

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



2023



November 2023 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	2 10:00 Prayer Partners	3	4 5:00pm Fall Supper at St. Mark's
5 All Saints Day 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship 2-4pm Carol Garkey birthday celebration at Senior Center	6 Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	7	8 7:00pm Church Council meeting at St. Mark's	9 10:00 Prayer Partners	10	11
12 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship 11:30-1:00 Confirmation	13	14	15	16 10:00 Prayer Partners	17	18
19 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship 11:30-1:00 Confirmation	20	21 9:00am Quilters Work Second Hand Rose November 21, 22, 24, 25th	22 Deadline to submit articles for December Newsletter	23 No Prayer Partners Happy Thanksgiving! 	24	25
26 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	27 No Community Meal (Changed to 12/11/23)	28	29	30 10:00 Prayer Partners		

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>		<u>Tellers:</u> Evelyn Meyer, Linda Shank, Mark & Sandy Stahler
November 5	Beth Wiegmann	Cindy Sullivan			<u>Altar Guild:</u> Nov. 5 & 26: Suzanne Sorenson Nov. 12 & 19: Cindy Schryver
November 12	Julie Hoak	Kathy Mitchell			
November 19	Amanda Carroll	Karen Gilbert			
November 26	Sandy Stahler				<u>Head Usher:</u> Nov. 5 & 26: Steve Sorenson Nov. 12 & 19: Trish Patterson



**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.*

**St. Mark's Fall Ham Loaf Dinner
November 4th**

Time: 5:00-7:00pm Dine in or Carry Out

Cost: \$12 adults, \$8 age 12 & under

Menu: Hearty serving of hamloaf, au gratin potatoes, green beans, roll, tossed salad, pie.



No advanced ticket sales

Sign up at the church to donate pies or help serve.

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All Saints Day November 5th

Please join us as we light candles in memory of our loved ones that have passed this year.

**Charles "Jerry" Schwingel • LeRoy Toms • Gary Hackbarth •
Jeanne Scholl • Linda Scholl**



Candles will be available for the congregation to offer prayer for their loved ones.

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St. Mark's Youth Sunday School

November 5th

9:00am-10:00am

Join us and invite a friend!



Special Congregational Meeting – Postponed to December 10th

There will be a special congregational meeting on Sunday, December 10th following worship. This will be to approve changes made to our constitution so it can be ratified at our annual meeting in January. Copies with changes will be provided before the meeting for any questions.



Hello St. Mark's Lutheran-

Welcome to another month held gently in the loving arms of God! It is that time of year again, when favorite warm socks, blankets and sweaters make their way back out of summer storage. It's that time of year when a hot cup of coffee becomes more than just what I always do in the morning, it starts becoming the thing I use to warm up in the morning. It's that time of year when little ones and some adults don strange garments and masks, and confirmands are working on their catechetical tasks. As I write this, it's still October. When the air starts to have that familiar crispness again (if any more people from Wisconsin tell me it's not cold I might lose it), harvests are brought in, apples and pumpkins have been picked, and are ready to eat or bake into pies, and football fills our tvs and our Friday nights. I don't know about you, but for me, this time of year always turns my heart toward God's creation as I see and feel the changes all around.

In preparing for this newsletter my heart has been heavy. Early this last week a friend/colleague's husband died. And also this last week some friends of mine lost their daughter in a terrible accident. My friend reached out and asked that I pray for their families. Honestly my heart was broken by the news and into that space I prayed for God's peace and love. Truthfully I'm praying for friends and families, all of us, daily. I believe God is with us all always and that gives me great comfort even in the midst of tragedy. I know that God doesn't cause tragic accidents, and it breaks my heart when I hear people saying, "why did God take my loved one?" The comfort I have is that I know God is with us in the midst of our everyday, tragedies and accidents included.

But it is hard when I hear, "I don't know if she was a believer or not". Beloved, I don't believe that God could see his creation broken and not reach out, even when we haven't reached out to Him. **When Christ went to the cross it was for All People.** As Christians we can be confident in/take comfort in knowing what happens next, as Christ says in John 14, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also." In this we can trust, in this we can believe. But the next part is, we need to share it. God's Word, locked up in a book, locked up in our mouths, does no good to those in need, does no good for the broken-hearted, but when we share God's Word when we share His love, healing happens, hope is restored, resurrection happens.

So this fall, with the changing of the leaves, the harvest of fields, the cycles of life and death in the world, let us remember that ours can be voices of life in the world. When you have the opportunity to share God's peace and love, do not hold back, do not wait, and do not be afraid! God has put you here for a reason, and sometimes it can be to speak the right words, in the right ear, at the right time, and it can change lives. Remember you are never alone and you are always loved. Beloved, God loves you and so do I!

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Scott

CROP Walk

St. Mark's Lutheran Church was represented this year by more than a dozen walkers of all ages. This year's event was held on the first of October, hosted by Disciple's Methodist Church in Mt. Morris. It was a beautiful sunny and warm fall day, and walkers chose to go either one mile, three miles, or the traditional 5 mile trek.

Our group was also represented by Chelsea and Cindy's boston terrier, Parker, and Merla brought along her gang of Wilson, Mindy, and Teddy. Everyone had a great time, and afterwards the good ladies of Disciple's served the walkers an excellent lunch consisting of sloppy joes, chips, celery and carrot sticks, and don't forget the cookies!!!!

One quarter of the proceeds collected will be distributed to the four local area food pantries. Number of total walkers, and specific amounts collected to be announced at a later date!



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Confirmation Class dates:

November: 12th, 19th

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!



Save the date!

**Kids Christmas fun day
December 10th after worship**

Sunday School age through Confirmation. We will have food, games and more from 11:30-1:00.

Thank you Country Floral!

After many great years serving the Polo Community and St. Mark's, Norma at Country Floral is retiring and will be closing her shop. We would like to thank her and her husband for all their years of helping with our altar flowers and other events!

After December 22nd, alternative options will need to be made if you are providing altar flowers.



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Do you want to earn free tuition at Sauk?

Sauk Valley Community College has a program called IMPACT. By doing volunteer work, you can earn free tuition. St. Mark's is now a Volunteer Partner so you can earn volunteer hours while serving your church.

For more information regarding SVCC's Impact Program, please email impact@svcc.edu or call (815) 835-6650 or visit www.svcc.edu/impact



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Council Agenda

September 13, 2023 7:00 p.m.

Members: Renee Boyle, Steve Sorenson, Cindy Schryver, Trish Patterson & Lisa Hinrichs, Pastor Scott, Mary Calderon

Attendance and Quorum: declared by Renee Boyle

Opening Prayer – by Renee

Secretary's Report: August 9th provided by Cindy Schryver - **Steve makes a motion to accept, 2nd by Lisa**

Congregational meeting minutes -

Congregational Meeting Report provided by Trish Patterson - **Lisa makes a motion to accept, 2nd by Steve.**

Treasurer's Financial Report: provided by Lori Christen – Motion by Trish P to accept, 2nd by Steve

Old Business:

- Update on Chimney/Tuckpointing – Steve talked to Tim from the Catholic church in Amboy as a reference. He said they did a great job and good to work with. He also called Greg Majeski twice but never heard back from him. Renee talked to Jeanette Linker, we would have to prove that it was an environmental event so we could be reimbursed through our insurance. We have no start date yet. Renee is in contact with him.

New Business:

- Need volunteers for Altar Guild during Nov. and Dec. – Trish and Steve head usher for Nov. Alter guild Suzanne Sorensen and Cindy Schryver. Lisa will do alter guild for December.

Committee Reports:

- **Pastor's Report** – Pastor had a central conference meeting today in Mt. Morris. Confirmation is going well. GLO event at the Brethern church on Sept 17th at 7:00 PM. Our church could bring cookies.
- **Finance (Lisa)** – will meet probably in November
- **Worship & Music (Trish)** – the next meeting is Sept 20th – thoughts about Sunday school kids and performing, Xmas program??
- **Hospitality (Hailey)** – No information
- **Fellowship (Lisa)** – Sunday is a potluck with Faith Lutheran and Timberlake Playhouse Nov 4th will be the Fall Supper
- **Education (Renee)**
 - met on 9/3 - need teachers and helpers – Sunday School program. Renee and Pastor Scott met with some members to discuss the program. Emily is willing to help once a month. Not a lot of kids. Try a “youth Sunday” once a month? Lisa Hinrichs will do this and we will have a sign up sheet to help her. 9-10 am the first Sunday of each month starting Oct 1st.
 - parents take turns making a meal for the confirmation classes every other week. They are using “teamreach” for confirmation class, sending out messages to kids and parents as a group.
 - LOMC camp in Nov - \$65 per student – \$35 from the youth fund per student and the remainder of \$30 is from the family. Pastor Scott and Renee will be going with the kids.
- **Memorial (Cindy)** – nothing to report
- **Property (Steve)** - meeting with Matt regarding the furnace water tomorrow. Not sure if it is steam or water. He will show Steve.
- **Polo Council of Churches (Pastor)** – nothing else
- **Liaison (Trish/Lisa)** – Nov 12th is our next meeting at St. Marks– Trish and Lisa to meet to go over review of Pastor for our church.
- **Vision (Pastor)** - nothing to report

Closing prayer by Pastor Scott

Vote to Adjourn Meeting – 8:03 PM Trish P makes a motion to adjourn – 2nd by Renee

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 11th

September Finance Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
7,114	12,430	-5,315

Polo Community Meal

The next meal will be held
December 11th, 2023.

Polo Lifeline Food Pantry Needs:

Sugar, canned fruit (except mixed fruit), lunch meat
Ketchup, juice boxes, coffee, tea bags, chicken noodle soup, cream of
mushroom soup, cheese, syrup, any kind of meat.

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

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Please join us as we celebrate the
90th Birthday of Carol Garkey

OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023

Polo Area Senior Services Center

101 E Mason St, Polo, IL 61064

2: 00 pm – 4: 00 pm

Please no gifts.

If you cannot attend, cards may be sent to:

14508 W. Canada Rd, Polo, IL 61064

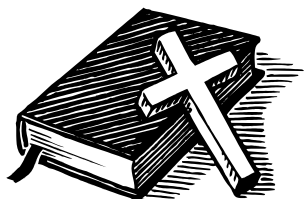
(This is not a surprise party.)

Thank you!

~ Thank you to Krista, Betty Obendorf's daughter, for leading a card making class at St. Mark's.

~ Thank you to all who participated or donated for the CROP Walk this year.

Please let us know if someone needs a thank you.



Prayers for those in need of healing: Richard Hose, Shelby Hose, Tommy Knipple, Pat McPherson, Mary Ann Olson and Lyle Printz.

Those in care facilities: Sibyl Acker, Tammy Karrow, Jessica Kimpel and Marian Schnulle.

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

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

2	Carol Garkey	11	Paige Peterson
	Stacy Morrison	12	Michael Ambeau
4	Julie Acker	13	Darlene Barnhart
	Lucas Bender	15	Andrea Mullens
	Joyce Gatz	18	Claire Bartelt
5	Gracie Bailey	20	Scott Thorngren
7	William Hoak	23	Hurley Boothe
	Mary Jane Wagner	25	JoDee Bardell
9	Dan Nelson	29	Kent Sorenson
	Logan Albrecht	30	ReAnne Kurschner
			Parker Wolber

Anniversaries

8	Randy & Dawn Mitchell
22	Aaron & Melissa Johnson
23	Ken & Jennifer Yingling
26	Richard & Shelby Jean Hose
	Michael & Cindy Sullivan

Christmas Poinsettia Orders

Anyone wishing to have a poinsettia in the church in memory of a loved one or wishing to present a poinsettia to the church for Christmas, please fill out the form below. Please mail or bring to the church office by Sunday, December 10th. The cost of the poinsettia is \$14.00. If you are planning on buying a poinsettia elsewhere, please still fill out the information and return it to the church office. Thank you.

Message for church bulletin:

“Presented to the church to the Glory of God by

OR

“Presented in loving memory of _____

Your name _____

Are you ordering through the church? YES / NO

Please make checks payable to “St. Mark’s”