

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



June 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 9:00 Social Time 9:30 Worship	2 Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	3 Work Second Hand Rose June 3 rd – 7 th	4	5 10:00 Prayer Partners	6	7
8 9:00 Social Time 9:30 Worship	9 No Community Meal this month	10 7:00pm Church council meeting	11 10:00-11:30am Mobile Food Pantry in Polo	12 10:00 Prayer Partners	13 Synod Assembly	14 Synod Assembly
15 9:00 Social Time 9:30 Worship Happy Father's Day!	16	17 9:00am Quilters	18	19 10:00 Prayer Partners Deadline to submit articles for July Newsletter	20	21
22 9:00 Social Time 9:30 Worship	23	24	25	26 10:00 Prayer Partners Polo Town & Country Days June 26th – 29th	27	28
29 9:00 Social Time 9:30 Worship	30					

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>Tellers:</u> Julie Hoak, Sharon VanOosten			
June 1	Tracey Anders					
June 8	Amanda Carroll				<u>Altar Guild:</u> OPEN	
June 15	Kent Anders				<u>Head Usher:</u> Steve Sorenson	
June 22	Trish Patterson					
June 29	Julie Hoak	Marcia Printz				



**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.*

Congratulations Graduates!

We had many St. Mark's members graduate at all levels. Please join us in congratulating them all. We wish you the best in your future!



Sunday, June 1st
Summer Worship Schedule Begins
Social time: 9:00am
Worship: 9:30am



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



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



Polo Town & Country Days
June 26th – 29th

Visit polodays.org or follow them on Facebook for more info.

Hello Beloved Members of Faith and St. Mark's Lutheran Churches,

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

June is upon us—and with it comes the beginning of summer, warmer days, vibrant greens, gardens in bloom, and that unmistakable sense that life is shifting into a different rhythm. School is out, vacations are planned, and the fields and gardens are humming with life and activity.

But just like the soil in June, our spirits need tending too. This is a perfect time to pause and ask: What is the Spirit planting in us this season?

We're still in the season of Pentecost—the longest season of the church year—and it's fitting. Pentecost isn't a single Sunday event; it's a whole season of growth. The Holy Spirit didn't just descend once in fire and wind to stir up the disciples. The Spirit still moves, still speaks, still equips us today.

Maybe the Spirit shows up in a child's laughter echoing across a backyard. Maybe the Spirit stirs when neighbors share garden produce or stories across the fence. Maybe you've felt the Spirit's nudge in a phone call made, a kindness offered, a burden shared.

Jesus promised us in John 14:26, "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit... will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you." The Spirit doesn't just visit us—we are never without God's presence. Even when life gets hectic, messy, or uncertain, we are held by that same Spirit. We don't have to be perfect to be filled with purpose.

Beloved, this summer I hope you make space for rest and renewal. Take a walk in creation. Sit in the shade and listen for birdsong. Spend time with those you love. Pray. Laugh. Cry. Let God meet you wherever you are. And while we rest, let us also prepare. There is good work ahead—acts of kindness, moments of service, chances to love and care for this world and one another. We are the church, not just in the sanctuary, but in our homes, our neighborhoods, our daily lives.

One exciting way to live into that calling is by helping with or attending Vacation Bible School! This year's Forreston VBS will be held July 7th to 11th hosted at Forreston Reformed, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Ages will be 5-12. Younger children only if parents stay for the program. —a time that's been chosen especially to make it easier for working families to participate. We'd love to see your children, grandchildren, neighbors, and friends join us for this fun and faith-filled week!

Let's be open to the Spirit's guidance this season. Let's listen deeply. Let's grow in faith and love.

Until we gather again in worship and fellowship, may God bless you and keep you, may God fill your days with peace, and may the Spirit stir within you something beautiful and bold.

Peace and blessings always,
Pastor Scott

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
April 6th, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes

Members: Present: Cindy Schryver, Cliff Bardell, Terry Jenkins, Trish Patterson, Pastor Scott, Steve Sorenson, Patty Callahan. Not present: Beth Wiegmann

Attendance and Quorum: Yes

Opening Prayer – by Pastor Scott

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

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

Old Business: Spring Supper – Trish shared what Lisa's thoughts are having it June 7th or 21st. Meal ideas discussed. Terry makes a motion to have it inside June 7th. Steve 2nd. We will leave it up to Lisa to decide on food. Motion passes.

Synod Assembly is in June. Patty Callahan is thinking about going.

New Business:

Committee Reports:

Pastor – Pastor had 2 funerals. Synod assembly is in June.

Finance – Renee – Cliff will check in with her.

Worship N Music -Beth – nothing to report

Fellowship/Hospitality – Marilyn Nelson –

Education - Pastor – 1st communion meeting on Tuesday in Forreston at 5:30 pm for any kids interested.

Memorial - Cindy – Trish had an envelope from Tony Karrow for Trudy's memorial. Gave it to Cindy to open. She said there is \$315.00 total.

Property – Steve – has had to go around and ask neighbors to move their vehicles as they were parked in handicapped spots while school is coming down. Ryan may cut down the tree. Water in the basement. Steve said it was rain water and he put a fan on it. It dried in 1 day. Outside light to shine on window? Steve still looking into it.

Polo Council of Churches – Suzanne Sorenson – April 11th community meal. Meatloaf.

Liaison - Trish – we met on April 2nd after Lent service. Things to discuss with council: Pastor's evaluation. It was decided to have 1 council member present at the evaluation and 1 other member. Trish volunteered to do with Renee. This needs to be done by our next Liasion meeting which is Oct 19th. Trish brought up idea from Liasion that we have \$5K donated by church members for Pastor's health care which is \$10K year, so each church pays \$5K. It was discussed and we feel that that is what the congregation is doing by giving to the church. We will need a new person to be on for 3 yrs with Trish starting next year as Lisa will go off since we need to keep a council member on and Trish has agreed to be on for another 3 year term. We can start to look for someone in the summer. Barbershop singers will be performing at joint service in Forreston on July 20, 2025.

Motion to adjourn meeting – Cliff makes a motion to adjourn. Steve 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 12:47pm

Closing prayer – by Trish

Next Meeting May 14th, 2025 7pm

April Finance Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
\$9,724	\$7,599	\$2,124

Polo Community Meal

There are no meals in June or July.
The next community meal will be held
August 11th at Faith United Methodist 5:00-
6:30pm.

Polo Lifeline Food Pantry Needs:

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

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

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

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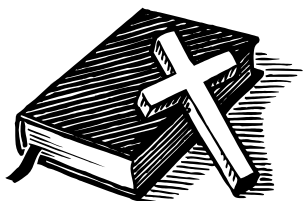
Sympathies to the family of JoDee Bardell who passed away May 4th. Services and luncheon were held at St. Mark's.

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 Merla Brooks for leading worship while Pastor was on vacation.
- ~ Thank you to all who have helped at the funeral services and luncheons for JoDee Bardell. All help is always appreciated!
- ~ Thank you to Marilyn Nelson and Renee & Mark Boyle for helping with outdoor cleanup of our church.

Please let us know if someone needs a thank you.



Prayers for those in need of healing: Kent Anders, Darlene Barnhart, Lori Davids, John Engel, Shelby Hose, Donna Immel, Pat McPherson, Mary Ann Olson 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.

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

1 Lindsay Mitchell
2 Adam Wiegmann
A J Hinrichs
5 Tommy Bardell
Morgan Karrow
6 McKenzie Bailey
7 Mary Cimino
8 Kennedy Yingling
9 Christopher Toms
10 Maddox Karrow
11 Betty Obendorf
Tarah Patterson
Kent Anders
13 Emma Bauling
14 Karen Gilbert
Kayleigh Rogers
Lisa Hinrichs

15 Larry Reap
16 Nathan Stone
17 Julie Hays
Janet Grobe
20 Elijah Lotz
21 Greg Cross
Lisa Miller
23 Chad Nelson
James Shrader
25 Cynthia Schryver
Carrie Grobe
26 Nathan Wiegmann
Rebecca Johnson
Daphne Bone
28 Randy Mitchell
30 Tracy Hilleman
Lori Davids

Anniversaries

2 Tony & Judy Karrow
3 Raymond & Laura Lopez
7 Matt & Cassie Mekeel
10 Tom & Carol Suits
11 Scott & Sara Thorngren
14 Mark & Sandy Stahler
23 Bryan & Colby Suits