



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL

LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

201 N. Division Avenue, Polo, IL 61064

Email: stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net

Church office for a message: 815-946-2919

Pastor Terrie Wilder: 815-677-3443

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.*

St. Mark's is proud to announce

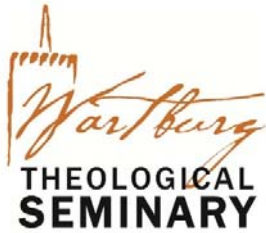
Seminarian Vicar Michelle Knight graduates
Wartburg Theological Seminary

with a master's degree in Theology on Sunday, May 16th.

She is currently in the call process with the Northern Illinois Synod.

The graduation will be virtual, and you can watch it live at

<https://www.wartburgseminary.edu/event/commencement-2021/>



Baccalaureate is at 1:00pm

Commencement is at 3:00pm



St. Mark's is now worshipping in the Sanctuary every Sunday at 10:30am.

Indoor Worship guidelines:

Masks worn over the nose are mandatory and social distancing still applies.

Please enter through the parking lot door. Communion will be offered.



Join us for Worship on Facebook!

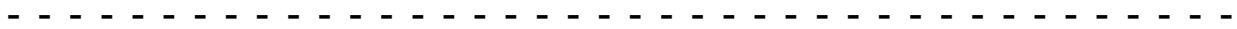
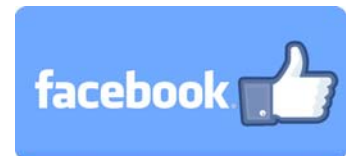
Sunday mornings at 9:00am

Join us online at St. Mark's Lutheran Church Polo Illinois Facebook page

www.facebook.com/stmarkspolo. Pastor Terrie will be doing a shortened

message with a short sermon and then **offering communion for the community the first Sunday of the month**

only. Have a piece of bread or a cracker handy along with juice or wine and we will share the Lord's Supper together virtually.



Tell us about your graduates!

If you know someone that is graduating from 8th grade, high school, college, university or any other type of school, please let us know! We would like to honor all graduates in our June newsletter.



Pastor's thoughts....

May is a month of celebrations. Graduations, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day. We plant our vegetable and flower gardens now that the threat of frost has passed. We must watch out for the giant farm machines on the roads that need access into the fields for planting of crops. May is a transition month from the uncertainty of Spring weather into the Summer of steady warmth.

May is also a transition month for the teaching of God's saving grace in Christ Jesus. The season of Easter, stories of resurrection and stories of witnesses who saw the risen Christ now turn to stories of the Pentecost. Pentecost is the season where we are also called to be witnesses in the world. Pentecost is that wonderful story in Acts 2:1-4 that turns our faith into action.

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues^[a] as the Spirit enabled them.

Now that we have returned to sanctuary worship every Sunday, it is a good time to listen to how the Holy Spirit is calling and enabling us to bring God's love and caring into the world. This is a new beginning again, after a year of waiting, the people of St. Mark's are being called. As our mission statement adopted for our 150th Anniversary states:

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.

In this new year, I look forward to thinking of new exciting and inviting ways to share our faith with the community and beyond. Let us all listen to how the Holy Spirit is moving us.

Blessings to you all in this transitional season, Pastor Terrie

.....

If you would like a Devotional book for May, June please let Pastor or Lori know. One will be sent or dropped off at your home.

.....

March Finance Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
8,415	8,170	245

HANDMADE SCARF DRIVE

**Handmade scarves of any kind
needed!**

**Join us in helping Vicki Sauter collect handmade
scarves for Romania!**

***Drop scarves off at St. Mark's and we will
deliver them.***

134 SCARVES FOR ROMANIA



- Handmade
- Crocheted
- Knitted
- Sewn
- Winter Fabric
- Neutral Colors

Drop off at:
ACF Mission Office
416 E. Dover Rd.
Princeton, IL 61356
Tim: 815-303-1725
Pastor Vicki: 815-973-2819

Benefits

THE KIDS & STAFF
AT POINT OF HOPE

#SHARETHEWARMTH 



Polo Lifeline Food Pantry Needs:

Paper towels, toilet paper

Items can be dropped off at St. Mark's. There is a grocery cart in the fellowship hall.



Council Highlights from the April Church Council Meeting

Treasurer's Report: Income for the month of March was \$8,415 with expenses \$8,170 with a favorable balance of \$245 for the month.

Pastor's Report: Pastor will be taking the weekend of April 11th off. A video presentation will prepared for the April 11th message. A private, family only, funeral was held April 3rd for Ed Schnulle at the church. Food was donated by members and the family served themselves in a church basement luncheon.

Worship Plans: Holy Week worship was a good entrance back into weekly worship. April 18th begins in person every Sunday worship at this time. Maundy Thursday video had about 35 views. Good Friday had about 35 video views and 2 people for the in-person worship. This was distressing. Cheryl and Marla performed beautiful music and a duet for Good Friday for 2 people. Easter morning was uplifting with a total of 80 people at the combined 2 services. We were fortunate to have both Cheryl's daughter Michelle and Beth Wiegmann for special music. Online had another 35 views. People were very happy to return to worship for the resurrection! Nearly all people were very compliant using masks and social distancing with a few exceptions. The congregation was encouraged to attend our Annual Meeting April 18th after worship. We need 27 for a quorum. Pastor is hoping to begin scheduling baptisms and new member celebrations soon.

Hospitality: Two members decorated for Easter and it was appreciated! Committee to resume phone calls to communicate weekly in person church starting April 18th as well as a reminder for the annual meeting.

Education: Pastor had planned to meet individually with the confirmation students in March, but was overwhelmed with worship in person and online and her mother's recent accident. Pastor will begin reaching out to each student and their families very soon.

Global Mission: Another Child Foundation is asking us to consider another shoe drive for the orphanage.

Property: We are waiting for the pump to come in and to be installed for the furnace. Rochelle Property Management has informed us that the current tenants will be moving out at the end of April.

Polo Council of Churches: A meeting was held March 23rd by zoom. Suzanne Sorenson and Pastor attended. Honduras healthcare has collapsed, no doctors, no food, and no jobs. Secondhand Rose received a grant of \$5000 to keep them going. No activities allowed yet at Polo Rehab, Kidz Café in planning a June and July grab and go lunch program. Community Vacation Bible School is being planned. The Food Panty is doing well with food and donations but the numbers using it are trending downward. The next meeting is at Pinecreek Christian Church May 25th at 7:00pm in person.

Old Business: A nomination committee has not yet been formed. Council members volunteered to invite prospective people for church council. We are in need of 2 nominees for 3-year terms, 1 nominee for a 2-year term and 1 nominee for a 1-year term.

New Business: The Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 18th after worship. Worship lasts about 45 minutes so 11:15pm is the estimated start time.

Other Business: Volunteers are needed for worship assistance, ushers, flowers, cleaning, and musical offerings for worship.

.....
2021 offering envelopes are available for pickup. Lori is usually in the office on Thursdays, but please call before making a special trip to pick yours up. If you need your offering envelope box delivered to you, please call Pastor (815-677-3443) or Lori (815-440-0561).

If you are interested is signing up for electronic giving in 2021 or adjusting your current donation amount, please contact Lori.

Thank you to those who have continued to mail your donations!!

**ST. MARK'S EVNGELICL LUTHERAN CHURCH
POLO, ILLINOIS
2020 ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING MINUTES
APRIL, 18, 2021**

Call to Order: President Merla Brooks called the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m. Thirty one adults present. Vice president Kent Anders declared a quorum. Pastor Terrie Wilder provided the opening prayer.

Acceptance of Agenda: Joan Rienstra moved to accept the agenda, Amanda Carroll provided the second, motion carried.

Elections: Church council openings; three 3 year terms, one 2 year term, and one 1 year term. Nominations for church council ballot; Terry Jenkins (3year term), Tracey Anders (3year term), Marilyn Nelson (1 year term).

- **Election results:** Terry Jenkins 25 votes for 3 year term, Tracey Anders 26 votes for three year term, write in ballot- three votes for Steve Sorenson for three year term, nomination declined. Write in ballot for two year term; Craig Bauling 2 votes, nomination accepted, Lorin Gatz 1 vote, Mary Calderon 1 vote, and Suzanne Sorenson 1 vote, Marilyn Nelson 21 votes for 1 year term, write in ballot for 1 year term Suzanne Sorenson 1 vote, and Mary Calderon 1 vote. Motion to accept names presented unanimous.
 - 3 year term – Terry Jenkins
 - 3 year term – Tracey Anders
 - 3 year term – Open
 - 2 year term – Craig Bauling
 - 1 year term – Marilyn Nelson
- **Nomination of Delegates to 2021 Online Synod Assembly:** Merla Brooks is registered to attend. Registration period has ended, however Tracy Anders will attempt to register.

Secretary Report: Minutes from the 2020 Annual Congregation Meeting. Terry Jenkins moved to accept, Karen Olsen provided second, motion carried.

Membership Report/Pastor Report: Amanda Carroll provided a motion to accept, Lisa Hinrichs, provided a second, motion carried.

Financial Reports: Lisa Hinrichs moved to accept the financial reports, Craig Bauling provided a second, motion carried.

Committee and Organization Reports: Amanda Carroll provided a motion to accept, Lisa Hinrichs, provided a second, motion carried.

New Business: Proposed Budget for 2021- Tracy Anders motioned to approve the proposed budget, Lorin Gatz provided a second, motion carried.

Adjournment and Benediction: Terry Jenkins provided a motion to adjourn, Tracey Anders provided a second, motion carried. Closing prayer provided by Pastor Terrie Wilder.

.....



We would love to have everyone on our email list for faster communication.
If you need to be added to have changed your email please call the church office and
leave a message or email the church at stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net

Ways to Help Polo and Beyond:

- 1) Sending a check directly to the Polo Food Pantry 115 North Green Avenue .
- 2) Mailing cards to residents of care facilities is always a good idea:
Polo Rehab 703 E. Buffalo, Polo 61064 (Linda Scholl and Jessica Kimpel)
Provena Center 1372 Woodside Dr., Freeport 61032 (Hazel Pontnak)
Regency Healthcare 612 West. St. Sterling 61081 (Tammy Karrow and Trudy Karrow)
Wesley Willows Rockford 61103 (Sibyl Acker)
- 3) Make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response (if designated to a specific disaster, please indicate in the memo line):
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 ELCA Gift Processing Center
 P.O. Box 1809 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009
 Give by phone Call 800-638-3522 to make a donation with a credit card. Operators are ready to assist you Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Central Time.
- 4) Continue sending offerings to St. Mark's by mail or dropping in the mail slot at the north front door. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ARE SENDING OFFERINGS



Thank you

~ Thank you to all the volunteers that helped to get worship going again.

~ Prayers and condolences to the family and friends of Ed Schnulle who died in Christ April 1st

~ Prayers and condolences to the family and friends of Kelsi Bender, daughter of Jenny and David Baker who died in Christ April 16th.

~ Prayers and condolences to the family and friends of Kenneth Obendorf who died in Christ April 28th.

“Thank you for your kindness at the time of Ed’s/Dad’s passing. Thanks also for the delicious luncheon that you prepared for our family.”

~ Marian, Marcia, Marlys, Marilyn



Prayers for Healing: Mike Glaser, Kate Marschang, Brad Shippert **Prayers for those in care facilities:** Sibyl Acker, Tammy Karrow, Trudy Karrow, Jessica Kimpel , Hazel Pontnak, Jeanne Scholl, Linda Scholl and Marian Schnulle.
Prayers for those in military service: Logan Albrecht, JJ Bardell, Bryan Connell, Dustin Knapp, Brad Reigle and Travis Roop

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

<u>Birthdays</u>		<u>Anniversaries</u>	
1	Sharon VanOosten	18	Ron Hackbarth
	Sylas Wiegmann	19	James Grobe
2	Daniel Brown		Julie Hoak
	Lori Jasper	21	Cindy Sullivan
6	Marjorie Engel	22	Lori King
	Ken Yingling		Rick Lincoln
8	Trudy Karrow	24	Maggie Cox
9	Craig Bauling	25	Mallory Patterson
11	Curtis Shuman	26	Jerry Hose
12	Kathy Mitchell		Emalie Gunder
13	Jessica Boren	28	Alex Hoak
	Nathaniel Yingling		Joyce Greenawalt
14	Charlie Gall	29	Joanne Grant
		8	Marty and Kathy Toms
			Levi and Jena Slager
		18	Don and Marilyn Nelson
		22	Justin and Carrie Grobe
		31	John and Marjorie Engel

Community Bible School

PARABLES OF JESUS

June 7-9 9:00-11:00 am

Polo Church of the Brethren
401 South Congress Ave Polo

Come meet some new friends who will tell a story of Jesus. Games, crafts, packaged snacks, and plant a seed. Monday to Wednesday is for kindergarten - 5th.

Please contact Patty Stauffer by email stauffer@essex1.com or phone 815 499-2034 by May 4th. Wear masks. Volunteers needed.



Sponsored by the Polo Community Council of churches