

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

Happy New Year!

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January 28th, 2018
Annual Meeting after Worship



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



2018

January 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 Pastor's Sabbath 9:00am Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	2 Pastor Text Study	3	4 10-11:00am Prayer Group 11:15am Bible Study	5 10:00 am Al-Anon meeting	6
7 9:00 Sunday School Children & Adults 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship Reports due for Annual Meeting	8 Pastor's Sabbath	9 Pastor Text Study 6-7:30pm Girl Scouts	10	11 9-10:00am Worship & Hospitality Meeting 10-11:00am Prayer Group 11:15am Bible Study 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	12 10:00 am Al-Anon meeting	13
14 9:00 Sunday School Children & Adults 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship/Communion 11:45-1:00 Confirmation	15 Pastor's Sabbath	16 Pastor Text Study 9:00am Quilters Work 2 nd Hand Rose January 16-20	17	18 9-10:00am Global Mission Meeting 10-11:00am Prayer Group 11:15am Bible Study Deadline to submit articles for February Newsletter	19 10:00 am Al-Anon meeting AA District Mtg 6:30 – 8:30 PM	20
21 9:00 Sunday School Children & Adults 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship/Communion 11:45-1:00 Confirmation	22 Pastor's Sabbath 7:00pm 4H Meeting	23 Pastor Text Study 6-7:30pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Polo Council of Churches at Open Bible	24	25 10-11:00am Prayer Group 11:15am Bible Study 2:30pm Worship & Music Meeting	26 10:00 am Al-Anon meeting	27
28 9:00 Sunday School Children & Adults 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship Annual Meeting after Worship 11:45-1:00 Confirmation	29 Pastor's Sabbath 5:00-7:00pm Our Table Community Meal at Faith Methodist	30 Pastor Text Study	31			

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>WORSHIP ASST</u>	<u>ALTAR FLOWERS</u>	
January 7		Tracey Anders		<u>HEAD USHER</u> Bob Cassens
January 14		Julie Hoak	Ed & Marian Schnulle	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u> Open
January 21	Phyllis Dyer	Kent Anders	Phyllis Dyer	<u>TELLERS</u> Cindy & Craig Bauling, Julie Hoak
January 28		Linda Gall	Merla Brooks	



**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

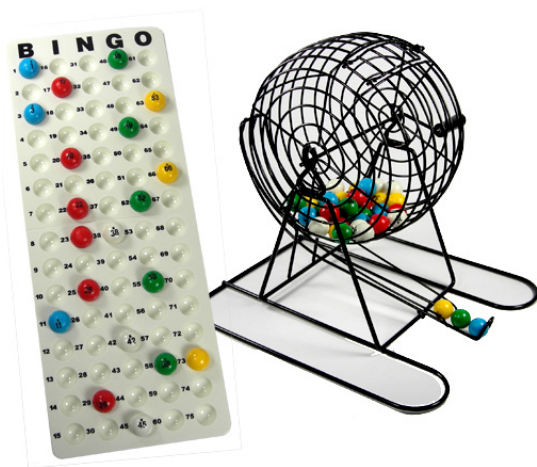
Mission statement: St. Mark's gathers together to worship, hear God's Word and share the Good News that God is love!

January 28th, 2018
St. Mark's Annual Meeting after Worship



Attention council & group leaders!

Reports for the Annual Report are needed by Sunday January 7th. The Annual Meeting is set for Sunday January 28th immediately after worship.



Mark your calendars!
Sunday, February 11th
Bingo after Worship

Pastor's Thoughts...

Like so many in our culture, I have been reflecting on the events of the past year as I plan the events of the next year. I was in prayer for guidance in the New Year and this passage from Isaiah was a great passage to center my prayer.

Isaiah 40:30-31 ³⁰ *Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;*
³¹ *but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

This year at St. Mark's there was truly remarkable joy and change. With the addition of our worship screen, many guests and members told me that having the words and lyrics on the screen made the worship experience more inviting and less stressful. We have a number of regular visitors and many of them are planning membership at St. Mark's. Some of them already help with events at the church. Attendance in worship, classes for both adults and children is a bit higher than last year. The youth group is coming together. Global mission saw numerous mission trips by members to build housing, care for the poor and orphaned, feed the hungry and clothe the poor. Shoes were collected during Lent, the Potato Bar and Cookie baking collected a lot of money to those far less fortunate than we are. St. Mark's now has a Seminary student to encourage which is the hope of every church. The new Hospitality group organized a prayer chain, began home communion visits and has a great vision of support the evangelism and stewardship of the church. The kitchen in the basement got a makeover and we should be able to meet health code requirements as well as providing some efficiency for those who work so hard on funeral lunches and special meals. Many people generously donated time, talents, money and appliances for the kitchen project.

In addition to the joy in 2017, we also experienced grief at the loss of many of the members who died in Christ. We were challenged to find new people to fill many leadership positions. There was a lot of change and the council got a real work out this year. We are still contending with maintenance issues at the parsonage which seem to grow bigger each day.

We have had a year of highs and lows. This was a banner year of ministry for St. Mark's. The Lord calls us to proclaim the gospel in word and deed. I continue to pray for guidance and I hope you will pray for guidance for you and me, and for the ministry of St. Mark's. It may seem like an impossible task to "be church" in this generation but "With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

Isaiah 40:30-31 ³⁰ *Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;*
³¹ *but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

A Blessed and Happy New Year to All, Pastor Terrie

Bible Studies at St. Mark's

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.

Card Ministry

Amanda Long has volunteered to help send cards to the family members of St. Mark's when needed. Please pray for Amanda as she begins this meaningful ministry. We are thankful to Mary Cimino for the many cards that she sent to our members!

Global Missions

The Stubbs Family

It is with happy hearts that we praise God for returning our dear friend, Carol Stubbs, to good health. She and her husband, Randy, were from DeKalb and work at Makimura University in Tanzania where they have been leaders in music education. In December 2016 Carol got sick and began the fight of her life. She was hospitalized in Pretoria, South Africa, and diagnosed with Plasma Cell Leukemia. She had many complications and when she was stabilized and had gained some strength, she was returned to the States for treatment. She has been in Milwaukee undergoing chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant. She also underwent a bone marrow transplant. As of December 12, her bone marrow biopsy shows she is 100% clear and is in remission. We have an awesome God and we thank our entire congregation for their prayers!

Another Child Foundation

Brad Long and Linda Gall took part in the October Mission Trip team to Romania. They helped distribute shoes collected by St. Mark's and other churches during Lent and were distributed at the Point of Help Development Center and other locations. They helped with games and crafts, and taught the parable of The Prodigal Son. They also visited group homes to teach the Bible lesson, did crafts with the children, plus delivered shoes, socks, candy and teddy bears. They visited homes, delivered shoes to a public pre-school for Romanian and Hungarian children, and delivered shoes, socks, teddy bears and candy to a food pantry whose 15 year funding source is no longer able to provide monetary support.

2018 Mission Trips:

June 7 – 17– will specifically minister to children at the Point of Hope Center in Tarnaveni, Romania. The organization has been assisting these kids along in their faith since 2007.

June 21 – July 1– will focus on the Tarnaveni community where the Point of Hope Development Center is located. This team might work with the mothers of kids who attend the school, they may reach out to area families who struggle with poverty and they will also be introduced to the children who attend the Point of Hope.

July 5 – July 16– will take local children who suffer from poverty and hopelessness to a beautiful mountain camp for a week of VBS and faith exploration. Getting to spend a high amount of quality time with these children is a blessing that other trips do not afford. If you are looking for a trip where you can build true relationships this might be your best option. This trip is ALWAYS the most popular trip and fills up very QUICKLY.

October 17 -27– will deliver the humanitarian aid collected during 2018 Project Respond aid drives. This is also a very popular trip for several reasons. The most powerful experience is when trip participants get to place new socks and shoes onto the feet of children!

Honduras Project

Bill Hare and Tracey Anders flew to Honduras in late October and delivered food to 272 families (corn, beans, rice and flour enough to feed a family of four for 10 days).

2018 Missions Trips

January 10-20 – will build 3 houses

April - food delivery

As you can see, The Global Missions Team is an active group! If you are interested, our next meeting is January 18 at 9 a.m, come join us!

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, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 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

2018 Offering envelopes are now available!

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.

2018 Sign up sheets for Greeters and Altar Flowers are now available. Get your spots now!

Newsletter is online!

Don't be left out! Email or call the church and let them know what your email address is as soon as possible is so you don't miss anything! stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net or 815-946-2919.

Polo Food Pantry needs:

Coffee, fruit, bread, cereal, cheese, cake mix, spaghetti sauce, canned tomato products, canned carrots, cheeseburger hamburger helper, canned chicken, tea bags, cream of mushroom soup, cream of chicken soup, boxed potatoes, pork-n-beans, deodorant, pain reliever, toilet paper, child's lg. diapers and wipes.

The Church Basement Quilters are in need of:

Large pieces of fabric, sheets, blankets, and bed skirts.

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

St. Mark's accepts Electronic Giving!!

We now have 7 families enrolled in Electronic Giving! If you are interested in setting up an automatic donation, please contact Morgan Patterson.

Church Council Highlights December 2017

- * **Correspondence:** Many thank you notes to Council from Synod, ELCA, Global Mission.

REPORTS:

- * **Pastor's Report:** Last month I took the last of my time off, a 2 week vacation. I appreciate Michelle preaching and teaching without payment & Pastor Burkheimer covering for me as well. Since my return, Advent has come & many special services come with that. I was unable to take 3 days of continuing education this year. I did plan to go on retreat for this & another funeral happened. The Candidacy committee met in Rockford December 5th. The Bishop attended to talk about term limits for this committee. Steven Gilbert died December 12th & St. Mark's will host the services. Next week I will be seeing about 15 shut-ins.
- * **Worship & Music:** Our musicians are doing a fine job of learning our worship patterns. The church is decorated beautifully once again. The Sunday school did a wonderful job presenting the Biblical Christmas Story again. St. Marks is blessed to have such committed teachers & parents. A "Blue Christmas" event was held & Beth Wiegmann sang beautiful throughout. Seven people attended. It was bitter, windy & icy night which might have accounted for a disappointing attendance. Cheryl Goeking has agreed to play for the Steven Gilbert funeral. A "Music Sunday of Joy" is planned for December 31st but no one has definitely agreed to sing or play special music.
- * **Education:** The Sunday School has been working on their program. The children made new "Noisy Cans" for the offering of coins for needy community members as the original cans are missing. Confirmation is about 2 weeks behind and an adjustment for requirements has been made.
- * **Worship & Hospitality Team:** The recycling containers have arrived & are ready to be put in place. The next meeting is January 11th at 9:00 am.
- * **Global Mission:** A \$500 check was sent from the Global Mission fund to Bill Hare for the January mission trip. Linda & Tracey will be giving presentations of their trips to Honduras & Romania to a 4H Group.
- * **Property:** Ken looked @ toilet downstairs & it needs new parts in the tank. He is still working on this. The lights & ceiling fans will be going into the hospitality room. The parsonage is still in need of a lot of work. More leaks were found. A plumber was called from Milledgeville. The toilet, sink, tub & floor all need to be replaced. A contractor is being researched to fix the extensive repairs needed.
- * **Polo Council of Churches:** The "Cookies for Honduras" program went well again but we do not know how much money was raised for the missions. Over 300 boxes of potatoes were delivered for the Christmas Basket program St. Marks is a generous supporter of the program. The next meeting is at January 23rd at Open Bible at 7:00 pm.
- * **Youth Group:** Friday, December 8th, the youth group met for a Christmas Party. Only 4 youth attended but we did have fun. Tracey Anders, Michelle Knight and Pastor had a feast of meatballs, mashed potatoes, salads & cake. Games were played and the Santa beard game was the favorite. This is where Vaseline is smeared on the faces of the players & they push their face into a bowl of cotton balls to see how many stick to their face. The youth made 12 Christmas Wreaths with the names of Jesus on them which will be taken to the shut ins next week. The group went to Polo Rehab & sang Christmas Carols to the residents.
- * **New Business:**
 - * Christmas baskets food delivery, pack & deliver
 - * Council of churches dues & 2 representatives needed. Dues approved.
 - * All reports are due by January 11th. Annual meeting is Sunday January 28th
 - * Calendar for 2018
 - * Head usher schedule
 - * Music Sunday December 31st
- * **Old Business:** The proposed budget was approved.

POLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
Minutes for November 28, 2017 – Faith Discovery

Treasurer: General Fund \$2141.88, Hungry Neighbor \$2961.70, Bible School \$23.78, Honduras Mission \$.50. A motion by Margaret, second by Karen was approved to apply the unspent garden grant money of \$1134.00 to be earmarked as garden fund in the general fund.

Habitat for Humanities: A home in Polo built by Habitat for Humanities is being refurbished. Ogle County is seeking a board member for the Ogle committee. They are requesting possible fund raisers, and churches tithing.

Christmas Baskets: Marla stated all is in place.

Honduras: Seven will leave for Honduras January 10th and return on the 20th.

Community Meals: 50 were in attendance on November 27th. No meal for December.

Thanksgiving Meal: Leslie reported the COB had 35 attend the meal and enough volunteer help.

Food Pantry: Ron helps twice a month when a truck is unloaded.

Second Hand Rose: A new sign has been put in place for the store.

Signs on edge of Polo: Four signs have been placed at four entrances to Polo. Thanks Ron. No bill had yet been received.

Honduras Fund Raiser: Karen reported she had to date 36 dozen cookies ordered. Sale is this Saturday.

The Bridge Ministry: Bill reported all is going well.

Mentoring Program: Margaret reported they have 5-6 students being mentored the last period of the school day at Appling Middle School. She stated all had improved grades. She asked about treats for these students.

Vespers: Some changes were made for the 2018 year.

Election of Officers: Motion by Ron second by Karen for the slate of officers to remain the same. Approved. President David Poole, V President Bill Hare, Secretary Alice Cassens, Treasurer Tom Cline.

Other Business: 2018 pledge sheets were given to representatives of churches present. Others will be mailed. The pledge sheet will be condensed and voted on at a later date.

Ron asked about Crossroads hosting the Community Meal at their church. Brief discussion followed.

Next Meeting: January 23, 7 pm at Open Bible.

St. Mark's gives back!

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

Keep up the great work!!



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.

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.

Are you moving?

Please let the church know of any address or phone number changes. Many people send cards to the



military for special occasions so we want to keep those addresses as current as possible as well. We also want to keep our church directory as current as possible.

Call 946-2919 or email stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net with any changes.

Thank you!

St. Mark's is Online!

"Like" us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/stmarkspolo

- Or -

Check out our website:

www.stmarkspolo.com

Even read this newsletter online!



A Tribute to Larry and Sibyl Acker

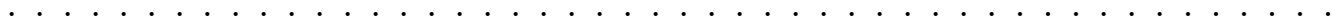
Most of you know that last October, Larry Acker unexpectedly died in Christ. Larry was accomplished in many things but for St. Mark's he will be remembered for the music that he played at worship, weddings and funerals. Larry played professionally for nearly 60 years and was so proud to care for and play the organ at St. Mark's. Larry's classical background added great spirit to our liturgy and many of our hymns. In addition to his musical service, Larry served on our church council and was a committed member of St. Mark's. Larry will be missed and we give thanks to God for his ministry among us.

Sibyl Acker has also served St. Mark's for many years as the organist and later as a substitute and often volunteering for special services and pastor's needs. We are so thankful that Sibyl also shared her talents with St. Mark's. We remember special music that she and Larry would play for special occasions. Sibyl has moved to Rockford recently to be closer to one of her daughters and she hopes to play for the people at her new residence. Sibyl told me that she will miss the people of St. Mark's and hopes to visit one day.

Sibyl's new address is 4141 North Rockton Avenue, Rockford, Illinois, 61103 for those who may wish to send a note.

The Acker family has donated a memorial in Larry's honor to be used for the maintenance of our organ and pianos. St. Mark's is thankful for such a gift.

Respectfully, Pastor Terrie



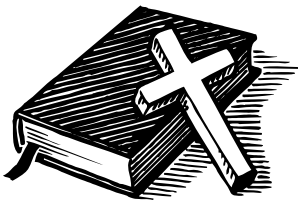
Oran and Pastor Give Thanks

Thank you to all of those members who sent us Christmas Cards, Christmas gifts and to those who gave donations to the St. Mark's Pastor's Basket. You are such a generous people. We appreciate you all and consider each of you as our family in Christ Jesus.

We give you our thanks and wish you all a blessed New Year, Pastor Terrie and Oran Wilder

Sympathies to the family and friends of Steven Gilbert who died in Christ December 12th. Thank you to everyone who helped with the funeral luncheon at St. Mark's.

- ~ Thank you to those who helped decorate St. Mark's for the holiday season.
- ~ Thank you to the Sunday School children, teachers and parents for the great Christmas program again this year.
- ~ Thank you to everyone who donated baked goods for the Honduras cookie sale.
- ~ Thank you to everyone who helped purchase, pack and deliver potatoes for the Council of Churches Christmas baskets this year.
- ~ Thank you to the Cassens, Nelsons and Wolfs for taking care of the snow in our parking areas.
- ~ Thank you to the family of Helen Itken for an additional memorial.
- ~ Thank you to Tracey Anders for Christmas Altar Guild duties which include preparation of our Christmas Eve candles year after year.
- ~ Thank you to Michelle Knight for leading worship while Pastor was on vacation.
- ~ Thank you to the Christmas Choir, Bob Cassens, Betty Obendorf, Merla Brooks, Oran Wilder, Jeanne Scholl, Michelle Knight and Lyle Grobe for providing special music for Christmas Eve and Music of Joy Sunday.
- ~ Thank you Beth Wiegmann for singing throughout the Blue Christmas service.
- ~ Thank you Cindy Bauling for getting the grant to provide St. Mark's with recycling containers so that we might be better stewards of our environmental waste.
- ~ Thank you Cheryl Goeking for all of the additional musical accompaniment this season.
- ~ Thank you Morgan Patterson for your attention as our treasurer.
- ~ Thank you to those who donated gifts to the Polo family with 7 children in need of Christmas gifts!



Prayer Needs

For those in care facilities: Ron Greenawalt, Doris Hammer, Ruby Isley, Arlene Jecklin, Tammy Karrow. Jessica Kimpel, 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.

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

1 John Engel
2 David Shuman
4 Sara Thorngren
5 Michael Smith
6 Pastor Terrie Wilder
7 Larry Slager
11 Mark Stahler
Gabriele Booth
12 Sydney Gunder
13 Linda Hose
Emily Gabaldon
14 Tess Kurschner
19 John White
Alan Wiegmann

Anniversaries

20 Wyatt Patterson
21 Teresa Barnhart
22 Tyler Merdian
Tom Rienstra
24 Melody Reap
26 Laurel Smith
27 Zachary Grobe
Brent Shipman
28 Matthew Sullivan
Theresa Rogers
29 Stephanie Gilbert
Nancy Grossnickle
30 Amy Merdian
10 Ron and Joyce Greenawalt
19 Robyn & Phyllis Dyer
20 Bob & Kathy Mitchell

The beautiful poinsettias decorating our sanctuary this Christmas season have been given by:

Presented in loving memory of Aunt Vonda and Aunt Nancy by Cliff, Amy, Tommy & Joey Bardell.

Presented in loving memory of Doug Ohlwine and Margaret Bauling by Craig & Cindy Bauling.

Presented to the church to the Glory of God by Merla Brooks.

Presented for our many blessings by Bob & Alice Cassens.

Presented in loving memory of our granddaughter, Maverick Dee Mumford, by Phyllis & Robyn Dyer.

Presented in loving memory of Russell & Ruby Engel and Paul & Ruth Trei by John & Marjorie Engel.

Presented in loving memory of our grandson, Bradon Ely, by Harold & Joyce Folkers.

Presented in loving memory of by daughter, Susan, and husband, Duane, by Carol Garkey.

Presented in thankfulness of family and friends by Lyle & Barb Grobe.

Presented to the church to the Glory of God by Andy, Lisa and AJ Hinrichs.

Presented in loving memory of our mother, Connie Stahler, by Ben & Allison Hickerson and Andrea & Jay Mullens.

Presented in loving memory of our grandmother, Connie Stahler, by Brittan & Brinley Mullens and Henry & Harper Hickerson.

Presented in loving memory of Bob & Sharon Karrow, Mrs. & Mrs. Donald Rasmussen, Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Karrow and uncles Leon Rasmussen and Marlin Rasmussen by Trudy Karrow.

Presented in loving memory of my husband, daughter-in-law and granddaughter by Beulah Nelson.

Presented in loving memory of Donna Nelson by Dan Nelson.

Presented in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. O'Glenn Isley, Mr. & Mrs. Art Obendorf and Bethany Obendorf by Kenneth & Betty Obendorf.

Presented in loving memory of loved ones by Lyle & Marcia Printz.

Presented in loving memory of Chad Reap, Ted & Hazel Reap and Duane Reap by Lyle & Melody Reap.

Presented in loving memory of Robert & Mildred Clothier, Kenneth Smith and Russell Peterson by Ken & Laurel Smith.

Presented to the church the church to the Glory of God by Steven & Suzanne Sorenson and in honor of our two grandsons born this year, Henrik Sorenson and Everett Richardson.

Presented in loving memory of Sonja Johnson by Scott & Sara Thorngren and family.

Presented in loving memory of Bruce & Jackie Knipple by Sharon VanOosten and family.

Presented in loving memory of Scott Wilder by Oran & Pastor Terrie Wilder.

Presented in loving memory of Axel and Maxine Olsen by Ryan & Lori Wolber.

