

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

Lent Suppers 6:15

Worship 7:00-7:30

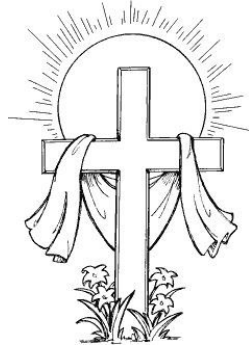
March 7, 14 21

Palm Sunday Brunch

March 25th 9:00am

Maundy Thursday

March 29th 7:00pm



Good Friday

March 30th 7:00pm at Brethren

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

March

2018

March 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	2 10:00 am Al-Anon meeting	3
4 9:00 Sunday School Children & Adults 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship 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 9:30am Communion at Polo Rehab	7 6:15 Soup Supper 7:00-7:30 Lenten Service	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	12 Pastor's Sabbath	13 Pastor Text Study	14 6:15 Soup Supper 7:00-7:30 Lenten Service	15 10-11:00am Prayer Group 11:15am Bible Study 7:00pm Accessibility Meeting Deadline to submit articles for April 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 11:45-1:00 Confirmation	19 Pastor's Sabbath 6:15-7:15pm Girl Scouts	20 Pastor Text Study 9:00am Quilters	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	24
25 9:00 Sunday School Children (No Adult class) 9:00-10:00 Palm Sunday Brunch 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 Work 2 nd Hand Rose March 27-31	28	29 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship at St. Mark's	30 10:00 am Al-Anon meeting 7:00pm Good Friday Worship at the Brethren	31
April 1 Easter Sunday (Resurrection Sunday) 9:00am Worship (1 service only)						

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>WORSHIP ASST</u>	<u>ALTAR FLOWERS</u>	
March 4	Mary Cimino	Cliff Bardell	LeRoy Toms	<u>HEAD USHER</u> Merla Brooks
March 11	Betty Hook	Lisa Hinruchs	Beth Wiegmann	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u> Tracey Anders
March 18	Jeanne Scholl	Jeanne Scholl	Becky Patterson	<u>TELLERS</u> Nancy Parke, Lorin & Joyce Gatz
March 25		Lyle Printz	LeRoy Toms	



**ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

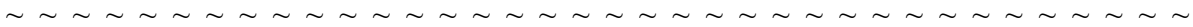
201 N. Division Avenue, Polo, IL 61064

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!



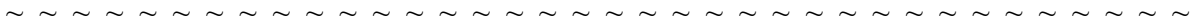
Welcome new members!
Sharon VanOosten
Diane Rasmussen
Betsy Scott



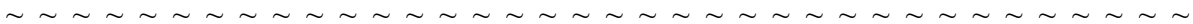
Welcome New Members through Holy Baptism:
Laney Kay Christen daughter of Josh and Lori Christen
Sponsors: Renee Boyle and Mark Boyle
Chloe Ann Bartelt daughter of Andy and Sydney Bartelt
Sponsors: Amanda Long and Camden Ross
Everett Bruce Richardson son of Derek and Emily Richardson
Sponsors: Renee Death and Kent Sorenson



Welcome to the family of St. Mark's!



Lent Midweek Services
6:15 Soup Supper, 7:00-7:30 Lenten Service
Wednesdays, March 7th, 14th, 21st



Sunday, March 25th -Palm Sunday Brunch
9:00-10:00 am in the Church Basement followed by 10:30am
Worship
Look for a sign up sheet at church to donate items!

Maundy Thursday Worship at St. Mark's

Thursday, March 29th – 7:00pm

Good Friday Service at the Brethren Church

Friday, March 30th – 7:00pm

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Pastor's Thoughts...

Sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus,

As we “journey” into Lent, this tune popped into my head. Frank Sinatra and Doris Day were just two people who made this song so popular. I always thought it was a love song until I read the lyrics. It could easily be a call to our journey of faith.

Sentimental Journey Lyrics

<i>Gonna take a sentimental journey,</i>	<i>Gonna set my heart at ease</i>
<i>Gonna make a sentimental journey,</i>	<i>To renew old me-mories</i>
<i>Got my bag Got my reservation,</i>	<i>Spent each dime I could afford</i>
<i>Like a child In wild anticipation,</i>	<i>Long to hear that A-all aboard</i>
<i>Seven, That's the time we leave, At seven,</i>	<i>I'll be waitin' up for Heaven</i>
<i>Countin' every mile Of railroad track,</i>	<i>That takes me back</i>
<i>Never thought My heart could be so yearny,</i>	<i>Why did I decide to roam,</i>
<i>Gotta take that sentimental journey,</i>	<i>Sentimental jour-ourney home</i>

It's got everything we need for our faith journey, a heart of ease, memories of our story, waiting for the train (a common theme for those who are dying) , heaven and how we yearn for it, wondering why we roam from faith and yet ultimately for a Christian, we journey home to a relationship with God.

I have been on this journey, roaming off on my own, and then “sentiment” brought me home to faith.

“Sentiment” by definition is a prompted by feeling of tenderness, sadness, or nostalgia.

Synonyms include: nostalgic, tender, emotional and affectionate

Lent is a time of “sentiment” as we “Return to the Lord Our God” in ritual and scripture, remembering what God has done for us through Jesus Christ. We gather for Ashes, for soup suppers together and Wednesday lessons of scripture. We observe Palm Sunday and Holy Week by reading the scriptures that the Christian faith is based on. The scriptures read remind us that God, Father, Son and Spirit are with us in suffering and celebration. The scriptures remind us that there is always HOPE in the Lord and Grace for our “journey”.

Lenten sentimental blessings for your journey, Pastor Terrie

40 Days of Lent

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



Please bring NEW SHOES or SOCKS ** **All sizes** **

“Shoes for Orphan Souls”

Small children love bright
colors & lights!



Accessibility Meeting

March 15th, 2018 7:00pm

A new accessibility group will be forming at St. Mark's! We would like to welcome any members to join this group. We are hoping for many new ideas and change to make our church more accessible to all people.

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

Dear women of this church,

Please know that each of you is invited to join us at this event at LOMC in Oregon, IL. It does not matter if you do not have an active WELCA unit. As the name implies, you are each women of the Evangelical Church in America!

Look at your calendar and please join us for an inspiring as well as relaxing day at such a beautiful site. The lunch is a soup and salad bar meal with dessert – delicious!

All you have to do is complete the registration form and send it in. So simple! We are hoping to see many new faces on this day – your arm will not be twisted to form a WELCA unit!

Northern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA

2018 Spring Retreat

HERstory – A String of Pearls

Saturday, April 28, 2018 8:15am – 3:00pm at LOMC

Bible Study by Susan Ekstrand

Partnership report on Rocky Boy Indian Reservation by Louise Owen

Worship led by Pastor Diane Dardon

Registration deadline: April 10, 2018

Find out more and register at nisynod.org/women

Copies of registration forms are also on the bulletin board in the

Fellowship Hall!



Everyone is encouraged to attend the
Northern Illinois Synod Congregational Resourcing Event
Saturday, March 10, 2018 from 9:00am to 3:15pm
At Kishwaukee Community College in Malta

Keynote speaker, **Rev. Nathan C.P. Frambach**, Professor of Pastoral Theology at Wartburg Theological Seminary, will speak on “**Being Church, Now & Then: what the church of the future might look like...perhaps?**” The presentations (and conversation) will be (hopefully) amusing, imaginative, forward-looking thought experiment about what “being church” and living God’s mission might look in the future (and the future may be now). The presentations will include material from a few provocative thinkers and writers—theologian John Caputo, poet Mary Oliver, and essayist and poet Wendell Berry, to stimulate and inspire our thinking and imagination.

Visit nisynod.org/cre
To find out more, see all the workshops,
register online, or download a sign-up sheet.

Global Missions

Please watch for Global Missions envelopes in the pews. We are doing this so that any time you would like to make a donation; you can just put it into the envelope and place it in the offering plate. Your donation will be used to support the aforementioned missions.

1. Another Child Foundation

During Lent we will collect new shoes and socks for the children of Romania. Payless Shoes in Shopko has had some special deals - \$5 a pair or buy one pair get another half off. Walmart too has had sneakers for \$5. Our goal is 60 pair. So far we have 24. We would ask that people please check the size of each of the shoes before buying them. We found a box of shoes that had one size 6 and one 6-1/2! Also, please be sure the shoes are for different feet. It was sad last year when we were unable to give children shoes because they were for the same foot. We don't want to disappoint them!

Global Missions would also like to make a monetary donation to Another Child Foundation to help defray the cost of shipping the shoes to Romania (the shoes are put into a shipping container and sent by boat).

2. Honduras Project

Brad Long and Tracey Anders recently traveled with Bill Hare to deliver food to 272 families and to build houses. This is a mission St. Mark's has supported for many years and we would like to continue to help the Honduran people.

3. The Nursing Project

In March Diane Rasmussen will share with the congregation information about this. It supports the Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre School in Arusha, Tanzania. The school opened in 2014 and in September 2016 graduated its first classes providing much needed nurses to the area. The school is in danger of being closed unless a permanent location is built. The task force is raising funds to help build a new school. At the end of 2017, they were \$15,000 short of reaching their goal.

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Spring has Sprung at LOMC!

Check out these three, fun-filled youth events that are happening in March and April!

BYG – Building Youth Groups March 23-24

Bring Your 3rd-6th Grade Youth! This is a retreat designed to build and strengthen the relationships in your youth group. The idea is to keep your youth group strong and growing by laying a foundation for future members. Bring your third through sixth graders to this fun community building experience!

When: March 23-24, Friday-Saturday

Times: Arrive Friday at 7:00 pm, Depart Saturday at 4:00 pm

Where: Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center, Oregon, IL

Activities include: Bible study, worship, games, campfire, teambuilding, hiking, and the prayer labyrinth.

Register with Audrey: 815-732-2220, Contact Michelle for more info: michelle@lomc.org

Our Theme for the Weekend is: FROG (Fully Rely on God)

Junior High Spring Retreat April 20-22

Who: 6th-9th Graders

Times: Arrive Friday evening at 7:00 pm Depart Sunday afternoon at 1:00 pm

Registration: Call Audrey at 815-732-2220 or Email: registrations@lomc.org,

Questions: Contact Michelle at michelle@lomc.org

Activities include: Bible study, worship, teambuilding, hiking, games, prayer labyrinth, zip line and campfire (weather permitting). Bible Study: Our focus will be recognizing the abundance of God's Grace for Us as found in the Gospel of John. **From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.**

Jonathan Rundman in Concert April 11, 6:30-8:00pm

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries presents singer and songwriter [Jonathan Rundman](#) in Concert on Wednesday, Concert will be located in the Ragnar Moline Dining Hall at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center, Oregon, IL

No Registration Necessary!

A great night of music for all ages! Confirmation Class groups are welcome!

Church Council Highlights February 2018

- * **Selection of new Council President;** Sara motioned for Kent to remain President, Jeanne 2nd
- * **Selection of new Council Vice-President;** Kent motioned to nominate Merla, Terry 2nd
- * **Selection of new Council Secretary;** Amanda motioned to nominate Sara, Jeanne 2nd
- * **Secretary's Report:** Accepted as presented. Merla moved to accept, Jeanne 2nd
- * **Treasurer's Report:** Accepted as presented. Merla moved to accept, Amanda 2nd.

REPORTS:

- * **Pastor's Report:** This year began with a variety of committee meetings. I have made home visits to some potential new members & have asked them to give me their impression of St. Mark's worship & hospitality. It has been interesting so far & I have plans to see more individuals soon. This is the time of year when I must fill out several Synod reports. Visits & Home Communion continues. Three baptisms are planned with the possibility of two more for February. Peace, Pastor Terrie
- * **Finance:** Meeting was held where Contracts for employees was discussed. See new business.
- * **Worship & Music:** With the beginning of weekly communion, I am working with the Altar Guild. I am planning an educational meeting for all Altar Guild volunteers very soon. The committee met Thursday, Feb. 1st & selected hymns through the first of June. Cheryl Goeking & Merla Brooks joined the group. I asked Cheryl for her impressions of our worship & she had many things to add as well as great musical encouragement.
- * **Education:** The Sunday School held their Sunday School Bingo & Taco day on Sunday, Feb. 11th. It was a great time. Attendance was down slightly due to the weather. We are so happy to have Colton Gunder in our confirmation class now.
- * **Worship & Hospitality Team:** A meeting was held this last Thursday. Weekly communion was discussed & the need to have more altar guild members. It was decided to have a training session & develop teams of 2 or more. There is still a need for Greeters & flowers - sign up sheets are at the back of the sanctuary. Ash Wednesday, Lent & Easter are being planned. There is a sign up sheet for Lenten Suppers. Property accessibility was discussed as well as Defibrillators for the church. It was noted by a member that St. Mark's is not listed in the Church Directory of the Ogle County Life. This was directed to Lori, the church secretary, to see that we are listed. Amanda Long has volunteered to send cards to members of the congregation when needed.
- * **Global Mission:** Global Mission met Feb. 4th. They are working with the Sunday school teachers on bingo & continue to support ministry projects for Honduras, Romania & Tanzania. They will be holding a presentation at worship May 20th.
- * **Fellowship:** Working on the breakfast for Palm Sunday before service (9a.m.). They need people to sign up for the Lenten suppers.
- * **Property:** Need to be sure there is heat tape in the gutter above the northeast door to avoid ceiling damage again. Kent will ask John Engel if it was done. Terry & Cindy will be on the property committee with Ken. The parsonage is still in need of a lot of work. The door in the kitchen downstairs still also needs to be replaced.
- * **Polo Council of Churches:** The committee met January 23rd. 196 Christmas baskets were picked up/delivered. Leslie from the Brethren Church offered to hold the Good Friday Service. The mentoring program is still in place for the Jr. High students. Contact Margaret Tyne for more details. The next meeting is March 26th at 7p.m. at St. Mary's.
- * **Youth Group:** A winter party is planned for February 23rd from 6 - 8 p.m. at the church
- * **New Business:**
 - * Review of contracts for employees - Amanda motioned for approval of contracts, Merla 2nd
 - * Wage request for new treasurer - Approved with contracts previously discussed
 - * Committee for Access Committee - Sara motioned for Merla to be chairperson, Terry 2nd
- * **Old Business:**
 - * Parsonage repairs - The parsonage is still in need of a lot of work. The property committee will be working on this.


St. Mark's Annual Congregational Meeting
January 28th, 2018 11:30am

1. Call to order – President Kent Anders called the meeting to order. 59 adults present. Pastor Wilder gave the opening prayer. Bob Cassens declared a quorum.
2. Acceptance of agenda – accepted. Elections of Council members: Terry Jenkins, Amanda Long, Cindy Bauling. There were no nominations from the floor. Motion to accept names presented unanimous. Motion passed.
 - Nominations for delegates for 2018 Synod Assembly June 15-16 at Augustana College. No names were presented.
3. Secretary's report – Minutes of 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting. Merla Brooks made the motion to accept. Tracey second. Motion passed.
4. Membership Report/ Pastor's reports: Pastor said she was able to explain her reports if there were any questions. No questions – approved.
5. Financial Reports: Jeanne moved to accept financial report. Beth second. Approved.
6. Neighbors in need: much of the donations went to help many of our own congregational members. Amanda Long made a motion to accept. Linda second. Approved.
7. New Business:
 - Ballot #1 was used to decide if communion will be held every week. Merla Brooks gave an explanation for weekly communion before the vote took place. Vote was in favor of having it each week when a Pastor is presiding (29-26 approved). Pastor will speak with the Bishop to see if we are able to train a member to give communion to the congregation when Pastor is absent.
 - Ballot #2 was to decide if 2 pews should be shortened to accommodate wheel chairs. Kent Anders presented reasons and a visual of how it would look. Several ideas were discussed. A vote was taken and the plan was rejected (27-24 rejected). Many members expressed interest in forming a committee to begin working on more handicap accessibility options for our church.
 - Proposed budget for 2018 was approved.

Kent thanked everyone who attended. Motion to adjourn was seconded and meeting was adjourned.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Polo Food Pantry needs:</u> 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> Large pieces of fabric, sheets, blankets, and bed skirts.</p>
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- Thank you to Bob Cassens, Loren Wolf and Don Nelson for plowing the church.
- Thank you to the Sunday school teachers for putting on another family fun day with Taco Bar and Bingo with proceeds going to our Sunday School and Global Missions.
- Thank you Confirmation students for helping during Lenten services.
- Thank you to the St. Mark's mystery person for the gift to the church secretary Lori.
- Thank you to everyone who has been donating food for our Lenten suppers.

	<p>Sympathies to the family of Gene Hoak who died in Christ February 13th.</p>
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Prayer Needs

For those in care facilities: Ron Greenawalt, 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.

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 2 Ashley Houck
- 3 Cheryl Garkey
Nathan Groth
- 4 Cassie Mekeel
- 5 Matt Rienstra
- 6 Brian Suits
- 7 Laura Lopez
- 8 Brittney Long
Ron Shuman
- 10 Beth Wiegmann
Jenny Baker
- 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
- 24 Marilyn Nelson
Shannon Gipe
- 26 Willard Meyer
Becky Patterson
- 29 Dawn Mitchell
James Grobe
- 31 Ashley Boothe

Anniversaries

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



*Happy 90th Birthday to
Beulah Nelson on March 19th.*

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®

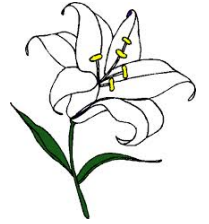
Save your pop tabs!

Aluminum Cans

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

EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

The church sanctuary will be decorated with Easter lilies again this year. If you would like to purchase a lily, **please return this form by March 11th**.



The cost of a lily is \$13.00. Please attach your check **payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church** to this form and put them in the offering plate or in the secretary's mailbox.

GIVEN BY: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

OR

IN HONOR OF: _____

(Name of living person(s) or special occasion)

Are you ordering through the church: YES / NO

If you are bringing a lily but you are not ordering it through the church, please fill out this form if you would like your information in the bulletin.

ELCA presiding bishop responds to Florida high school shooting

Feb. 16, 2018

A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled because they are no more (Matthew 2:18).

As we live into these first days and weeks of Lent, we do so riveted by the news of another tragic mass shooting, this time at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., on Ash Wednesday. My heart, like yours, is filled with anguish; my spirit, like yours, laments. Rachel weeps for her children, refusing to be consoled because they are no more, and so do we.

We pray for the inconsolable loved ones and for the shooter and his family, for those terrorized by what took place and those who are unmoved. We acknowledge our own failings and ask God to guide us in finding new ways to turn the tide together on both the availability of assault weapons *and* the lack of mental health care.

But we know that those things alone won't solve this epidemic. All of us, including the church, must take a close look at ourselves. How are we cultivating a culture of violence, hatred, anger and fear, and how can we participate in building a counter-culture where people can experience God's intended peace and life abundant for all?

Lent is a time for lamentation, dwelling with our sorrow, and facing the painful reality of death. We take each step certain that God weeps with us, walks with us in our deepest sufferings, and in the end makes the ultimate sacrifice for us – through death on a cross. This is our strength for the journey.

A prayer offered by Bishop Pedro Suárez, Florida-Bahamas Synod:

Dear loving God,

There are so many things we don't understand about our world. We might not know how the families and friends of the victims of today's shooting are feeling. But we do care. May they feel your presence in spirit through those that are accompanying them right now.

Help us to be mindful of the pain around us and to do something about it. We pray this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

God's peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America