

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
201 N DIVISION AVENUE  
POLO, IL 61064  
Church Phone: 815-946-2919  
Email: [stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net](mailto:stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net)  
Website: [stmarkspolo.com](http://stmarkspolo.com)



2025



# **April 2025 St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Polo, Illinois (815) 946-2919**

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6:00pm Meal 6:30pm Lent Worship in Polo	3 10:00 Prayer Partners	4	5
6 <b>Easter Lily Orders due</b> 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship <b>11:30 Church Council Meeting</b> 1:00 First Communion Meeting in Forreston	7 Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	8	9 6:00pm Meal 6:30 Lent Worship at Forreston	10 10:00 Prayer Partners	11	12 9:00am Ladies Breakfast @ Faith Lutheran Forreston
13 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	14 5:00-6:30pm Community Meal at FUM	15 9:00am Quilters	16	17 10:00 Prayer Partners  6:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship in Polo (no meal)	18 6:00pm (no meal) Good Friday Worship in Forreston at First United Methodist	19
20 <b>Easter</b> 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	21	22	23	24 10:00 Prayer Partners  10:00 Prayer Partners Deadline to submit articles for May Newsletter	25	26
27 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	28	29 Work Second Hand Rose April 29 <sup>th</sup> – May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	30	May 1	May 2	May 3
<b>Date</b>	<b>Worship Assistant</b>	<b>Altar Flowers</b>		<b>Tellers:</b> Melody Reap, <b>volunteer</b>		
April 6	Trish Patterson			<b>Altar Guild:</b> Merla Brooks		
April 13	Kent Anders			<b>Head Usher:</b> Steve Sorenson		
April 20	Beth Wiegmann	Easter Lilies				
April 27	Tracey Anders	Kim Printz				



# ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL

## LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

201 N. Division Avenue, Polo, IL 61064

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Church office: 815-946-2919

Website: [stmarkspolo.com](http://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.*

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### Lent / Easter Schedule

Wednesdays during Lent (6:00 p.m. Meal, 6:30 pm Service)	
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	in Polo
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	in Forreston
Palm Sunday (April 13 <sup>th</sup> )	10:30 a.m. in Polo
Maundy Thursday (April 17 <sup>th</sup> )	6:30 p.m. in Polo
Good Friday (April 18 <sup>th</sup> )	6:00 p.m. in Forreston -
	(Forreston First United Methodist)
Easter Sunday (April 20 <sup>th</sup> )	
Faith Lutheran Church	6:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.
St. Mark's Lutheran Church	10:30 a.m.



*See the sign up sheet at church to provide food for meals*

# He is Risen



*April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm*  
*First Communion Class in Forreston*

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### **4<sup>th</sup> Annual FAITHfilled Ladies Breakfast** **Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> 9:00-11:00am**

Faith Lutheran Church, Forreston

Come enjoy a Jesus filled morning of Fun, Food, and Fellowship.  
Entertainment will be "Lost in the Woods" barbershop quartet.



**Dear St. Mark's Lutheran,**

What a beautiful day we had today! Yes, it was cold, but the sun was shining brightly, the birds were singing, and the scent of spring was in the air. There was a peacefulness in the world around us, a quiet goodness. I don't know about you, but I find myself in need of that peace—quiet, calm, and stillness. Lately, I've been worrying, praying, and thinking about—family, friends, the people I met on my Holy Land trip, both sides of the ongoing conflict there, the people of Ukraine, and so many facing illness and cancer. And maybe you feel this way too; it's hard to watch the news. So, today, with such beautiful weather, I felt called to step away from the office and simply enjoy the peace that God has graciously given us.

This time of year—when winter begins to melt away and spring starts to awaken—always fills me with a deep sense of awe and joy. Part of what makes spring so exciting is that I get to look again at the Easter story, a story that brings renewal and hope, both for the world and for us as individuals in the Church.

This year, as we journey through Luke, a passage from **Luke 23:12** stood out to me again: *“That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.”* In the midst of the Passion narrative, right before Pilate's trial of Jesus before the crowds, Luke shares this brief but striking insight into the relationship between Pilate and Herod. It made me reflect: If these two men, once enemies, could find a way to reconcile, what might God be able to do in our own lives?

There will certainly be times when we face disagreements, and relationships may become strained. But the same God who reconciled the world to Himself through Christ can also transform our hearts and heal our broken relationships. Healing isn't easy—it takes effort, patience, and humility from all parties. But Christ calls us to try, to reach out to one another in love and peace, just as He commanded in **Ephesians 4:32**: *“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”* It's a high calling, but one we don't face alone. As **Isaiah 43:19** reminds us, *“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”* God is always at work in ways we cannot yet see, creating new possibilities for healing and renewal.

As we approach Easter and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, I pray that we, too, may experience reconciliation and peace. Christ's sacrifice on the cross brought us forgiveness, and I hope this Easter that God will work through us to share that forgiveness and hope with everyone we encounter—family, friends, and strangers alike.

**May peace and blessings fill your hearts this Easter season,  
Pastor Scott**



Welcome new Church Council member Patty Callahan!



St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
FEB 11, 2025 7:45pm

**Members:** Cliff Bardell, Terry Jenkins, Beth Wiegman  
Trish Patterson, Pastor Scott, Steve Sorenson, Cindy Schryver

**Attendance and Quorum:** Yes

**Opening Prayer** – Steve

**Secretary's Report** – Cindy makes a motion – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Beth

**Treasurer's Report** - Trish makes a motion to approve – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cindy

**Old Business:** Approved organist, secretary and custodian employee agreements – Terry makes a motion to sign increases, Cindy 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**New Business:** Welcome new council members-assign committees, discuss annual Synod meeting Delegates. Kent Anders would like to go to Synod assembly.

Discussed a light outside shining onto main Jesus window in the front of the church – memorial money given by Ruby Jean (Betty Obendorf's sister) for this. Cliff checked with John Carroll and he can give us a price.

Who asks for help for communion? We do not have a set way to do it.

Altar guild – duties that person has to do.

All Saints Sunday – discussed how we use to have bigger candles to light for the members that passed away that year. We only had tea lights for everyone. This should fall under the altar guild duties.

Patty Callahan is interested in being on church council. We have a vacancy yet so we will announce it in church and then 2 weeks later vote.

Trish makes a motion to have Cliff be Vice President. Terry 2<sup>nd</sup>. Steve will continue to be President. Trish will continue to be Secretary.

After communion we should stand for the blessing. It is in the bulletin that way. Pastor said yes he will make sure we stand.

Trish makes a motion to adjourn meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cindy. Adjourned at 8:55 PM

**Closing Prayer** - Pastor Scott

**Next Meeting** - March 11th, 2025 at 7:00 PM

# January Polo Council of Churches Meeting Minutes

Vice president David Poole called the meeting to order on January 28 at Pine Creek Church. Those in attendance were: Marilyn Schwartz, Marla Buskohl, Sharon Miller, Don Hay, Suzanne Sorenson, Merla Brooks, Calvin Carver and Jon Schwartz.

Don Hay led devotions by reading "A Secret Place Story".

Secretary minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer, Marilyn Schwartz gave a report showing a balance of \$7958.83. We will be donating \$4072.00 to the Polo Food Pantry which was from monies given from churches to fund Christmas baskets. Voted and passed.

Sharon Miller handed out a 2024 treasurer's report from Secondhand Rose. Thank you to Sharon and area church volunteers that keep this worthwhile project active.

Lifeline food pantry- food trucks are coming monthly with one additional mobile pantry truck as well. Funds are always needed and volunteers to unload trucks are welcome.

The Christmas basket project was a success. 102 boxes of food were distributed through the Polo Food Pantry. This new process worked well for customers and pantry staff.

Our Table will resume in January.

Upcoming events: Fish fry on March 14 at Brookville Church  
FDC will host a concert on April 27

Next PCCC meeting will be held March 25, 2025, at Faith United Methodist Church at 6:00 p.m.

Secretary, Marla Buskohl

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## February Finance Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
7,785	8,127	-343

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### **Polo Community Meal**

The next community meal will be held April 14<sup>th</sup> at Faith United Methodist 5:00-6:30pm.

### **Polo Lifeline Food Pantry Needs:**

Sugar, soap, toilet paper, any frozen food, and cash donations.

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.



If you have a Thrivent life insurance policy, there are ways you can receive financial support for our church events at no cost to you. If you have any questions – please talk to Marilyn Nelson (815-499-1411) and she can help you through getting funds for St. Mark’s.

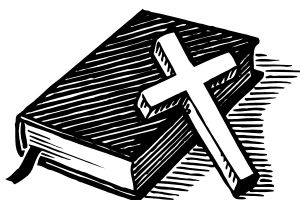
Sympathies to the family & friends of Phyllis Dyer who passed away March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Services will be at St. Mark’s on March 31<sup>st</sup> with a visitation 9:00-10:30am. Service will be at 10:30am with cemetery committal following and then lunch back at the church.

Sympathies to the Rienstra family with the passing of Thomas Rienstra’s wife, Rosalinda.

*Thank you!*

~ Thank you to those who have provided Lenten meals before our services.

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



**Prayers for those in need of healing:** Kent Anders, Darlene Barnhart, Phyllis Dyer, Linda Gall, Shelby Hose, Pat McPherson, Mary Ann Olson and Laurel Smith. **Those in care facilities:** Ron Bardell, Tammy Karrow, Beulah Nelson and Marian Schnulle. **Those in Military service:** Dustin Knapp, Brad Reigle, Travis Roop and Nathaniel Yingling.

**April Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**Birthdays**

**Anniversaries**

- 1 Amanda O’Brien
- Brayden Haye
- 2 Kendall Boyle
- 4 Penny Heckman
- Amie Scholl
- Lindsey O’Brien
- 7 Priscilla Schwingel
- 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
- 27 Eric Boren
- Dan Powell
- 30 Troy Boothe
- Tian Escobar

- 4 Jerry & Linda Hose

## Easter Lily Order Form

Easter Lilies will be available this year for \$15.75. If you would like to purchase one, please return this form by **April 6<sup>th</sup>**.

Please include your cash or check payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church with this form and put them in the offering plate, mail to the church or put in the secretary's mailbox.

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

OR

In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_



Are you ordering through the church: YES / NO

If you are bringing a lily but you are not ordering it through the church, please fill out this form if you would like your information in the bulletin.

