

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
201 N. Division Avenue
Polo, IL 61064
Church Phone: 815-946-2919
Email: stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net
Website: stmarkspolo.com



2024



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

E-mail: stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net Website: stmarkspolo.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	2	3	4 10:00 Prayer Partners	5	6
7 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	8 5:00-6:30pm Community Meal at FUM <u>St. Mark's serves</u>	9 Work Second Hand Rose April 9 th – 13 th	10 10:00am Mobile Food Pantry in Polo 7:00pm Church Council meeting at St. Mark's	11 10:00 Prayer Partners	12	13
14 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship 11:30-1:00 Confirmation	15	16 9:00am Quilters	17	18 10:00 Prayer Partners Deadline to submit articles for April Newsletter	19	20
21 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	22 Earth Day	23	24	25 10:00 Prayer Partners	26	27
28 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship 11:30-1:00 Confirmation	29	30				

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Tellers:</u> Barb Grobe, Kathy Mitchell Joan Rienstra
April 7	Hailey Walker	Priscilla Schwingel		
April 14	Trish Patterson			<u>Altar Guild: OPEN</u>
April 21	Linda Gall			<u>Head Usher:</u> Trish Patterson
April 28	Julie Hoak	Julie Hoak		



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.*

Community Meal April 8th – St. Mark's Serves! 5:00-6:30pm

St. Mark's is in charge of providing slider sandwiches for this month's meal. A sign up sheet is at the church for donations. A recipe is provided but any variation of meat and cheese is welcome! Please contact Suzanne Sorenson with questions or to sign up.



Honduras needs our help! Bill Hare is working on collecting donations to send to those in need in Honduras. Our Global Missions team is planning to send a donation and would love to collect more from those who can help. If you are able to donate, make checks to St. Mark's and mark your envelope "Honduras". You can also send donations directly to: Bill Hare – Honduras, 408 S. McKendry, Apt. 144, Mt. Morris, IL 61054.

Polo Food Pantry will be hosting a mobile Food Pantry on April 10th. It will arrive sometime between 9:00 & 10:00am



National Quilting Day

In honor of National Quilting Day our quilting sisters at Faith Lutheran Church invited the St. Mark's Lutheran Church quilters to join them for a day of quilting. What a wonderful time we shared. Before noon we'd already made 10 quilts. Our goal was 16 and by 2 o'clock we'd reached our goal! Thank you ladies for a lovely day and delicious lunch. Our sisters even presented us with a Marcos color quilt. We love you and fellowshiping with you! Blessings to you! Quilting definitely does bind friendships!



Hello St. Mark's Lutheran,

Welcome to another month held gently in the loving arms of God! I hope that Lent this year was inspiring, educational, and challenging. This year we have been talking a lot about lament especially during our midweek Wednesday services. Lament as a spiritual discipline is challenging as we confront where we have struggled not only in our life but with God. It is okay to lament, it is okay to wrestle with our faith. But even in our hardest challenges and times of greatest doubt God is with us. Our God offers peace, hope, comfort, strength... God gives us respite from the madness of this world. God's promise is not just for eternal life with him, but to be with us now in the midst of every valley and on every peak.

In Matthew 5, Jesus spoke to the people on the Mount of Beatitudes, on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus looked out over the multitude gathered that day on the hillside, those struggling without hope, oppressed by Roman rulers, having seen loved ones imprisoned or killed, crying out for justice, crying out for a Savior, and God gave them not just hope that was far off or hard to grasp, but love and acceptance right there in their struggle and brokenness. And I will contend... Not only giving a message that said you will be blessed when this world passes away, your time on this earth is over and your body has yielded up its last. But Jesus gave a message that said right where you are in your struggle and defeat, your brokenness and lack of spirit/strength to go on, right there, you are blessed because **I see you and I love you where you are**. You don't have to earn my love, I love you, you don't have to be happy every day, smile when you are sad, pretend you are unbowed when you are broken, I love you and accept you right where you are. The blessing that Christ calls out on that hillside, he calls out to us today, "You are good, blessed, I love you right where you are and I won't ever stop!"

God saw the hurt, the brokenness, the anger, the suffering; God hears our lament and sent the Son to: show us, teach us, SAVE us. The Son became the atoning sacrifice for our sin. He went to the cross for us. **ON GOOD FRIDAY JESUS LAID DOWN HIS LIFE... AND ON EASTER... HE PICKS IT UP AGAIN! AMEN!**

Beloved, it is Easter, Christ is alive! It's Easter, Show and be God's hands, feet, ears, and voice in the world. It's Easter, tell the story of God's love in your life, and God's love for the world! Beloved, it's Easter, let the blessings of God's love flow through you, encompass you, let it drive out all your fear, doubt, and sinfulness! Feel the blessing, let the anointing of the Lord fill you up, spill over, and flow into the world around you. You are amazing! God loves you, and so do I! I hope your Lent was a blessing and your Easter is Incredible!

Easter Blessings to you and yours,
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

April 7th

9:00am-10:00am



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.

Confirmation Class dates:

April: 14th & 28th

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!

Polo Community Meal

The next meal will be held April 8th, 2024 at Faith United Methodist.

Polo Lifeline Food Pantry Needs:

Toilet paper, sugar, chicken, eggs

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



February Finance Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
4,388	8,349	-3,961

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Council Minutes

February 7, 2023 7:00 p.m.

Members: Renee Boyle, Steve Sorenson, Mary Calderon, Cindy Schryver, Hailey Walker, Trish Patterson

Attendance and Quorum: declared by Renee Boyle

Opening Prayer – done by Pastor

Secretary's Report: provided by Trish Patterson – Dec & Jan - Steve make a motion to approve Dec & Jan Secretary's report. 2nd by Hailey. Motion passes.

Treasurer's Financial Report: provided by Lori Christen – 165.00 donation to council of church's from our Neighbors in Need fund. We need to transfer money from savings to checking. Renee makes a motion to transfer \$5K from general fund in savings acct to the checking acct. Trish 2nd. Motion passes.

Trish makes a motion to approve. 2nd by Steve. Motion passes.

New Business:

- Lenten Services (offering, organist) – Renee makes a motion for the Lenten services offering go to LOMC to sponsor our confirmation kids. Hailey 2nd. Motion passes.
- Cold Weather Policy? Discussion about when it is below zero temperature not to have church? We will continue to talk about this. Council members to call people to let them know there would be no church.

Committee Reports:

- Pastor's Report – He has seen all the shut in's. Conference meeting was today. Synod wants every church to submit red fabric, certain lengths. The Synod is making something that represents each church. Pastor to talk to the quilting group. CRE is March 16th. Sign up by March 2nd. \$35.00 per person. LOMC hosting "Earth Church" day on Saturday, April 20th. 12:00 pm – 3:00 PM. Guest leader is Bishop Stacie Fidler.
- Finance (Renee) – nothing to report
- Worship & Music (Trish) – they will meet in March
 - Lenten Services (offering, organist) - Good Friday service being done by Polo Council of Church's? Merla to check next month. We are to go to Faith Church.
- Hospitality (Hailey) – They met last Thursday. Feb 27th from 6-7 pm. is the Appreciation meal for Polo Service employees. Sign up due by Feb 19th.
- Fellowship – new shelving in the basement donated by Andy Hinrichs employer. Lisa cleaned them all off. Trish make a motion to donate the white dishes in the basement to a family Joyce Gatz knows. 2nd by Renee. Motion passes.
- Education (Renee) - Confirmation is going well. Doing fun things. Confirmation kids took down all the Christmas decorations. 😊
- Memorial (Cindy) – Meeting on Feb 8th.
- Property (Steve) – nothing to report.
- Polo Council of Churches (Pastor) –
- Liaison (Trish/Lisa) Constitution was updated. Yoking agreement approved by Synod.
- Renee discussed stepping down as President. Steve is going to be President and Renee will be Vice President.
- Closing prayer - read by Trish

Next meeting:

Tuesday, March 12th at 7:00pm

Vote to Adjourn Meeting – Motion to adjourn meeting by Trish. Hailey 2nd.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM

PCCC Minutes January 2024

President Jeff Davidson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm on January 23, 2024 at Church of the Brethren. Those in attendance were: David Poole, Marilyn Schwartz, Marla Buskohl, Suzanne Stout, Don Hay, Merla Brooks and Jon Schwartz

Pastor Jeff led devotions from Galatians 6:9. God gave us a vision, a call and a ministry, so don't give up and always persevere.

Secretary report was approved as presented with a time correction, noted.

Treasurer Marilyn Schwartz presented a report showing a current balance of \$5022.01 She stated that she had not received a bill from pine creek church to cover 2023 expenses for the Christmas baskets. There was discussion on costs for the Christmas baskets but tabled for future meetings.

Second Hand Rose report stated steady sales even though weather closings were an issue in December and January.

Lifeline food pantry report: there are always food items needed and in addition, more volunteers for unloading trucks was requested. A mobile truck from Northern Illinois Food bank will be there on March 13 for families to pick up food.

Our table will be on February 12 and March 13. Numbers are increasing.

Pennies from Heaven project is in place with a checking account and coordinator Kathy Wragg. A fundraiser hosted at the Polo Senior Center will be held on Sunday, March 3.

Sundae Sunday with ice cream and toppings will be available for purchase. Marla Buskohl and FUMC will be in charge of entertainment.

Vacation bible school was discussed and a decision regarding scheduling or skipping a year will be decided soon.

Upcoming events:

Brookville church- fish fry on February 23

Sundae Sunday- March 3 at Polo Senior Center

PACT musical – several weekends in February and March

Next meeting on March 26, 6:00 pm, at Faith United Methodist Church

Secretary, Marla Buskohl

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Did you lose a ring? A large men's ring was found and turned into the office. Please let us know if you are missing one!

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Thank you!

~ Thank you to all who donated noodles or other food during our March Madness Food Drive!

~ Thank you to all who provided food at our Lenten meals before worship.

Thank you to all who gave offerings during Lent! We collected over \$450 to sponsor our confirmation kids for events held at LOMC.

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.

Happy 90th birthday to Mary Ann Olson on March 19th!

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

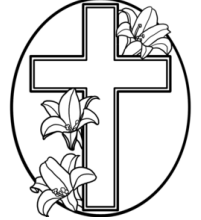
1	Amanda O'Brien Brayden Haye	15	Justin Brown
2	Kendall Boyle	16	Erica Scholl Maddox Peterson
4	Penny Heckman Amie Scholl	17	Tom Hoak
	Lindsey O'Brien	19	Charles Bailey
7	Priscilla Schwingel	21	Tristin Woodin
8	Phyllis Dyer	22	Mackenzie Martz Mallory McPherson
9	Alivia Schmidt Andrew Albrecht	23	Vincent Ambeau
		26	Sibyl Acker
11	Samantha Gray	27	Eric Boren Dan Powell
12	Nevaeh Hall		
13	Gregor Armstrong	29	Lyle Printz
14	Logan Nelson	30	Troy Boothe Tian Escobar

Anniversaries

4	Jerry & Linda Hose
11	Larry & Elsie Hackbarth

The Easter Lilies decorating our Sanctuary this year have been given by:

- Given by Merla Brooks to the glory of the Risen King.
- Given by the Christen family in memory of our loved ones.
- Given by Phyllis & Robyn Dyer in memory of our granddaughter, Maverick Mumford.
- Given by the Obendorf family in memory of Kenneth Obendorf.
- Given by Becky Patterson & Lenny Bryson in memory of our loving parents, Lorene & Ambrose and Phyllis & Arlyn.
- Given by Leo & Joan Rienstra in memory of our parents and sister Susie.
- Given in memory of Connie Stahler by her grandchildren, Brittan and Brinley Mullens and Henry and Harper Hickerson.
- Given in memory of Connie Stahler by her daughters, Allison and Andrea Stahler.
- Given by Suzanne & Steve Sorenson in honor of Margaret Robertson.
- Given by Alan & Beth Wiegmann – Alleluia!




HE IS RISEN