

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



2025



December 2025 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 Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	2	3	4 10:00 Prayer Partners	5	6
7 Poinsettia orders due 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	8 No Community Meal in December	9	10 10-11:30am Mobile Food Pantry in Polo	11 10:00 Prayer Partners	12	13
14 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	15	16 9:00am Quilters 6:00pm Church Council Meeting 6:30pm Blue Christmas Gathering at Pinecrest	17	18 10:00 Prayer Partners	19	20
21 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	22	23 Deadline to submit articles for December Newsletter	24 4:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Merry Christmas! (No Prayer Partners)	26	27
28 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship/ Hymn Sing	29	30 Work at Second Hand Rose Dec. 30, 31, Jan 2, 3	31	Jan 1 Happy New Year! (No Prayer Partners)	2	3

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>Tellers:</u> Melody Reap, Patty Callahan, Reanne Kurschner
December 7	Lisa Hinrichs		
December 14	Trish Patterson		<u>Altar Guild:</u> Tracey Anders
December 21	Beth Wiegmann	Poinsettias	<u>Head Usher:</u> Terry Jenkins
December 24		Poinsettias	
December 28	Merla Brooks	Poinsettias	



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LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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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.*

Poinsettia orders are due December 7th.
See order form at the end of the newsletter.



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*December 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm*  
*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*



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**Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**Hymn Sing during worship**

Think ahead of your favorite hymns from our hymnal.  
We will take requests throughout worship



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Pennies from Heaven donations needed!

The Pennies from Heaven fund has been depleted and there are people in Polo in need of help. Any donations are appreciated. Make checks out to St. Mark's and we will send them to the Polo Council of Churches.



Christmas Basket donations needed

The Polo Council of Churches is collecting money for their annual Food Pantry Christmas baskets. Instead of having each church collect a certain item, they are asking for monetary donations to purchase the complete meals for community members in need. A \$20 donation will purchase a box of food to feed an entire family. Any donations for more or less are welcome. Money will be collected and the food pantry will purchase the food because they can get better prices for the items. Any extra money raised will be donated to the food pantry. Mark your envelope "Christmas Basket". Make any checks out to St. Mark's and we will send it all in together.



Blue Christmas Gathering – Finding Comfort in the Season

The holidays can be especially hard for those who are grieving or struggling.

If this season feels heavy, you are not alone. Join us for a gentle evening of **reflection, music, and hope** at our **Blue Christmas Gathering**.

Tuesday, December 16

6:30 PM

Pinecrest Grove Theater, Allure of Pinecrest

500 Evergreen Lane, Mt. Morris, IL

Sponsored and led by **The Serenity Shed bereavement center** and **Sinnissippi Centers**, this free community event offers a safe and supportive space for anyone needing peace and understanding during the holidays.

Free and open to all – no registration required.

Events and programs like this are made possible through the generous support of the **Ogle County Community Mental Health 708 Board**.

Come as you are. All are welcome.



The Mobile Food Pantry truck will be in Polo on December 10th, 10:00-11:30am.

This is open to all community members, not just low income.

Polo Community Meal

The next community meal will be held in January at Faith United Methodist 5:00-6:30pm. There is no December meal.

Polo Lifeline Food Pantry Needs:

Mayonnaise, miracle whip, sugar, eggs, cheese slices, monetary donations.

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

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October Finance Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
\$6,364	\$8,692	-\$2,328

Congratulations to member Nathaniel Yingling on being promoted to Lance Corporal. Great Job!

Thank you!

- ~ Thank you to all who attended and donated at our Fall Supper & Bake Sale. Special thank you to Lisa Hinrichs for planning the meal. Thank you to the many people who helped clean and prepare, serve and clean up. Thank you to Marilyn Nelson for applying for a Thrivent Grant for supplies. Thank you to Chris Folk and others who are not members of St. Mark's and still donate their time. It takes everyone's help and it is all appreciated!
- ~ Thank you to all who donated items and/or helped serve at the Community Meal. The guests loved the salads and desserts. Special thanks to Merla Brooks and Lori Davids who served.
- ~ Thank you to Marla Buskohl for continuing to play piano for worship. You are greatly appreciated and do a wonderful job!

Please let us know if someone needs a thank you.



Prayers for those in need of healing: Darlene Barnhart, Patty Callahan, John Engel, Karen Fetterman, Mike Hecathorn, Shelby Hose, Pat McPherson, Mary Ann Olson, Ken Smith and Laurel Smith. **Those in care facilities:** Ron Bardell, Tammy Karrow, Evelyn Meyer and Beulah Nelson. **Those in Military service:** Nathaniel Yingling.

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 3 Leo Reinstra | 18 Samantha Krenc |
| 4 Colton McBride | 20 Brittney Karrow |
| 5 Larry Slager | 23 Phyllis Houck |
| 6 Diane Rasmussen | 24 Maddex Woodin |
| 7 Matt Morrison | 25 Cindy Bauling |
| 8 Trish Patterson | John Ennenga |
| 9 Bryce Haye | 27 Melissa Johnson |
| 11 Elaine Sweet | Linnea Thorngren |
| 12 Brad Sorenson | 28 Jessica Sullivan |
| Wrenley Dawson | 30 Rylyn Karrow |
| 13 Janet Garkey | |
| Julia Hackbarth | |
| Carol Suits | |
| Ashley Ambeau | |

Anniversaries

- | |
|----------------------------|
| 2 Steve & Suzanne Sorenson |
| 22 Larry & Karen Reap |
| Pat & Leslie McPherson |
| 31 Lyle & Barb Grobe |

Christmas Poinsettia Order

Anyone wishing to order a poinsettia 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 7th. The cost of the poinsettia is \$20.00. 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

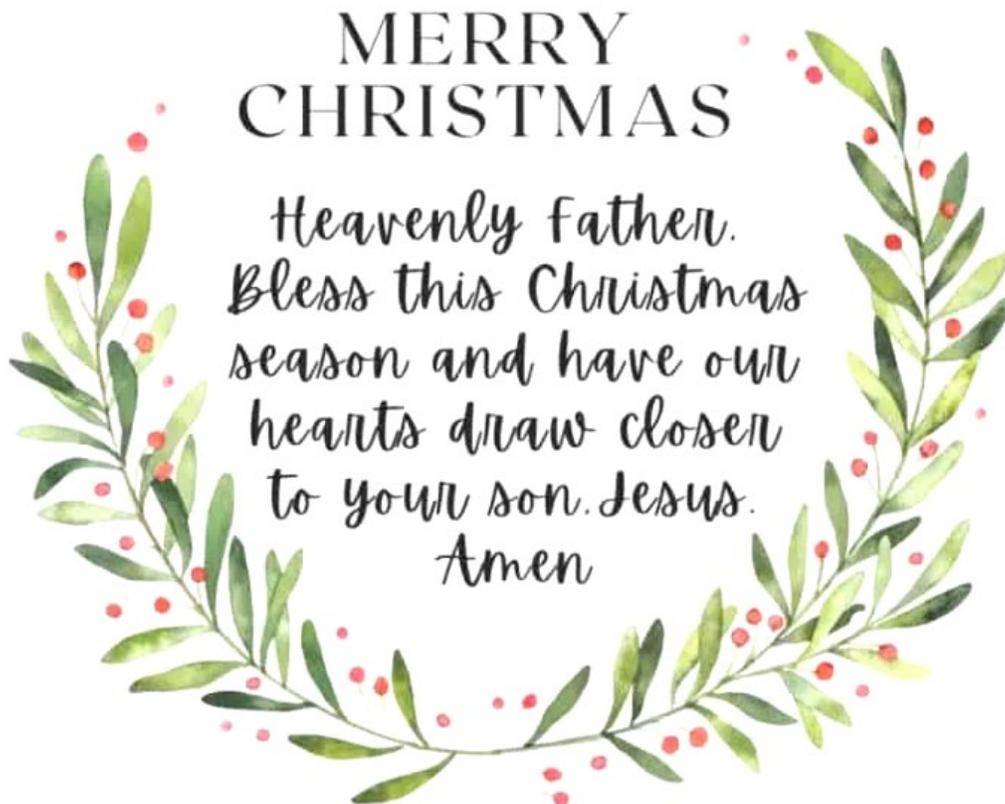
OR

“Presented in loving memory of

Your name _____

Are you ordering through the church? YES / NO

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



Advent

Word Search

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the
vocabulary words
in the grid. Look
for them in all
directions including
backwards and
diagonally.

ADVENT

ANGEL

BABY

BETHLEHEM

BIRTH

BLESSING

EAST

FAITH

FRANKINCENSE

GIFTS

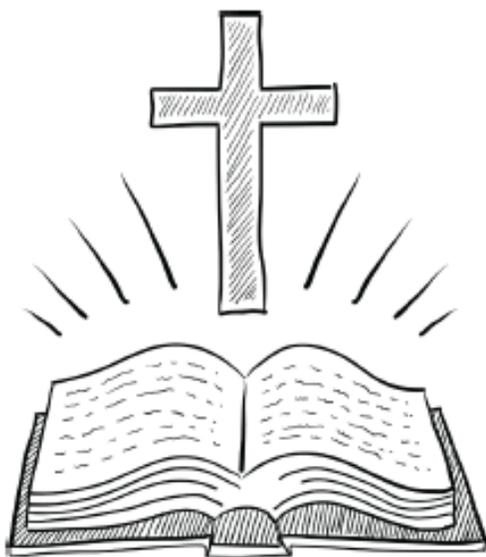
GOLD

HOLY SPIRIT

HOPE

JESUS

K	E	V	J	H	E	N	Y	K	Z	E	H	I	E	S	T	F	I	G	Q	H
U	Z	N	R	H	H	L	S	X	A	C	O	N	G	R	R	Y	M	J	T	E
K	I	R	V	H	A	F	T	L	Q	K	P	W	H	A	D	P	X	R	O	F
M	Y	D	N	O	X	F	A	Y	R	J	E	S	U	S	M	T	I	E	P	Y
M	T	R	A	L	H	P	B	P	T	R	E	G	N	A	M	B	N	R	J	J
E	A	S	T	Y	L	A	L	K	F	N	A	Z	A	R	E	T	H	A	R	O
T	O	Z	I	S	B	Z	E	B	T	A	E	I	T	J	I	G	O	T	E	S
W	D	W	V	P	N	E	M	E	S	I	W	V	A	N	G	E	L	S	J	E
M	N	J	I	I	D	Y	S	T	S	U	H	S	D	W	V	S	S	U	O	P
T	Z	V	T	R	E	Y	N	S	C	T	F	D	Q	A	M	N	A	K	I	H
R	H	O	Y	I	G	D	D	L	O	G	A	Y	L	A	B	E	V	B	C	D
W	W	R	D	T	Y	V	W	N	L	O	I	O	O	M	R	C	I	Y	E	R
I	C	O	E	W	H	I	D	O	V	M	T	M	V	E	H	N	O	Z	M	E
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X	C	N	Z	T	K	B	L	E	S	S	I	N	G	E	X	K	I	D	R	P
M	C	Y	K	D	K	I	Z	Q	V	S	V	L	H	L	I	N	F	X	A	E
B	R	R	R	K	I	V	N	X	R	W	I	F	E	H	O	A	P	Q	C	H
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R	C	R	S	T	Q	G	H	V	B	H	L	J	W	F	E	H	V	J	Z	Z



JOSEPH

JOY

LORD

LOVE

MAGI

MANGER

MARY

MIRACLE

MYRRH

NATIVITY

NAZARETH

REJOICE

SAVIOR

SHEPHERD

STABLE

STAR

THREE KINGS

WISE MEN