

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



July 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 10:00 Prayer Partners	4 Happy Independence Day!	5
6 9:00 Social Time 9:30 Worship	7 Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	8 Work Second Hand Rose July 8 th – 12 th	9 10:00-11:30am Mobile Food Pantry in Polo 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	10 10:00 Prayer Partners	11	12
13 9:00 Social Time 9:30 Worship	14 No Community Meal this month	15 9:00am Quilters	16	17 10:00 Prayer Partners	18	19
20 9:00 Joint Worship in Forreston (No service in Polo)	21	22 6:00pm Polo Council of Churches meeting at Faith Discovery	23	24 10:00 Prayer Partners Deadline to submit articles for August Newsletter	25	26
27 9:00 Social Time 9:30 Worship	28	29	30	31 10:00 Prayer Partners		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>		<u>Tellers:</u> Barb Grobe, Kathy Mitchell, Joan Rienstra		
July 6	Trish Patterson	Charlie & Linda Gall				
July 13	Beth Wiegmann	Laurel Smith		<u>Altar Guild:</u> Kathy Mitchell		
July 20	Worship in Forreston			<u>Head Usher:</u> Cindy Schryver		
July 27	Kent Anders					



**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.*



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Joint Worship July 20th

*9:00am in Forreston at Faith Lutheran
(No service held in Polo)*



The Mobile Food Pantry truck will be in Polo
on July 9th, 10:00-11:30am.
This is open to all community members, not just low income.

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**Polo Summer Lunch Program**

**KIDZ CAFÉ** is offered June 4 – August 6, 2025  
Free Lunches available for Pick-Up

When: All summer Every Monday, Wednesday

Where: Faith United Methodist Church (Outside shelter building)

Time: 11:30am – 12:30pm

Shuttle: Call Wheels of Faith at 815-677-8194 to arrange transport

[Facebook.com/polokidzcafe](https://www.facebook.com/polokidzcafe)



**Free lunches are also available every Thursday at the Polo Public Library.**

Hello St. Mark's Lutheran Church Family,

Welcome to another day held gently in the loving arms of God!

Summer is moving along quickly, and I hope you're finding time to enjoy both the sunshine and the Spirit—time with family, walks through God's creation, quiet moments of prayer, and maybe even a backyard s'more or two. These summer months have their own rhythm, don't they? And yet even in the ease of summer, God is always working—planting seeds, stirring hearts, calling us into love and witness.

Here in Polo, the calendar is full of people on vacation, kids on summer break, and fun community activities. The Polo Town & Country Days Parade just wrapped up earlier this June, and what a joy it was to see the community come together in celebration and pride. Thank you to all who participated, supported, or simply waved from the curb. What a beautiful reminder of small-town unity and joy!

Looking ahead, the Polo Farmers Market continues on Wednesday afternoons in the downtown parking lot near the gazebo. It's a great chance to support local growers and artisans while enjoying fresh produce, handmade goods, and good conversation. These weekly gatherings are a gift—reminders that community grows best when we show up with care and connection.

We also want to celebrate the quieter but deeply faithful ways we gather and serve throughout the month. Our Thursday morning prayer group meets at 10 a.m. and is open to all—it's a beautiful time of reflection, connection, and lifting up the needs of our world. The St. Mark's Quilters gather on the third Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m., crafting comfort and care into every stitch. And keep an eye out for the next dates when we'll be volunteering at Second Hand Rose, our local resale shop whose proceeds go directly back into our community. Whether we're sorting clothes, offering a prayer, or sewing a quilt, all of it is ministry—and all of it matters.

These moments—prayer, quilting, VBS, farmers markets, and summer gatherings—remind us that church isn't just a place we go, it's the people we are. We are called to bring joy, peace, faith, and witness into every moment. Whether you're helping at VBS, sharing vegetables with a neighbor, inviting someone to worship, or simply offering a smile to someone who needs one, you are part of God's good work in this world.

Let's keep showing up with love. Let's keep being the body of Christ. And let's keep wrapping this whole world in the loving arms of God. Amen!

Peace and Blessings,  
Pastor Scott

St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes

**Members Present:** Cindy Schryver, Cliff Bardell, Trish Patterson, Steve Sorenson

**Not Present:** Terry Jenkins, Beth Wiegmann, Pastor Scott, and Patty Callahan

**Attendance and Quorum:** Yes

**Secretary's Report** – Cliff makes a motion to approve. Cindy 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passes.

**Treasurer's Report** - Cindy makes a motion to approve. Cliff 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passes.

**Old Business:**

Spring Supper – Trish updated with a text from Lisa that came on May 2<sup>nd</sup> wondering if we would want to have a lasagna supper. She said whatever council wants to do. I told her on May 9<sup>th</sup> and said we don't have a council meeting until the 14<sup>th</sup>. I asked if it would be enough time to get it advertised now and she said it would be tight. Council discussed and thought it would be a good idea to do this in February and we will try for next year. Trish will communicate with Lisa.

**New Business:**

Summer Service Time and proposed fellowship gathering before church not after 9:00 fellowship and 9:30 am is service.

Synod Conference in Quad Cities approve Patty Callahan and Kent Anders for delegates. – Trish makes a motion to cover the room costs. Cindy 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passes.

Ice cream social - ask Merla if we are doing it this year through the Senior Center.

**Committee Reports:**

**Pastor** – not here

**Finance – Renee - Cliff** – Trish did talk to Renee about being on committee with her to do Pastor Scott's annual review.

**Worship N Music - Beth** – not here

**Fellowship/Hospitality** – Marilyn -

**Education – Pastor** – not here

**Memorial – Cindy** - nothing to report

**Property – Steve** – is going to get an estimate on painting the window frames. Outside light to shine on window.

**Polo Council of Churches** – Suzanne Sorenson -

**Liaison – Trish** – nothing new to report since we met on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Next Meeting, Tuesday June 10th, 2025 at 7pm

Motion to adjourn meeting - Trish makes a motion to adjourn. Cliff 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

May Finance Report

| Income  | Expenses | Net Income |
|---------|----------|------------|
| \$8,297 | \$8,252  | \$45       |

**Polo Community Meal**

There are no meals in July.

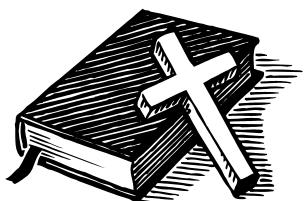
The next community meal will be held  
August 11<sup>th</sup> at Faith United Methodist 5:00-  
6:30pm.

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**Polo Lifeline Food Pantry Needs:**  
Sugar, soap, toilet paper, any frozen food, and cash donations.

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



**Prayers for those in need of healing:** Kent Anders, Darlene Barnhart, 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:** Dustin Knapp, Travis Roop and Nathaniel Yingling.

*Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary to  
Leo & Joan Rienstra on July 3<sup>rd</sup>!*



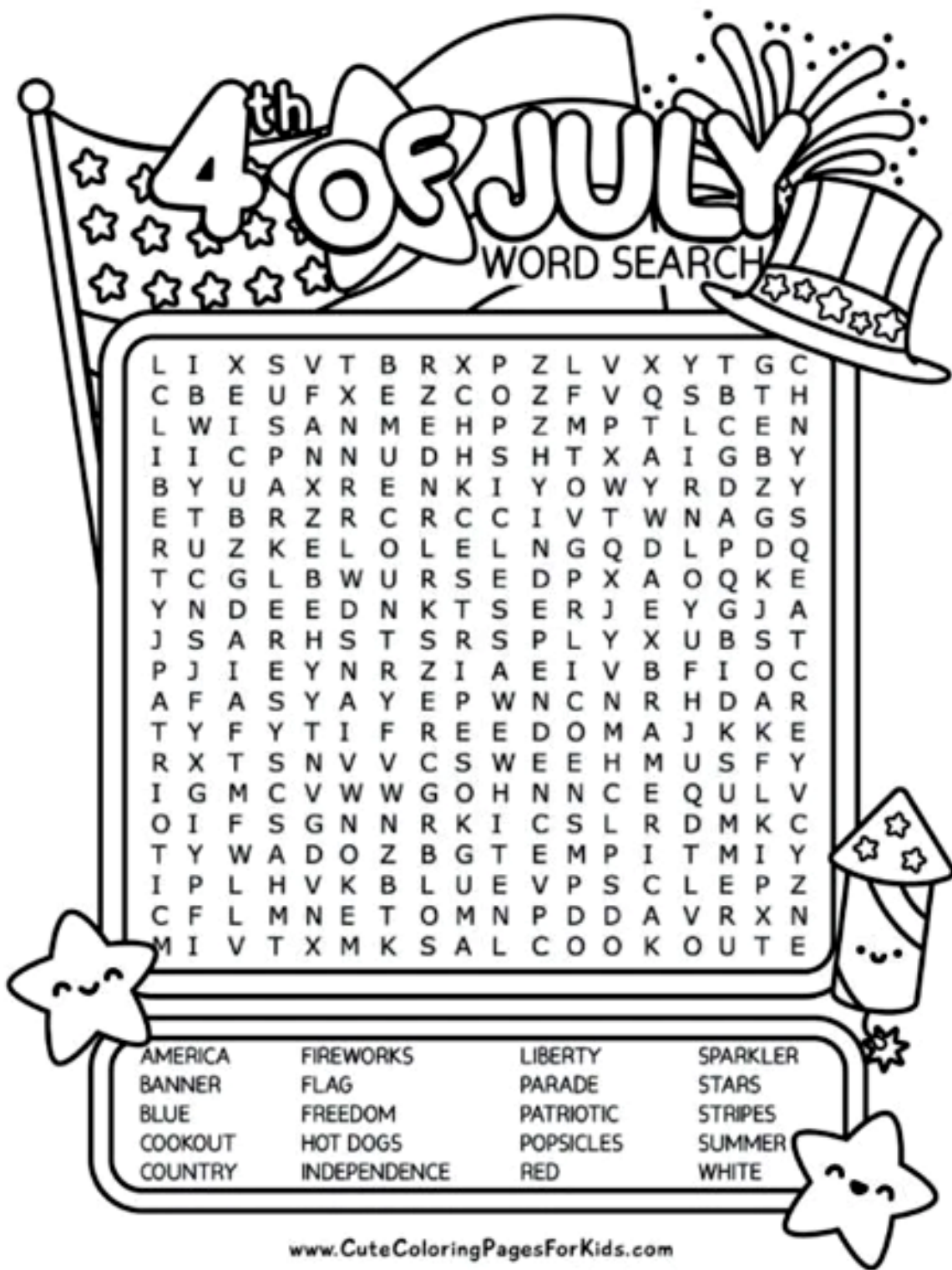
### **July Birthdays & Anniversaries**

#### **Birthdays**

|    |                 |    |                    |
|----|-----------------|----|--------------------|
| 3  | Joey Bardell    | 19 | Ashley Liedberg    |
| 4  | Erika Decker    |    | Kevin Dyer         |
| 5  | Tony Karrow     |    | Mark Wooden        |
| 7  | Travis Roop     | 20 | Robert Hoak        |
|    | Sydney Brown    | 21 | Tim Gipe           |
| 10 | Veronica Acker  |    | Robert Bargas, Jr. |
|    | Matt Slager     | 22 | Jerry Hose II      |
| 11 | Rodney Garkey   |    | Grace Gabaldon     |
|    | Elsie Hackbarth | 25 | Pamela Lotz        |
| 12 | Tammy Karrow    |    | Barb Grobe         |
| 13 | Hannah Grobe    | 26 | Brady Bushman      |
| 14 | Linda Shank     |    | Raymond Lopez      |
|    | Yasmine Bargas  | 27 | Lyle Grobe         |
| 15 | Brian Lopez     | 28 | Ellia Escobar      |
|    | Josh Christen   | 29 | Kalah Mitchell     |
| 16 | Tom Suits       |    | Pat McPherson      |
|    | Paige Roop      | 30 | Amy Bardell        |
|    | Natalie Nelson  |    | Kathy Toms         |
| 17 | Joan Rienstra   | 31 | Kale Grobe         |
|    |                 |    | Kameron Grobe      |

#### **Anniversaries**

|    |                           |
|----|---------------------------|
| 3  | Leo & Joan Rienstra       |
| 5  | Charles & Linda Gall      |
| 6  | Andy & Lisa Hinrichs      |
| 8  | Scott & Melanie Armstrong |
| 11 | Kenneth & Laurel Smith    |
|    | Josh & Lori Christen      |
|    | Sharon & James VanOosten  |
| 12 | Mike & Kim Bowman         |
| 21 | Brent & Beth Shipman      |
| 23 | Mark & Renee Boyle        |
| 26 | Cliff & Amy Bardell       |
| 27 | Dan & Amanda Powell       |



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