

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
201 N DIVISION AVENUE
POLO, IL 61064
Address Service Requested

BINGO & Lunch
February 11th after Worship

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Ash Wednesday Feb. 14th
12:00 noon & 7:00pm worship

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Lent Supper & Worship
Feb 21,28, March 7,14,21

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Church Phone: 815-946-2919
Email: stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net
Website: stmarkspolo.com
Reverend Terrie Wilder
Pastor's Phone: 815-677-3443
Email: fwilder@gmail.com

Schedule

9:00 Sunday School for Children & Adults
10:00 Social Time
10:30 Worship

FEBRUARY

2018

February 2018 St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Polo, Illinois 815/946-2919

E-mail: stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net Pastor Terrie Wilder: 815/677-3443 Website: stmarkspolo.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00am Worship & Hospitality Meeting 10-11:00am Prayer Group 11:15am Bible Study 3:30pm Worship & Music meeting	2 10:00 am Al-Anon meeting	3
4 9:00 Sunday School Children & Adults 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship/Communion 11:45-1:00 Confirmation	5 Pastor's Sabbath 6:15-7:15pm Girl Scouts 9:00am Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	6 Pastor Text Study	7	8 9:00am Global Mission meeting 10-11:00am Prayer Group 11:15am Bible Study 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	9 10:00 am Al-Anon meeting	10
11 9:00 Sunday School Children & Adults 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship 11:45-1:00 Confirmation Bingo & Taco Lunch after worship	12 Pastor's Sabbath	13 Pastor Text Study	14 Ash Wednesday 12:00 & 7:00pm Services	15 10-11:00am Prayer Group 11:15am Bible Study Deadline to submit articles for March Newsletter	16 10:00 am Al-Anon meeting AA District Mtg 6:30 – 8:30 PM	17
18 9:00 Sunday School Children & Adults 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship/Communion 11:45-1:00 Confirmation	19 Pastor's Sabbath 6:15-7:15pm Girl Scouts	20 Pastor Text Study 9:00am Quilters Work 2 nd Hand Rose February 20-24	21 6:15 Soup Supper 7:00-7:30 Lenten Service	22 10-11:00am Prayer Group 11:15am Bible Study	23 10:00 am Al-Anon meeting 6-8:00pm Youth Group	24
25 9:00 Sunday School Children & Adults 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship 11:45-1:00 Confirmation	26 Pastor's Sabbath 7:00pm 4H Meeting 5:00-7:00pm Our Table Community Meal at Faith Methodist	27 Pastor Text Study	28 6:15 Soup Supper 7:00-7:30 Lenten Service			

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>WORSHIP ASST</u>	<u>ALTAR FLOWERS</u>	
February 4		Betty Obendorf	Leota Hardin	<u>HEAD USHER</u> Sara Thorngren
February 11		Michelle Knight		<u>ALTAR GUILD</u> Karen Gilbert & Joan Rienstra
February 18		Julie Hoak		<u>TELLERS</u> Barb Grobe, Kathy Mitchell
February 25		Amanda Long		



**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 gathers together to worship, hear God's Word and share the Good News that God is love!

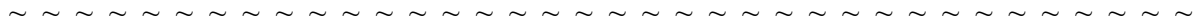
**St. Mark's Sunday School Bingo
& Taco Bar**
Sunday February 11th, 11:30 a.m.

Bring your valentine for a fun day of food and fun. Lunch at 11:30, bingo at 12:30. Each card only a 25 cent donation. All proceeds benefit St. Mark's Sunday School and our missions.

All you can eat for only
\$5



Wednesday, February 14th St. Mark's will have imposition of ashes worship at 12:00 noon and 7:00pm.



Lent Midweek Services

6:15 Soup Supper, 7:00-7:30 Lenten Service
Wednesdays, February 21st, 28th,
March 7th, 14th, 21st



Pastor's Thoughts...

This is the place in the newsletter where your Spiritual Leader is suppose to give thoughts of scripture as it applies to the church and to the ministries of the church.

Your Pastor's thoughts have been blank for days. Some would call it "Writers Block" or in ministry terms "Spiritual Emptiness." I suppose it's because I have so much on my mind in the planning of a new year, in the activities and meetings of the church, in the well-being of the administration of the church and in the well being of the Gospel Message that must be brought to the worshipping congregation and to those who can no longer attend worship, that I have gone blank, empty and have put my own Spiritual well-being aside.

This can happen to leaders and followers of Jesus and we must address our own well-being, especially "Spiritual well-being." This article has made me aware that I need a Spiritual Retreat which is not at all the same thing as a vacation. I will be acting on that very soon. A day or two away in scripture is renewing.

It is so easy to become numb to the call of the "Holy Spirit." We are distracted constantly by work, family, media, entertainment and especially our own desires for enjoyment. We are all at risk of being "Spiritually empty." There is "Good News" however, for you and me when it comes to restoring our "Spiritual well-being." Ash Wednesday and Lent are an opportunity for all of us to restore our spiritual path to God through Christ Jesus. This is the "season" to focus on the calling to live out our faith among distractions.

Ash Wednesday reminds us that "From dust we came and to dust we shall return." (Genesis 3:19) We are reminded that we are created by God and claimed by God now and for all eternity. Humility and confession are a good beginning of our Lenten Retreat. We empty ourselves out in order to be filled up again by God's Word and actions through the Savior.

The discipline of the 40 days of Lent is the same action that Jesus took each time he went into the wilderness for 40 days of Spiritual connection with God. (Mark 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13) Jesus gave us this model of 40 days that we would be renewed by the Holy Spirit. We are renewed so that we can embrace the calling of the Spirit throughout the year.

By attending Lenten Soup Supper, we are reminded of fasting, a practice of self-sacrifice.

By bringing shoes for the people of Romania, we love others as God loves us.

By coming to the worship study sermon we are embracing the Word of God, (a Spiritual Retreat of sorts) to renew our strength to carry our own cross (Luke 14:27) into the world after the Easter Resurrection.

In this bleak mid-winter, we give thanks for the power of the Holy Spirit and the opportunities to be renewed though scripture, worship, prayer, acts of love and community.

In Christ Jesus, Pastor Terrie

40 Days of Lent

Our Youth Group has a goal to collect 40 pairs of shoes for the 40 days of lent to donate to orphans in Romania.



Please bring NEW SHOES **** All sizes ****

"Shoes for Orphan Souls"

Small children love bright
colors & lights!

St. Mark's Church YOUTH GROUP

Winter Party

Friday February 23th, 2018

At Church!

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Bring Snacks and beverage! Devotion, Games and Spirit Fun!

5th grade to 12th grade Friends are welcome to come!



RSVP call or text Pastor Terrie 677-3443

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Global Missions

Honduras

Brad Long was on-site with the Honduras Mission Team from January 10- 20, 2018. They built three houses for families who cannot afford the materials for them. The homes are simple structures, 18 feet square, made of concrete blocks with corrugated metal roofs and concrete floors, and are a vast improvement over the stick and mud houses the residents currently have. The concrete blocks are made at the building site. Volunteers mix the concrete by hand, usually in a large pit in the ground. The sand and gravel that goes into the concrete mixture must be carried from the river banks. The Team stays at a local school and sleeps dormitory-style on cots or hammocks. Cooks are hired to fix meals. According to organizer, Bill Hare, "Transportation to the work sites is a flatbed truck or dump truck over dirt roads "paved" with large rocks." The volunteer crew works from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. typically, in 90 to 100 degree temperatures. We pray for the country of Honduras as there is currently political unrest (a leader who was voted out of office but won't leave office); we also pray for the people of Honduras; and we thank God for the safe return of the Mission Team.

Romania

During Lent, we will once again be collecting shoes for Princeton, Illinois based Another Child Foundation. This past September the Point of Hope enrolled an additional 15 children in their pre-school program and the October Mission Team found themselves short of shoes in small sizes. We also need to be sure that shoes are not two left feet. Unfortunately we ran into that problem, so please be sure the shoes you purchase are the same size and for different feet! Please remove the shoes from boxes and rubber-band them together instead so we can fit more shoes in the shipping container. Thank you, and may God richly bless you.

Tanzania

Since Carol Stubbs and her daughter visit to St. Mark's in August 2015, their family has gone through a lot. We give thanks to the Lord for restoring Carol's health and we give thanks for everyone at St. Mark's for their prayers. God is great!

<p><u>Bible Studies at St. Mark's</u> Bible Study Continues Sunday mornings at 9:00am and Thursdays 11:15-12:30pm. The Thursday study group will study the book of Mark. All beginners are welcome! Bring a friend and your bible or a bible may be borrowed.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Mark Your Calendars!</u></p> <p>Wednesday, March 7th – 6:15 Soup Supper, 7:00-7:30 Lenten Service Wednesday, March 14th – 6:15 Soup Supper, 7:00-7:30 Lenten Service Wednesday, March 21st – 6:15 Soup Supper, 7:00-7:30 Lenten Service Sunday, March 25th –Palm Sunday - 9:00 am Brunch, 10:30am Worship Thursday, March 29th – 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Friday, March 30th – 7:00pm Good Friday Service at the Brethren Church Sunday, April 1st – 9:00am Easter Service (<u>1 service only</u>)</p>
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After-School Study Programs Need Volunteers

The after-school study programs have been improved in several ways. We are initiating this program at Aplington Middle School to meet during the last period of Tuesday's, Wednesday's, and Thursday's at 2:15pm. The first day we had 5 students with some involved mothers. These kids were doing their homework. We need additional volunteers. Please consider meeting with these young people 1day a week, every 2 weeks, one week a month, or whatever fits your schedule. WE WANT ADULTS TO BECOME INVOLVED TO SHOW THESE YOUNG PEOPLE THAT WE CARE ABOUT THEIR FUTURES.

Please email Margaret Tyne at matyne511@yahoo.com or call 815.288.5351

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>2018 Offering envelopes are now available!</u></p> <p>Please pick up your box at the back of the church. If you did not receive a box and would like some, please let the office know. Forms are also available if you would like to sign up for automatic electronic giving.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>2018 Sign up sheets for Greeters and Altar Flowers are now available. Get your spots now!</i></p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Polo Food Pantry needs:</u></p> <p>Fruit, canned carrots, cheeseburger hamburger helper and boxed potatoes.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Church Basement Quilters are in need of:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Large pieces of fabric, sheets, blankets, and bed skirts.</p>
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Church Council Highlights January 2018

Treasurer's report: Pastor clarified some expense questions from the November report. Additional wages to Pastor of \$150 was misstated and should have been for supply pastor was corrected on December report. Direct deposit to begin March 1st for all wages paid out.

Correspondence: Thank you from Bill Hare for \$500 from the Global Mission potato bar proceeds for the Honduras project.

Pastor's report: Pastor was able to see all of the shut-ins for communion and care before Christmas and all enjoyed the wreaths made by our youth group. End of the year reports and New Year planning has been a priority. Pastor was away the first of January for her nieces wedding. A baptism for February is scheduled.

Worship & Music: The Christmas Eve services were well attended. The 4pm service had over 100 in attendance. The musical choir solos were wonderful. We appreciate the accompaniment Cheryl Goeking provided for members Christmas Eve as well as the Music Sunday December 31st. The music offerings by many congregational members were great and inspiring. Hymn selection is scheduled for Thursday January 25th at 2:30pm. More people are needed for this group.

Education: The Sunday school is planning a Bingo again on Sunday, February 11th. Funds need to be designated. A new second semester plan has been made and the students are doing very well. Seminary student Michelle has been working with Pastor Brian LeBaron from Faith United Methodist church and Pastor Terrie for a January intensive. She preached 3 times, read a variety of books, lead worship at Pinecrest, and went on visit. She also received some financial gifts to help her from grants she applied for.

Worship & Hospitality Team: A Meeting was held 1/18. Greeters are needed as well as Alter Guild volunteers. Lent is being planned. Ash Wednesday is February 14th and the suppers start Feb. 21st. Discussed ideas for Lent and Easter-one suggestion was to have members bring the chalice and bread forward on communion Sundays. The cost of defibrillators will be assessed. Platform lifts were discussed. It looks like they will cost between \$25,000 - \$35,000. A company or contractor will be needed to assess our facility and options. One company suggested a chair lift that is made smaller now and could fit in the stairwell going to the basement fellowship area. Having special services for months with a 5th Sunday was discussed. There has been a great response to the music Sundays we had this past year. Visitations with homebound members were discussed.

Global Mission: Global Mission meets Thursday January 18th @ 9am.

Property: Womens' bathroom faucet is broken upstairs. Oran purchased a new one and Lorin Gatz will install. No update on parsonage.

Council of Churches: Meeting January 23rd 7pm at Open Bible.

Youth & Family Ministry: No report. An event is pending.

Memorial: Met on 1/16 discussed updating plaques, reviewed treasury memorials and the need for better communication to document incoming gifts. Thank you cards need to be written for 2017 memorial gifts. Handicap improvements discussed.

New Business: Sara and Amanda volunteered to create and send thank you cards for memorial gifts and other correspondence. Morgan is not able to continue in the treasury position. Renee has been helping out and will be in discussion to fulfill this role again for the church. Another signer is needed for timely payment of checks. Discussion to add Lori. Pastor asked for council vote to allow Lori to sign checks as the financial secretary. It was approved for Lori to exercise her right to complete bill pay with signing. Agenda was reviewed for the annual congregation meeting. Discussion to use a ballot vote for the congregation to vote on adding communion to service every week and to shorten 2 pews for wheelchair seating in the sanctuary. This was approved. Notice of the ballot to be made to the congregation on Sunday January 21st.

Old Business: Budget reviewed for 2018. Outgoing council members are Michelle, Betty, and Amanda. A nomination committee has not been formed. Kent will make some phone calls to seek nominees.

POLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Minutes for January 23, 2018 – Open Bible

Devotions: Luke spoke of being dealt a different lot, family, finances, situation etc. God set us different places. Prayer was offered.

Minutes: Moved by Bill, second by Luke to approve minutes.

Treasurer: In absence of the treasurer David referred to the printed copies received.

Luke moved, second by Alice to approve the report.

Christmas Baskets: Marla reported 196 baskets were picked up/delivered. She felt the project went well and appreciated those that helped in any way.

Event Sheets: Tentative schedules were given to all in anticipation of schedules for 2018 if no conflict.

Honduras: Bill reported of a recent trip of 7 people taking clothing, medicine, towels, and depends.

Bill spoke of two doctors working many, many hours. He was told they got 2/3 crop this year.

Good Friday Service: Leslie offered to have service at the Brethren Church.

Community Meals: The next meal is presently being planned.

Habitat for Humanities: Discussion on helping with this project. Offer to help one day painting and providing lunch. Margaret offered to help with this.

Second Hand Rose: Sharon stated revenue was down slightly from last year. Volunteers always are needed.

Owner of the building Jim O’Conner will cement the basement and replace windows this year.

Bridge Ministry: Donations are being made.

Vespers: East Jordan responsible for February.

Mentoring Program: Margaret reported students are being assigned by a Jr High teacher. The mentoring is Tue-Wed-Thu from 2:34 to 3:15. Please contact Margaret to volunteer at 815-288-5351 or

matyne511@yahoo.com.

Other Business:

Karen thanked all for helping in any way with the cookie sale.

COB will start a vegetable garden on their property. Churches willing to help during the summer are to meet in March when the next meeting will take place.

-Bill Hare gave thanks for a suit case that was given to him and has been very useful due to its size.

-Brian reported his church has begun an after school program for students. They meet at the Sub Stop after school on Fridays. Pizza, pop provided, games and social time. He encouraged churches to make this information known. He also offered their bus to anyone needing transportation for appointments and other community events.

Next Meeting: March 26th, 7 pm at St. Mary’s.

**Donations always accepted
for the church:**

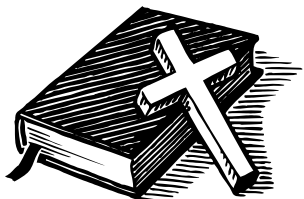
Address labels, copy paper, stamps, printer ink #61 color or black, swiffer sweeper sheets, 13 gallon trash bags, paper towels, dust polish, toilet paper

Reminder:

St. Mark's has a SIGN OUT sheet on a clipboard hanging on the side of the large mailboxes by the stairs. When you borrow something, please sign out and put a return date on the record sheet as well. No tables are allowed to be borrowed.

Sympathies and prayers to the family of Doris Hammer who died in Christ January 8th. Services were held at St. Mark's. Thank you to everyone who helped with services and the lunch.

Thank you to Michelle Knight for leading worship while Pastor was away.
Thank you to everyone who helped put away Advent and Christmas decorations.
Thank you to those who offered gifts of music at our Music of Joy Sunday.



Prayer Needs

For those in care facilities: Ron Greenawalt, Ruby Isley, Arlene Jecklin, Tammy Karrow, Jessica Kimpel, Kenny Linton, Maxine Osborne, Hazel Pontnak and Linda Scholl. For those in military service: JJ Bardell, Bryan Connell, Robert Hardin, Dustin Knapp, Ray LeDoux, Brad Reigle and Travis Roop.

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- | | | | |
|---|------------------|----|----------------|
| 1 | Sandy Stahler | 11 | Harold Folkers |
| | Kaci Hall | | Tim Rienstra |
| 2 | Jim Matznick | | Amy Sikyta |
| | Abigail Yingling | 15 | Oran Wilder |
| | Karen Fetterman | 16 | Amanda Long |
| 4 | Cory Nelson | 18 | Alek Slager |
| 5 | Pam Jenkins | 19 | Amy Schmidt |
| | Connor Lincoln | 22 | Barb Bowen |
| 6 | Kim Bowman | 23 | Mark Rienstra |
| | Deborah Slager | | Casey Thacker |
| 9 | Alicia Garrett | 24 | Carter Merdian |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|-----------------------|
| 5 | Jay & Amy Schmidt |
| 14 | Stacy & Sara Morrison |
| 17 | Ken & Betty Obendorf |

St. Mark's is Online!

Check out our website: www.stmarkspolo.com Even read this newsletter online!

Call 946-2919 or email stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net with any address changes or to be added to our newsletter emailing list!



"Like" us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/stmarkspolo

St. Mark's gives back!

Thank you for donating the items below to help those in need.

Box Tops for Education®



Help raise money for local schools by saving Box Tops!



Ronald McDonald House Charities®

Save your pop tabs!

Aluminum Cans

Cans can be left in the garage at the parsonage.
The east door will be unlocked – facing the parsonage.