

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Church Phone: 815-946-2919

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April 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 Palm Sunday 9:00am Sunday School Children & Adults 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship | 3 Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose | 4 | 5 | 6 10:00 Prayer Partners 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship at Faith Lutheran in Forreston | 7 7:00pm Good Friday Worship at St. Mark's | 8 9:00am Decorate church for Easter |
| 9 Easter Sunday 9:00am Sunday School Children & Adults 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship / Children Play Bells | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 10:00 Prayer Partners 7:00pm Church Council meeting at St. Mark's | 14 | 15 |
| 16 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship Vision Meeting after worship | 17 | 18 9:00am Quilters Deadline to submit articles for May Newsletter | 19 | 20 10:00 Prayer Partners | 21 | 22 |
| 23 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship | 24 5:00-6:30pm Community Meal at FUM St. Mark's serves | 25 Work Second Hand Rose April 25-29 | 26 | 27 10:00 Prayer Partners | 28 | 29 |
| 30 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship | | | | | | |

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Worship Assistant</u> | <u>Altar Flowers</u> | <u>Greeters</u> | <u>Acolytes</u> | <u>Tellers:</u> Julie Hoak, Phyllis Dyer, Sharon VanOosten |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 2 | Trish Patterson | | | | |
| April 9 | Beth Wiegmann | Easter Lilies | | Eli Lotz & Linnea Thorngren | <u>Altar Guild:</u> Merla Brooks |
| April 16 | Julie Hoak | Julie Hoak | | Eli Lotz | |
| April 23 | Hailey Walker | Betty Obendorf | | | <u>Head Usher:</u> Steve Sorenson |
| April 30 | Kent Anders | | | | |



**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.*

Lent Schedule

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><u>Forreston</u> <u>Maundy Thursday</u> April 6th - 7:00 p.m. in Forreston</p>  | <p><u>Polo</u> <u>Good Friday</u> April 7th - 7:00pm Community Service in Polo</p>  |
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God's Global Barnyard



This year for our Lent project, we are collecting money to purchase farm animals through ELCA Good Gifts – God's Global Barnyard. The animals will go to families in communities that have a need in the US and other countries. It will provide the family with food as well as items they can sell.

St. Mark's goal is \$500

Mark your envelope or check in the offering with "ELCA donation". We will purchase animals depending on our amount raised. Examples include: piglet: \$30, flock of chicks: \$10, goat: \$50, seeds & gardening tools: \$50



You can see more options and read about this at goodgifts.elca.org

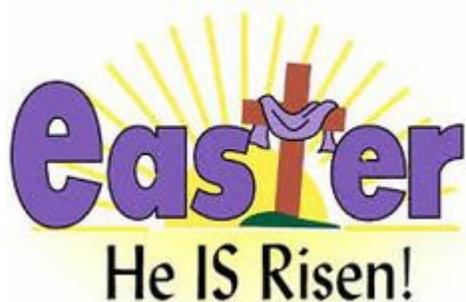
April 2nd Palm Sunday Worship 10:30am



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April 8th 9:00am Decorate our church for Easter

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Easter Sunday April 9th
10:30am Worship
Children will play bells during worship

Additional worship services are offered at Faith Lutheran in Forreston at 6:30am and 9:00am on Easter.

Hello St. Mark's Lutheran,

This time of year, as the seasons change from the freezing cold of winter (yesterday reminded me to bring a real hat) into the beginnings of spring, always fills me with a sense of awe and joy. Part of the excitement of the coming of spring is the retelling of the Easter story, which is always a time of renewal and hope in the Church. And with that I say, Alleluia! Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed, Alleluia! During the month of April, we transition from the Lenten season into the season of Easter. Transitioning from a time of reflection and renewal and repentance to one of celebration and rejoicing and new birth.

Beloved, let us all celebrate with great joy the promise of our new life in Christ, our Risen Lord. We, indeed, are sons and daughters, children of this New Life in Christ. Our Lord Jesus, through his cross and resurrection, has destroyed the power of sin and death and brought us into His life. Christ has won for us victory over the grave! The Church, in her wisdom, asks us to keep this feast alive for fifty days until the Day of Pentecost (May 28). What does it mean to be resurrection people? Let us reflect on this... and just how incredibly much God loves us.

Beloved, I know you know, Easter is so much more than flowers, cards, Easter eggs, candy and even beautiful music. It is the historical event that gives ultimate meaning and purpose to our lives. Because Jesus died and rose from the dead, we no longer must fear sin and death. The victory has been won in Christ. We celebrate Jesus who is our Paschal Lamb who died out of sheer love for us.

The Pandemic has affected everyone at this point, in one way or another. For those who have been away from the Church, I sincerely welcome you home this Easter season. It is my fervent hope and prayer, that by worshipping with us and being nourished by the Word and Sacrament of Holy Communion, you will encounter the Risen Christ. I pray you will be renewed this Easter and that you feel God's call to be church, and be church in the world. Christ's saving work on the cross brought us all forgiveness, and I hope that this Easter that God can work through all of us to share that blessed forgiveness and hope with everyone, family, friends, and strangers alike.

Peace, blessings, and love to you and yours,
Pastor Scott

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St. Mark's Vision Meeting
April 16th after worship

Do you have a vision for St. Mark's? Join us after worship with Pastor Scott to brainstorm great ideas for our congregation.

Let's see what great things we can make happen!





Save the Date!

May 6th will be a Spring Supper at St. Mark's

More information and sign up sheets will be available soon.



Northern IL Synod Assembly registration is now open!

This will be held June 16-17, 2023. St. Mark's is able to have 1 male, 1 female and 1 youth attend and vote. Please consider attending so St. Mark's is represented!

More information and registration can be found at <https://www.nisynod.org/pages/2023-synod-assembly>.



NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD
SYNOD ASSEMBLY
JUNE 16-17, 2023



LOMC May Work Days

May 6th & 13th 9:00am - 3:30pm

Painting, cleaning, trail maintenance and more is needed.

Lunch is provided. Register at www.lomc.org



Even if you can't come to [St. Mark's Lutheran Church](#), you can still Like our Facebook posts, comment on them and share them. Social Media is a great way to stay involved in St. Mark's ministry! Even posting an emoji is a great way to stay in community with others!



Polo Community Meal

The next meal will be April 24th 5:00-6:30pm at Faith United Methodist.

St. Mark's serves this month! Watch for a sign up sheet to help.

Polo Lifeline Food Pantry

Needs:

Toilet paper, mandarin oranges, cream of mushroom soup, apple juice, sugar, mayonnaise.

St. Mark's Needs:

Hand soap for bathrooms, toilet cleaner, bathroom cleaner spray, paper towels, kleenex.

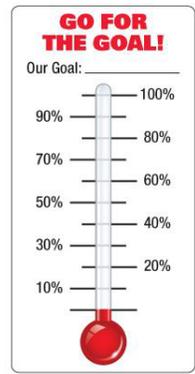
Any donations are greatly appreciated!!

St. Mark's Building Fund drive

Please help us keep our beautiful building updated and in great condition. We have made some repairs and are in need of a few more:

- Tuckpointing on the church
- plaster repair
- Recently repaired the Organ and boiler
- Replenish our building fund for future needs

We have a goal of \$25,000!



Did you know you can donate directly to our building fund online?

Visit www.stmarkspolo.com and look for the green button that says "Give to St. Mark's". You can choose to donate to Building Fund, General Fund or Missions.



Thank you for your generous donations to the building fund!
Since September we have raised almost \$8000 toward our goal!

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

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If you know of any milestone birthdays or anniversaries, please let us know so we can share it with our Church Family. If you have a photo, please send it along and we'll put it on Facebook. Please email it to: stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net

As a welcome gift, St. Mark's gave Pastor Scott a new robe.
We are blessed to have him to worship with us!



Secretary's Report

St. Mark's Council February 16, 2023, 7:00 p.m. - Zoom Meeting

Members: Pastor Scott, Lisa Hinrichs, Trish Patterson, Cindy Schryver, Hailey Walker, Steve Sorenson, Renee Boyle

Devotional and opening Prayer: Pastor Scott

Elections:

President: Trish nominated Renee, Steve 2nd. Renee is new President

Vice President: Steve volunteered to take Vice President position. Steve is new VP

Secretary: Trish volunteered to be Secretary. Trish is new Secretary

Secretary's Report was reviewed and approved. Renee moved to accept the secretary's report and Steve 2nd. Secretary's report approved.

Treasurer's Financial Report was reviewed and approved. Treasurer's reports in our boxes at the church.

Motion for Pastor Scott to be on the church credit card. Steve moves to approve and Hailey 2nd. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Scott talked to Pam from the Synod office about installation. Pastor talked about the "Saving Us" book study. It is about changes in the world and climates with people. Ash Wednesday will be in Polo. Pastor Scott said they are doing a "Lay Lit" program

in Forreton. We talked about a new printer/copier for the office. We are going to work with Fischer's in Oregon on this. Confirmation will be starting soon. Pastor talked to Comcast about internet service. Renee will forward quote to Lori. There is no charge for set up. 250 mgs for 99.95/month. 24 month contract. We are currently using DSL with Frontier. WIFI password will be protected but members can use it. The last bill was 126.00 per Lori (for both phone & internet). We will keep the same phone number. Comcast will have to do an install. Lisa makes a motion for Pastor to move forward with Comcast if pricing is at/below our current cost, Cindy 2nd.

Financial Committee: Budget, is Lori working on audit? Auto deposit all set up twice a month to Faith Church.

Worship Committee: Merla's report – they did not meet. Pastor Scott discussed Lent services at Faith and how they use the LED program. He does skits and would like 2 volunteers for each service to do speaking parts. Lisa offered to help with March 8th and Trish offered to help with March 22nd service. Lisa asked how we can use the big screen in church more. The congregation was excited when we used it in church when Pastor Scott was sick. We will talk about this on the agenda for next month.

Hospitality Committee: They did not meet but Merla reported we are hosting the welcome for Pastor Scott this Sunday and visitations are being made. The children's Sunday School made valentine cards and goodies for shut ins and these were taken to Polo Nursing Home.

Education Committee: Discussed a taco bar for Bingo day on March 19th. The last day of Sunday School will be on Easter.

Memorial Committee: No report.

Property: Black box with key in it for the fire dept. Discussed repairing doors, \$1286 fixing hardware & latches on all 3 doors. Lisa will send the quote to Renee and she will check to see if she can get it done cheaper.

Lights: Marilyn Nelson is working with Com-Ed. Less than \$700. This money will come out of the Memorial money.

Polo Council of Churches: No report.

Old Business: Installation & Potluck – Lisa sent out invites to Faith Lutheran. A new robe for Pastor Scott to leave at the church. He gave the information to Lori. \$152.00 through Amazon. A \$500.00 donation for Pastor's chair was given to the church. Market dinner, no date yet. Lisa is working on it.

Pastor Scott mentioned having a Liason Committee. Think about who would be willing to be on this. Faith has 2 people of their committee. Lisa said she can do it and Trish said she would be willing to be on it also.

New binders for new council members. Remember to sign up for Head Usher.

Hailey is going to be helping Tracey with Confirmation class.

Renee asked about the committee's we have and what they actually do? Lisa said she will see if Lori can get something together for this.

Vision committee was discussed – things we would like to do, see, where we want to progress as a church.

New Business: Trish Patterson attended the Northern Illinois Synod Congregational Resourcing Event on March 4th at Sauk Valley College.

Closing Prayer by Pastor Scott

Motion to adjourn, 2nd by Renee. Adjourned at 8:04 PM

Next meeting: Thursday, March 9th, 7:00pm in person

February Finance Report

| Income | Expenses | Net Income |
|--------|----------|------------|
| 11,172 | 6,819 | 4,354 |

Sunday School teachers needed next fall

Are you interested in teaching our youth? Next September we are looking for new teachers. All materials are provided.

We want to thank Sara and Pam for doing a wonderful job the past several years!

Sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of LeRoy Toms who died in Christ, March 8th.

Sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of Gary Hackbarth who died in Christ March 5th.

Thank you!

~ Thank you to our Sunday School teachers for planning our wonderful Taco lunch & Bingo. Thank you to all who donated food and prizes. A fun time was had by all!

~ Thank you to all who have brought food for our Lent soup suppers! It has been great to see so many people attend at services in both Polo and Forreston.

~ Thank you to Lisa Hinrichs, Kent Anders, Trish Patterson and Merla Brooks for leading our Lent services.

Please let us know if someone needs a thank you.



Prayers for those in need of healing: Richard Hose, Shelby Hose, Trudy Karrow, Tommy Knipple, Tina Pierce, LeRoy Toms and Timothy Toms

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

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

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 1 Amanda O'Brien
- Brayden Hays
- 2 Kendall Boyle
- 4 Penny Heckman
- Amie Scholl
- Lindsey O'Brien
- 7 Priscilla Schwingel
- 8 Phyllis Dyer
- 9 Alivia Schmidt
- Andrew Albrecht
- 11 Samantha Gray
- 12 Nevaeh Hall
- 13 Gregor Armstrong
- 14 Logan Nelson

- 15 Justin Brown
- 16 Erica Scholl
- Maddox Peterson
- 17 Tom Hoak
- 19 Charles Bailey
- 21 Tristin Woodin
- 22 Mackenzie Martz
- Mallory McPherson
- 23 Vincent Ambeau
- 26 Sibyl Acker
- 27 Eric Boren
- Dan Powell
- 29 Lyle Printz
- 30 Troy Boothe
- Tian Escobar

Anniversaries

- 4 Jerry & Linda Hose
- 11 Larry & Elsie Hackbarth

Follow us on Facebook!

St. Mark's currently has 237 followers! Invite your family and friends to like our page so they can see our wonderful posts. It is a great place to stay in the loop and even see pictures from the past.

[Facebook.com/stmarks](https://www.facebook.com/stmarks)