

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

Happy New Year!

Sunday, January 27th
Annual Congregational
Meeting

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: tfwilder@gmail.com

Schedule

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



2019

January 2019 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 2 nd Hand Rose Closed	2 Work 2 nd Hand Rose January 2-5	3 No Meetings	4 9:00 Worship & Hospitality Meeting 10:00am 150 th Anniversary Meeting 10:00 am Al-Anon meeting	5
6 9:00 Sunday School Children & Adults 9:00 Confirmation 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	7 Pastor's Sabbath 9:00am Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose 6:15-7:15pm Girl Scouts	8 Pastor Text Study 6:00pm Girl Scouts	9	10 9:00 Global Missions Meeting 10:00 Prayer Group 11:15 Bible Study 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	11 10:00 am Al-Anon meeting	12
13 9:00 Sunday School Children & Adults 9:00 Confirmation 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	14 Pastor's Sabbath	15 Pastor Text Study 9:00am Quilters	16 5:30-7:30 Confirmation at LOMC	17 10:00 Prayer Group 11:15 Bible Study 2:30pm Worship and Music Deadline to submit articles for February Newsletter	18 10:00 am Al-Anon meeting AA District Mtg 6:30 – 8:30 PM	19
20 9:00 Sunday School Children & Adults 9:00 Confirmation 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	21 Pastor's Sabbath 6:15-7:15pm Girl Scouts	22 Pastor Text Study	23	24 10:00 Prayer Group 11:15 Bible Study	25 10:00 am Al-Anon meeting	26 1:00-5:00pm Youth Roller Skate at White Pines
27 9:00 Sunday School Children & Adults 9:00 Confirmation 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship Annual Congregational Meeting after worship	28 Pastor's Sabbath 7:00pm 4H Meeting 5:00-7:00pm Our Table Community Meal at FUM	29 Pastor Text Study	30	31 10:00 Prayer Group 11:15 Bible Study		

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>WORSHIP ASST</u>	<u>ALTAR FLOWERS</u>	
January 6		Trish Patterson		<u>HEAD USHER</u> Oran Wilder
January 13	Sharon VanOosten	Kent Anders	Sharon VanOosten	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u> Tracey Anders
January 20		Tracey Anders		<u>TELLERS</u> Barb Grobe, Kathy Mitchell, Joan Rienstra
January 27		Linda Gall	Steve & Suzanne Sorenson	



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!



Sunday, January 27th, 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting Immediately after Worship



Pastor's Thoughts...

Christian family,

Welcome 2019, a "New Year" in our culture and in the church! I pray for your health and well being as we mark another passage of time together.

2018 was a very good year for St. Mark's. We have much to be thankful for. In addition to many new members, baptisms, access for all, many members increased their service in mission at home and in distant places. That's the Holy Spirit of God at work!

God answered many of our prayers this year through healing and renewing many areas of our ministry including music, worship, study and service.

If you attend worship and participate in the life of the church regularly, you are blessed. And if you have been meaning to attend and participate more often, you are blessed. And if you have been away a long time and feel awkward attending worship, we care about you and you are blessed. The grace of God is with you always. The church is here for everyone.

St. Mark's is growing. We are growing in attendance and service and yet we have one area that we are declining in, and that is financial giving. It's easy to take the ministry of the church for granted. In order to keep the community vital, financial commitments are necessary. As you make your New Year resolutions this year, I pray that you will commit to giving to the ministry of Jesus Christ at St. Mark's. Consider giving what you can and then increase it as a sacrifice and an offering for all that God has given you.

We are a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life. Thank you for doing God's work with a faithful, generous heart! Grace and peace, Pastor Terrie

Acts 2:46-47 *"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."*

Baptism of Hailey Mae Walker

As a participant in our confirmation program, 12 year old Hailey made a decision to become a child of God through Holy Baptism on December 9th. Welcome Hailey!



Memorial Gifts were given to the Access Needs of St. Mark's by the family and friends of the following members:

Helen Toms	Helen Itken
David Ambeau	Wanda Hinrichs
Pauline Jecklin	Bob Boothe
Karen Boren	Bill Sweet
Patty White	Bruce Knipple
Rev. Bill Brooks	Don Shrader
Bob Karrow	



The Bridge Ministry Project

This is a Polo Community Council of Churches program for students who either don't have enough food at home or don't have time to get food in the time between activities after school. Beth Wiegmann monitors the program and says the program is greatly appreciated however, more food is needed. She suggested granola bars, crackers & cheese packs, small boxes of cereal, small soup bowls, etc. Food can be dropped off at St. Mark's.

Confirmation and Youth

Wednesday January 16th 5:30-7:30 Confirmation E4C at LOMC. Pastor will transport students by meeting at 5:00pm and Pastor will bring them home.

Confirmation classes resume every Sunday morning in January at 9:00am for all students.

Saturday January 26th White Pines Roller Skating 1-5pm! Bring \$4 entrance and snack money. Meet at church at 12:45pm to go together. Pastor needs helpers!



Thursday Bible Study 11:15am -12:30pm

Beginning January 10th, the Thursday Bible Class will begin study of the book of Acts. This is beautiful scripture. Luke and Acts were written by the same source and Acts gives us great insight "how to be the church of Christ." Bring a friend, bring or borrow a bible and walk a little closer with the Lord through scripture study.

- 2019 Offering envelopes are available for pickup at the church. If you did not receive a box and would like to, please let Pastor know. Forms are also available for electronic giving.
- 2019 sign up sheets are available for Greeters and Altar Flowers. Save your spots now!!



Volunteer Property Manager Needed!
Please let Pastor know if you are interested.



Global Missions

Quilters

In December Kathy Mitchell and Mary Cimino represented the Quilters at the PADS Home for the Holidays luncheon.

Polo High School’s chapter of Future Farmers of America collected items for the tornado victims in Taylorville, IL. The students wanted to do this to honor their Advisor whose hometown is Taylorville (30 miles southeast of Springfield). More than 20 people were injured there and over 100 homes severely damaged. Another tornado reportedly touched down in Beardstown and struck the town’s water treatment plant. St. Mark’s Quilters donated 11 quilts and the Global Missions Team donated a \$50 Casey’s card.

The Quilters received a \$250 Thrivent grant. They used the money to purchase batting to put inside of the quilts.

Another Child Foundation (ACF)

Lenten Project – 2019 The Global Missions Team will collect underwear and hand towels. There is also a need for new pairs of warm socks. Most families do not have heat. If you are able to donate warm socks, they will be appreciated!

Honduras Project

Thanks to everyone who helped bake or bought cookies. Over \$800 was raised. Bill Hare is preparing to take a group to Los Palma in January to work with the local people to build three 18’ by 18’ concrete block houses. Brad Long will be a member of the group.

Brethren Disaster Ministries

“Every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.” Heb. 3:4

Brad Long spent two weeks as a project leader supervising volunteers as they helped clean up debris and restore the homes of disaster survivors in need in North and South Carolina. The volunteers stayed in a Presbyterian Church in Lumberton, NC and went to different places to do major repairs from hurricane/flood damage such as floors, insulation, drywall, porches, etc. Some homes were beyond repair and needed to be demolished. Many others had received 4-5’ of water and were moldy but their owners continued to live in them because they had nowhere else to go. Please pray for the volunteers who donate their time and energy to helping them rebuild and please pray especially for the people who have to live in this disaster area every day.

Visit to Michelle's Church

Merla Brooks, Charlie and Linda Gall, Diane Rasmussen, Oran Wilder and Susan Zook attended the 5:00 PM service at Michelle Knight's Church, St. Paul's Lutheran in Warren, on December 15th. Afterward they went to a local pizza restaurant and participated in the Advent Bible Study led by Michelle. It was a fun evening!

Michelle in Ghana

St. Mark's member, seminary student and Intern Pastor at St. Paul's Warren, Michelle Knight and three others will travel to Guyana in January as part of their required schooling. They will spend three weeks shadowing Pastors and staying with them and their families. Please keep her in your prayers.

Want to Support Global Missions?

If you would like to make a financial donation to St. Mark's Global Missions, you can do so on any Sunday. Just put your donation in one of the Global Missions envelopes that you will find in your pew and place it in the offering plate.

Want to know more about St. Mark's Global Missions?

We meet the second Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m. Come join us as we discover what missions God will lead us to work with in the coming year.

"Love one another and take care of each other."

Chief Rocky Boy

Letters from children who received quilts

(and just as sweet as Letters to Santa!)

Following are some thank you notes the St. Mark's Quilters recently received:

Dear Ladies,

Thank you for making the quilts for us. Now I have one I can use when I'm watching movies or sleeping in hotter weather. I love the one I got. It's the thinner black and white one, really soft, feels like silk to me. I love the designs you mixed to create the quilts.

Sincerely, Joshua M. P.S. Have a very Merry Christmas. Thank you!

Dear St. Mark's Church,

I am very appreciative that you have made these quilts for my peers and I. All were eye appealing and some were nice and soft. I really like quilts because they are fun to make when you've got some time on your hands, and I like that they are perfect for keeping you warm. I myself like to sleep with a quilt because it gives me that extra warmth that I like. They are very handy for when I'm sick because (like before) it gives that extra warmth and they are easy to carry around the house. The quilt I chose was blue and white checkered with a gray outline and a few gray squares on the checkered pattern. I picked it because it had really beautiful blue squares and it was just thick enough for my liking. Once again, I am very thankful that you spent your time and effort to make my peers and I some quilts.

Sincerely, Andrew S.

Dear Quilt Ladies,

I am thankful for the quilts you made for us and I hope you have a Merry Christmas. And thank you for being nice to us and sending those quilts for us. I liked the sky blue quilt so that is the one I picked.

Manoah

Dear Quilt People,

I just want to say thank you for the hard work you put in for us and the quilt. I picked the red one. It looked like a flannel coat and it is so warm.

Merry Christmas! Austin

150th Anniversary Celebration
is May 3rd 2020

Next meeting is Friday, January 4th at 10:00am.
Please join us!
We want your ideas and stories for this BIG
Celebration.

What does St. Mark's need?

Paper towels, toilet paper, swiffer duster
sheets, stamps, copy paper

Church Council Highlights December 2018

Pastor's Report: Praise God that Lori Christen our secretary has been given miraculous restoration of her health. I appreciate all who assisted as I was able to take a week's vacation. St. Mark's lost 2 members this month, Kenneth Linton 11/9 and Trudy Bowen Sanders 11/22. We rejoice with Hailey Walker age 12 who asked to be baptized without parental support December 9th. November was quite busy with the Fall Supper, Bazaar and Bake sale, vespers every Sunday and the Council of Churches community meal and meeting at St. Mark's. The sanctuary was decorated again beautifully. Dedication of the new chairlift and ramp brought a great many to worship. St. Mark's attendance numbers have been up this year and we give the Holy Spirit thanks. This has been a busy time for my candidacy duties for the Synod as well. I look forward to planning the New Year. Pastor Terrie

Worship & Music: The organ was cared for December 3rd. Grace Ann Lloyd has been replaced by Marla Buskohl as accompanist the first Sunday of each month beginning in January. A letter of recommendation was given to Grace Ann as she looks for new musical opportunities. Marla will be using the piano as her main instrument. We are blessed that Cheryl Goeking has volunteered to put our Christmas Eve choir in order this year. This will be the first year of having only 1 Christmas Eve worship service at 4:00pm. New candles were purchased for the service and Tracey has prepared them already. The next meeting to select hymns is January 17th at 2:30^{PM}.

Education: Confirmation Central Conference cluster meeting called E4C (Everyone for Christ) was held November 14th. Three students attended from St. Mark's. All said they enjoyed it. The next meeting will be held January 16th. I am hoping for a larger group attendance in January as some sports wind down. The Confirmation class of 14 students is beginning to come together better since meeting every week. The mid-term review was held and they are beginning to speak their faith. Bible study on the Psalms concluded in November. The Thursday group is now studying the birth narratives of Jesus, comparing and contrasting. Seminarian Michelle Knight is doing well academically and will be sent to Ghana for 3 weeks in January. About 10 members are planning to worship in Warren December 15th (Saturday night 5:00pm service.) Members have given personal donations to her schooling and I will be forwarding those donations to Wartburg Seminary in her name.

Worship & Hospitality: Our new organist, Marla Buskohl, will be starting on the first Sunday in January

- A new Christ candle will need to be purchased. We also need a new Advent stand. It was suggested that when we have items like this that are needed by the church, we let it be known and perhaps someone would step forward and provide the funds to purchase these items and others like it.

- Discussed the possibility of having someone play the guitar for Silent Night this year as that was the way it was first performed.
- It was voted and passed by council last year that we quit purchasing Styrofoam cups, plates, etc. The committee suggested that we no longer reimburse for Styrofoam goods and that we go ahead and purchase cartons of the materials needed and make a line item in the budget to cover this expense. A carton of 200 compartment take out boxes would cost \$36.57, a carton of 500 plain take out containers would cost \$53.16, or a smaller container would cost \$48.32, a carton of 500 10" plates would cost \$48.48, a carton of 1000 6" plates would cost \$31.50, a carton of 500 9" plates would cost \$36.67, a carton of 500 3 compartment 10" plates would cost \$47.20, a pack of 50 large 2 compartment Nacho/Food tray would cost \$7.99. These are just examples. If we got one of each of these it would total \$309.89. We need to determine which sizes and how many of each would be needed to come to a yearly cost. It was determined by the committee that a line item for \$350.00 would cover most, if not all, biodegradable products. When these items come in, it was suggested to remove all Styrofoam products from the church.
- Pastor is going to donate another black table as she has need of it for worship services.
- Christmas cards were sent to the shut-ins by Amanda Long.
- All the brass needs to be cleaned. Some of it is in very bad shape.
- We will be discussing Lent and Easter to determine decorating the church and new ways to enhance worship.

Property: Thank you to all those who came for the property meeting November 6th! Fans and air conditioners were put away, heat tape in gutter was checked, basement floor cleaned for the Fall supper and other miscellaneous tasks were done. Kent has been checking on the parsonage and Terry purchased salt for our sidewalks. Thank you to the Cassens family for shoveling and the Wolf family for plowing all the snow.

Polo Council of Churches: Next meeting January 29, 2019 at FUM 7pm

Youth Group: We plan to go roller skating in January. I continue to pray for a youth leader.

New Business: Financial Budget for 2019 approved. 3 members terms are ending, Kent, Sara & Ken. Kent & Sara have volunteered to continue to serve on council. 1 person will be needed to replace Ken.

Old Business: Access Committee Update - The ramp is installed & the carpet has been fixed.

Other Business: 150th Anniversary - next meeting is January 4th.

Polo Food Pantry needs

Bread, coffee, fruit, cereal, mac & cheese, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, canned chicken and tuna, tea bags, pancake mix, cr. of mushroom soup, cr. of chicken soup, boxed potatoes, canned peas, apple juice, ketchup, deodorant, pain reliever, toilet paper, child's lg. diapers, paper towels. Monetary gifts welcome.

Reminder!

Reports for the Annual Meeting are due to the secretary by December 31st. Please put them in Lori's mailbox or email them to stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net

Are you celebrating an Anniversary or milestone Birthday??

Let us know!



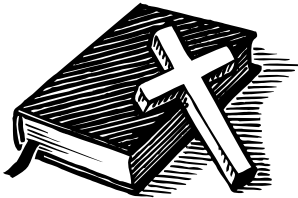
The card ministry at St. Mark's loves to send cards to help celebrate your special events. Please drop a note in Amanda Long's church mailbox or email her at amanda07216@gmail.com if you know of members celebrating an anniversary of 20 years or more or a milestone birthday.

Happy Anniversary

Thank you

- Thank you to those who helped decorate the church for the season.
- Thank you to the teachers and students for the great Christmas Pageant this year.
- Thank you to those that donated cookies for the Honduras project cookie sale
- Thank you to Lorin Gatz for spending the day helping install the carpeting on the ramp and in front of the church.
- Thank you to the person that donated stamps for the church office.
- "Thank you" to everyone that donated applesauce or helped in any way for the Christmas Basket program. We had some extra supplies which went to the Polo Food Pantry to stock their shelves. Also "Thank you" to Carol Garkey and Thrivent for the monetary donation that was used to purchase food for the baskets.
- Our Quilters group wishes to "Thank" Carol Garkey and Thrivent for the monetary gift to purchase supplies to make our quilts.

"Hailey and I would like to thank everyone for the love, support, cards and gifts shown to Hailey on her baptismal day. It made Hailey feel special and she loved the flowers. Again, Thank you." ~ Merla Brooks



Prayer Needs

For Healing: Anthony Calderone

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

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Anniversaries

- 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

- 20 Wyatt Patterson
- Drew Benner
- 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 & Aunt Nancy by Cliff, Amy, Tommy and Joey Bardell.

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

Presented to the church to the Glory of God by Alice & Bob Cassens.

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

Presented in loving memory of Duane Garkey by Carol Garkey and family.

Presented in loving memory of Steve Gilbert by Karen Gilbert and family.

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

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

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

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 dear family members by Kenneth & Betty Obendorf.

Presented in loving memory of Lorene & Ambrose Reuter and Phyllis & Arlyn Bryson by Lenny, Becky & Family.

Presented in honor of our two new Great Grandchildren by Lyle & Marcia Printz.

Presented in loving memory of our loved ones who have left us by Joan & Leo Rienstra.

Presented in loving memory of Sherwood Shank by Linda Shank.

Presented in loving memory of our beloved "Papa", Richard Esposito, by Sydney, Ryan and Gracyn Smith.

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

Presented to the church to the Glory of God for blessing us with 4 wonderful children and 8 beautiful Grandchildren by Steven & Suzanne Sorenson.

Presented to the church to the Glory of God by Alan & Beth Wiegmann.

Presented to the church to the Glory of God by Pastor Terrie and Oran Wilder.