

July 2021 St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Polo, Illinois 815/946-2919

E-mail: stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net Pastor Terrie Wilder: 815/677-3443 Website: stmarkspolo.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Work Second Hand Rose June 29 – July 3	June 30	1 10:00 Prayer Partners	2 11-12 Noon - Kidz Café at FUM	3
4 9:00 Online Facebook worship 9:00am Indoor Worship	5 Pastor's Sabbath 9:00am Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	6 Pastor Text Study	7 11-12 Noon - Kidz Café at FUM	8 10:00 Prayer Partners 7:00pm Zoom Church Council meeting	9 11-12 Noon - Kidz Café at FUM	10
11 9:00 Online Facebook worship 9:00am Indoor Worship	12 Pastor's Sabbath	13 Pastor Text Study	14 11-12 Noon - Kidz Café at FUM	15 10:00 Prayer Partners Deadline to submit articles for August Newsletter	16 11-12 Noon - Kidz Café at FUM AA Meeting	17
18 9:00 Online Facebook worship 9:00am Indoor Worship 2:00pm Michelle Knight installation at St. John's Pearl City	19 Pastor's Sabbath	20 Pastor Text Study 9:00am Quilters	21 11-12 Noon - Kidz Café at FUM	22 10:00 Prayer Partners	23 11-12 Noon - Kidz Café at FUM	24
25 9:00 Online Facebook worship 9:00am Indoor Worship	26 Pastor's Sabbath	27 Pastor Text Study 7:00pm Polo Council of Churches at Open Bible church	28 11-12 Noon - Kidz Café at FUM	29 10:00 Prayer Partners	30 11-12 Noon - Kidz Café at FUM	31

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>July Tellers:</u> Barb Grobe, Kathy Mitchell, Joan Rienstra	<u>July Altar Guild:</u> Kathy Mitchell & Laurel Smith
July 4		Kent Anders	Laurel Smith		
July 11		Hailey Walker	Linda Gall		
July 18		Lisa Hinrichs			
July 25	Tracey Anders	Julie Hoak	Lyle & Melody Reap		<u>Head Usher</u> – Terry Jenkins



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.*

Ordination and Installation

Michelle Nicole Knight, member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, has received a call into ministry after graduating Wartburg Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity Degree. She has been called to serve at St. John's Lutheran Church 229 S. First St. Pearl, City, Illinois.

She will be ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament and installed at St. John's in Pearl City on

Sunday, July 18th at 2:00pm.

The service is open to the public.



St. Mark's August Supper is Coming!

Save the date: Saturday night August 28th, 5:00pm
sit down dining or carry out

Menu and ticket information coming soon.

Due to the high cost of meat, donations are being accepted to cover the meat cost. If you would like to donate toward the meat or help in any way, please contact: Lisa Hinrichs (815) 298-8009

URGENT Shoe drive ends July 31st!

Another Child Foundation - "Shoes for Orphan Souls"

This is the time to collect shoes and boots for all the seasons for the mission. Children and adult shoes are welcome! Shoes must be new! There are great clearance prices available. There is a box in the fellowship hall for donations.



"To reach, teach, and transform the lives of orphaned and at-risk children in Romania."

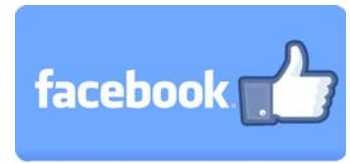


Congratulations to
Sylas Wiegmann and Alivia Schmidt
who Affirmed their Faith in God by Confirmation in June.



Join us for Worship on Facebook!

Sunday mornings at 9:00am



Join us online at St. Mark's Lutheran Church Polo Illinois Facebook page www.facebook.com/stmarkspolo. 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.

Welcome Michelle Frazer, our substitute musician for July 4th and 11th.

Faith Statement of Alivia Schmidt

For my faith statement I chose the story of the exile in:

Exodus chapter 13: verse 3

³Moses said to the people, "Remember this day on which you came out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, because the LORD brought you out from there by strength of hand; no leavened bread shall be eaten.

I like the story of Moses leading the people in Exodus because it explains the struggles of people returning to their land. The further I read into the story the more I thought about it. It could stand for great triumph because they were exiled from slavery. So, the thought of having a leader like Moses stand up against higher power to free people is good. So finally, my perspective on the story is that even when times look terrible there can and will be the light and hope and joy of God in the end.

I follow Jesus because when times are hard God never leaves you.

My life will be better with faith because if I have faith in my heart, I will always know the joy and hope God gives.

Some things that I can do to deepen my faith and get answers to my questions, are to talk to people in the church, read scripture and worship.

Faith Statement of Syllas Wiegmann

When I was given this assignment, I knew I was looking for something inspirational. The passage I chose is Matthew 28 verses 16-20.

Matthew 28 verses 16-20

“16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

I find this inspirational because the disciples still believed in Jesus even though they knew he died. They had to have faith that they saw Jesus. I have faith in Jesus even though I can't see him.

At the end of the passage Jesus says, “I am with you always, to the very end.” When I read this passage, I can feel someone watching me and I know it's God watching over me and keeping me safe. I know God is there with me during good times and bad. He will be with me always throughout my life. No matter what I face he will be there with me, walking with me always. That is the promise God and Jesus made to his disciples and he made it to me too.

I see God healing people in their homes and in hospitals.

Because of my faith I will be less mean to people and help others in need.

If I had questions about God I would talk to Pastor, Grandma, Grandpa, people at church, and my family.

Pastor's thoughts....

The doors of St. Mark's are open! Yes, God's house of worship is open!

When strangers come to St. Mark's, they are always amazed at how many doors there are in the church building. To enter the building there are 5 doors (the parking lot door, the basement side door, 2 sets of double doors in the front and another door off the basement kitchen). Inside the building there are 6 doors in the basement, 4 doors in the church balcony, 10 doors in the office and fellowship area and 9 doors in the sanctuary and narthex and 5 more sets of double doors in the sacristy (the room at the back entrance). A total of 39 counting double doors as 1 and I may have missed one or two others.

The door and gate are profound images in scripture. Over 21 passages speak of doors and gates and entrances into or out of a relationship with God. I chose only 4 that speak to the importance of the doorway.

Exodus 12:22 ESV **Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning.**

This is of course the story of God saving God's people. The angel of death passes over the entrances of the houses because lambs' blood is painted over the door. We also hide in God's house, worshiping and praying for God to spare our lives from death, and open the door for us to the freedom and love of God by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Psalms 24:7 ESV **Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.**

This is a song of praise that God has cared for God's people throughout the ages and that God enters into our lives as though God enters a doorway.

1 Corinthians 16:9 ESV **For a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.**

St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians states that in Jesus Christ, the doorway, is open wide to do God's work in the world because there are many evil forces that harm God's people. The church community has many opportunities to help those in need. The church is a doorway of healing and hope!

Matthew 7:7 ESV **"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.**

This verse is a reminder that what God wants most from us is a relationship with us. We knock on the door of God's love and Jesus opens it and leads us into the world of grace and love called church.

St. Mark's is still standing after 151 years with doors wide open, with God's friendly people offering love and hospitality, offering learning and biblical study, offering worship, prayer, and opportunities to serve.

Come, live in the light! The door is open.....welcome.....Pastor Terrie Wilder

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

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May Finance Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
9,923	10,791	-898

Kidz Café

Every Wednesday and Friday from 11:00am-12:00pm
Faith United Methodist Church will have Free Grab-and-Go lunch
bags for children and their families.

Stop by the outdoor pavilion.

If you would like to volunteer to help phone
Marla Buskohl 815 946 2030



Polo Lifeline Food Pantry Needs:

Paper towels, toilet paper

Items can be dropped off at St. Mark's. There is a grocery cart in the
fellowship hall.

St. Mark's Needs:

Paper towels, kitchen garbage bags

2022 ELCA Youth Gathering July 24-28, 2022



ELCA Youth Gathering Overview

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

An important part of the Gathering's ministry are the two pre-events, the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE), a faith formation and leadership development event primarily for youth of color, and the table, a gathering that brings together, blesses and empowers youth with disabilities.

Youth who are in 8th to 12th grade at the time of registration (Fall 2021) are eligible to attend. If you are interested, please let Pastor Terrie know so we can begin applying for a grant to cover the cost of the gathering.

2021 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly Report

The thirty-third Annual Northern Illinois Synod was held over Zoom from June 18-19. An estimated 344 people participated. There were several changes to the constitution mandated by the ELCA and 2 amendments proposed by the constitution committee and two more were added. The first was to limit the term of all officers to only two terms and the second was when pastors are serving 2 congregations with one being in one conference and the other in another conference that they would choose to be in one conference or the other rather than both. They felt this would enable there to be different people with more diversity for the 4 elected officials. The constitution passed with the amendments.

They celebrated congregational and rostered minister's anniversaries. On the second day they also celebrated the 50th anniversary of ordination of women even though that occurred last year. St. Mark's and others were recognized for their anniversaries. St. Mark's was recognized for 150 +1 years of ministry.

We had a wonderful Bible Study by David Lose on Luke 24. He emphasized various verses. The apostles did not believe the women when they found the empty tomb. They thought it was an idle tale or that they were absolutely crazy. If the disciples had trouble believing, why not us today? Christ was raised physically and ate food with the disciples. Jesus came for us, and the resurrected Christ is with us always. Luke is offering encouragement. Jesus comes alongside people, and we are sent to go and tell and to share the good news.

Elections were held and the budget was adopted on the second day. Two resolutions were presented. The first was on addressing Anti-Semitism in Lectionary Readings. There is a Greek word that many times is translated as Jews, but there are numerous other definitions of the word. The NRSV often uses potentially harmful translation of Jews, sometimes citing Jews as the enemies when in fact all the disciples and Jesus were Jewish. The resolution passed and alternate wording should be ready by August to assist preachers and lay leaders.

The second resolution was on Advocacy Support for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. The ELCA has adopted a social policy statement "Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood" and "Caring for Creation". This resolution is addressing these policy statements. This resolution also passed.

It was with a sad note that Bishop Clements informed us that he would not be running for reelection at the end of his term next year. He is retiring.

Respectfully submitted by Merla Brooks and Pastor Terrie Wilder

Council Highlights from the June Church Council Meeting

Treasurer's Report: Property tax bill was received for the parsonage for a total of \$1904.40, 2 installments of \$952.20. Kent made a motion to approve, Tracey provided a second, motion approved. We also approved having the Parsonage Income & Expenses as a separate line item. Discussion on benevolence giving and distributions. Special donation \$1,600 to world relief was a private donation that St. Mark's passed on, Lisa will follow up to review at next meeting. Kent provided a motion to approve May Treasurer's report, Amanda provided a second, motion carried, motion approved.

Pastor's Report: I will be taking this Sunday June 13th off for a family reunion with my daughters. Merla will be leading worship and the message for the day. Please come and support her. I will be visiting shut-ins at the end of June by making appointments with the different facilities.

Worship Plans: We are back in the swing of worship with hymns and the early 9:00am worship service. We continue to average 30-45 people on Facebook worship and so we will continue it.

Hospitality: Thank you to everyone who helps with collecting communion cups every week. We discussed having social hour after church in the summer. We will put some tables up if people want to have social hour, however based on history people are very busy in the summer and it is not well attended.

Education: I continue working with the confirmation class individually. Our constitution asks council to approve confirmation students. Kent provided a motion to approve Syllas Wiegmann, Alivia Schmidt, and Nevaeh Hall to be confirmed, Merla seconded, motion carried. I will continue to work with families on dates for the other 4.

Global Mission: Summer New Shoe drive for children of the Romanian orphanage has begun. Keep your eye out for clearance shoes from winter.

Property: Parsonage is ready for new renters! A big thank you to so many, especially council members! The front windows of the parsonage need attention, Merla will follow up. The furnace in the church needs to be shut off for the summer. Many have donated time and supplies. Mulch is still needed on the South side of the church.

Polo Council of Churches: A meeting was held May 25th at Pine creek church. Members gathered and shared worship procedures. Elkhorn Brick Methodist Church congregation is now worshipping with Brookville Methodist Church. It was voted on to send \$100 to help with the cost of Town and Country Days. Honduran people are in desperate poverty, so prayers are appreciated. Polo Rehab is not allowing worship at this time. Vacation Bible School was held for 3 days June 7-9 at the Church of the Brethren. The Community Garden has been planted at the Church of the Brethren. Kidz Café at Faith United Methodist will be a grab-n-go lunch on Wednesday and Fridays from 11am-noon. Next Meeting is July 27th at Open Bible Church.

New Business: Annual dinner in August was discussed. Council approved a dinner being held. Lisa will follow up with seeing if people are interested in volunteering. Craig will follow up with the health department about restrictions, if any.

Thank you to those who have continued to mail your donations!!



We would love to have everyone on our email list for faster communication. If you need to be added or have changed your email please call the church office and leave a message or email the church at stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net

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)
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)
- 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

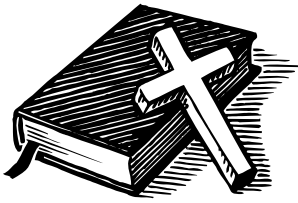


Happy belated 80th birthday to Joyce Greenawalt on May 28th!

Thank you

“I would like to thank everyone for the cards and phone calls on my recent 80th birthday. My heartfelt thanks to family and friends for thinking of me on this special day.” ~ Joyce Greenawalt

“Thank you to everyone for their thoughts, prayers, cards and calls regarding my recovery from wrist surgery. Everything was appreciated. I feel so blessed!” ~ Linda Gall



Prayers for Healing: Kate Marshang and Brad Shippert **Prayers for those in care facilities:** Sibyl Acker, Tammy Karrow, Trudy Karrow, Jessica Kimpel, Hazel Pontnak, Jeanne Scholl, Linda Scholl and Marian Schnulle. **Prayers for those in military service:** Logan Albrecht, JJ Bardell, Bryan Connell, Dustin Knapp, Brad Reigle and Travis Roop

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

3 Joey Bardell
4 Erika Decker
5 Tony Karrow
7 Travis Roop
Sydney Brown
10 Veronica Acker
Matt Slager
11 Rodney Garkey
Elsie Hackbarth
12 Tammy Karrow
13 Hannah Grobe
14 Lyle Reap
Linda Shank
Yasmine Bargas
15 Brian Lopez
Josh Christen
16 Tom Suits
Paige Roop
Natalie Nelson
17 Joan Rienstra

19 Ashley White
Kevin Dyer
Mark Wooden
20 Robert Hoak
21 Tim Gipe
Robert Bargas, Jr.
22 Jerry Hose II
Grace Gabaldon
24 Jeanne Scholl
25 Pamela Lotz
Barb Grobe
26 Brady Bushman
Raymond Lopez
27 Lyle Grobe
28 Ellia Escobar
29 Kalah Mitchell
Pat McPherson
30 Larry Hackbarth
Amy Bardell
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
12 Mike & Kim Bowman
16 Sharon & James VanOosten
21 Brent & Beth Shipman
26 Cliff & Amy Bardell
27 Dan & Amanda Powell