

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!

Parking Lot Worship
9:00am EVERY Sunday
in September!



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



2020



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL

LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

201 N. Division Avenue, Polo, IL 61064

Email: stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net

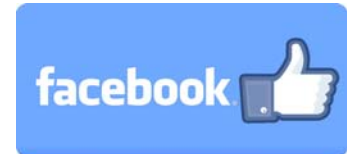
Church office for a message: 815-946-2919

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



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.

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Parking Lot Worship continues Weather permitting

EVERY Sunday in September at 9:00am!

Every Sunday we will continue to bring our chairs, wear our masks and social distance. Communion with individual packages will continue each week. Come and enjoy the music Cheryl Goeking provides and special music on occasion. These are shorter services and will include a Children's Message. Offerings, donations for the Food Pantry (checks to Polo Lifeline), Neighbors in Need and the CROP walk (checks are made to St. Mark's) are welcome.



Here are the guidelines to follow:

Bring your own lawn chair. You MUST wear a mask

Masks and 6 foot distance required

Do NOT come if you are not feeling well

Thank you to our task force for these decisions. St. Mark's is following the Ogle County Health Department, State guidelines and ELCA guidelines.

Worship online will continue every Sunday by email, Facebook and our website.

Lori's office hours at St. Mark's as secretary have been Thursdays. She will not always be in on Thursdays now so please call ahead or leave a message if you need to speak with her. Her phone # is 815-440-0561. You can leave items in her mailbox at the church as well.

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St. Mark's will follow the Illinois Governor's guidelines during the pandemic. A decision was made to allow groups (church and community) to meet in St. Mark's building as long as they **follow current governor's guidelines**, failure to abide by guidelines results in loss of privilege.

Pastor's Thoughts...

Siblings in Christ,

We continue in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. Some churches are beginning to open again for in-person worship in their buildings. Some are not. Nearly everyone is lamenting what used to be. Nearly all are grieving the patterns of worship the way they used to be.

And yet, we are still called to praise and give thanks to God. Why? Because God's steadfast love and faithfulness have not changed. God hears our laments and prayers; that, too, has not changed. God is present with us in all circumstances; this is another promise that has not been broken. God's regard for the lowly, as Mary, Jesus' mother sang in the Magnificat, is a promise and a prayer for us as well.

Luke 1:46-55

⁴⁶ And Mary^[a] said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

An "attitude of gratitude" not only helps make life more tolerable; it becomes life-giving and sustaining. Gratitude to the One who loves us, keeps us, and creatively redeems us and all creation, is a worthy response and calling. God will restore us and we are learning new ways to "be church" everyday. Our faithfulness carries us through all uncertainty and human ill. Pentecost Blessing, Pastor Terrie Wilder

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Welcome

- Welcome Lori Christen as our new Treasurer! Lori has assumed the responsibilities of St. Mark's treasury since August and voted in by the church council. We are so blessed to have her talents available to us! Welcome!
- Welcome Sara Thorngren as our new Sunday school superintendent! Sunday school may be delayed this fall however we will resume sharing God's love with the children soon. Welcome Sara!

COVID-19 Guidance for Places of Worship and Providers of Religious Services

Some of the Illinois Department of Health guidelines *Last Updated: 7/21/2020*

Congregate outdoors Where weather and facilities permit, it is safer for worship and other activity to occur outdoors rather than indoors. Some best practices include: Congregants who are living together sit together, at least 6 feet apart from other congregants and groups. Wear face coverings. Refrain from singing and group recitation, which significantly increases the risk of transmission of the virus by projecting respiratory droplets. Consider pre-recorded music or other alternatives. If continuing with singing and group recitation, increase social distance to at least 10 feet between groups and ensure face coverings are worn. Restrooms should be regularly sanitized and have sufficient soap and hand sanitizer. Follow applicable guidance below for in-person activities. Congregate in groups of less than 50 people indoors. For in-person indoor services, the safest choice is to limit the number of people during a given service. Consider holding multiple services for multiple small groups, limiting to 50 in-person services to special events (e.g., weddings, funerals, baptisms), or limiting in-person activities to private prayer and worship. Some best practices include:

- Congregants who are living together sit together, at least 6 feet apart from other groups.
- Wear face coverings.
- Especially indoors, refrain from singing and group recitation, which significantly increases the risk of transmission of the virus by projecting respiratory droplets. Consider pre-recorded music or other alternatives.
- If continuing with singing and group recitation, increase social distance to at least 10 feet between groups and ensure face coverings are worn.
- Restrooms should be regularly sanitized and have sufficient soap and hand sanitizer. Follow applicable guidance below for in-person activities.

Singing and group recitation

Strongly consider discontinuing singing (and post signage discouraging singing), group recitation, and other practices and performances where there is increased likelihood for transmission from contaminated exhaled droplets. Modify practices by calling for silent recitation, using prerecorded music, or having a single singer in a separate area with speaker transmission. If these practices cannot be discontinued, strictly limit the number people reciting or singing, ensure physical distancing significantly greater than 6 feet between people, and consider installing plexiglass to provide physical barriers between people, or opt to celebrate these practices outside with significant physical distancing and other precautions. Use microphones to discourage loud speaking and provide a barrier (plexiglass) for the speaker.

Food and beverages

Discontinue offering food and beverages. Do not hold potlucks or buffet-style meals or events that increase the risk of cross contamination. If food and beverages must be served, provide items in single-serve containers (disposable containers whenever possible), and ensure congregants or others who are living together are seated together and more than 6 feet apart from others. Employees or volunteers serving food should wash hands frequently and wear disposable gloves and face coverings.

CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



CROP WALK 2020

This year the CROP WALK will not be organizing an actual walk gathering. The area CROP program will be raising funds for the Church World Services this fall. St. Mark's will be collecting monies until October 1st.

What does CROP stand for? When CROP began in 1947 (under the wing of Church World Service, which was founded in 1946), CROP was an acronym for the Christian Rural Overseas Program. Its primary mission was to help Midwest farm families to share their grain with hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia.

Today, we've outgrown the acronym but we retain it as the historic name of the program. CROP Hunger Walks are interfaith hunger education and fundraising events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by CWS local offices across the U.S.

Where do CROP Hunger Walk funds go? CROP Hunger Walks help to support the overall ministry of Church World Service, especially grassroots, hunger-fighting development efforts around the world. In addition, each local CROP Hunger Walk can choose to return up to 25 percent of the funds it raises to hunger-fighting programs in its own community. CROP Hunger Walks help to provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools, to wells and water systems, to technical training and micro-enterprise loans, the key is people working together to identify their own development priorities, their strengths and their needs something CWS has learned through some 68 years of working in partnership around the world.

St. Mark's has been asked to send 1 check to the program. Please use a separate envelope (not a general offering envelope) is possible. Please clearly note this contribution to CROP.

Please make contribution checks to St. Mark's.

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

Check out St. Mark's new Website!

We have a new look! Please visit www.stmarkspolo.com to view weekly worship messages and keep up to date on our gathering details. If you see something that needs updating on the site, please let the office know at stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net or 815-946-2919. We also love to post pictures of our members and their activities so feel free to send them to us any time.

**CHECK OUT
OUR NEW
WEBSITE!**

ON HOLD! - Curb-side & Delivery Supper

September 12th

At this time, we are unable to have the September 12th supper. We will let you know if we are able to hold it in the future.



Currently there a few things happening at St. Mark's:

- Prayer Partners meet on Thursday mornings with their own folding chairs and masks to pray. They meet in the parking lot shade at 10:00am and socially distance while praying for our congregation and the world.
- Second Hand Rose has opened for business and Carol's Christmas Cupboard is also open.

Children and adult Sunday school is on hold at this time.

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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)
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.

- 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**

Members of the ELCA Lutheran Church (St. Mark's Polo) belong to the Whole Church

Every year, St. Mark's pledges financial support to the Northern Illinois Synod. This financial gift is very important and is called **"Mission Support"** (previously called Benevolence). St. Mark's contributes every year and many of you give additional funds to "Mission Support" (the word "Benevolence" is on envelopes).

Here are some of the ways **"Mission Support"** dollars are used:

Congregational Life Committee • Congregational Resourcing Event • Congregational grants • Stewardship • Worship • Youth Ministries Global Mission • Companionship with North Central (formerly "Arusha") Diocese, Tanzania • Companionship with Arcot Lutheran Church, India, Oversees certification and preparation of candidates for ordained ministry, provides support and care for professional leaders, and promotes theological and continuing education. • Professional Leaders' Conference • Developing and providing salary guidelines for rostered leaders working in NIS • Supports candidates through the process of call and affirmation seeking to respond to the Spirit's vocational direction for service in the rostered ministries of this church (Candidacy Subcommittee). • First Call Theological Education Program • Support, equip, and encourage both existing and new starts in mission and ministry. • Award grants to a number of congregations for outreach in their communities. • Provide evangelism resources • In-Kind Offering for Synod Assembly is gathered • Extend Social Ministry Grants. • Recommendations to the ELCA on Domestic Hunger Grant Applications. • Serve through many subcommittees: on World Hunger, Racial Justice and Multicultural Ministries raising cultural awareness to recognize and eradicate institutional racism. To help Small Congregation Ministries develop strategies for faithfulness in difficult times. Green Team representatives are available to provide energy audits on your church property to discover money and energy-saving tips, as well as offer resources for potential grants from outside sources. Climate Change Task Force began in 2016 to further study the issue of climate change and to discern the Church's response. Advocacy with Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, organizes the annual Lutheran Day in Springfield, and encourages support of services for our Plus additional ministry support to: • ELCA Mission Support – responds to ministry opportunities here and around the world to further the mission of this church. • Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) – the Social Agency of three Illinois Synods and Churchwide. • Seminaries – Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa. • Colleges – 12 Lutheran Colleges • Campus Ministries – 10 different campus ministry sites. • Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC), Oregon, Illinois. • Illinois Conference of Churches

Northern Illinois Synod oversees:

143 Congregations with 20 Congregations in the vitality project

66,912 Baptized Members

120 Ministers of Word & Sacrament (Pastors) Serving Congregations

12 Chaplains and Others in Specialized Ministry Congregations

11 Ministers of Word & Service (Deacons)

Lutheran Campus Ministry of Illinois Agencies • diakonia™ • Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago • Jenny Lind Chapel, Andover, Illinois • Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa • Lutheran Social Services of Illinois Synodical Groups • Mission Investment Fund • Lutheran Men in Mission • Mosaic (formerly Martin Luther Home Society & Bethphage) • Lutheran Youth Organization • Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries, Rockford, Illinois • Northern Illinois Synod Women's Organization • Unity Point Health – Trinity, Rock Island, Illinois Camps • Lutherdale Ministries, Elkhorn, Wisconsin Colleges • Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois • Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisconsin



FREE FAITH ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

Check out the link below for Sparkhouse Family Sunday School for the bible lesson for music, activities and downloadable sheets to inspire faith in your home with your children!

Scroll down for the lesson video and activities.

<https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/promos/family-sunday-school/>



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

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Council Highlights from the August Church Council Meeting

Treasurer's Report: A copy of the July financials minus the total asset summary were provided. Income for the month of July was \$6,133 with expenses \$6,758 creating deficit of \$625. Year to date deficit \$9,142. An audit committee is mandated by our church constitution. A recommendation of potential audit committee members was discussed. Individuals will be approached to serve on this committee. Discussion also ensued surrounding having our annual financials audited. The bank previously provided this service to the church, but no longer performs. An individual was recommended and will be approached to complete an audit. Teller requirements were also discussed.

Pastor's Report and Worship Plans: Pastor continues to phone and send notes. The Health and Safety task force met via Zoom. It was decided to have 3 outdoor worship services in the church parking lot every other week in August (2nd , 16th , and 30th). Lifeline pantry items are being collected. No plans to come indoors are being made at this time. The Task Force will advise at the end of the month.

Hospitality and Global Mission: The Hospitality and Mission teams continues periodic phone calls to connect with the church family.

Education: Confirmation classes ended on Zoom and all have passed with one in need of help. The class will have a review in January and we hope to plan confirmations. No plans for Sunday school or other education for September as we are waiting to see how things work out for our area schools.

Polo Council of Churches: A meeting was held at Open Bible Church July 28th . St. Mark's did not have representation. Monday night community meals have been cancelled for fall. The grab and Go bag program at the Methodist Church had low numbers. Second Hand Rose is open, but very slow. The CROP walk will not walk but will have an online donation campaign this fall.

Fellowship: The Roast Beef dinner carry out curbside fundraiser is currently on hold due to Covid 19 and will be reassessed at the next meeting.

Property: Thank you to cleaning volunteers; Sara for June, Lisa for July, Amanda for August, Cindy for September, and Merla for October.

Old Business: Lori Christen has accepted treasurer duties. A motion was made and approved to compensate Lori \$420 8/1/20- 7/31/21 for additional treasurer duties.

New Business: Church Building Coronavirus Recommendations: The council discussed expectations for church related activities and community clubs/organizations utilizing the church for meeting purposes. St. Mark's will follow the Illinois Governor's guidelines during the pandemic. Council approved to allow groups (church and community) to meet as long as they follow current governor's guidelines, failure to abide by guidelines results in loss of privilege. Synod Pledge: St. Mark's pledged \$5,000 mission support dollars to the Synod and we are currently \$1,820 behind with the pledge due to the pandemic disruption. The Rockford Synod office is closed, with staff and the bishop all working from home. No action was taken, council will keep it as a future meeting agenda item.

Polo Council of Churches July 28, 2020

President David Poole called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Attending: Pastor Luke Schier, Ron Bardell, Marla Buskohl, Marilyn Schwartz, Mary Williams, Rita Jacks and Sharon Miller.

Devotions by Pastor Luke Schier were from Corinthians 14:26 regarding Reconnecting and Building up (edify). Minutes from the May 26, zoom meeting were approved by a motion from Ron Bardell, seconded by Sharon Miller.

Treasurer Report: General Fund balance is \$4710.77 which includes \$1052 of Community Garden grant money. West Branch COB paid dues in July. The Hungry Neighbor checking account has a balance of \$892.56 after \$200 was paid to Dollar General for the Polo Food Pantry. Sent by Tom Cline—Treasurer's report was approved.

Second Hand Rose: Sharon Miller reported that a \$2500 stimulus check was received and income was \$2219.00 from March 21-June 1. The building rent has been reduced per the landlord and hopefully business will pick up as the summer progresses.

Summer Bible School: no report

Community Garden: Thank you to COB and all volunteers that help make this a success. Yellow wax beans, tomatoes, green peppers and beets have been harvested and given to Kidz Café and Polo Food Pantry so far this summer.

Kidz Café: Marla Buskohl reported that the grab n go food program was used this year as a revised plan for distributing food to children and their families. The outside shelter building at FUMC was used and volunteers were available to give out pre-packaged food to approximately 350 people. Thank you to all volunteers and those that gave monetary donations.

Due to the Covid 19 virus, all Community meals, vesper services and Polo Rehab communion services have been postponed until further notice.

The PCCC Christmas Basket project will be run by Faith Discovery Church this year. PCCC is happy to welcome Rod Benavidez as the new Pastor at Brookville/Elkhorn churches.

Next meeting: September 22, 2020 at East Jordan Church

Thank You

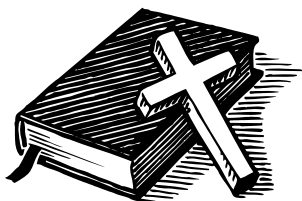
Thank you to Renee Boyle who has donated her time as St. Mark's Treasurer for over 7 years. We are blessed that she has taken on our fiscal responsibilities. She has done a wonderful job and has saved us a lot of money with her experience and devotion. Thank you Renee!

Thank you to Lisa Hinrichs who has retired from St. Mark's Sunday school! Lisa has been a teacher and the superintendent leader for many many years and has helped share the message of God's love with a lot of children. Thank you Lisa!

Thank you to Lorin and Joyce for their weekly dedication to making St. Mark's bank deposits since March. We appreciate their devotion. Thank you Lorin and Joyce!

Thank you to those who have been weeding and caring for our flower beds and lawn this summer. A special thank you to the Nelson Family for the grass mowing. Thank you to John Ennenga for a day of weeding.

Thank you to those who have been doing janitorial duties this summer also!
Thank you to all who have provided special music for Sunday worship!



Prayers for Healing: Karla Gipe and Brad Shippert **Prayers for those in care facilities:** Sibyl Acker, Barb Bowen, Lois Garman, Tammy Karrow, Trudy Karrow, Jessica Kimpel, Hazel Pontnak, Jeanne Scholl 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

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

1 Chelsea Schryver
2 Jeri Anne Hose-Ryan
5 Ryan Nelson
6 Raina Lopez
7 Tyler Horner
8 Allison Hickerson
9 Emily Richardson
Morgan Patterson
Reese Mekeel
Michelle Knight
10 Lori Christen
11 Hailey Walker
14 Colton Gunder
16 Jeffrey Hackbarth
Chad Karrow
17 Evelyn Meyer
Brady Wolber

19 Carrie Woodin
Seth Bauling
Rebekka Powell
Owen Schmidt
20 Clayton Weaver
Colton Schwarz
21 Levi Slager
Scott Sorenson
Tim Hinrichs
22 Britt Thorngren
24 Nora Mitchell
25 Ilene Cain
26 Martha Hose
27 Michelle Bowman
Brody Massolle
28 Justin Grobe
29 Toni Massolle
30 Kurt Altenburg
Lorin Gatz

Anniversaries

1 Dennis & Toni Massolle
2 Jay & Andrea Mullens
Ron & JoDee Bardell
8 Craig & Cindy Bauling
12 Eric & Jessica Boren
15 David & Pamela Lotz
16 Fred & Tracy Hilleman
19 Jerry & Priscilla Schwingel
23 Chad & Sara Nelson
30 Jeff & Martha Hose

Public Alert COVID-19

Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19

How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings

Cloth face coverings should—

- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- be secured with ties or ear loops
- include multiple layers of fabric
- allow for breathing without restriction
- be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

CDC on Homemade Cloth Face Coverings

CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), **especially** in areas of significant community-based transmission.

CDC also advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.

The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.

Should cloth face coverings be washed or otherwise cleaned regularly? How regularly?

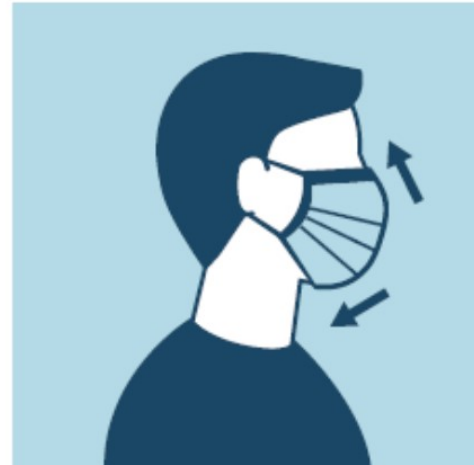
Yes. They should be routinely washed depending on the frequency of use.

How does one safely sterilize/clean a cloth face covering?

A washing machine should suffice in properly washing a cloth face covering.

How does one safely remove a used cloth face covering?

Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their cloth face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.



April 7, 2020



www.nmmc.org

cdc.gov/coronavirus

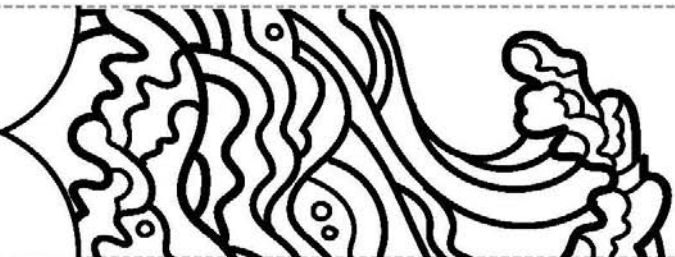
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Bookmarks for Comfort



Blessed are
those who
mourn, for
they will be
comforted.

Matthew 5:4



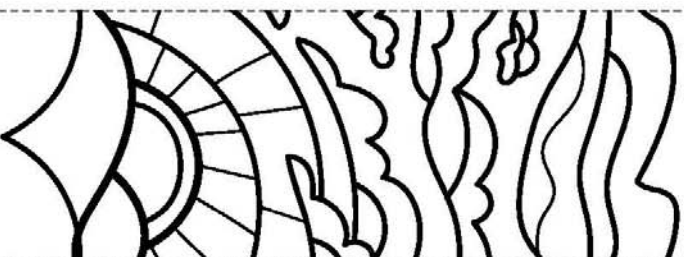
Do not fear,
for I am with
you, do not be
afraid, for I am
your God.

Isaiah 41:10



Come to me,
all you that are
weary and
are carrying
heavy burdens,
and I will give
you rest.

Matthew 11:28



Rejoice in hope,
be patient
in suffering,
persevere
in prayer.

Romans 12:12



Peace I leave
with you; my
peace I give
to you.

John 14:27



Be still and
know that I
am God.

Psalms 46:10

Here are a couple photos from our outdoor worship!

