

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



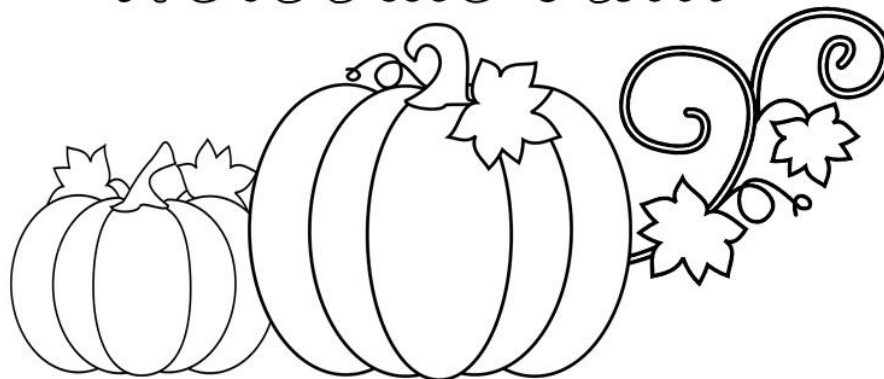
≡ September ≡



2024



Welcome Fall!



"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him,
he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" -- Jesus (John 15:5).

September 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 *NEW TIMES* 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	2 Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	3	4	5 10:00 Prayer Partners	6	7
8 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	9 5:00-6:30pm Community Meal at FUM	10	11 7:00pm Church Council meeting at St. Mark's	12 10:00 Prayer Partners	13	14
15 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	16	17 9:00am Quilters	18	19 10:00 Prayer Partners Deadline to submit articles for October Newsletter	20	21
22 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship 2:00pm CROP Walk @ Oregon Methodist	23	24 6:00pm Polo Council of Churches meeting @ St. Mark's	25	26 10:00 Prayer Partners	27	28
29 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	30	October 1 Work Second Hand Rose October 1 st -5 th	October 2	October 3 10:00 Prayer Partners	October 4	October 5

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>Tellers:</u> Melody Reap, Lorin & Joyce Gatz
September 1	Kent Anders		
September 8	Tracey Anders	Becky Patterson	
September 15	Merla Brooks		
September 22	Trish Patterson	Merla Brooks	
September 29	Julie Hoak		

Altar Guild: Sept. 1st & 8th – Renee Boyle
 Sept. 15th, 22nd, 29th - OPEN

Head Usher: Cindy Schryver



**ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**
201 N. Division Avenue, Polo, IL 61064

Email: stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net
Church office: 815-946-2919
Website: 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.*



September 1st – Fall Worship time

9:00am Adult Bible Study
10:00am Social Time
10:30 Worship

The 2024 CROP Walk will be held Sunday, September 22nd at 2:00pm at the Oregon Methodist Church. Please let Tracey Anders know if you would like to walk or make a donation toward local food pantries. Tracey needs to know your shirt size by September 8th!



A volunteer is needed for altar guild for the last 3 Sundays in September – the 15th, 22nd and 29th.
Please let the office know if you are able to help.

Pennies from Heaven donations needed

Pennies From Heaven is the fund created by the Polo Council of Churches to help out people in the Polo community with a hardship they are having. This is similar to the neighbors in need fund we used to have, but the churches in town work together to help. Mark your donation "Pennies From Heaven" and put it in the offering and we will pass it along to the Polo Council of Churches.

Hello St. Mark's Lutheran,

Let's start out the newsletter this month with a daily devotion I do from time to time. Today's comes from **1 Thessalonians 5:16-19**, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit." Where does this reading take you?

Well, the summer is a great time to gather with family and friends. It's a time to take that vacation we've been meaning to... time to relax/decompress/be restored. Reconnecting with friends and family around a campfire, out fishing, or going to a theme park/fair I think is part of our collective story. But as we get older circumstances can change, distance can make visiting harder, and losing loved ones becomes part of our reality. With Elyse about to start back to school and a few funerals of late, I suppose my mind wandered to loneliness as I read from Thessalonians. How do we navigate loneliness after a loss?

One of the most painful human emotions is loneliness. There are times when being alone is unavoidable. But beloved, God has sent His Spirit to live within us, we are never truly on our own. The Holy Spirit—our advocate, our helper (John 14:26)—is with us every second of every day.

And thankfully, the Spirit of God helps us in our prayer life. First, He prods us to pray. Have you ever felt a strong sense that you needed to spend time with the Lord—perhaps without even knowing why? That is the Spirit convicting you. After all, the Spirit knows when we need strength because of an imminent difficulty, and sometimes encourages us to confess sin so our fellowship with the Father isn't hindered.

Second, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us. There are times when we do not know how to pray—for example, when sorrow or helplessness overwhelms us to the point that words are impossible to speak, when all we can do is cry to Jesus. Then the Spirit will lead on our behalf.

What a privilege to have God's Spirit dwelling in your heart. Do you recognize His power and love throughout your day? He longs to comfort, enable, and guide you each and every moment.

So I hope that your summer was a good one, full of visits with friends and family, and maybe even some times of self-reflection. I hope that if you have been experiencing feelings of loneliness, that you feel God's presence, comfort, and support. And that you know, that your St. Mark's Lutheran family is here to walk with you too. St. Mark's is a fantastic place full of fantastic people and when we come together to share our connectedness and our loneliness, our hopes and dreams, our triumphs and failures, our joy and sorrow I truly believe that God works through the body of this church. Looking forward to an amazing Autumn season with you.

Peace and Blessings to you and yours,
Pastor Scott

Polo Community Meal

The next community meal will be held September 9th at Faith United Methodist 5:00-6:30pm.

Polo Lifeline Food Pantry Needs:

Toilet paper, fruit, chicken noodle and cream of mushroom soup, sugar, dish soap, laundry soap, eggs, hamburger and cash donations.



Save the Date!

Confirmation - October 27th 10:30am

Our St. Mark's students will be confirmed during the 10:30am worship on Sunday, October 27th, 2024.

Please invite your family and friends to join us in supporting them. There will be light refreshments after worship.

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6 month offering statements were not printed this year. If you would like your statement, please let the office know and we will get it for you.

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

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If you are missing a pan or dish that you brought food to St. Mark's in, there are several in the basement small kitchen. Help us find their owners!

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2024 6:30 pm

Members: Present: Renee Boyle, Cindy Schryver, Trish Patterson, Pastor Scott, Steve Sorensen, Mary Calderon

Attendance and Quorum: Yes

Opening Prayer – by Pastor Scott

Secretary's Report – Renee motion to approve May 8 report. Cindy 2nd.

Treasurer's Report- Confirmed \$640.00 from Lenten offerings will be moved to the youth fund. Renee makes a motion to transfer \$3K from the parsonage fund to our general to cover expenses. Trish 2nd. Motion passes.

Trish makes a motion to approve the May and June treasurers report. Renee 2nd. Motion passes.

Committee Reports:

Pastor – Had his review. Renee and Mark Boyle conducted the review. It went well. Confirmation, last meeting went great. Next meeting is July 18th. Synod Assembly went well. Visits are pretty much up to date. July 29-31, Pastor going to a conference at St. Olaf College. Next week is vacation bible school in Forreston.

Finance – Renee – nothing to report.

Worship N Music – Trish – Meeting was held on June 19th. Next meeting in August.

Hospitality - Hailey – not here to report.

Fellowship -

Education – Renee – nothing to report

Memorial - Cindy- nothing to report

Property – Steve- how to spend the ice cream social proceeds – how to split it? Half to building fund and half to ?? Doors are getting one more seal.

Polo Council of Churches – meet every 2 months.

Liaison -Trish – Will not meet until November – cancellation for cold weather policy to chat about.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 14th at 7:00 PM

Closing prayer – by Pastor Scott

Vote to Adjourn Meeting – Trish moves we adjourn. Steve 2nd. Adjourned at 7:25 pm

July Finance Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
7,642	7,677	-35

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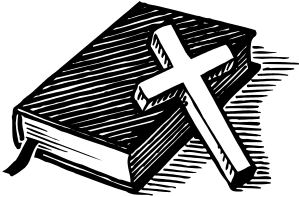
Sympathies to the family and friends of Lori Jasper who passed away July 26th.

Sympathies to the family and friends of Lyle Reap who passed away August 4th. Thank you to all who helped with the funeral and luncheon.

Thank you!

- ~ Thank you to Steve Sorenson for taking care of our property needs. He did a wonderful job sanding and staining the exterior doors of the church!
- ~ Thank you to Merla Brooks for leading worship August 4th.
- ~ Thank you to Suzanne Sorenson for volunteering for August Altar Guild.

Please let us know if someone needs a thank you.



Prayers for those in need of healing: Sibyl Acker, Kent Anders, Ron Bardell, Darlene Barnhart, Shelby Hose, Tommy Knipple, Pat McPherson, Beulah Nelson, Mary Ann Olson, Laurel Smith and Beth Wiegmann. **Those in care facilities:** Tammy Karrow, Trudy Karrow and Marian Schnulle. **Those in Military service:** Dustin Knapp, Brad Reigle, Travis Roop and Nathaniel Yingling.

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

1	Chelsea Schryver	19	Carrie Woodin
2	Jeri Anne Hose-Ryan		Seth Bauling
5	Ryan Nelson		Rebekka Powell
6	Raina Lopez		Owen Schmidt
7	Tyler Horner	20	Clayton Weaver
8	Allison Hickerson		Colton Schwarz
9	Emily Richardson	21	Levi Slager
	Morgan Patterson		Scott Sorenson
	Reese Mekeel		Tim Hinrichs
	Michelle Knight	22	Britt Thorngren
10	Lori Christen	24	Nora Mitchell
11	Hailey Walker	25	Ilene Cain
14	Colton Gunder	26	Martha Hose
16	Jeffrey Hackbarth	27	Michelle Bowman
	Chad Karrow		Brody Massolle
	Lois Garman	28	Justin Grobe
17	Evelyn Meyer	29	Toni Massolle
	Brady Wolber	30	Kurt Altenburg
			Lorin Gatz

Anniversaries

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

