

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

***Special Congregational
Meeting
July 22, 2018***



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Vespers at Polo Rehab
every Sunday at 4:00pm

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

9:00 Worship
10:00 Social Time



2018

July 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 9:00 Worship 10:00 Social Time 4:00-4:30pm Vespers at Polo Rehab	2 Pastor's Sabbath 9:00am Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose 6:15-7:15pm Girl Scouts	3 Pastor Text Study	4	5 9:00 Worship & Hospitality Meeting 10-11:00am Prayer Group	6 10:00 am AI-Anon meeting	7
8 9:00 Worship 10:00 Social Time 4:00-4:30pm Vespers at Polo Rehab	9 Pastor's Sabbath	10 Pastor Text Study Work 2nd Hand Rose July 10-14	11	12 9:00 Global Missions Meeting 10-11:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	13 10:00 am AI-Anon meeting	14
15 9:00 Worship Randy Hayes plays harp during Worship 10:00 Social Time 4:00-4:30pm Vespers at Polo Rehab	16 Pastor's Sabbath 6:15-7:15pm Girl Scouts	17 Pastor Text Study 9:00am Quilters	18	19 No Prayer Group Deadline to submit articles for August Newsletter	20 10:00 am AI-Anon meeting AA District Mtg 6:30 – 8:30 PM	21
22 9:00 Worship Access Plan Vote 10:00 Social Time 4:00-4:30pm Vespers at Polo Rehab	23 Pastor's Sabbath 7:00pm 4H Meeting	24 Pastor Text Study 7:00pm Polo Council of Churches at Brethren	25	26 No Prayer Group	27 10:00 am AI-Anon meeting	28
29 9:00 Worship/ Healing Service 10:00 Social Time 4:00-4:30pm Vespers at Polo Rehab	30 Pastor's Sabbath 5:00-7:00pm Our Table Community Meal at Faith Methodist	31 Pastor Text Study				

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>WORSHIP ASST</u>	<u>ALTAR FLOWERS</u>	
July 1		Suzanne Sorenson	Charlie & Linda Gall	<u>HEAD USHER</u> Jeanne Scholl
July 8		Beth Wiegmann	Sharon VanOosten	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u> Kathy Mitchell & Laurel Smith
July 15	Jeanne Scholl	Merla Brooks	Merla Brooks	<u>TELLERS</u> Nancy Parke, Lorin & Joyce Gatz
July 22	Lyle & Barb Grobe	Trish Patterson	Lyle & Barb Grobe	
July 29	Lyle & Melody Reap	Kent Anders	Lyle & Melody Reap	



**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!



**Special Congregational Meeting
Sunday July 22nd
10:00am after Worship**



A vote will be held to approve the installation of ramp access into the sanctuary and chair lift installation on the stairs to the basement. Pictures and detailed information will appear soon at the church. Please plan to attend this meeting for discussion and voting. Voting involves all baptized and confirmed members.

July is Vesper (Evening Worship) Month at Polo Rehab

Every Sunday from 4:00-4:30pm St. Mark's will lead a simple worship service for the residents of the Polo Rehabilitation Center. Old familiar hymns will be sung and the Word of God will be spoken in scripture and in prayer as we worship with those who can no longer come to worship in their own churches. Please join us to share a smile, pass out song books, hold a hand and bring in the light of Christ. Carol Cox from the Open Bible Church has agreed to lead accompaniment and we are blessed with the sharing of her gifts.

Summer Special Music at St. Mark's!

July 8th – Marla Buskohl
July 15th – Randy Hayes harpist
August 26th – Dulcimer Group of Polo



Welcome Home

Brad Long and Linda Gall are home from another mission trip to Romania. Speak with them and find out about the effort of the Christian Church in Romania that is making a difference in the lives of people who live in desperation. Here are a few pictures!

Brad & the Carpentry class



Ice cream with the Mission team and translators



Reading



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Pastor's Thoughts...

The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

¹⁶ When he (Jesus) came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ **“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”** ²⁰ And he (Jesus) rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, **“Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”** ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, **“Is not this Joseph’s son?”** ²³ He said to them, **“Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’”** ²⁴ And he said, **“Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown.”**

Sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus,

This morning I watched the news and this story of “Jesus being rejected in his own home town,” came to my mind. It seems like the whole world is arguing about so much and there is no good news being told.

I did a Google search for “good news” and actually there are dozens of websites that only share good and inspiring stories. And even though the sites were filled with happy thoughts and happy stories, we still live in a world overflowing with bad news. Bad news of pain, suffering, hate, judgment, prejudice, oppression, inequality, and of people right fighting all the time seems normal.

As Christians, the “Good News” given to us in the life, death and resurrection of Christ Jesus is that God is in charge and we are not. The spirit of the Lord was on Jesus who released the captives, healed the blind (*literally or figuratively*), let the oppressed go free and proclaimed the Lord’s favor in Him. Jesus quotes from Isaiah 61:1 when God gave the “good news” of deliverance from suffering in God’s time. All will be made right in God’s time.

This is the “good news” that in God’s time all things will be made right.

So let’s remember this “good news” and try to keep our blood pressure down, keep our open minds, listen without judgment, and lessen the hardness of our hearts. The “good news” is that God is still in charge, in ways that we do not understand or comprehend. Let’s not reject Jesus words in our communities or our lives.

Jesus still calls us to advocate and to be compassionate and spread the “good news” of God’s presence in Christ Jesus who will bring about justice for all by His love and grace. Take a deep breath and breathe in the power of the Holy Spirit who is working in the world every day. Summer Pentecost blessings, Pastor Terrie

Statement from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton on executive order

6/22/2018

About two weeks ago, I joined more than 20 other faith leaders in raising concerns about the administration’s announced plans that it would begin separating families and criminally prosecuting all people who enter the U.S. without previous authorization. In line with that statement, I acknowledge that President Donald Trump’s new executive order, “Affording Congress an Opportunity to Address Family Separation,” does keep families together, but for how long and in what conditions? I am troubled by what the executive order does and does not guarantee. There is no provision for reuniting children already separated from their families, nor for children whose parents have already been deported. The executive order also allows for the possibility of future family separations.

The forced separation of children from their parents is unnecessarily cruel, further traumatizing families who have already suffered in their countries of origin and on the dangerous journey to the U.S. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and its predecessor church bodies have a long history of caring for children, families and refugees. It’s who we are.

This executive order will expand the detention of families. The ELCA opposed the detention of families policy during the George W. Bush and Barack Obama administrations, and we oppose the policy now. Detention centers are not designed to support families. Community-based alternatives to detention, like ones that Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) has piloted, are cost-effective ways to ensure that children and parents can await their court case in a dignified setting.

In his explanation of the Lord’s Prayer in the Small Catechism, Martin Luther reminds us that good government is part of our daily bread. As Lutherans and as citizens, we can work with elected officials toward humane, just, and compassionate solutions. Through AMMPARO and LIRS, the ELCA is committed to walking alongside children and families who are seeking asylum. You can be part of a network that uses their hands and voice to ensure they feel welcomed wherever they go. We can also advocate through ELCA Advocacy (elca.org/advocacy).

By grace we are set free to love and serve the neighbor. Let us, through prayer and action, serve these vulnerable children and families.

Farewell to Intern Pastor Michelle Knight

July 1st, Michelle Knight became a collaborative learning student through Wartburg Seminary and is among the 1st group to do this. This is similar to what Pastor Terrie did at St. Mark's however Michelle will have her Master's Of Divinity Degree. Michelle will be serving part-time at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Warren, Illinois, while completing her course of study through the Seminary. Worship is at 5:00pm Saturday nights and 10:00am Sunday mornings. Michelle invites her family at St. Mark's to visit sometime. Her new address at the church is 209 Clinton St, Warren, IL 61087. We will be praying for God to use and mold her into a fine pastor. Donations to the seminary tuitions are always welcome.

150th Anniversary Committee Forming

May 3rd 2020, less than 2 years from now, St. Mark's will celebrate the formation of the church 150 years ago. Bishop Jeff Clements is scheduled to be with us and we will be inviting others to join us in celebrating. Pastor Terrie is forming 3 teams for this celebration. We will need a team to put history together, a worship program together and a hospitality team perhaps providing a celebration meal. All the congregation is invited to come for the planning. **Please let Pastor know if you would like to help. It is not too late to join a team!**

Mark your calendar!

August 25th will be the Roast Beef Supper at St. Mark's!

Watch for ticket sales and sign up sheets coming up.

St. Mark's needed Representatives for Polo Council of Churches Meetings

Every other month, the Polo Council of Churches gathers and oversees projects in our community including the Food Pantry, Second Hand Rose, Honduras Mission, community garden, the summer lunch program for children, the High School Bridge program, the monthly free community meals September –May, Vacation Bible School, Vespers, Quarterly Communion at Polo Rehab and other concerns in Polo through our mutual faith in Christ Jesus. This past year, Pastor has been hit and miss, at these meetings and would appreciate someone from St. Mark's to represent us. Alice Cassens is the current secretary, however we are 1 representative short of important voting on occasion. The next meeting is:

Tuesday July 24th 7:00pm at the Polo Church of the Brethren. Come, commit and serve. Not every community has such a blessing of Christian community as Polo. We are blessed.

Church Council Highlights June 2018

Pastor's Report: Since we last met, St. Mark's confirmed 4 young men into voting membership of the church. Worship and Hospitality did a great job with the cake and celebration. Some members are experiencing ill health and surgeries but all appear to be doing well. May 20th-25th I had overwhelming preaching continuing education at this year's Festival of Homiletics (preaching) in Washington D.C. This was a very revealing experience as the Christian Church in America regarding justice and advocacy for God's people. June is packed with meetings and then we'll take a summer break.

***Worship & Music:** The Sunday School sang for Mother's Day and Confirmation was held May 13th. Pentecost was eventful with Missionary Tim Oloffson and language emphasis in the Lord's Prayer. June 10th Pastor Josh Ehrler from Trinity Lutheran Mt. Morris and I did a pulpit swap. Team held a hymn selection meeting June 8th. Setting 10 was discussed for summer. Lots of special music is planned for the summer!

***Education:** Prayers were given May 13th for the teachers who are so dedicated throughout the year. A 3 week Bible Beginners Study class is planned for June by Pastor. Eight area churches are planning a monthly Collaborative Confirmation program on Wednesday nights. This will enhance our local church confirmation program. Students from 5th-9th grades will be invited to participate. We are hoping to meet at LOMC each month. This is in the planning stage.

***Worship & Hospitality:** Hand held fans are getting in bad shape. We will see if the bank can sponsor 2 dozen for us. The Northern Illinois Synod had a bicycle group going to the synod convention and they stopped at St. Mark's on June 13th. Water, granola bars, and fruit were provided. Supplies were donated for the In-Kind offering and the kits were put together. The greeters need to encourage guests to sign the register. This will be moved beside the greeters so they can reference guests to it. Visitations were discussed. Individuals need to be assigned to new home bound members. September Ministry Fair will be held September 17th. The committee could display the new fans, cards, and bags for the children. As new ideas are developed they will be added to the project.

***Global Mission:** Brad Long and Linda Gall have gone to Romania June 7th-17th. The team will not meet in June.

***Fellowship:** The ice cream social is June 24th. Advertising was done this year.

***Property:** Property Work Night was held June 5th. We had many people attend. The back room off the kitchen was cleaned out, water softener has salt added, downstairs toilets were looked at and parsonage was looked at. Found the ceiling vents open, upstairs fan cannot be repaired, ladies toilet was repaired (not sure about men's), new faucet hook ups needed for parsonage upstairs bathroom, new plumbing was put into the parsonage. People have volunteered to weed gardens and to stripe the church parking lot this summer. Wonderful response and we give God thanks and praise! No meeting is scheduled for July. If you see things that need repaired let Pastor know and she can schedule on in August.

***Council of Churches:** The next meeting is July 24th, 7pm at Polo church of the Brethren. Church of the Brethren has a community vegetable garden and need people to sign up to water and weed the garden this summer. There is a schedule by Jonathan Stauffer (cell 815-973-0247; email staufferjp@gmail.com).

***Memorial:** Met June 13th. Wanda Hinrichs memorial was divided between Kitchen fund and Handicapped fund. Cheryl was approved for buying a piano light up to \$100. Lorin is looking into buying another dehumidifier for the basement. Betty is looking to replace the ceiling fan and an estimate on cleaning the pews; this would come out of the undesignated funds. John Carroll is going to look at the exterior door to be sanded.

***Special Committees:** Access Committee Update- Three members went to Rockford to see an installed chair lift. The committee decided to get an estimate for a chair lift. The only additional cost to the estimate would be a charging station at the bottom of the stairs for the lift since it is battery operated. Terry is going to contact an electrician to make sure the voltage is suitable. It was approved to present the recommendations to the church. A two week notice will be put in the newsletter and bulletin starting July 1st. The vote will be held on July 22nd; visuals will be available before the vote occurs. 150th Anniversary- meets June 28th at 6:30pm for planning.

***New Business:** Motion was made to approve exterminator due to bug issues for the summer. Motion was also made to purchase QuickBooks for the bookkeeper.

***Other Business:** Motion was made to allow Pastor half of her Sabbatical funds for continuing education.

FREE KIDS LUNCHES 5 DAYS A WEEK

KIDS CAF'E

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Faith United Methodist Church

11 am - 12-pm

Van pick up at Pool Park and Polo Library

Facebook.com/polokidzcafe



POLO LIBRARY BOX LUNCH

Tuesday and Thursday

11:30 - 12:30

Polo Food Pantry needs

Coffee, fruit, cheese, canned chicken, tea bags, cream chicken soup, juice, ketchup, deodorant, pain relievers, toilet paper and wipes.

The Church Basement Quilters are in need of:

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

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 Mark and Renee Boyle who called in a plumber to fix the major water pipe issues at the parsonage! This is a great first step in restoring the property.
- Thank you to John Engel and Lorin Gatz for coming by and fixing things in the church.
- Thank you to Lyle Grobe and the Rhythm Ramblers for donating their musical gifts to the community at our Ice Cream Social.
- Thank you to Bob Cassens for donating the ice cream once again for the Ice Cream Social.
- Thank you to Jeanne Scholl, Marcia and Lyle Printz and others for serving at the Social and to those who donated baked goods. Melody Reap's secret hot fudge sauce is always a winner.
- Thank you to many of you that donated to the In Kind Synod Assembly Homeless kits!
- Thank you to Oran Wilder for putting in the air conditioners and tackling the upstairs bathroom at the parsonage.
- Thank you Tracey Anders for the new fan to cool off the worship leaders.
- Thank you Cheryl Goeking for seeking out Special Music for our summer worship.
- Thank you to Worship and Hospitality for providing treats for the NIS bicyclists and to Tracey for coming in last minute to serve.
- Thank you to those people who came to our Property Work Night! A storage room was cleaned out and many tasks were reviewed and completed. Thank you Cindy Bauling, Marilyn Nelson, Suzanne and Steve Sorenson, Terry Jenkins, Cliff and Joey Bardell and Oran Wilder.
- Thank you to Joey Bardell and Parker Wolber (recently confirmed) for painting the yellow parking lines in the church parking lot! Thank you Cliff for overseeing the project and Oran Wilder for lining up the supplies.
- Thank you Kent Anders for attending this year's Synod Assembly and representing St. Mark's in voting and collecting knowledge to share with the church.
- Thank you Amanda Long for all the cards and notes you send.
- Thank you Merla Brooks for keeping the Access Committee focused.
- Thank you Linda Shank for doing the internet prayer notices.
- Thank you to the First State Bank for the new hand held fans for worship.



Prayer Needs

For Healing: Anthony Calderone, Kenneth Obendorf, Pam White and Bishop Jeffrey Clements.

For those in care facilities: Ron Greenawalt, Ruby Isley, Arlene Jecklin, Tammy Karrow, Trudy Karrow, Jessica Kimpel, Kenny Linton, 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

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

3 Joey Bardell
4 Erika Decker
5 Tony Karrow
7 Travis Roop
Sydney Brown
10 Veronica Acker
Matt Slager
11 Rodney Garkey
Elsie Hackbarth
13 Hannah Grobe
14 Lyle Reap
Linda Shank
15 Brian Lopez
Josh Christen
16 Tom Suits
Paige Roop
Natalie Nelson
17 Joan Rienstra
19 Ashley White
Kevin Dyer
Mark Wooden

20 Robert Hoak
21 Tim Gipe
22 Jerry Hose II
Grace Gabaldon
24 Jeanne Scholl
25 Pamela Lotz
Barb Grobe
26 Brady Bushman
Raymond Lopez
27 Lyle Grobe
28 Ellia Escobar
29 Kalah Mitchell
Pat McPherson
30 Larry Hackbarth
Amy Bardell
Kathy Toms
31 Kale Grobe
Kameron Grobe

Anniversaries

3 Leo & Joan Rienstra
5 Charles & Linda Gall
6 Andy & Lisa Hinrichs
8 Scott & Melanie Armstrong
11 Kenneth & Laurel Smith
Josh & Lori Christen
12 Mike & Kim Bowman
16 Sharon & James VanOosten
21 Brent & Beth Shipman
26 Cliff & Amy Bardell
27 Dan & Amanda Powell

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.