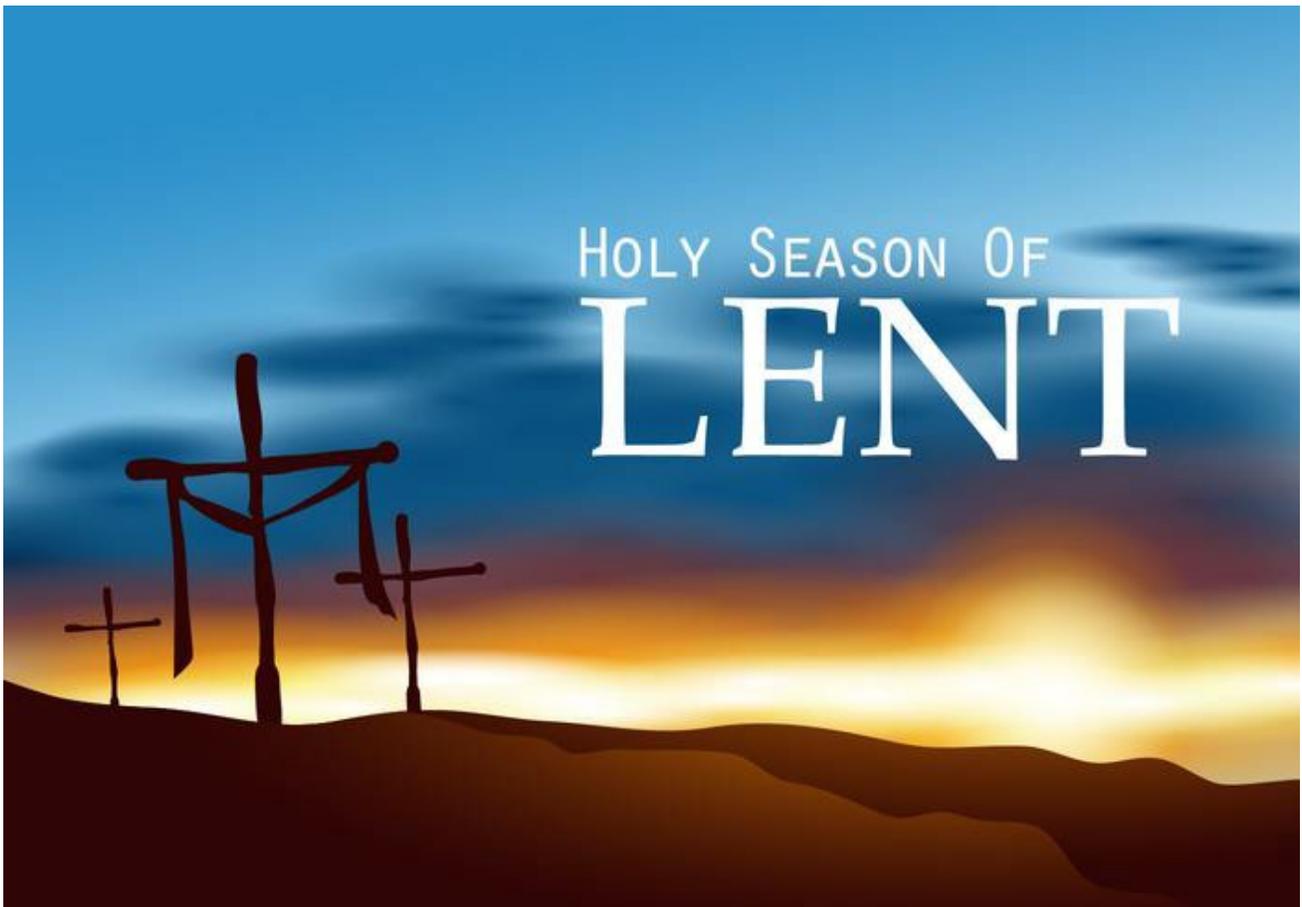


ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
201 N DIVISION AVENUE  
POLO, IL 61064  
Church Phone: 815-946-2919  
Email: [stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net](mailto:stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net)  
Website: [stmarkspolo.com](http://stmarkspolo.com)



2023



# **March 2023 St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Polo, Illinois (815) 946-2919**

**E-mail: [stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net](mailto:stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net) Website: [stmarkspolo.com](http://stmarkspolo.com)**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
			<b>1</b> 7:00pm Lent Service <b>At Faith Lutheran in Forreton</b>	<b>2</b> 10:00 Prayer Partners	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Congregational Resourcing Event @ Sauk
<b>5</b> 9:00am Sunday School Children & Adults, Confirmation 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	<b>6</b> Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Lent Service <b>At St. Mark's Polo</b>	<b>9</b> 10:00 Prayer Partners  7:00pm Church Council meeting at St. Mark's	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:00am Sunday School Children & Adults, Confirmation 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7:00pm Lent Service <b>At Faith Lutheran in Forreton</b>	<b>16</b> 10:00 Prayer Partners	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:00am Sunday School Children & Adults, Confirmation 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship <b>Bingo after worship</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00am Quilters  Work Second Hand Rose March 21-25  Deadline to submit articles for April Newsletter	<b>22</b> 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Lent Service <b>At St. Mark's Polo</b>	<b>23</b> 10:00 Prayer Partners	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>Easter Lily Orders Due</b> 9:00am Sunday School Children & Adults, Confirmation 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	<b>27</b> 5:00-6:30pm Community Meal at FUM	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7:00pm Lent Service <b>At Faith Lutheran in Forreton</b>	<b>30</b> 10:00 Prayer Partners	<b>31</b>	

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Worship Assistant</u></b>	<b><u>Altar Flowers</u></b>	<b><u>Greeters</u></b>	<b><u>Acolytes</u></b>	<b><u>Tellers:</u> Evelyn Meyer, Linda Shank, Mark &amp; Sandy Stahler</b>
<b>March 5</b>	Tracey Anders				
<b>March 12</b>	Lisa Hinrichs	Elaine Sweet			<b><u>Altar Guild:</u> Carol Suits</b>
<b>March 19</b>	Hailey Walker				
<b>March 26</b>	Kent Anders				<b><u>Head Usher:</u> Renee Boyle</b>



# ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL

## LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

201 N. Division Avenue, Polo, IL 61064

Email: [stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net](mailto:stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net)

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.*

### Lent Schedule

**Lenten Soup Suppers** – March 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>  
6:00pm before worship.

Sign up sheets are at the back of the church.



#### Polo

Wed. March 8<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. in Polo  
Wed. March 22<sup>nd</sup> 7:00 p.m. in Polo

Good Friday (April 7<sup>th</sup>) Community Service in Polo

#### Easter Sunday

Faith Lutheran Church 6:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church 10:30 a.m.

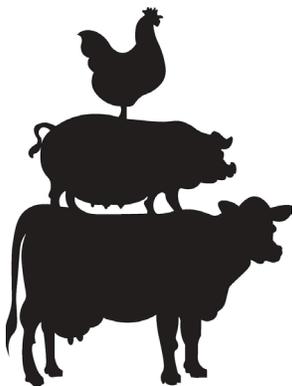
#### Forreston

Wed. March 1<sup>st</sup> 7:00 p.m. in Forreston  
Wed. March 15<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. in Forreston  
Wed. March 29<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. in Forreston  
Maundy Thursday (April 6<sup>th</sup>) 7:00 p.m. in Forreston



### God's Global Barnyard

This year for our Lent project, we are collecting money to purchase farm animals through ELCA Good Gifts – God's Global Barnyard. The animals will go to families in communities that have a need in the US and other countries. It will provide the family with food as well as items they can sell.



#### **St. Mark's goal is \$500**

Mark your envelope or check in the offering with "ELCA donation". We will purchase animals depending on our amount raised. Examples include: piglet: \$30, flock of chicks: \$10, goat: \$50, seeds & gardening tools: \$50



You can see more options and read about this at [goodgifts.elca.org](http://goodgifts.elca.org)

### **Bingo at St. Mark's!**

March 19<sup>th</sup> after Worship

Join us for a quick lunch and bingo after worship. Hosted by St. Mark's Sunday School.



Hello St. Mark's Lutheran,

Welcome to another month held gently in the loving arms of God. Here we are... it is already Lent, that time on the church calendar when we ponder Jesus path to the cross, examine our own brokenness/sinfulness and repent, to wrestle with Jesus's significance in our lives. And this Lent I want you to hear that... beloved you are truly, wonderfully, significant to Jesus.

That is who we are in the eyes of the Lord. Sometimes people may introduce to others that one person that means the most to them. They introduce them as being "my significant other". What we are saying is that one person is greatly significant and important to us. That is how Jesus also sees us. We are His "significant" other. Remember that you are precious in His sight. After all, you are so significant that He came to this world, lived for us, kept the law perfectly for us, died a sacrificial death for us, and rose for us. He did all those significant things for "you"- His Significant Ones.

Take another look at that word: "significant" especially the words within it. The first part of the word is: "sign". When one notices a sign they understand that what is to come is quite important. You are driving down a road and you come to a busy intersection where there is a stop sign. Now it is important that you do what the sign says: stop! The second part of the word is "if I cant". When it comes to your eternal life in Christ, on our own, that phrase says it all. The Bible reminds us that when it comes to eternal salvation we cannot accomplish it. So, "IF I CANT" then who can accomplish it? The answer sounds so sweet in our ears as believers: Jesus! As we continue to contemplate the significant actions of our God through His Son, Jesus Christ, I pray that you know, we are significant to Him. At Christmas, the common statement that we make as Christians (and rightly so) is "Jesus is the Reason for the Season." For Lent, we not only continue to relate that in our lives we also know that it was out of God's grace and mercy that Jesus came, died, and rose.

We are significant to God, so let us make Him significant in our lives as well. Let's make worship of Him a top priority. Let us spiritually grow in His significant life, death, and resurrection. Beloved, the things we do and the way we walk our Christian walk make a difference in our church, homes, and our community. They are significant.

God calls us through our journey in Lent to learn about our faith and our gifts. And then with Grace and Love, we are called to use them to make the world a better place for our generation and the next. God Loves You! You are SIGNIFICANT! Have a Blessed Lent!

Peace and Blessings to you and yours,

Pastor Scott

## Welcome Pastor Scott!

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, Reverend Scott Ralston was installed as our shared minister with Faith Lutheran of Forreston. We thank God for sending you to us. We also thank our brothers and sisters in Christ at Faith Lutheran for yoking with us and sharing you with us. Praise the Lord. He does wondrous works! Also a special thank you to Terry Jenkins, Renee Boyle, Amanda Carroll and Lisa Hinrichs for all their work in meeting with Faith Lutheran in Forreston and working out all the details to make this happen.



### St. Mark's Church Council

This month we welcomed and installed our new church council members: Renee Boyle, Trish Patterson, Steve Sorenson, Mary Calderon and Lisa Hinrichs (renewing). We would like to thank Merla Brooks, Craig Bauling, Tracey Anders and Terry Jenkins for the years that they served on our council and to Cindy Schryver and Hailey Walker for continuing to serve.

### Sunday School teachers needed next fall

Are you interested in teaching our youth? Next September we are looking for new teachers. All materials are provided.

We want to thank Sara and Pam for doing a wonderful job the past several years!

### St. Mark's Needs:

Hand soap for bathrooms, toilet cleaner, bathroom cleaner spray, paper towels, kleenex.  
*Any donations are greatly appreciated!!*

### **Polo Community Meal**

The next meal will be March 27<sup>th</sup> 5:00-6:30pm at Faith United Methodist.

### **Follow us on Facebook!**

St. Mark's currently has 237 followers! Invite your family and friends to like our page so they can see our wonderful posts. It is a great place to stay in the loop and even see pictures from the past.

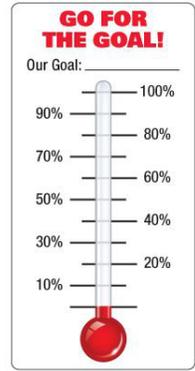
[Facebook.com/stmarks](https://www.facebook.com/stmarks)

# St. Mark's Building Fund drive

Please help us keep our beautiful building updated and in great condition. We have made some repairs and are in need of a few more:

- Tuckpointing on the church
- plaster repair
- Recently repaired the Organ and boiler
- Replenish our building fund for future needs

We have a goal of \$25,000!



## **Did you know you can donate directly to our building fund online?**

Visit [www.stmarkspolo.com](http://www.stmarkspolo.com) and look for the green button that says "Give to St. Mark's". You can choose to donate to Building Fund, General Fund or Missions.



**Thank you for your generous donations to the building fund!**  
**Since September we have raised over \$6000 toward our goal!**

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

## January Finance Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
11,109	6,601	4,508



If you know of any milestone birthdays or anniversaries, please let us know so we can share it with our Church Family. If you have a photo, please send it along and we'll put it on Facebook. Please email it to: [stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net](mailto:stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net)

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

Toilet paper, mandarin oranges, cream of mushroom soup, apple juice, sugar, mayonnaise.

## Meeting Minutes from St. Mark's Church Council

January 12, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

**Members:** Merla Brooks, Lisa Hinrichs, Terry Jenkins, Cindy Schryver, and Hailey Walker, guest Trish Patterson

**Devotional and opening Prayer:** Merla

**Secretary's Report was reviewed and approved.**

**Treasurer's Financial Report was reviewed and approved.** \$500 was donated to purchase a new chair for Pastor Scott. Pastor can pick out the chair of his choice and we will reimburse or wait until his name is added to the church credit card then he can shop for his chair.

The budget was proposed and approved by the council and ready to submit to the annual meeting.

We need to make sure that an audit is done on the books. Could Lori talk to the bank to see if someone could complete the audit for us.

**Worship:** Still need to pick Hymns for lent. They are waiting until the vote on yoking and then get input from Pastor Scott.

No hospitality meeting this month. Merla delivered the care packages to the Polo Rehab.

Sunday School: Sunday School resumes on 1/22 and will play bells on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Will they be having Bingo?

**Memorial committee is putting** undesignated memorials going towards replenishing the funds used for the boiler repair.

**Property: Lights still are not approved, but we just reapproved the contract at a lower rate since they didn't get lights installed per original schedule. We need to check with** Marilyn to have them look at the lights out back first, so we have lights for Ash Wednesday. Need to purchase a ceiling fan for Sunday School Room.

Need training for boiler work and other regular tasks. Lisa suggested a sign-up sheet to share like we do for alter guild. Merla suggested a committee to evaluate air conditioning for the sanctuary.

Committee to evaluate the feasibility of air conditioning.

Someone asked if there was a snow removal plan, and it was discussed that the Nelson's usually do snow removal and keep steps clear.

**Polo Council of Churches: No report**

**Old Business:**

The final yoking agreement was reviewed and just one minor change that April 2<sup>nd</sup>, is Palm Sunday and not Lent service. Agreement was approved to take to the Congregation for a vote.

Constitution: Committee still doing the review on the new revision.

Annual Reports are due, please submit to Lori at the office.

Council Nomination Committee (Cliff Bardell & Craig Bauling) Steve Sorenson, Mary Calderon, Renee Boyle, and Trish Patterson for two-year terms, and Lisa Hinrich renewing for a 1 year term to balance the number of members elected each year.

Still looking for a Robe for Pastor Scott to leave at St. Marks. Planning a potluck to welcome Pastor Scott, Merla going to organize possibly the first week in February.

**New Business:**

Discussion on Roast Beef Supper, no date set yet, Maybe March.

Set lent service times for 6pm soup, and 7pm service. Lisa will ask Lori to put out a sign-up sheet.

**Closing Prayer**

**Next meeting:** Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm

**Minutes from the Annual Congregational Meeting**

**January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Meeting was called to order at 11:22 by president Lisa Hinrichs.

**Opening prayer** by Pastor Scott Ralston

**Quorum:** 28 present. This is not enough for a quorum, but due to weather/road conditions, it was decided to proceed with the meeting anyway. Cliff Bardell made a motion to accept the agenda. Renee Boyle 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Elections:** Merla Brooks, Terry Jenkins, Craig Bauling and Tracey Anders will be completing their council terms. There are 5 openings for council. Ballots were handed out with nominations for 2 year terms for Renee Boyle, Steve Sorenson, Trish Patterson and Mary Calderon. Nomination for a 1 year term was Lisa Hinrichs. Ballots were counted with each nominee receiving 25 votes.

**Secretary's report:** Minutes provided from last year's annual meeting. Cliff Bardell made a motion to accept the minutes. Sara Thorngren second. Approved.

**Membership report:** No questions about the report. Cliff made a motion to accept, Renee Boyle second. Approved.

**Finance Reports:** 2022 financial reports were looked over and no questions were asked. Renee Boyle made a motion to approved, Hailey Walker seconded. Approved.

**2023 Budget:** No questions asked. Merla Brooks motioned to approve, Tracey Anders seconded. Approved.

**Committee Reports:** No questions asked. Cliff Bardell made a motion to approve, Charlie Gall seconded. Approved.

**Yoking Summary:** Renee Boyle came forward and gave a brief summary. Opened for questions and no members had any questions. Ballots were passed out and then counted. 28 voted to approve the yoking agreement, 0 voted no. Thank you to Terry Jenkins, Renee Boyle, Amanda Carroll and Lisa Hinrichs for all their work in meeting with Faith Lutheran in Forreston and preparing a contract. Installation for Pastor Scott and a welcoming potluck will be planned soon.

Cliff made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Renee Boyle seconded.

Pastor Scott gave a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 11:40

Respectfully submitted by Lori Christen

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**Thank you to all who donated soup for our "Souper" Bowl collection. We surpassed our goal and collected 264 cans! Thank to you all who counted and delivered the soup to the food pantry.**



## Thank you!

- ~ Thank you to Lisa Hinrichs for leading worship while Pastor was sick.
- ~ Thank you to Chelsea Schryver and all others who have shoveled snow.
- ~ Thank you to Ryan Nelson for plowing snow in the parking lot.
- ~ Thank you to our children and Cheryl Goeking for playing the bells in church. It was wonderful as usual!
- ~ Thank you to Marla Buskohl for being our guest pianist and the great music her and Cheryl played together.

“Thank you to everyone for their prayers and get well wishes. I am getting better every day.” ~ Charlie Gall

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



**Prayers for those in need of healing:** Richard Hose, Shelby Hose, Tommy Knipple, Tina Pierce and Timothy Toms

**Those in care facilities:** Sibyl Acker, Tammy Karrow, Trudy Karrow, Jessica Kimpel, Jeanne Scholl, Linda Scholl, and Marian Schnulle.

**Those in Military service:** Logan Albrecht, Bryan Connell, Dustin Knapp, Brad Reigle and Travis Roop.

## Happy 95<sup>th</sup> birthday to Beulah Nelson on March 19<sup>th</sup>!

### March Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### Birthdays

2 Ashley Nelson  
3 Nathan Groth  
4 Cassie Mekeel  
5 Matt Rienstra  
6 Brian Suits  
7 Laura Lopez  
Levi McBride  
8 Ron Shuman  
10 Beth Wiegmann  
Jenny Baker  
11 Mark Boyle  
12 Katie Mottaz  
14 Bobby Boothe  
Shelbi Massolle  
15 Ashley Haye  
16 David Baker  
Jennifer Yingling

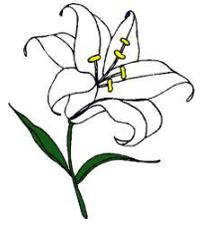
17 Marco Powell  
18 Lori Wolber  
19 Mary Ann Olson  
Beulah Nelson  
Bob Mitchell  
20 Joyce Folkers  
Nathan White  
21 Sandra Woodin  
23 Marcia Barnhart  
Hunter Barnhart  
24 Marilyn Nelson  
Shannon Gipe  
26 Becky Patterson  
29 Dawn Mitchell  
James Grobe  
31 Ashley Boothe

#### Anniversaries

9 Larry & Deborah Slager  
23 Harold & Joyce Folkers  
26 Dan & Janet Brown

## *Easter Lily Order Form*

Easter Lilies will be available this year for \$14.00. If you would like to purchase one, **please return this form by March 26<sup>th</sup>**.



Please attach your cash or check **payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church** to this form and put them in the offering plate or in the secretary's mailbox.

GIVEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of living person(s) or special occasion)

**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.

# God's Global Barnyard

An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops and offspring to sell at the market. With one gift, you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.



## Cow

A cow's milk, meat, fertilizer and calves can quickly strengthen a family's financial security.

\$500



## Chicks

Chicks begin laying eggs at just a few months old, offering nutritious, protein-rich meals for families who are hungry.

\$10



## Goat

Fresh milk from a goat is very nutritious and can be used to make products like yogurt and cheese to sell at the market.

\$50



## Honeybees

Bees pollinate plants and boost crop growth — helping the wider community. Soaps and candles can be made from their wax and sold at the local market.

\$20



## Pig

Within months after birth, piglets grow to weigh over 200 pounds — bringing a big payoff at the market.

\$30



## Fish Farm

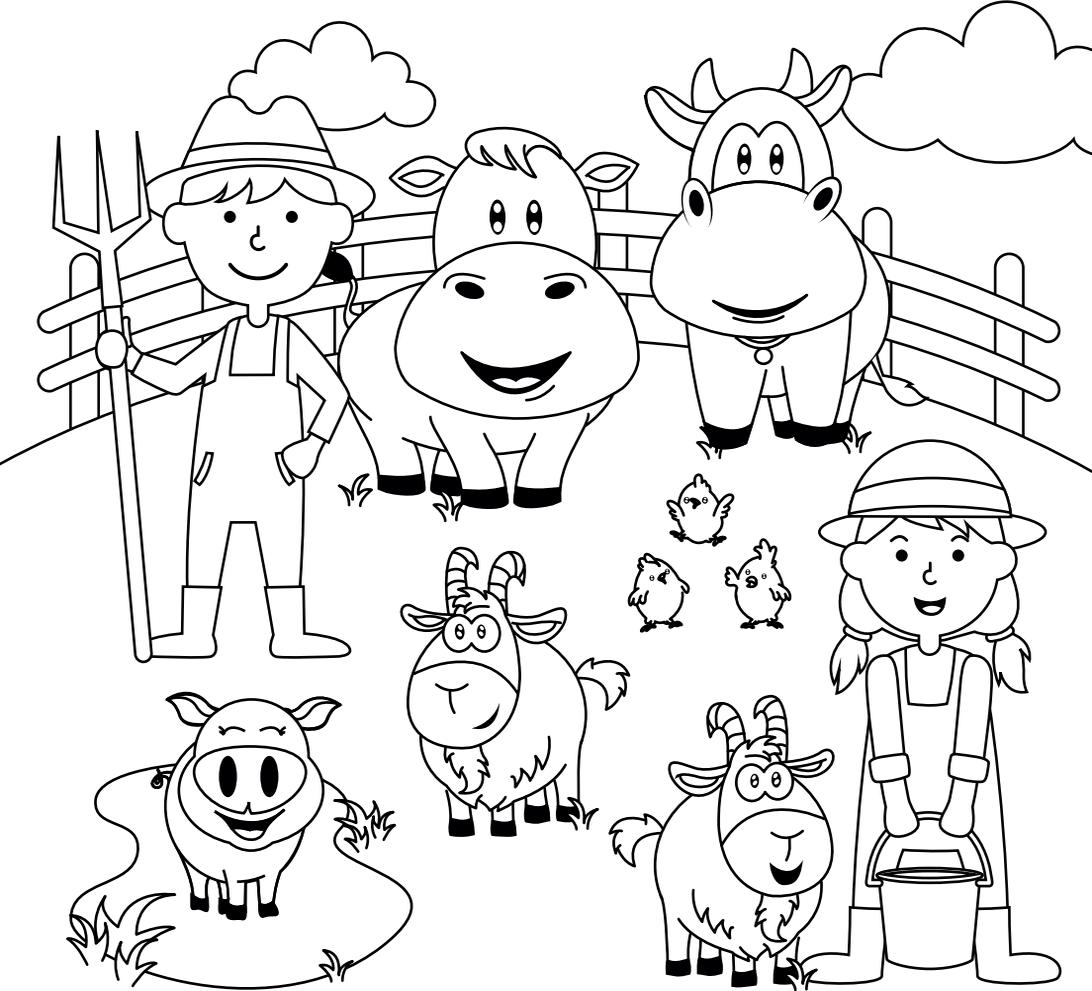
A fish farm and training in good business economics can provide a lifetime of meals for a community.

\$250

**Give through your congregation by visiting [ELCA.org/goodgifts](https://ELCA.org/goodgifts) or by sending a check to ELCA Good Gifts, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.**  
Please indicate your gift in the memo line of your check.



# GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD



Animals can be a big help to people who are hungry. Some animals lay eggs. Others provide milk. How does each animal in this picture help a family in need?



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

[ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts)