

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



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

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30am Worship 10:30 Social Time	3 Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	4 <b>Happy Independence Day!</b> Second Hand Rose closed 7-11am Fly In Breakfast at Ogle Co Airport	5 Work Second Hand Rose July 5-8 <sup>th</sup>	6 10:00 Prayer Partners	7	8
9 <b>9:00am Joint Service at Faith Lutheran in Forreston</b> (no worship in Polo)	10	11	12	13 10:00 Prayer Partners 7:00pm Church Council meeting at St. Mark's	14	15
16 9:30am Worship 10:30 Social Time  <b>2:00-4:00pm Ice Cream Social at Polo Senior Center</b>	17	18 9:00am Quilters  Deadline to submit articles for August Newsletter	19	20 10:00 Prayer Partners	21	22
23 9:30am Worship 10:30 Social Time	24	25	26	27 10:00 Prayer Partners	28	29
30 9:30am Worship 10:30 Social Time	31 NO Community Meal					

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Tellers:</u> Evelyn Meyer, Linda Shank, Mark & Sandy Stahler
July 2	Tracey Anders	Charlie & Linda Gall			<u>Altar Guild:</u> Kathy Mitchell & Laurel Smith
July 9	Worship in Forreston	n/a			
July 16	Julie Hoak	Mark & Sandy Stahler			
July 23	Kent Anders	Becky Patterson			<u>Head Usher:</u> Cindy Schryver
July 30	Trish Patterson	Lyle & Melody Reap			



# ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL

## LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

201 N. Division Avenue, Polo, IL 61064

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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.*

### Joint Worship Service in Forreston July 9<sup>th</sup> 9:00am

(no services held in Polo that day)

St. Mark's and Faith Lutheran in Forreston are planning a joint service on Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. Please join us at 9:00am **in Forreston** to worship together. We will plan a joint service held at St. Mark's later in the year.

Faith Lutheran is located at 402 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave in Forreston, IL.

### St. Mark's Ice Cream Social

July 16<sup>th</sup>

The St. Mark's Ice Cream Social will be July 16<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00pm at the Polo Senior Center.

Join us as we listen to old country western music from the band of Denny Jacobs et al.



A sign up sheet is available for food donations.



### Free Summer Lunch for kids Monday thru Friday

**Kidz Café - Monday, Wednesday, Friday**

Faith United Methodist Church

11:00-12:30 every Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Van pickup available at the Pool Park & Polo Public Library or call Wheels of Faith for transport at 815-677-8194 [Facebook.com/polokidzcafe](https://www.facebook.com/polokidzcafe)



**Polo Public Library - Tuesday & Thursdays**

**Menus for each week at both places are posted on the Polo Library Facebook page.**

*Pastor's thoughts ...*

St. Mark's Lutheran family and friends,

Welcome to another day held gently in the loving arms of God. Here we are moving steadily through June and the days are hot... even when you are on vacation. And for vacation this year it was back out to Colorado to see Faith, with two of my favorite traveling companions ever... my mom and Elyse.

Now normally I have so much stuff I want to do when on vacation, places to go, things to see, people to visit. This year was a bit different, I deviated from my normal... get there at all speed possible. Instead we visited a friend on the way. We stopped and ate breakfast. It was a new pattern, a start of something new... a new beginning.

Summer is often a great time for new beginnings. It's a good time to try a new trail, start a new fitness routine, try a new sport (Frisbee/disc golf for me), read a new book, learn to play an instrument, start a new prayer practice, or even start a new devotional practice.

What does the bible say about new beginnings? **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17** says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" Christ brings renewal. As we can change our faith habits and our fitness habits to make us into a new better version of ourselves... Christ, as we submit to his amazing plan, makes us into a new creation. Paul tells us that as believers we have died with Christ and no longer live for ourselves. Our "death" is that of our old sinful nature which was nailed to the cross with Christ. It was buried with Him, and just as He was raised up by the Father, so are we raised up to "walk in newness of life" Romans 6:4.

So celebrate that newness, tell of the good things God is doing in your life. Tell your friends about the new book you are reading or the new exercise program you are trying. Share your new devotion practice with a good friend and see your faith grows in leaps and bounds. Share a new prayer practice you are trying with your loved ones. In confirmation two of the students said that they never pray: not in the morning, at meals, or at night. Beloved, let's be about modeling our prayer practices for them to see... this is a vital and important part of our Christian life.

This month, as I come to a close, I leave you with a prayer. Gracious God, no matter what our circumstances, please help us to remember that we are a blessed and holy people, not holy by what we have done, holy because of what You have done for us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Help us to remember to give thanks for the beauty around us, because this world and all that is in it, was made by your hands. Help us too, to come to you daily with our joys and our pain, knowing you walk with us in all things. Lastly help us to believe, and grant us a deep strong faith, so that we can share your Word with conviction in a world in need of hope, love, and good news. All this we pray in Jesus name. Amen.

Peace and Blessings,  
Pastor Scott

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**A volunteer is needed August Head Usher.  
Please let Lori know if you are able to do this month.**

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# "Best in the Midwest" Fly-in / Drive-in Breakfast

July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 7:00-11:00am



Ogle County Airport  
3019 W. IL Rt. 64, Oregon, IL  
3020

Adults: \$10 | Kids (5-12): \$5 | Under 5 - Free

Menu: Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, hash browns, applesauce, juice, coffee, water

Other attractions: Gun Raffle | 50/50 Raffle

Event held rain or shine!



## Save the date!

**September 10<sup>th</sup>** will be our Sunday School rally day followed by a potluck and a trip to see the *Church Basement Ladies* play at Timberlake Playhouse.

## More details coming soon!

### **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 woman preparing food for multiple events at church will have audiences howling with laughter."



## **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!



Even if you can't come to [St. Mark's Lutheran Church](#), you can still Like our Facebook posts, comment on them and share them. Social Media is a great way to stay involved in St. Mark's ministry! Even posting an emoji is a great way to stay in community with others!

## May Finance Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
9,693	10,772	-1,078

### **Polo Community Meal**

The next meal will be held August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

### **Polo Lifeline Food Pantry**

#### **Needs:**

Toilet paper, mandarin oranges, cream of mushroom soup, apple juice, sugar, mayonnaise.

### **St. Mark's Needs:**

Toilet cleaner, bathroom cleaner spray, paper towels.  
*Any donations are greatly appreciated!!*

## **St. Mark's Building Fund drive**

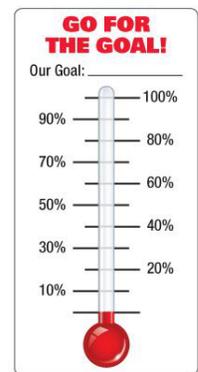
Please help us keep our beautiful building updated and in great condition. We have made some repairs and are in need of a few more:

- Tuckpointing on the church
- plaster repair
- Recently repaired the Organ and boiler
- Replenish our building fund for future needs

We have a goal of \$25,000!

#### **Did you know you can donate directly to our building fund online?**

Visit [www.stmarkspolo.com](http://www.stmarkspolo.com) and look for the green button that says "Give to St. Mark's". You can choose to donate to Building Fund, General Fund or Missions.



**Thank you for your generous donations to the building fund!**  
**Since September we have raised just over \$10,000 toward our goal!**

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

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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)



### **Sunday School teachers needed this fall**

Are you interested in teaching our youth? This September we are looking for new teachers. All materials are provided.

**Church Council Secretary's Report**  
May 10, 2023, 7:00 p.m. In Person Meeting

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

**Secretary's Report by Trish Patterson was reviewed and approved. Renee made a motion to approve. Trish 2nd.**

**Treasurer's Financial Report for April 2023 – Renee motion to approve as well as transfer \$10K from checking to savings for general fund. Cindy 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Committee Reports:**

**Pastor's Report:** Easter service went well. Vision committee is also underway. Confirmation starts Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Central conference meeting was held.

**Finance (Lisa):** Not here to report.

**Worship & Music (Trish):** Nothing to report.

**Hospitality (Hailey) –** Not here to report.

**Fellowship (Lisa):** Spring dinner went well. Upcoming event ice cream social.

**Education Committee (Renee):** Renee said they reached out to confirmation kids. The next 2 Mondays they are doing confirmation class. Will do a couple of things through the summer. An app is set up called "team reach" to help the kids and parents to stay informed.

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

**Property (Steve):** Old Sunday school chairs: Post online to sell or donate.

**Polo Council of Churches (Pastor):** SVCC wants to come to the next Polo Council of Churches meeting to talk. Kids can get community service hours by helping.

**Liaison (Trish & Lisa):**

**1.) Travel Expense –** Original contract is mileage for Pastor to be split 50/50. It has been suggested that the yoking agreement be changed to have each church pay for their portion of miles driven by pastor. Much discussion was had about the details and how this change would be worded and logged by pastor. No decision reached. Table this topic for next meeting.

**2.) Joint Worship -** It was suggested that we choose a date in summer to go to Faith Lutheran for a joint service. Perhaps there would be a joint service during the winter months at Polo.

**3.) 941 Form -** St Marks has always filed this federal payroll document, however Faith is not doing so. Renee will forward the information to Trish to share with Liaison committee that she received from the synod. It will be Faith's responsibility if they choose to file or not.

**4.)** Payment is going to Faith twice a month, the 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Payment in contract is for the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month. St. Mark's will pay this every month of the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Vision (Pastor):** Pastor would like to continue to get young families involved in our church and will be listening to their ideas and suggestions. One idea was to hold Sunday school and church at the same time.

**Old Business:**

- Technology use during service – discuss next month
- Rolling white board – discuss next month

**New Business:**

- Review Orientation Info - discuss next month

**Motion to adjourn by Trish, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cindy. Adjourned at 8:38 pm**

**Next meeting:** Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm in person

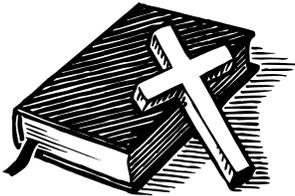
**Respectfully Submitted by: Trish Patterson**

## Thank you!

- ~ Thank you to all who helped with Altar Guild in June!
- ~ Thank you to Cliff Bardell for leading worship while Pastor was on vacation.
- ~ Thank you to all who have donated copy paper and other supplies for St. Mark's.

Sympathies to the family and friends of Lyle & Barb Grobe whose son, Steve Grobe, died in Christ June 11<sup>th</sup>.

*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, Jeanne Scholl, Linda Scholl, and Marian Schnulle.

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

## July Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

- |    |                 |    |                    |
|----|-----------------|----|--------------------|
| 3  | Joey Bardell    | 19 | Ashley White       |
| 4  | Erika Decker    |    | Kevin Dyer         |
| 5  | Tony Karrow     |    | Mark Wooden        |
| 7  | Travis Roop     | 20 | Robert Hoak        |
|    | Sydney Brown    | 21 | Tim Gipe           |
| 10 | Veronica Acker  |    | Robert Bargas, Jr. |
|    | Matt Slager     | 22 | Jerry Hose II      |
| 11 | Rodney Garkey   |    | Grace Gabaldon     |
|    | Elsie Hackbarth | 24 | Jeanne Scholl      |
| 12 | Tammy Karrow    | 25 | Pamela Lotz        |
| 13 | Hannah Grobe    |    | Barb Grobe         |
| 14 | Lyle Reap       | 26 | Brady Bushman      |
|    | Linda Shank     |    | Raymond Lopez      |
|    | Yasmine Bargas  | 27 | Lyle Grobe         |
| 15 | Brian Lopez     | 28 | Ellia Escobar      |
|    | Josh Christen   | 29 | Kalah Mitchell     |
| 16 | Tom Suits       |    | Pat McPherson      |
|    | Paige Roop      | 30 | Larry Hackbarth    |
|    | Natalie Nelson  |    | Amy Bardell        |
| 17 | Joan Rienstra   |    | Kathy Toms         |
|    |                 | 31 | Kale Grobe         |
|    |                 |    | Kameron Grobe      |

### Anniversaries

- |    |                           |
|----|---------------------------|
| 3  | Leo & Joan Rienstra       |
| 5  | Charles & Linda Gall      |
| 6  | Andy & Lisa Hinrichs      |
| 8  | Scott & Melanie Armstrong |
| 11 | Kenneth & Laurel Smith    |
|    | Josh & Lori Christen      |
|    | Sharon & James VanOosten  |
| 12 | Mike & Kim Bowman         |
| 21 | Brent & Beth Shipman      |
| 23 | Mark & Renee Boyle        |
| 26 | Cliff & Amy Bardell       |
| 27 | Dan & Amanda Powell       |