

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!



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

The word "June" is written in a large, green, cursive font. To the left of the letter "J" are two green flip-flops with blue and yellow stripes.

2020



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL

LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

201 N. Division Avenue, Polo, IL 61064

Email: stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net

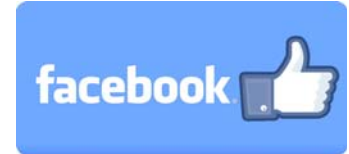
Church office for a message: 815-946-2919

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



What you need to do is log on to St. Mark's Lutheran Church Polo Illinois Facebook page www.facebook.com/stmarkspolo . If you are already connected to the Facebook page, it will be easy. The website is open to the public so access should be easy. Pastor Terrie will be doing a shortened message with a short sermon and then **offering communion for the community of participants on June 7th**. 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.



When Can we Worship God Together?

Safety is the reason we are staying apart. No one wants to share a virus that we may not even know we are passing on. We may try meeting outdoors or in the sanctuary with special precautions in the coming weeks. Be aware that there will be guidelines: masks should be worn, distance must be kept, and fans cannot be run. This rule will be difficult in the summer heat.

Printed bulletins will be used in place of hymnals and solos in place of hymn sings with a shorter worship time. Individual communion cups with a seal over the cup and wafer have been ordered. You will be notified if we are able to resume in a few weeks and if you prefer to continue to worship at home that is just fine.

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) church body we are following the guidelines for houses of worship according to the:

<https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/>

<https://elca.org/publichealth>



If you need a Devotional for June or a new one for July, August and September, please let Pastor or Lori know. One will be sent or dropped off at your home.

Pastor's Thoughts...

I am a person at high risk as many of you are should Covid-19 visit our bodies. This virus has invaded the whole world and we are all affected. There are many others who do not feel as cautious about the virus as I do, however I pray that most people will take precautions for others around them. The cartoon below I thought was pretty powerful, especially for people of faith. We must remember that God gave us science, healing medicine and free will to care for the temples of our bodies.

[1 Corinthians 3:16-17](#) Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

The liturgical season of Easter is over however Easter lives in us every day as resurrected people of God. We are always being made new and in this time of pandemic I have had to make an attitude adjustment. I was so comfortable with the worship format, the sermon, the hymns, the worship books, the communion ritual and the power point presentations. I thought that power point would be the last thing I needed to learn on the computer.....then God said wake up! There is so much more to learn...zoom and you tube. Oh NO! A crash course in these virtual foreign languages sent me into...admittedly. Thank you to all of you who are praying for me because the power of the Holy Spirit continues to push and pull me forward. Thank you for your patience and I understand that you may worship on line with others also.

I especially thank Kent Anders, Linda Gall and Vicar Michelle Knight for all their help in pulling me from the pit of despair.

The church is alive in you! The church goes on always! God makes house calls to everyone all the time! Until we can gather.....God bless you and keep you well, Pastor Terrie



Congratulations Polo High School Graduates!

Kennedy Yingling, Grace Gabaldon and Gabriel Boothe!
If you know someone who is graduating and what their plans are please tell us so that we can share in their joy as the family of St. Mark's.



Confirmation Classes Plan to Zoom in June

Students and parents will be notified in advance and assignments will be sent in advance. Pastor is collecting emails to send class on. It will be a few Bibles and study books will be dropped off at each home until we can gather again safely.



Parking Lot Prayer Partners

Meet June 4th at 10:00am weather permitting in the Parking Lot out back.
Bring your mask and your lawn chair.



Forum Day in Place of our Synod Assembly

Saturday, June 20 • 9:30 am – 1:15 pm

In order to keep spreading the word about the good work being done by the committees, sub-committees, and ministry groups of the synod, we are thrilled to announce that the Northern Illinois Synod is offering a "Forum Day" when our ministries will lead forums for all interested members of our congregations and the

wider community to inform you about the work going on in your name!

This Forum Day, Saturday, June 20, will be held via the Zoom meeting platform. It will offer three sessions of forums featuring up to twelve of our ministries. The first forum will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the last one finishes at 1:15 p.m.

Currently, our committees, sub-committees, and ministry groups are busy planning their forums. We will put up a schedule of the forums no later than June 1.

Please mark your calendars for this great opportunity. The forums will also be recorded and available on the synod website after the event, so even though you are only able to attend three that day, you will be able to view the others soon thereafter.

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**



Thank you to all who donated for the needs of the homeless woman.
After helping her \$350 was sent to the Polo Food Pantry and the Neighbors in Need fund has some for others in need. If anyone from our congregation needs help please let pastor know. It will be confidential. If you know a friend of St. Mark’s in need let pastor know as well.
God Bless you all and may the Holy Spirit give you a generous heart and keep you well.



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](mailto:stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net)

Council Highlights from the May Church Council Meeting

Treasurer's Report: A copy of the April financials were provided. Renee provided an overview of the Payroll Protection Grant in which she applied for on behalf of the church through the First State Shannon-Polo Bank. The grant is for \$12,317 to be used for payroll, healthcare, and benefit costs. We did receive the money and it will show up in the May balance sheet as a loan. As long as we continue to pay our employees, this loan will be forgiven through the Small Business Association after paperwork is filed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor continues to email home worship information Saturday night. In addition, Pastor has attempted an online service via Facebook. The first Facebook live had 311 views with 47 worshipping at one time for communion. Many people have commented with great appreciation and positivity. The second worship failed due to home computer issues. Kent has helped to develop a way to post worship on Facebook. Pastor continues to await for scientific and medical advice, as well as the governor's plan before gathering in person. Feedback from the synod continues with regular updates. When gathering is allowed in the future, pastor is planning to have two services, individual communion packs, and no passing of peace or social time for a while. In person worship will roll out slowly while observing physical distancing. Pastor has been making a lot of phone calls and writing notes to shut-ins. The synod has provided many opportunities for learning and check-in opportunities via Zoom.

Worship & Hospitality: The Hospitality and Mission teams have made intermittent phone calls with congregation members to connect with the church family. They have collected new phone numbers and address information. We continue emailing newsletters and mailing count is up.

Education: Pastor plans to set up Zoom confirmation classes when school is out for the summer. Sunday school plans are on hold at this time.

Local and Global Mission: Collected food was taken to the Lifeline Food Pantry. \$350 was sent from Neighbors in Need fund to the Polo Lifeline Food Pantry. Pastor is requesting any ideas on meeting any community help that is needed.

Fellowship: The ice cream social has been cancelled at this time. The shelter has been cancelled as well.

Property: Pastor requested volunteers for each month to check on the property, toilets, moving the chair lift, and watering plants. Sara volunteered for June, Lisa for July, and Amanda for August.

Memorial Report: Our new sign has been installed and looks great! Special thanks to Merla and the Memorial Team for providing the mulch and bricks for the sign. The bronze cornerstone is ordered and expected to be installed in June. The estate of Terry Pontnak gifted the church \$2,900.

150th Celebration: The celebration is on hold at this time. Ordered shirts, hats, and totes are at the church. Please pick up at church and pay.



POLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES MINUTES FOR MAY 26, 2020--ZOOM MEETING

Treasurer Report/Tom Cline: General Fund balance is \$4610.77 which includes \$1052 of community garden grant money. Pine Creek Christian Church paid \$300 for dues/donations for 2020 since our last meeting. Patricia Stauffer was paid \$250 for Bible School and New Village Inn was paid \$54.79 for an overnight guest of the city.

The hungry neighbor fund checking acct. has a balance of \$1092.56 after \$200 was paid in February and March to Dollar General and the Food Pantry.

Second Hand Rose: Present Balance is \$659.00. Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, having no income has put the store in jeopardy. It was approved by all present, to start the process of applying for a City of Polo grant/loan to help with bills and utilities. David Poole will work with Sharon Miller and finalize paperwork for the application.

Summer Bible School: Patricia Stauffer, COB, has a plan in place for VBS for late June or July if possible. Her plan using a Parable from the "Book of Matthew" is a puppet program with a hand built stage. Three days a week for 1 hour and 30 minutes, with separation of age groups of children, is in the works. This worthwhile mission will be provided for children depending on which Phase our community and State are in during the summer.

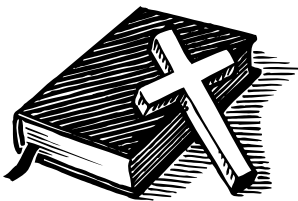
Community Garden: Jonathan Stauffer reports 70% of the garden is planted. Volunteers are needed to weed, water and harvest the garden. Contact Jonathan at 815-973-0247 to sign-up for a week or longer. COB hopes to utilize the VBS children and use it as a lesson from Matthew 13; Mark 4 and Luke 8, “The Parable of the Sower”. The produce is an important tool used in keeping families healthy, both physically and spiritually.

Kidz Cafe: Marla reported that an alternative program for feeding children and their families will occur this summer. Starting in June, on Wednesday’s and Friday’s, Grab and Go food is available at Faith United Methodist Church. The outside shelter will be used and children and families may drive or walk by and Grab food to go.

Monetary donations are needed and welcome this year. Most of the pre-packaged food is being purchased and is more costly than preparing/cooking meals.

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, PCCC will monitor and decide when Community meals, Vesper services, etc. will reopen. Let’s pray for the world during these difficult times.

Next meeting: July 28 Currently, Open Bible is slated to host.



Prayers for Healing: Jeff Bardell

Prayers for those in care facilities: Barb Bowen, 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.

Our prayers and sympathies to the family of Harold and Joyce Folkers as Brian Ely died in Christ this week.

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Anniversaries

- 1 Lindsay Mitchell
- 2 Adam Wiegmann
A J Hinrichs
- 5 Tommy Bardell
Morgan Karrow
- 6 Maxine Osborne
McKenzie Bailey
- 7 Mary Cimino
- 8 Terry Pontnak
Kennedy Yingling
- 9 Christopher Toms
- 10 Maddox Karrow
- 11 Betty Obendorf
Tarah Patterson
Kent Anders
- 13 Emma Bauling
- 14 Karen Gilbert
Kayleigh Rogers
Lisa Hinrichs

- 15 Larry Reap
Edward Schnulle
- 16 Nathan Stone
- 17 Julie Haye
Janet Grobe
- 19 LeRoy Toms
- 20 Elijah Lotz
- 21 Greg Cross
Lisa Miller
- 23 Chad Nelson
James Shrader
- 25 Cynthia Schryver
Carrie Grobe
- 26 Nathan Wiegmann
Rebecca Johnson
Daphne Bone
- 28 Randy Mitchell
- 30 Tracy Hilleman
Lori Davids

- 2 Tony & Judy Karrow
- 3 Raymond & Laura Lopez
- 7 Matt & Cassie Mekeel
- 10 Tom & Carol Suits
- 11 Scott & Sara Thorngren
- 20 Lyle & Melody Reap
- 23 Bryan & Colby Suits
- 27 Lyle & Marcia Printz

William Barclay (1907-1978) *Scottish author, radio and television presenter, Church of Scotland minister, and Professor of Divinity at the University of Glasgow.*

Men dream of world government in the political sense of the term. The only place in which world government comes anywhere near to realization is the Church. It is not the possession of a nation or a country or a colour; the Church is as wide as the World, and even the tiniest congregation in the smallest village or hamlet in the most remote place is part of something which has gone out to the ends of the earth.

Secondly, we must think of the history of the Church. It is the simple truth that the Church existed before most of the nations which exist today.

When we sit at the Communion Table it is well to remember that we are sharing in the only ceremony in the world which has been observed somewhere every single day for something like the last nineteen hundred and thirty years. There is no continuity in the world like that. Nowhere are we so much in touch with history as we are in the Church.

And we do well to remember that in the Church we are more than in touch with the whole wide world; we are more than in touch with almost twenty centuries of history; we are in touch with eternity. In it we are always compassed about with the great cloud of witnesses. In it we are surrounded not simply by the greatness of time, but also by the infinity of eternity.

It may be that our whole conception of the Church is far too small and far too local, and far too parochial. John Oxenham wrote of the world-wide Church (ELW Hymn #650):

In Christ there is no East or West,
In Him no South or North,
But one great Fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Him shall true hearts everywhere
Their high communion find.
His service is the golden cord
Close-binding all mankind.

Join hands then, Brothers of the Faith,
Whate'er your race may be-
Who serves my Father as a son
Is surely kin to me.



Ken Obendorf (seated in center) received a gift bag from Leroy Toms, 95, also of Polo in social distancing style, on the end of a long pole. Obendorf celebrated his 90th birthday on May 7. Sitting with Ken is his wife, Betty. Photo supplied