

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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March 7th & 21st
Indoor Worship
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Weekly Wednesday Lent
Worship Online


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



2021

March 2021 St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Polo, Illinois 815/946-2919

E-mail: stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net Pastor Terrie Wilder: 815/677-3443 Website: stmarkspolo.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Pastor's Sabbath 9:00am Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	2 Pastor Text Study	3 Lent 4:00pm Online Facebook Worship	4 10:00 Prayer Partners	5	6
7 9:00 Online Facebook worship 10:30 Indoor Worship Deadline to register for CRE event	8 Pastor's Sabbath	9 Pastor Text Study	10 Lent 4:00pm Online Facebook Worship	11 10:00 Prayer Partners 7:00pm Zoom Church Council meeting	12	13 Congregational Resourcing Event online
14 9:00 Online Facebook worship No indoor worship	15 Pastor's Sabbath	16 Pastor Text Study 9:00am Quilters Work Second Hand Rose March 16th-20th	17 Lent 4:00pm Online Facebook Worship	18 10:00 Prayer Partners Deadline to submit articles for April Newsletter	19	20
21 9:00 Online Facebook worship 10:30 Indoor Worship Easter Lily Orders due 	22 Pastor's Sabbath	23 Pastor Text Study	24 Lent 4:00pm Online Facebook Worship	25 10:00 Prayer Partners	26	27
28 9:00 Online Facebook worship Palm Sunday No indoor worship	29 Pastor's Sabbath	30 Pastor Text Study	31	April 1 4:00pm Maundy Thursday Online Worship	April 2 4:00pm Good Friday Online Worship 6:00 pm Good Friday Indoor Worship	



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.*



Lenten Services will be online Wednesdays March 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th. All will be able to be seen at 4:00pm and beyond. The theme this year is "Created for Community."

Created for Community: A Midweek Lenten Series

On Face book by 4:00pm each Wednesday

March 3rd Week 2 - In community with all the saints

Mark 9:2-8 *Jesus is in conversation with those who have gone before him*

March 10th Week 3 - In community with our neighbor

Mark 2:1-12 *A community comes together to bring a neighbor to Jesus*

March 17th Week 4 - In community with those on the margins

Mark 5:1-20 *Jesus crosses barriers to attend to those on the margins*

March 24th Week 5 - In community with Christ

Mark 10:32-45 *Jesus reminds us that we are walking the way of the cross*

Sunday, March 7th & 21st 10:30am

St. Mark's will have indoor worship service.

Masks worn over the nose are mandatory and social distancing still applies. Please enter through the parking lot door. Reservations are appreciated but not necessary. Communion will be offered. **Please call 815-946-2919 or email stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net to reserve your place.**



Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion on-line Thursday, April 1st after 4:00pm

Good Friday

On-line after 4:00pm or
6:00pm in person worship

Easter Resurrection Service

On-line Easter morning at 9:00am or
in person at 8:30am or 10:30am

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. 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.

Pastor's thoughts....

What a challenging winter, in so many ways. I always imagined living away from the city, in a wooded area, in communion with nature. As my father used to say "Be careful what you wish for."

My husband Oran and I have spent this winter in country solitude. Every day 7 large turkeys come to eat from our birdfeeders and have now trained us to put out some corn for them. I have truly enjoyed the winter wildlife yet country living has its own challenges.

February 12th my laptop used for everything St. Mark's needs began to crash. I attempted to back things up to save them. The next day I packed up the computer and headed into Polo to drop it off with Kent from church and see if he could save it or anything on it.

That Saturday was about -12 degrees in temperature without wind chill. There was blowing and drifting on the road. As I entered our country driveway my left tire slipped on the ice and snow and the car was ditched. I called for a tow truck to pull the car out. Half an hour later he called to say the tow truck broke down in the cold. He would go back to the garage and work on it.

Kent called to declare the computer was indeed no longer useable. Tow truck man tried a second time but the tow truck still didn't like the cold and we would need to wait until Sunday morning, I didn't mind waiting but it was -16 degrees temperature without the wind chill and there was a lot of wind chill.

There has been a lot of waiting. Waiting for the tow truck. Waiting for the roads to be safe. Waiting for snow and ice to stop. Waiting for the new computer to arrive. Waiting to install things into the new computer. Waiting for the driveway to thaw. Waiting for the vaccines to arrive. Waiting for springtime.

We all look forward to worship in church as usual and yet we wait. Church is coming back just as springtime is coming. Before we know it the waiting will be over. In this season of Lent we know that the Resurrection is coming.

I am including a poem for fun about knowing that God is with us while we wait and that God is with us as we go through all the trials of life. The Resurrection is coming! Lenten blessings, Pastor Terrie

Psalm 23 For Computer People

The Lord is my Programmer, I shall not crash.

He installed His software on the hard disk of my heart.

All of His commands are user friendly.

His Directory guides me to the right choices for His name's sake.

Even though I scroll through the problems of life, I will fear no bugs, for He is my backup.

His password protects me.

He prepares a menu before me in the presence of my enemies.

His help is only a keystroke away.

Surely goodness and mercy will follow me, all the days of my life.

And my file will be merged with His and SAVED FOREVER!

Author Unknown

January Finance Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
5,890	10,417	-4,527

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

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HANDMADE SCARF DRIVE

Handmade scarves of any kind needed!

Join us in helping Vicki Sauter collect handmade scarves for Romania!

Drop scarves off at St. Mark's and we will deliver them.

134 SCARVES FOR ROMANIA



- Handmade
- Crocheted
- Knitted
- Sewn
- Winter Fabric
- Neutral Colors

Drop off at:
ACF Mission Office
416 E. Dover Rd.
Princeton, IL 61356
Tim: 815-303-1725
Pastor Vicki: 815-973-2819

Benefits

THE KIDS & STAFF
AT POINT OF HOPE

#SHARETHEWARMTH 



LENTEN Giving for St. Mark's 2021 to ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Relief

Your gifts help our church respond to hunger and poverty through hundreds of projects in more than 60 countries around the world, including the United States. These gifts are brought together with the skills, capacity and resources of local communities to make transformative change.

Make an online donation <https://community.elca.org/hungerdonate>

Online giving is simple and secure.

Give a monthly gift

Become a Monthly Partner and give automatic, monthly gifts in support of ELCA World Hunger. Visit the Monthly Partners page, click "I would like to choose an area for this gift to support" and select "ELCA World Hunger."

Mail your donation

Make checks payable to ELCA World Hunger.

*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009*



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

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.

2021 Congregational Resourcing event

Registration for the 2021 Congregational Resourcing event, being held as an online event via Zoom, is **now open**. You are invited to register for the event being held on Saturday, March 13, from 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The deadline to register is Sunday, March 7 at 11:59 p.m.

For questions, please feel free to contact Deacon Cheryl Erdmann, Assistant to the Bishop/CRE Staff Liaison, at cerdmann@nisynod.org. You may also contact Nancy Corey at ncorey@nisynod.org.



Ignite Your Faith – Zoom Youth Gathering

**Friday, April 30th
7-10 pm, Grades 9-12**

This Zoom gathering will consist of worship time, small group bible studies, a sermon from Bishop Clements, and even a family feud style trivia game! This will be an opportunity to grow in our faith, get to know one another, and have a lot of fun in the process! Invite your friends and people in your church! It's sure to be a great time! We very much hope to see you all there!

Here's how to get more information and to register: go to <https://nisynod.org/events/ignite> which is the Ignite Your Faith page on the Synod website. The deadline to register is April 12 at 11:59 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person and includes a t-shirt!

2021 offering envelopes are available for pickup. Lori is usually in the office on Thursdays, but please call before making a special trip to pick yours up. If you need your offering envelope box delivered to you, please call Pastor (815-677-3443) or Lori (815-440-0561).

If you are interested in signing up for electronic giving in 2021 or adjusting your current donation amount, please contact Lori.

Thank you to those who have continued to mail your donations!!

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St. Mark's Annual Congregational Meeting is being planned by council and a date should be determined soon.



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)
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)
- 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



Council Highlights from the February Church Council Meeting

Correspondence: Pastor received a thank you note from Bill Hare regarding the recent \$525 donated from St. Mark's Lutheran Church members toward the Honduras Project.

Treasurer's Report: Income for the month of January was \$5,890 with expenses \$10,417 with a deficit balance of \$4,527 for the month. The church received approval from the SBA (Small Business Administration) for a second Payroll Protection Program (PPP) for the amount of \$12,317. Special thank you to Renee Boyle and Lori Christen for completing the PPP documentation/application, completion of annual wage statements, and other financial needs. An audit of the church's financial records for 2020 calendar year was conducted by First State Bank Shannon,-Polo-Lake Carroll. In addition, the new check signers completed their bank processes.

Pastor's Report and Worship Plans: Pastor has sent Valentine's Day cards to care facility members and confirmation students. Additionally, conducted phone prayers for families suffering from Covid. An indoor worship service was held February 7th with 15 people signed up and 10 in attendance. People were very compliant and seemed to appreciate the opportunity. Discussion ensued regarding future plans for in person worship. In person worship will resume March 7th and 21st at 10:30 a.m. Council approved to hold in person Good Friday services at 6 p.m. and Easter services at 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Reservations requested, but not required. Lenten services will be provided online.

Hospitality: The team has been making intermittent wellness calls.

Polo Council of Churches: The meeting was held January 25, 2021 via Zoom. It was reported that the Christmas Basket/boxes recipients were down this year by 30. Polo Lifeline has been blessed with donations and they have plenty of food with fewer people coming in for food. Second Hand Rose is struggling with sales. Bill Hare reported that Honduras is locked down due to Covid and getting aid into the starving areas is difficult. Patty Stauffer is planning a Vacation Bible School this summer. The mentoring program at the school is suspended due to Covid.

Education: Pastor is planning to get confirmation students in 2 at a time, in person for reviews beginning sometime in March. Pastor is still thinking about confirmation in spring/summer. Pastor is considering having 1 student confirmed each week for 9 weeks as there are 9 students. A group photo can be done at some point. Pastor will survey the parents. This would be a special Sunday for each family and keep gathering numbers down for the good of our neighbors.

Property: Thank you to Ryan Nelson for plowing the church parking lot for worship. Parsonage: It has been determined by contract that the church is charged 10% of repair bills if Rochelle Realty contacts the repair companies for the parsonage. At this time Rochelle Realty has been contacting Merla and she then has been contacting repair people to save the fee. The following repairs have been completed at the parsonage; replacement of entry door lock, repair of washing machine, and exterminators for recurrent wasps. Merla and Lisa called for bids for a replacement furnace pump from Rockford Furnace and Loescher. A motion was provided to accept the estimate from Rockford Steam Boiler Works for \$1,620, this was approved.

Resignation: Toni resigned from the church council effective February 11, 2021. There are currently 3 openings for church council. Several names were recommended to be nominated to serve on the church council.

Old Business: Our annual meeting is pending and with a date to be determined at the March church council meeting.

New Business: The congregational Resourcing Event (usually held at Kishwaukee College) will be held online this year on Saturday, March 13, 2021 from 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Registration will be taken until March 7th with a cost of \$10.

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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

Prayers and Condolences to the Family and Friends of Barb Bowen who died in Christ February 23rd at Pinecrest Community Care. Barb taught Sunday school and loved St. Mark's church. Services will be done at a later time.

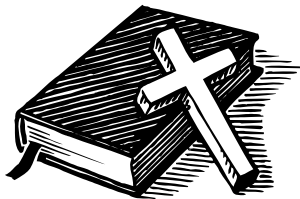


Thank you

The Family of Gary Parke would like to acknowledge the many acts of kindness, calls, texts, cards and memorials extended to us during Gary's illness and at the time of his passing. The compassion and concern shown to us has been overwhelming and much appreciated.

Thank you all-
Nancy Parke and Family

- ~ Thank you to Ryan Nelson for plowing St. Mark's
- ~ Thank you to John Ennenga for shoveling at St. Mark's
- ~ Thank you to Merla Brooks for helping with all the Parsonage and property needs.



Prayers for Healing: Brad Shippert **Prayers for those in care facilities:** Sibyl Acker, Tammy Karrow, Trudy Karrow, Jessica Kimpel, Hazel Pontnak, Jeanne Scholl, Linda Scholl, Ed and Marian Schnulle. **Prayers for those in military service:** Logan Albrecht, JJ Bardell, Bryan Connell, Dustin Knapp, Brad Reigle and Travis Roop

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 2 Ashley Houck
- 3 Cheryl Garkey
Nathan Groth
- 4 Cassie Mekeel
- 5 Matt Rienstra
- 6 Brian Suits
- 7 Laura Lopez
Levi McBride
- 8 Ron Shuman
- 10 Beth Wiegmann
Jenny Baker
- 11 Mark Boyle
- 12 Katie Mottaz
- 14 Bobby Boothe
Shelbi Massolle
- 15 Ashley Haye
- 16 David Baker
Jennifer Yingling

Anniversaries

- 17 Marco Powell
- 18 Lori Wolber
- 19 Mary Ann Olson
Beulah Nelson
Bob Mitchell
- 20 Joyce Folkers
Nathan White
- 21 Sandra Woodin
- 23 Marcia Barnhart
Hunter Barnhart
- 24 Marilyn Nelson
Shannon Gipe
- 26 Willard Meyer
Becky Patterson
- 29 Dawn Mitchell
James Grobe
- 31 Ashley Boothe

- 9 Larry & Deborah Slager
- 23 Harold & Joyce Folkers

LOMC – Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center – Oregon, IL



SUNDAE on SATURDAY
LOMC-Led Hike and Ice Cream
Saturday, March 20 & 27
\$5 per Person Suggested Donation

LOMC
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center

Open to all! **Come out at the end of March** for a special hike and ICE CREAM.
Join a guided hike or hike on your own around LOMC's 600+ acres.

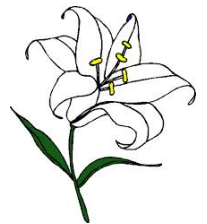
Visit lomc.org for more information and other activities offered!



Easter Lily Order Form

Easter Lilies will be available this year for \$13.50. If you would like to purchase one, **please return this form by March 21st**.

Please attach your cash or check **payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church** to 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: _____

(Name of living person(s) or special occasion)

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.