off because of the covid virus being blown about. Therefore we must wait until it is cool enough inside that fans are not needed."

Question: "What will change when we do re-enter the building?"

Answer: "Masks will continue to be required as well as 6 foot distance between people. The facility will need to be disinfected before and after worship."

Statement from St. Mark's Council and the Task Force on health safety:

Masks are required and 6 foot distancing for any people in the building for any reason.

Pastor's Thoughts... **Romans 8:26-27, 36-39**

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

During the season of Pentecost we have heard this passage used in our weekly blessing.

The coronavirus is reshaping our lives in ways we had never imagined. Fear of contracting the virus, death, unemployment, income loss, and food lines surround us with loss, grief, and an uncertain future. It is easy to feel as though we are navigating through a tunnel.

As some restrictions are lessening, experts tell us that the numbers are climbing in our county and country. We are tired of living in fear and uncertainty and yet...this is our reality.

Paul's word to the community of faith in Rome speaks good news: "There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus." He goes on to list the many ways in which a community can experience darkness in the "tunnel" of life in this world. Yet, Paul proclaims there is not just a hope-filled light at the end of the tunnel; there is also light here and now in the midst of the tunnel—the light of Jesus' presence and love. We have the promise of Jesus' light through word, water, bread, wine, and one another.

I have seen light in the many ways people are helping each other. I saw light in your contributions to the local Food Pantry and Neighbors in Need. This church has been light for some troubled family situations. Where will you find the light of Jesus' promise shining for you today?

Look for the light...know the light of Christ is with you and in you, Pastor Terrie

Prayer Spirit of Jesus, open our eyes to see and know the presence of your light in the tunnels of life until we come to the end of the tunnel to bask in your Eternal Brightness. Amen.

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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.

Check out St. Mark's new Website!

We have a new look! Please visit www.stmarkspolo.com to view weekly worship messages and keep up to date on our gathering details. If you see something that needs updating on the site, please let the office know at stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net or 815-946-2919. We also love to post pictures of our members and their activities so feel free to send them to us any time.



Curb-side & Delivery Supper September 12th

September 12th is the tentative date for St. Mark's Curb-side Pickup and Delivery supper. Watch for details in next month's newsletter and let Lisa Hinrichs know if you would like to donate money, 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:

- 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.

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) 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**





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/>



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



Council Highlights from the July Church Council Meeting

Treasurer’s Report: A copy of the June financials were provided. Income for the month of June was \$5,436 with expenses \$6,962 creating deficit of \$1,526. Renee Boyle would like to retire from financial duties after seven years of service. A new person is needed with a goal to find a replacement by September 1, 2020. Also discussed was the reinstating of an audit committee. June treasurer’s report was approved.

Pastor’s Report and Worship Plans: A task force for safe worship was formed and a zoom meeting was held. Amy Bardell was a big help from the Health Department. The group included Amy, Kent, Merla, and Pastor. It was decided to have 2 outdoor worship services in the church parking lot. These would be July 5th and 19th. With 2 weeks in-between it allows us to make sure no one is sick. All who attend are listed so that they may be contacted if there is an outbreak of disease. July 5th went very well! A 30 minute service in the shade of the parking lot had 38 total people attended. All brought folding chairs and wore masks. Cheryl Goeking played several medlies of hymn favorites. Kent was invaluable in giving us great sound! Merla, Tracey Anders, and Brian Lopez were also helpful in setting things up. The two shopping carts were full of items for the Lifeline Food Pantry. July 19th is the next planned parking lot worship with communion. Pastor plans to meet with taskforce members regarding August services.

Worship & Hospitality: The Hospitality and Mission teams continues periodic phone calls to connect with the church family.

Education: Confirmation has been held on Zoom for 4 weeks so far. There will be makeup times for students who could not attend or did not participate. The students seem to like it. Sunday school and adult Bible study are on hold at this time.

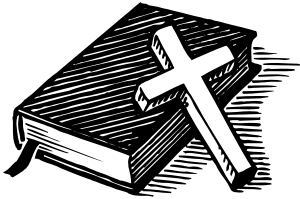
Local and Global Mission: Food and monetary donations were taken for the Lifeline Food Pantry July 5th & 7th.

Fellowship: Lisa is leading a possible Roast Beef dinner carry out curbside fundraiser. All is on hold as we watch the state of the coronavirus in July. Lisa consulted with the Health Department & they recommended aiming for a date in September. The department recommended to continue to proceed with planning, however to be mindful of the state of Illinois guidelines (Stage 3 versus Stage 4) and making major purchases as close to the planned date to minimize losses in case of change in Covid 19 status.

Property: Lisa was the cleaning volunteer for July and Amanda for August. A group of volunteers weeded and trimmed shrubs on the south side of the church recently and volunteers offered to do the front of the church as well. There was a leak with parsonage toilets that required a plumber to remedy.

Happy belated 60th birthday to Tammy Karrow on July 12th!

~ Thank you to those who donated food at our Fireworks Food Drive!



Prayers for Healing: Karla Gipe, Lyle Printz, Dorothy O'Connor and those preparing for surgery and recovering from surgery and illness. **Prayers for those in care facilities:** Sibyl Acker, Barb Bowen, Lois Garman, 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

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 1 Kimberly Hilleman
- 2 Shelby Jean Hose
Rilley Peterson
- 3 Renee Boyle
- 4 Megan Patterson
Cooper Dawson
Tylar Groth
- 5 Cliff Bardell
- 7 Melanie Armstrong
Casandra Kurschner
- 8 Carly Hinrichs
- 9 Jeremiah Christen
- 10 Everett Richardson
- 11 Jeff Hose
- 12 Ed Olsen
Matt Mekeel

- 13 Tanner Johnson
Dennis Massolle
Betsy Scott
- 14 Taylor Woodin
- 15 Drew Garrett
- 18 Larry Weaver
- 19 Phil Johnson
- 21 Robyn Nelson
- 22 Marty Toms
Charlotte Bartelt
- 23 Steve Sorenson
Sara Morrison
Dominic Escobar
- 25 Beth Shipman
William Ukena
- 27 Curt Nelson
Linda Gall
- 30 Laney Christen

Anniversaries

- 9 Alan & Beth Wiegmann
- 28 Jim & Renae Shrader

Heaven's Grocery Store

Author Unknown

From Mary Ann Olson

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago. One day I saw a sign that read 'Heaven Grocery Store'.

As I got a little closer, the door came wide open, And when I came to myself, I was standing inside.

I saw a host of angels. They were standing everywhere. One handed me a basket and said, "My child, shop with care." Everything a Christian needed was in the Grocery Store. And if you couldn't carry them, you could come back for more.

First I got some **PATIENCE**. **LOVE** was in the same row. Further down was **UNDERSTANDING**, you need that wherever you go.

I got a box of **WISDOM**, a bag or two of **FAITH**. I couldn't miss the Holy Ghost, for He was all over the place. I stopped to get some **STRENGTH** and **COURAGE** to help me win the race And though my basket was getting full, I remembered to get some **GRACE**.

I didn't forget **SALVATION**, for salvation, that was free. So, I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me. Then I started up the counter to pay the grocery bill, for I thought I had everything to do my Master's will.

As I went up the aisle, I saw **PRAYER** and I just had to put that in, for I knew when I stepped outside, I would run into **SIN**. **PEACE** and **JOY** were plentiful; they were on the last shelf. **SONG** and **PRAISES** were hanging near so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the Angel, "Now how much do I owe?"

He just smiled and said, "Just take them everywhere you go!"

Again I smiled at him and said, "How much do I really owe?"

The Angel smiled again and said, "My child, Jesus paid your bill a long time ago."