

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



November 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 Daylight Saving Time ends 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship Church Council Meeting after worship	3 Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	4 Election Day	5	6 10:00 Prayer Partners	7	8
9 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	10 5:00-6:30pm Community Meal at FUM *St. Mark's Serves*	11 Veteran's Day	12 10-11:30am Mobile Food Pantry in Polo	13 10:00 Prayer Partners	14	15 5:00-7:00pm Hamloaf Supper & Bake Sale
16 9:00am Joint Worship in Forreston	17	18 9:00am Quilters	19	20 10:00 Prayer Partners Deadline to submit articles for December Newsletter	21	22
23 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship Decorate for Advent after Worship	24	25 Work Second Hand Rose Nov. 25, 26, 28, 29	26	27 No Prayer Partners Happy Thanksgiving!	28	29
30 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship						

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>Tellers:</u> Barb Grobe, Kathy Mitchell, Joan Rienstra
November 2	Beth Wiegmann		<u>Altar Guild:</u> Lisa Hinrichs
November 9	Amanda Carroll		
November 16	Joint worship in Forreston		<u>Head Usher:</u> Terry Jenkins
November 23	Merla Brooks		
November 30	Cliff Bardell		



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LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

201 N. Division Avenue, Polo, IL 61064

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Church office: 815-946-2919

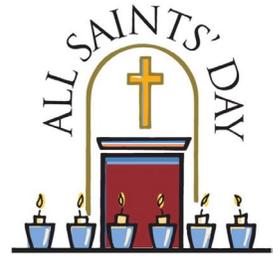
Website: stmarkspolo.com

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.*

Sunday, November 2nd - All Saints Day

Candles will be lit in remembrance for those who have passed away in the last year: Phyllis Dyer, Rosalinda Rienstra, Marian Schnulle, Joyce Gatz, JoDee Bardell, Kent Anders, Rita Dauphin, Cheryl Goeking, James Shrader.



Fall Hamloaf Dinner & Bake Sale

November 15th, 2025

Dine in or Carry out from 5:00-7:00pm. Menu includes a hearty serving of hamloaf, au gratin potatoes, green beans, roll, tossed salad and pie.

Donations of \$12 for adults and \$8 for kids 12 & under will be collected at the door. No advance tickets needed.

Watch for sign up sheets soon to donate items and help serve.

Donations or meals can be made through our [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) account by scanning the QR code.



November 16th Joint Worship in Forreston

Join us for worship at 9:00am on Sunday, November 16th.

No services will be held in Polo that day.



Pastor's thoughts ...

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

November always feels like a bridge between seasons — the glow of autumn fading into the quiet expectation of Advent. The air grows cooler, the fields rest, and we find ourselves turning inward, counting blessings, and remembering the goodness of God in the simple things: shared meals, warm laughter, and the company of those we love.

Gratitude has a way of changing how we see the world. It reminds us that even when life feels hurried or uncertain, God's grace continues to unfold right before our eyes. Whether it's the beauty of a sunrise over the cornfields, a child's laughter during worship, or the kindness of a neighbor — each moment is a small sermon reminding us that *the Lord is good, and his steadfast love endures forever* (Psalm 100:5).

This month, I invite you to make gratitude a daily practice. Write down one thing each day that you're thankful for. Or better yet, tell someone. Gratitude grows best when shared.

As Thanksgiving approaches and Advent draws near, may your hearts be filled with peace and purpose. May we continue to live as a people of hope — giving thanks in all things and trusting that Christ's light will soon shine again into the darkness.

With love and thanks,
Pastor Scott

Ministry Moments

Reformation Sunday – October 26 (Both Churches)

We'll be celebrating Reformation Sunday in a special way this year at both **Faith** and **St. Mark's**! Everyone is invited to **wear red** — the color of the Spirit and renewal.

At Faith, the shared meal will take place *during the service* as we gather around the table together in fellowship, faith, and thanksgiving. We'll also welcome **The Watts** for a special presentation. It promises to be a joyful and meaningful morning as we celebrate the courage and faith that continue to shape the church today.

All Saints Sunday – November 2

We remember with love and gratitude those who have gone before us in faith. During worship, we'll light candles and lift their names, giving thanks for their lives and the faith that continues to inspire us.

Fall Supper – November 15 at St. Mark's in Polo

Join us for our annual Fall Supper — an evening of good food, warm fellowship, and gratitude! Bring your family, friends, and a thankful heart.

(Details to come from our hosts — watch for an update!)

Joint Worship in Forreston – November 16

Join us in Forreston at 9:00am for a wonderful morning of worship and fellowship. (No services in Polo.)

Christ the King Sunday – November 23

On the final Sunday of the church year, we lift our voices in praise to the One who reigns forever. Join us as we give thanks and prepare our hearts for Advent — the season of waiting and promise that begins the very next week.

Advent Decorating – Sunday, November 23 (After Worship at Both Churches)

We'll stay after church to hang greens, place candles, and ready our sanctuaries for Advent. All ages are welcome — many hands make light (and joyful) work.

Quilt Ministry Update

The quilts blessed in October are now on their way to bring warmth and love across the world. Thank you, quilters, for the beauty and compassion stitched into every square.

A Season of Gratitude

What are you thankful for this year?

Maybe it's the health of a loved one, the faithfulness of friends, or the gift of a church family that prays together.

Take time this month to pause, breathe, and notice — the smell of woodsmoke, the crunch of leaves, the taste of apple-cider donuts (my favorite!), and the quiet joy of being alive in God's creation.

Daily Devotion Encouragement

As the days shorten and the nights grow long, set aside a few moments for Scripture and prayer.

Our **Christ in Our Home** devotion books are available at both churches — a wonderful way to stay centered as we approach Advent.

Closing Thought

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever.” – Psalm 107:1

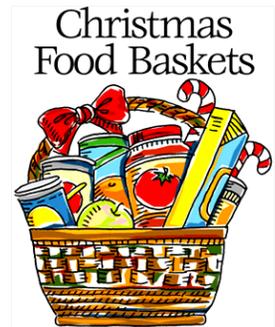
Even when the days grow darker, love still shines. Know that you are forever wrapped — and forever wrapping this whole world — in the loving arms of God.

Peace and Blessings to you and yours,
Pastor Scott



Christmas Basket donations needed

The Polo Council of Churches is collecting money for their annual Food Pantry Christmas baskets. Instead of having each church collect a certain item, they are asking for monetary donations to purchase the complete meals for community members in need. A \$20 donation will purchase a box of food to feed an entire family. Any donations for more or less are welcome. Money will be collected and the food pantry will purchase the food because they can get better prices for the items. Any extra money raised will be donated to the food pantry. Mark your envelope “Christmas Basket”. Make any checks out to St. Mark’s and we will send it all in together.



Decorating St. Mark’s for Christmas

It's almost time to decorate for Advent/ Christmas! Stay after church on November 23rd to help decorate! We appreciate ALL help!!





Thank you to all donated for the CROP Walk, especially those who donated in memory of Kent Anders. St. Mark's had 13 walkers and raised \$1215. Ogle County's total was \$7818. Great job!!



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.

Polo Community Meal

The next community meal will be held November 10th at Faith United Methodist 5:00-6:30pm.

St. Mark's Serves

There is a sign up sheet at church for desserts and salads.

Polo Lifeline Food Pantry

Needs:

Mayonnaise, miracle whip, sugar, eggs, cheese slices, monetary donations.

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



*A head usher is needed for December.
Sign up on the table or let the office know if you can help.*

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
Sept 10, 2025 7pm

Members: Cindy Schryver, Cliff Bardell, Terry Jenkins, Beth Wiegman, Trish Patterson, Pastor Scott, Steve Sorenson, Patty Callahan

Attendance and Quorum: Yes
Opening Prayer – Pastor Scott

Secretary's Report – Terry makes a motion to approve. Cindy 2nd.

Treasurer's Report - Trish makes a motion to approve. Cliff 2nd.

Old Business:

New Business:

Discuss resealing the old Congress School parking area – get a quote for the spring. Terry will check with Wolber in Mt. Morris and get a quote.

Discuss using Marla – Trish talked with her about this. She will ask Randy Hayes to fill in on Oct 12th on piano. Holidays will be harder. Discussion was done on maybe having Marla record some of the songs and we can play it ourselves.

Can CASA use the church on Wednesday, October 22nd for our advocate meeting? Council agreed to letting CASA use the church.

Committee Reports:

Pastor – Pastor has had 4 funerals lately. Scrapping Congregation Pastor attended in August on a Friday and Saturday through the synod. Kent's service is on Tuesday at 1:30 at the church. Pastor has been doing his visits. Pastor went to see Cheryl at the rehab facility.

Finance - Renee/Cliff – nothing to report

Worship N Music – Beth – nothing to report

Fellowship/Hospitality – Marilyn – nothing to report – Trish to contact Lisa Hinrichs about fall supper.

Education- Pastor – nothing to report

Memorial – Cindy – nothing to report

Property – Steve – not here to report.

Polo Council of Churches – Suzanne Sorenson – nothing new

Liaison- Trish- fall meeting

Motion to adjourn meeting - Terry makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trish 2nd.

Closing prayer by Trish

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Next Meeting Oct 8th 2025, 7pm

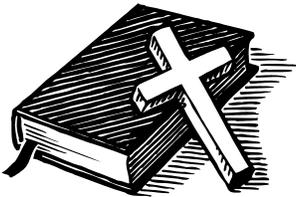
September Finance Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
\$6,693	\$7,256	-\$563

Thank you!

- ~ Thank you to all who helped with the Blessing of the Quilts. Thank you quilters for your hard work and dedication making these!
- ~ Thank you to all who have helped at our recent funerals and luncheons.
- ~ Thank you to all who helped Tracey clean out Kent's house.

Please let us know if someone needs a thank you.



Prayers for those in need of healing: Darlene Barnhart, Patty Callahan, John Engel, Shelby Hose, Pat McPherson, Mary Ann Olson, Ken Smith and Laurel Smith. **Those in care facilities:** Ron Bardell, Tammy Karrow, Evelyn Meyer and Beulah Nelson. **Those in Military service:** Travis Roop and Nathaniel Yingling.

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 2 Carol Garkey
Stacy Morrison
- 4 Julie Acker
Lucas Bender
- 5 Gracie Bailey
- 7 William Hoak
Mary Jane Wagner
- 9 Dan Nelson
Logan Albrecht

- 11 Paige Peterson
- 12 Michael Ambeau
- 13 Darlene Barnhart
- 15 Andrea Mullens
- 18 Claire Bartelt
- 20 Scott Thorngren
- 23 Hurley Boothe
- 29 Kent Sorenson
- 30 ReAnne Kurschner
Parker Wolber

Anniversaries

- 8 Randy & Dawn Mitchell
- 22 Aaron & Melissa Johnson
- 23 Ken & Jennifer Yingling
- 26 Michael & Cindy Sullivan



815.734.6354 | www.trinitymm.net



A VISIT WITH CORRIE

Compelling and inspiring portrayal by Gayle Haas of the Nazi concentration camp survivor and Dutch resistance fighter Corrie ten Boom

Saturday, November 1 at 1:00 p.m.

Free admission | Reception after performance

Registration appreciated, please scan the QR code

Trinity Lutheran Church | 308 E. Brayton Rd., Mt. Morris



Donations will be accepted for national and global women's ministries of the N.I. Synod Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

'A Visit with Corrie'



Trinity Lutheran Church
308 East Brayton Road
Mount Morris, IL 61054

November 1, 2025 1:00 PM

Program is in the sanctuary

Light refreshments to follow in Fellowship Hall

**Corrie ten Boom, (April 1892-April 1983)
was a Dutch Christian Holocaust survivor who aided
many Jews to escape the Nazis during WWII.
Be inspired through Corrie's dramatic monologue,
portrayed by Gayle Haas,
as she shares her experiences growing up
in Haarlem, Holland,
her family's commitment working
with the Dutch Resistance movement,
and her powerful message of love and forgiveness.**