

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



September 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 Labor Day	2	3	4 10:00 Prayer Partners	5	6
7 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	8 5:00-6:30pm Community Meal at FUM	9	10 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	11 10:00 Prayer Partners	12	13
14 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	15	16 Work Second Hand Rose Sept 16 th – 20 th 9:00am Quilters	17	18 10:00 Prayer Partners Deadline to submit articles for October Newsletter	19	20
21 Joint Worship in Polo 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship Sing For Peace (afternoon)	22	23 6:00pm Council of Churches meeting at St. Mark's	24 9:30am Worship & Music Meeting	25 10:00 Prayer Partners	26	27
28 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship & Blessing of the Quilts 2:00 CROP Walk in Brookville	29	30				
<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>Tellers:</u> Linda Shank, Mark & Sandy Stahler			
September 7	Sandy Stahler					
September 14	Kent Anders				<u>Altar Guild:</u> Merla Brooks	
September 21	Tracey Anders				<u>Head Usher:</u> Volunteer	
September 28	Julie Hoak	Merla Brooks				



**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.*



Time change!

Sunday, September 7th we begin our fall worship time.

9:00am Adult Bible study
10:00am Social Time
10:30am Worship

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Joint Worship September 21st 10:30am

Join us in Polo as we invite Forreston Faith Lutheran to worship together with us.



CROP Walk for Hunger
2:00pm September 28th
Brookville, IL

Contact Tracey Anders if you are interested in walking or donating.



~ ~ ~ ~ ~



Blessing of the Quilts
Sunday, September 28th

Our quilters always do an amazing job and are able to donate quilts to many places in need. On September 28th, we will display their fine work and bless the quilts before they are sent to their new homes.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Sunday, September 21st - Sing for Peace

Hosted by Polo Council of Churches

Louise Quick Park in Polo. (More details and time coming soon)

Welcome to another month held gently in the loving arms of God,

September always feels like a month of turning. The fields start to show their harvest colors, evenings cool down, and our schedules begin to shift back into familiar rhythms.

This year, September also comes to us carrying both joy and sorrow. We have shared fellowship and worship, but we've also walked beside families who are grieving. To those who have lost loved ones recently: we hold you close in prayer. Your church family is with you. And more importantly, God is with you—near to the brokenhearted, steady as a refuge when the nights feel long. Still, even in grief, we hold to hope. God's faithfulness endures. Just as the seasons turn, so does God bring new mercies with each morning. And sometimes those mercies show up in small things: a kind word, a shared laugh, a hot dish at the right moment, or even a quilt stitched with love.

And speaking of walking in faith—this month we'll also lace up our shoes for the CROP Walk. It's more than just a walk: it's a way of standing with hungry neighbors near and far. Every step helps, every sponsor makes a difference, and together we live out Christ's call to feed the hungry. I encourage you to join in or support the walkers if you are able.

Upcoming Services & Events

With the arrival of September, we joyfully return to our normal worship:

- Faith Lutheran (Forreston) at 9:00 a.m.
- St. Mark's Lutheran (Polo) at 10:30 a.m.
- September 10 – St. Mark's Church Council, 7:00 p.m.
- September 14 – Faith Church Council, 7:30 a.m.
- September 21 – Combined Service at St. Mark's (Polo), 10:30 a.m. (no service at Faith).
- September 28 – Blessing of the Quilts at both churches during worship. Quilts lovingly made by members of our congregations will be prayed over before being sent out to warm and comfort those in need.
- September 28 – CROP Walk – Join us in walking (or sponsoring a walker) to fight hunger locally and globally. Every step makes a difference!

A Word of Encouragement

If you are weary, lean on us. If you are joyful, share your laughter. If you are lonely, let us draw near. This is what the body of Christ is for—to lift each other up in love.

Closing Blessing

May God steady your steps,
May Christ carry your sorrows,
And may the Spirit fill you with courage and joy—
Beloved you are never alone.

Praying God Bless you and your family,
Pastor Scott

Below are a couple pictures of St. Mark's member Brad Long on his recent trip to Honduras. He served there helping to deliver food to villages that were in dire need. He served along with Bill Hare and others. More pictures and information were shared on the St. Mark's Facebook page or search for "Honduras Mission Support" on Facebook to follow along with their missions.



“Dear St. Mark’s, Thank you for your donation of \$180 for our continuing work with the people of southern Honduras. Our friends there are always very grateful for our involvement in helping to improve their lives. Thank you. In His Service, Bill Hare”



The Mobile Food Pantry truck will be in Polo
on November 12th, 10:00-11:30am.
This is open to all community members, not just low income.

The next community meal will be held
September 8th at Faith United Methodist
5:00-6:30pm.

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

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

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
July Council Meeting Minutes – 7 PM

Members Present: Cindy Schryver, Trish Patterson, Pastor Scott, Steve Sorenson, Patty Callahan

Not Present: Terry Jenkins, Beth Wiegmann, Cliff Bardell

Attendance and Quorum: Yes

Opening Prayer – by Pastor Scott

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

Treasurer's Report - Trish makes a motion to approve. 2nd by Cindy. Motion passes.

Old Business:

Checks cost – Steve checked on this with Lori. We ordered a bulk of business checks.

Chairlift repair – it was fixed on July 8th. Needed new batteries.

Internet cost – Lori called Comcast. She was able to get the bill lowered.

New Business:

Meet in basement for church service when it's hot? It was discussed and we decided to do this when it is extremely hot. Head usher & council will determine each Sunday.

Committee Reports:

Pastor –all visits are up to date. Meeting at LOMC for social ministry. Visits at hospitals and nursing home visits. Synod assembly was in June. Talked about becoming National Day of Remembrance. Reconciling in Christ, strengthening that everyone is welcome. Pastor is helping with VBS in Forreton this week. Pastor will be on vacation from July 12-19th. Merla will be worship leader on Sunday, July 13th.

Finance - Renee- Cliff – Trish to follow up with Renee to schedule Pastor's evaluation.

Worship N Music – Beth- not here

Fellowship/Hospitality – Marilyn – nothing to report

Education – Pastor-nothing to report

Memorial – Cindy- Memorial plaques? Steve will check with Lori.

Property – Steve- chair lift is fixed. Will spray weeds in parking lot.

Polo Council of Churches – Suzanne- nothing to report. Do we donate money to the council of churches for emergency funds?

Liaison- Trish-next meeting is Oct 19th – July 20th joint church service at Forreton at 9:00 am

Motion to adjourn meeting – Trish makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Steve. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Closing prayer – Pastor Scott

Next Meeting Aug 13th, 2025 7pm

Income	Expenses	Net Income
\$4,884	\$7,032	-\$2,148

~ Thank you to Cliff Bardell for leading worship when Pastor was away.
~ Thank you to Marla Buskohl for playing piano for worship while Cheryl is away.

1 Dennis & Toni Massolle
8 Craig & Cindy Bauling
12 Eric & Jessica Boren
15 David & Pamela Lotz
23 Chad & Sara Nelson
30 Jeff & Martha Hose



A PRAYER FOR LABOR DAY

LORD, ON THIS LABOR DAY,
WE THANK YOU FOR THE BLESSING OF WORK.
WE ASK FOR THE STRENGTH TO COMPLETE EACH DAY.
WE ASK FOR REST FOR WHEN WE ARE WEARY.
WE ASK FOR YOUR GUIDANCE
FOR EVERYONE SEEKING EMPLOYMENT,
AND WE ASK THAT
YOU BE WITH THOSE WHOSE FACES
WE MIGHT NEVER SEE
BUT WHO WORK TIRELESSLY EACH DAY
FOR THE GOOD OF US ALL.
AMEN.

THANKSGIVING & CO.