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



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

E-mail: stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net Website: stmarkspolo.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursd	ay	Friday	Saturday
		Work Second Hand Rose April 29 th – May 3 rd		1 10:00 Prayer P	artners	2	9:00am Outdoor clean up at St. Mark's
Joint worship in Polo 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	5 Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	6	7 10:00-11:00am Mobile Food Pantry in Polo	J		9 (Rain date for outdoor clean up at St. Mark's)	10
Happy Mother's Day 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	12 5:00-6:30pm Community Meal at FUM	9:00am Quilters	7:00pm Church council meeting	15 10:00 Prayer Partners		16	17
9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship 2:00 Polo High School Graduation	19	20	21	10:00 Prayer Partner 10:00 Prayer Partner Deadline to submit articles for June Newsletter		23	24
9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	26	27	28	29 10:00 Prayer P	artners	30	31
<u>Date</u>	Worship Assistant	Altar Flowers			Tellers: Linda Shank, Mark & Sandy Stahler		
May 4	Amanda Carroll						-
May 11	Beth Wiegmann	Kathy Mitchell		Altar		Suzanne Sorenson, Cindy Schryver	
May 18	Julie Hoak				<u>I</u>	Iead Usher: Trish	
May 25	Sandy Stahler						



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL

LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

201 N. Division Avenue, Polo, IL 61064

Email: <u>stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net</u>

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.

National Day of Prayer May 1st

A list of suggested prayers for National Day of Prayer NATIONAL can be found printed at church and also at the end of this newsletter. Enjoy!





Outdoor Spring Cleanup Day

Saturday, May 3rd 9:00am

Join us for an outdoor spring clean up day at St. Mark's. We have small tasks like pulling weeds, trimming plants etc that we could use anyone's help with.

(Rain date Friday, May 9th)

Joint Worship May 4th

We will welcome Faith Lutheran of Forreston with us on May 4th for a joint worship at 10:30am. (Social time at 10:00am)





Mother's Day Fellowship - Sunday, May 11th

Join us for cake & coffee before worship for a time to give thanks for all the women who show Christ's love in our lives. There will be flowers for any mothers or women who deserve one.

Dear St. Mark's Lutheran,

Dear beloved people, here we are in May — the flowers are blooming, the birds are singing, and I've been thinking a lot about Psalm 19 lately: "The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork." This time of year seems to preach that same message loud and clear — with every blooming daffodil and every warm breeze, creation is reminding us of God's goodness.

At both of our churches, I've noticed a few more smiles lately. Maybe it's the sun, maybe it's the joy of gathering — or maybe it's the fact that **we are Easter people**. The joy of resurrection isn't just a one-day celebration. It's a way of life. We carry the hope of the empty tomb with us every single day — through gardens planted, windows opened, and porch visits shared.

This month we also mark the **National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 1**. We'll have some special prayer handouts available on **Sunday, April 27**, with a collection of short, meaningful prayers — some for our nation, some for our neighbors, and a few you might pray while walking in the beauty of God's creation. Take one home, tuck it in your Bible or on your fridge, and use it as a little nudge to talk to God often this month.

I want to encourage you: take a moment sometime in May to go for a short walk (Challenge: take one every day! Share with me and one another how that's going) — with a friend, with family, or on your own. Let it be a time to breathe deeply, thank God for the blessings around you, and notice the ways creation is still proclaiming God's glory.

National Day of Prayer – Thursday, May 1

Pick up your prayer handout on **Sunday**, **April 27** and join Christians across the country in a day of focused prayer.

Joint Worship Service – Sunday, May 4

We will gather for a **combined service at St. Mark's Lutheran at 10:30 a.m.** with **fellowship time preceding the service.** Come early to enjoy refreshments and warm conversation as we come together as one church family — and yes, May the 4th be with you!

Mother's Day Fellowship – Sunday, May 11

Join us for cake & coffee before worship for a time to give thanks for all the women who show Christ's love in our lives. There will be flowers for any mothers or women who deserve it, so make sure to grab one.

* Take a Prayer Walk (anytime this month!)

We're inviting everyone to spend a few moments outside with God. Use one of the outdoor-themed prayers from your handout and enjoy God's handiwork up close.

May you feel God's joy in every blooming flower, every smile from a friend, and every moment of quiet reflection. We've made it through another winter, and now we get to walk together into spring — as beloved Easter people!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Peace, Joy, and Blessings for you and yours,

Pastor Scott



Welcome new member Charlie Bartelt who was received through Holy Baptism this month. His parents are Andy and Sydney Bartelt. Sponsors are Spencer and Emilee Frano.

............

Congratulations to Laney Christen who received her First Communion in April.





The Mobile Food Pantry truck will be in Polo on May 7th, 10:00-11:00am.

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

Polo Community Meal

The next community meal will be held May 12th at Faith United Methodist 5:00-6:30pm.

Polo Lifeline Food Pantry Needs:

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

Volunteers will be needed for the Polo Community Garden. Contact Merla Brooks or the Polo Council of churches to help.

•••••

A volunteer is needed for June altar guild. Please let Lori know if you are able to help!

March Finance Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
7,630	4,047	3,583

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes March 11, 2025 8:00pm

Members: Present: Cindy Schryver, Terry Jenkins, Beth Wiegman, Trish Patterson, Pastor Scott, Steve

Sorenson, Patty Callahan. Absent: Cliff Bardell (vacation)

Attendance and Quorum: Yes Opening Prayer – Pastor Scott

Secretary's Report – Beth makes a motion to approve the report. Terry 2nd. Motion passes.

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

Old Business: Terry makes a motion to approve Patty. Pastor 2nd. Motion passes.

New Business: Welcome Patty as new Board Member

Need more tellers for after church to help – training needed and include Lori. Do a meeting to review after Sunday morning service. 12 people, 3 people each month and alternate off months.

Spring supper – Trish sent Lisa H a text to see when she wants to have it.

Let Lori know what Lent services pay should be for Cheryl for 3 services? Trish makes a motion to pay \$60 for each Lent service. Patty 2nd. Motion passes.

Committee Reports:

Pastor – CRE event is March 22nd at Sauk Valley College. Good Friday is in Forreston at the Reformed church. Catching up on visits from being sick. Youth group, Pastor is trying to plan a few things for them. If we have one adult male, we have to have one female. Pastor on vacation on May 10th and 11th. Also he will be gone in July, weekend of the 13th. Synod Assembly is June 13th and 14th.

Finance - Renee – nothing – Beth will check with Renee.

Worship n Music - Beth - had a meeting last week. Picked all hymns through May.

Hospitality/Fellowship - None

Education – Renee – Pastor – nothing to report.

Memorial - Cindy – she said nothing to report. Look into the plaques?

Property – **Steve** – Painting exposed wood around the church and tuckpointing. We will get a quote.

Polo Council of Churches – Steve will ask Suzanne.

Liaison – Trish – We are meeting on April 2nd after Lenten services in Polo

Motion to adjourn meeting – Trish makes a motion to adjourn. Cindy 2nd.

Closing Prayer – by Pastor Scott Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Next Meeting Sunday, April 6, 2025 at 11:30 am

If you would like a Devotional book for 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 of Marian Schnulle who passed away April 6th. Services and luncheon were held at St. Mark's.

Sympathies to the family of Joyce Gatz who passed away April 20th. Visitation and funeral were held at St. Mark's.

If you have provided food for any of our funeral meals, clean pans can be found in the south basement kitchen.

Thank you!

- ~ Thank you to Marla Buskohl for playing piano with us on Easter and thank you to Beth Wiegman for her solo.
- ~ Thank you to all who have helped at the funeral services and luncheons for Phyllis Dyer, Marian Schnulle and Joyce Gatz. Thank you to Chelsea Schryver and all who have helped with moving tables & chairs in and out of the fellowship hall. All help is always appreciated!
- ~ Thank you to Ryan Nelson for trimming the branch off the tree hanging over our parking spots out back.
- ~ The family of Bradley Reigle has given us an update that he has retired after 22 years from the Army. Thank you for keeping him in your thoughts and prayers during his time in the military.
- "Many thanks to our church family for extending comfort to us at the time of mom's passing." ~ Marian Schnulle Family

Please let us know if someone needs a thank you.



<u>Prayers for those in need of healing</u>: Kent Anders, JoDee Bardell, Darlene Barnhart, Linda Gall, Shelby Hose, Donna Immel, Pat McPherson, Mary Ann Olson and Laurel Smith. <u>Those in care facilities</u>: Ron Bardell, Tammy Karrow, Evelyn Meyer and Beulah Nelson. <u>Those in Military service</u>: Dustin Knapp, Travis Roop and Nathaniel Yingling.

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

<u>Birthdays</u>				<u>Anniversaries</u>		
1	Sharon VanOosten Sylas Wiegmann	21 22	Cindy Sullivan Lori King	8	Marty and Kathy Toms Levi and Jena Slager	
2	,		Rick Lincoln	18	Don and Marilyn Nelson Justin and Carrie Grobe	
6			Maggie Cox	22		
9	Craig Bauling	25	Mallory Patterson			
11	Curtis Shuman	26	Jerry Hose			
12	Kathy Mitchell		Emalie Gunder			
13	Jessica Boren		Sydney Bartelt			
	Nathaniel Yingling		Pastor Scott Ralston			
14	Charlie Gall	28	Alex Hoak			
18	Ron Hackbarth		Joyce Greenawalt			
19	James Grobe Julie Hoak	29	Joanne Grant			

The Easter Lilies decorating our Sanctuary this year have been given by:

- ~ Given by Cliff & Amy Bardell in memory of Ed Grossnickle, Nancy Kimpel, and Vonda Johnson.
- ~ Given by Merla Brooks to the glory of our risen King.
- ~ Given by the Garkey Family in memory of Duane Garkey and Susan and Damon Busser.
- ~ Given by the Lyle Grobe family in memory of Steve, our son and brother.
- ~ Given by Brittan & Brinley Mullens and Henry & Harper Hickerson in memory of our grandmother, Connie Stahler.
- ~ Given by Marcia and Kim Printz in memory of Lyle Printz.
- ~ Given by Melody Reap, Trish, Carly & Mallory in memory of Lyle and Chad.
- ~ Given by Leo & Joan Rienstra in memory of Rose Rienstra.
- \sim Given by Suzanne & Steven Sorenson in memory of our parents, Fran & Millie Sorenson and Alva & Margaret Robertson.
- ~ Given by Allison and Andrea Stahler in memory of our mother, Connie Stahler.
- ~ Given by Alan & Beth Wiegmann in memory of loved ones.



"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." - James 5:16

Use these short prayers throughout the day as you lift up our world, our neighbors, and your own walk with God.

For Our Nation "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage."— Psalm 33:12

Prayer:

God of all people, We lift up our nation before you. Guide our leaders with wisdom, fill our hearts with compassion, and help us to seek justice, peace, and mercy. Amen.

For Our Community "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."— Mark 12:31

Prayer:

Loving God,
Thank you for the neighbors, families, and friends around us.
Help us to care for one another,
to build kindness where there is division,
and to be a blessing to this place we call home.
Amen.

For Peace in the World "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."—Matthew 5:9

Prayer:

Prince of Peace,
We pray for places torn by war and disaster.
Bring healing to the hurting,
protection to the vulnerable,
and courage to all who work for peace.
Amen.

For the Church "You are the body of Christ and individually members of it."—1 Cor 12:27

Prayer:

Gracious Lord,
Bless your Church in every place.
Fill us with your Spirit,
that we may share your love
in word and deed.
Amen.

For Personal Strength "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." — Phill 4:13

Prayer:

God who hears, When I feel tired, give me rest. When I feel worried, give me peace. When I feel alone, remind me of your love. I trust in you. Amen.

Some prayers to do while enjoy God's creation

While Walking

Prayer:

God of every step,
As I walk today, let me see your fingerprints—
in the petals, the breeze, the birdsong.
Make my heart open to your voice.
Amen.

"Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God." Job 37:14,

Prayer:

Lord of light and color,
Thank you for the sky above—
for sunrise and clouds, for stars and sunsets.
Let my eyes lift to heaven in gratitude.
Amen.

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Psalm 19:1

While Listening to Nature

Prayer:

God of sound and silence, Let me hear your peace in the wind, your joy in the birds, your presence in the quiet. Amen.

"In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." Isa 30:15