

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

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

Lord Jesus Christ, Source of all miracles and graces, we humbly seek Your powerful help to bless us and guide us this Month of August. Be with us, Lord, in all our dealings and affairs. May we shun all things that can lead us to sin. Please preserve us in holiness. Amen.



August 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	2
3 9:00 Social Time 9:30 Worship	4 Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	5	6	7 10:00 Prayer Partners	8	9
10 9:00 Social Time 9:30 Worship	11 5:00-6:30pm Community Meal at FUM	12 Work Second Hand Rose August 12 th – 16 th	13 10:00-11:30am Mobile Food Pantry in Polo 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	14 10:00 Prayer Partners	15	16
17 9:00 Social Time 9:30 Worship	18	19 9:00am Quilters	20	21 10:00 Prayer Partners Deadline to submit articles for September Newsletter	22	23
24 9:00 Social Time 9:30 Worship	25	26	27	28 10:00 Prayer Partners	29	30
31 9:00 Social Time 9:30 Worship						

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>Tellers:</u> Melody Reap & volunteer	
August 3	Linda Gall	Melody Reap		
August 10	Amanda Carroll	Beth Wiegmann	<u>Altar Guild:</u> Suzanne Sorenson	
August 17	Beth Wiegmann		<u>Head Usher:</u> Trish Patterson	
August 24	Julie Hoak			
August 31	Cliff Bardell			



**ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**
201 N. Division Avenue, Polo, IL 61064

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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.*



The Mobile Food Pantry truck will be in Polo
on August 13th, 10:00-11:30am.
This is open to all community members, not just low income.

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Polo Community Meal

The next community meal will be held
August 11th at Faith United Methodist 5:00-
6:30pm.

Polo Lifeline Food Pantry Needs:

Chicken noodle soup, juice, coffee or
tea bags, whole kernel corn, sugar and
cash donations.

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

Hello St. Mark's Lutheran Church Family,

I was thinking the other day about what to write for this month's newsletter, and the first thing that came to mind was, "Didn't we just start summer?" Now here we are looking at the calendar and realizing August is just around the corner. School will be starting back up before we know it, and with it all the wonderful, chaotic, blessed routines of fall. But before we dive back into that rhythm, we've still got some summer left—and some great opportunities to gather, give thanks, and be the church God has called us to be.

Let's start right here at St. Mark's... Each week, we gather for worship, fellowship, and encouragement—and that matters. As Hebrews 10:24–25 reminds us: “Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together... but encouraging one another.”

Whether you're a regular in the pews or have been away for a bit, you are always welcome. Your presence blesses the whole body.

We also continue to support meaningful ministries in and around Polo—visiting our shut-ins, quilting, helping at Second Hand Rose, and doing those small but holy things that make a difference in people's lives. That's community in action. That's faith with work boots on.

And speaking of community... On Sunday, August 3 at 9:30 a.m., I'll be helping lead the Forreston Area Community Worship Service at Memorial Park. It's a beautiful chance for churches across the area to come together in the open air and lift our voices to God. I'd love to see some St. Mark's folks there, if you're able to join us. Bring a lawn chair, invite a neighbor, and let's show that the church is alive and well—not just in our buildings, but out in the world. And if you want afterward, head to the Firehouse to get some delicious breakfast.

Psalm 133:1 says: “How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!”

Whether we're in Polo or Forreston, in the sanctuary or under the sky, God is present wherever we gather in love.

Looking Ahead... We're already dreaming and planning for fall. There will be more chances to serve, study, and celebrate together. We'll keep lifting each other up in prayer, breaking bread together, and being the hands and feet of Jesus in our community.

Friends, thank you for being the kind of church that cares, prays, shows up, and makes a difference. I can't wait to see what God has in store for us next.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Scott

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
June 10th, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes

Members: Present: Cindy Schryver, Cliff Bardell, Terry Jenkins, Trish Patterson, Pastor Scott, Steve Sorenson, Patty Callahan. Not present: Beth Wiegmann

Attendance and Quorum: Yes

Opening Prayer – by Pastor Scott

Secretary's Report – Cliff makes a motion to approve. Patty 2nd. Motion passes.

Treasurer's Report -

Trish makes a motion to approve. Cliff 2nd.

Old Business: Synod Delegates – Nobody is going.

New Business: Check with Surf Internet on prices. Compare to Comcast. Check to see if we can get a phone line also.

Can Trish (CASA) use the church on Thursday, June 26th at 5:30 pm? Yes

Committee Reports:

Pastor – email from Pastor from last month –

Having trouble getting in touch with Shelby Hose. Pastor is on vacation from July 10th – 19th.

Finance - Renee – Cliff – nothing to report

Worship N Music – Beth – Meeting June 11th

Fellowship/Hospitality – Marilyn – nothing to report

Education – Pastor Scott – nothing to report

Memorial – Cindy – they have not met. Check to see how much Betty's sister's (Ruby Jean) memorial money amount is for how much.

Property – Steve – trying to get the chair to go up and down the steps . We might need a new battery. He is from Rockford. Steve will call him again.

Polo Council of Churches – Suzanne – nothing to report.

Liaison - Trish – nothing to report. July 20th next combined service in Forreston.

Motion to adjourn meeting – made by Steve. 2nd by Cindy. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Closing Prayer – by Pastor

Next Meeting - Wednesday, July 9th, 2025, 7pm

Income	Expenses	Net Income
\$9,760	\$10,348	-\$588

President Jeff Davidson called the May 2025 meeting to order at 6:00 pm at Church of the Brethren. Those in attendance: David Poole, Marla Buskohl, Sharon Miller, Suzanne Stout, Don Hay, Marilyn Schwartz, Merla Brooks and Calvin Carver.

Treasurer Marilyn Schwartz gave a report showing a balance of \$4086.83.

Sharon asked for help in securing information regarding the insurance policy for Second Hand Rose. David Poole volunteered to check into Rockford Mutual Insurance Company and report back with information.

Vacation bible school: undecided at this time.

New business: Honduras Mission fundraising has been a success. Area churches have been contributing for this project which will be sent to Bill Hare.

Kidz cafe will be partnering with United Way of Ogle County this summer for the kids summer eats program. Sack lunches will be distributed through a walk up/drive thru concept. We will use Faith United Methodist Church's shelter building each Monday and Wednesday this summer.

Marla Buskohl, Secretary

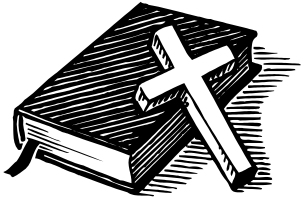
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4

## Thank you!

~ Thank you to Merla Brooks for leading worship while Pastor was on vacation.

*Please let us know if someone needs a thank you.*



**Prayers for those in need of healing:** Kent Anders, Darlene Barnhart, Patty Callahan, Lori Davids, John Engel, Shelby Hose, Pat McPherson, Mary Ann Olson, Marcia Printz and Laurel Smith. **Those in care facilities:** Ron Bardell, Tammy Karrow, Evelyn Meyer and Beulah Nelson. **Those in Military service:** Travis Roop and Nathaniel Yingling.

*Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary to  
Charlie & Linda Gall on July 5<sup>th</sup>!*

*Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary to  
Laurel & Kenneth Smith on July 11<sup>th</sup>!*

### August Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### Birthdays

#### Anniversaries

|    |                    |    |                   |
|----|--------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1  | Kimberly Hilleman  | 14 | Taylor Woodin     |
| 2  | Shelby Jean Hose   | 15 | Drew Garrett      |
|    | Rilley Peterson    | 18 | Larry Weaver      |
| 3  | Renee Boyle        | 19 | Phil Johnson      |
| 4  | Megan Patterson    |    | John Carroll      |
|    | Cooper Dawson      | 21 | Robyn Nelson      |
|    | Tylar Groth        | 22 | Marty Toms        |
| 5  | Cliff Bardell      |    | Charlotte Bartelt |
| 7  | Melanie Armstrong  | 23 | Steve Sorenson    |
|    | Casandra Webb      |    | Sara Morrison     |
| 8  | Carly Hinrichs     |    | Dominic Escobar   |
| 9  | Jeremiah Christen  | 25 | Beth Shipman      |
| 10 | Everett Richardson |    | William Ukena     |
| 11 | Jeff Hose          | 27 | Curt Nelson       |
| 12 | Ed Olsen           |    | Linda Gall        |
|    | Matt Mekeel        | 30 | Laney Christen    |
| 13 | Tanner Johnson     |    |                   |
|    | Dennis Massolle    |    |                   |
|    | Betsy Coy          |    |                   |

