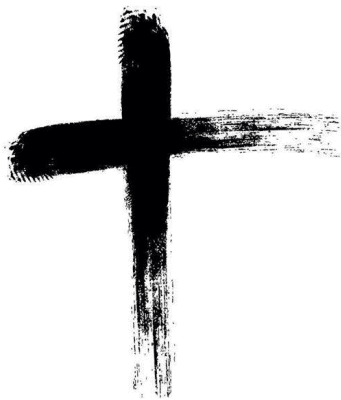


ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
201 N DIVISION AVENUE
POLO, IL 61064
Church Phone: 815-946-2919
Email: stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net
Website: stmarkspolo.com



2025



March 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 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship | 3 Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose | 4 | 5 6:00pm Meal 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship in Polo | 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 | 11 7:00pm Church Council meeting at St. Mark's | 12 6:00pm Meal 6:30 Lent Worship at Forreston | 13 10:00 Prayer Partners | 14 4:30-7:30pm Brookville UM Fish Fry | 15 |
| 16 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship | 17 St. Patrick's Day | 18 9:00am Quilters | 19 6:00pm Meal 6:30 Lent Worship in Polo | 20 10:00 Prayer Partners | 21 | 22 |
| 23 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship | 24 | 25 Work Second Hand Rose March 25 th – 29 th 6:00pm Council of Churches meeting at FUM | 26 6:00pm Meal 6:30 Lent Worship at Forreston | 27 10:00 Prayer Partners Deadline to submit articles for April Newsletter | 28 | 29 |
| 30 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship | 31 | | | | | |

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Worship Assistant</u> | <u>Altar Flowers</u> | <u>Tellers:</u> Barb Grobe, Kathy Mitchell, Joan Rienstra | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--|--|---|--|
| March 2 | Kent Anders | | | | | |
| March 9 | Tracey Anders | | | | <u>Altar Guild:</u> Carol Suits | |
| March 16 | Merla Brooks | | | | <u>Head Usher:</u> Terry Jenkins | |
| March 23 | Cliff Bardell | | | | | |
| March 30 | Trish Patterson | Julie Hoak | | | | |



**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.*

Thank you Council & Welcome New members!

We welcomed new council members Beth Wiegmann, Cliff Bardell, Terry Jenkins. We thank Steve Sorenson, Trish Paterson and Cindy Schryver who have renewed their terms to stay on council. Special thank you to Mary Calderon, Hailey Walker and Renee Boyle for the years they served on council. We appreciate all that you do to serve St. Mark's!



Lent Schedule

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Wednesdays during Lent (6:00 p.m. Meal, 6:30 pm Service) | |
| Ash Wednesday (March 5th) | 6:30 p.m. in Polo |
| March 12 th | in Forreton |
| March 19 th | in Polo |
| March 26 th | in Forreton |
| April 2 nd | in Polo |
| April 9 th | in Forreton |
| Maundy Thursday (April 17 th) | 6:30 p.m. in Polo |
| Good Friday (April 18 th) | in Forreton |
| Easter Sunday (April 20 th) | |
| Faith Lutheran Church | 6:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. |
| St. Mark's Lutheran Church | 10:30 a.m. |



See the sign up sheet at church to provide food for the meals

Brookville UM Fish Fry & Bake Sale

Friday, March 14th
Serving 4:30-7:30pm
Adults \$17
Children ages 5-12 \$10.00
Children 4 & under FREE
Dine in or Carry out
Brookville UM Church, 17725 W. Chambers St. Polo, IL



Hello St. Mark's Lutheran,

Welcome to another day held gently in the loving arms of God! What a blessing it is to be alive, well, and part of such an amazing church. Having had the flu this past week, I got a chance to do some more work on devotional reading and bible study. Being in God's word is a breath of fresh air; it brought life even on days when I didn't feel very alive.

The annual meeting is behind us now and Lent is coming right up. I for one am looking forward to seeing what this new year offers, and I'm excited to share some amazing Lenten meals with Faith and St. Mark's in the months ahead.

One of the things I was meditating on during my recovery was a passage of scripture we all know very well... Psalm 23. When I think about that verse at different times I see different things. Some days the part about walking through the darkest valley feels close to home. And in those times I am reminded again, that no matter my circumstances God is with me. Not only with me but prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

Now I'm not one who feels I have a lot of enemies, but there are days when I feel the deck is stacked against me for one reason or another. In those moments Psalm 23 is a comfort. Because it reminds me, God is preparing a way with me. It is my path, but he brings shelter, comfort and strength every day. Our God is not a faraway God, but a right here with you God.

Not only is God with us right here and now, Jesus died for you and for me, that we could be washed clean of the stain of sin we carry around, we are made free in His death, and made alive in His resurrection.

That's how much we are loved. We don't have a far off God, but one who loves you and me so much that He came to be with us, came to save us. And He comes to us still today, in the Words of the Bible, in sermons, in songs, on the lips of friends and strangers alike, God has not stopped wanting to be a part of your life. Do we long for that time when God in the flesh would walk among us and we might see Him face to face? Sure, but I hope that you know, He is already here and all around us.

So when we think about God in our lives, I pray that in your life, you have found Him close and found yourself held and wrapped in His love, but if you are feeling more distant from God these days. I pray that you look around, seek Him out, at home, work, in Bible study, in worship, re-read Psalm 23, seek Him in this glorious nature that surrounds us, because we do not have a far off God, because God LOVES us far too much to stay away!

Peace and Blessings to you and yours always,
Pastor Scott



We are looking for youth interested in receiving their First Communion. Please let Pastor or the office know if you have a child that would like to participate in this gift.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
Jan 7th, 2025, 7:00 pm

Present Members: Cindy Schryver, Renee Boyle, Hailey Walker, Trish Patterson, Pastor Scott, Steve Sorenson –

Not present – Mary Calderon

Attendance and Quorum: Yes

Opening Prayer – by Pastor Scott

Secretary's Report – Steve motions to approve. Hailey 2nd.

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

Old Business: 2025 Yoking agreement with Faith – discussed – Trish makes a motion to approve. Cindy 2nd.

2025 Budget – Renee went over with us – Renee makes a motion to approve. Cindy 2nd.

New Business: Council Members – Steve Sorenson and Trish Patterson are staying on for 2 more years. Beth Wiegmann will take over for Renee. Cliff Bardell will come on the council. Terry Jenkins is thinking about it.

Congregational meeting on January 26th after church.

Committee Reports:

Pastor – Christmas visits went very well.

Finance - Renee – Went over 2025 budget

Worship N Music – Trish

Hospitality – Nothing to report

Fellowship – Nothing to report

Education - Renee - Trish to ask Lisa Hinrichs about Sunday school once a month.

Memorial - Cindy- Memorial plaques? Needs to be updated – more discussion to come.

Property – Steve – taking some drywall done and patching.

Polo Council of Churches – Nothing to report

Liaison – Trish – Had a zoom meeting on Sat, Dec 21st to discuss 2025 Yoking agreement.

Next Meeting:

Feb 11, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Closing Prayer – by Pastor Scott

Motion to adjourn - Cindy makes a motion to adjourn. Trish 2nd.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 am

St. Mark's Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2025

- 11:35 AM: Meeting led by Steve Sorenson, Church Council President.
- Opening prayer by Pastor Scott.
- Steve declared a quorum, 35 people present.
- Motion to approve the agenda by Cliff Bardell, 2nd by Suzanne Sorensen.
- Nominations for the church council – Steve Sorenson, Trish Patterson, Cliff Bardell, and Beth Wiegmann and Terry Jenkins. – Patty Callahan wanted to be on council, her membership has not been transferred to St. Mark's yet. Once we receive it we can vote her in for council then.
- Unanimous for all incoming council members.
- 2025 Synod Delegates, June 13th and 14th. Nobody has come forward yet.
- Secretary's Report – motion to approve 2024 Annual Congregational Secretary's report – Motion by Renee Boyle to approve. 2nd by Terry Jenkins 2nd. Motion passes.
- Financial Reports – Proposed Budget for 2025 – Renee Boyle will continue to help do the budget. Trish Patterson makes a motion to approve the proposed budget. 2nd by Kent Anders. Motion passes.
- Committee and Organizational Reports – pages 9-13 – no questions from the congregation.
- Yoking Summary – Page 13 – Steve explained the joint services, 2 in Polo, 2 in Forreston.
- New Business - No new business presented at the meeting.
- Closing Prayer by Pastor Scott.
- Motion to adjourn the meeting by Trish Patterson. 2nd by Tracey Anders. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

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January Finance Report

| Income | Expenses | Net Income |
|--------|----------|------------|
| 6,199 | 8,036 | -1,837 |

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Polo Community Meal

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

Polo Lifeline Food Pantry Needs:

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

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

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If you have a Thrivent life insurance policy, there are ways you can receive financial support for our church events at no cost to you. If you have any questions – please talk to Marilyn Nelson (815-499-1411) and she can help you through getting funds for St. Mark's.

Sympathies to the family and friends of Trudy Karrow who passed away January 26th.

“Thank you to all who reached out with cards and kind words at the passing of my mother.”

~ Suzanne Sorenson

“Thank you, dear church family, for so kindly remembering me during my recent "hitch in my giddy-up" bump in the road. The cards, calls and prayers have been heart-warming and, even better, they have been helping! God willing, I'll be back with you soon. Again, many, many thanks. Blessings to all of you!”

~ Linda Gall

Thank you!

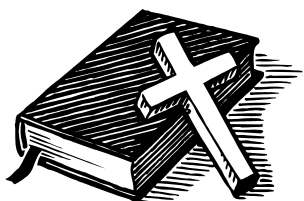
~ Thank you to all who donated cans of food and monetary donations for our Souper Bowl Sunday food drive.

~ Thank you to Merla Brooks for delivering all the food to the pantry for us.

~ Thank you to those who helped lead worship while Pastor was sick.

~ Thank you to Marcia Printz, Betty Obendorf and Melody Reap for always lining up our worship assistants.

Please let us know if someone needs a thank you.



Prayers for those in need of healing: Kent Anders, Darlene Barnhart, Phyllis Dyer, Linda Gall, Shelby Hose, Pat McPherson, Mary Ann Olson and Laurel Smith. **Those in care facilities:** Ron Bardell, Tammy Karrow, Beulah Nelson and Marian Schnulle. **Those in Military service:** Dustin Knapp, Brad Reigle, Travis Roop and Nathaniel Yingling.

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

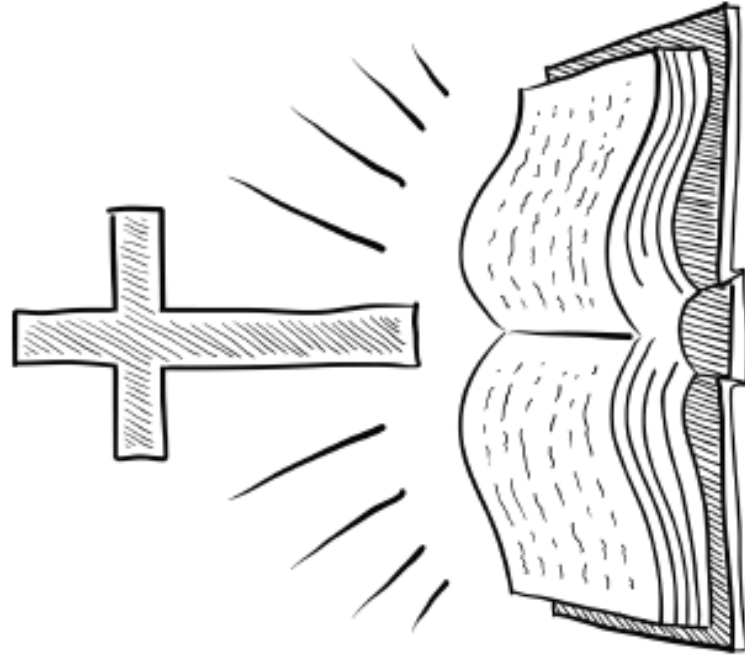
17 Marco Powell
18 Lori Wolber
19 Mary Ann Olson
Beulah Nelson
Bob Mitchell
20 Joyce Folkers
Nathan White
21 Sandra Woodin
23 Marcia Barnhart
Hunter Barnhart
24 Marilyn Nelson
Shannon Gipe
26 Becky Patterson
29 Dawn Mitchell
James Grobe
31 Ashley Boothe

Anniversaries

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

Ash Wednesday

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | E | J | J | C | R | U | Y | A | D | S | E | U | T | E | V | O | R | H | S | V |
| J | P | C | B | R | J | L | W | L | P | T | B | L | D | L | V | O | L | R | S | K |
| I | A | J | N | J | K | J | R | T | U | N | L | L | M | V | S | R | E | U | O | I |
| S | L | S | Y | A | D | Y | T | R | O | F | E | V | W | A | B | L | M | D | R | N |
| A | M | H | S | T | V | F | K | C | M | S | T | J | A | K | C | O | A | C | M | |
| C | S | U | S | T | N | X | R | S | H | S | D | N | F | H | X | W | H | S | V | |
| R | U | S | E | E | H | J | E | C | U | M | U | J | D | R | D | Y | I | R | F | S |
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| W | S | Z | C | S | G | O | P | K | O | F | C | M | U | M | E | B | O | T | F | L |
| Y | A | D | S | E | N | D | E | W | H | S | A | K | Q | M | T | P | D | U | S | T |
| K | U | P | A | D | X | L | Q | T | N | S | D | X | L | K | E | M | Y | D | X | O |

ABSTAIN, ALMSGIVING, ASH WEDNESDAY, ASHES, BLESS, CHRISTIAN, CHURCH, CROSS, DESERT,
DUST, EASTER, FASTING, FOREHEAD, FORTY DAYS, JESUS, LENT, MASS, MORTALITY, PALM SUNDAY,
PENITENCE, PRAYER, PURPLE, REPENTANCE, SACRIFICE, SHROVE TUESDAY, TEMPTATION