



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church



Standing Firm

In Rockford, Illinois

Withstand in the evil day, and having done all... stand firm. - St. Paul

My friends,

It's not Fall yet. But it's getting close!

And what a Fall it will be.

Last year at this time most of your energies were committed to finding a new pastor. As I filled the pulpit on and off for you, I honestly don't know what else was going on behind the scenes, nor do I know how exciting your autumn congregational plans were on any regular basis. But I know this: we have a very exciting series ahead of us now.

Everything kicks off with one last, major summertime fling, as next week we host our first, annual "We Shall" Rally.

Holding a rally day event isn't anything new for most congregations. But I've often wondered why we used the word "rally." For some reason it always made me think of holding a raffle and selling baked goods. Goodness knows why.... But this spring I finally decided I should look the word up.

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Announcements

Next Sunday, August 26th, is "We Shall Rally" day. There will be one service at 10:30am at the Northwest Site. Family Bible Study will be at 9:00am. The picnic will follow the service. Bring your lawn chair(s). Everything else will be provided. Entertainment for the whole family!

Did You Know?

“We Shall Rally” day is coming soon. We need help. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex at both sites. Take a look and sign up. For further questions talk to Dawn Stock (dcharstock@outlook.com) or Lowes Eggert (roloegg2@yahoo.com)

In Case You Missed It

The Church Office will be closed from August 10th until August 21st. If you have any announcements for the bulletin, please see Pastor Fisk before services. Sue will be back in the office on August 22nd. Thanks for your understanding!

Pastor Cipyrs will be on vacation from August 20 – September 2. If you have an emergency, please contact the church office, 815-963-5435.

Save the Dates:

August 26th - Rally Day, Special outdoor service at Northwest Site (10:30) with a picnic to follow. Check out the signs in the narthex for more information!

August 29th – Confirmation Meeting – 6:00pm – Northwest Site

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Lo, and behold, it's a **military** word. Whether used as a noun or a verb, a "rally" is what happens when a group of troops is facing defeat but **is not defeated yet**. Rather than keep doing the same thing over and over again (which obviously isn't working,) they retreat to a marked location and "rally." That is, they **intentionally lose ground**, but only so that they can **regroup, turn back, and attack** again.

What a great word! What a great concept for St. Paul at such a time as this! With everything we are facing, as we draw a line in the sand to put St. Paul back on firm financial ground, as we commit to standing firm in Rockford another 130 years, now is the time to **rally**.

Things might have been flailing in the past. The culture might be decaying and struggling all around us. Much might not be what it used to be. But that will not stop us from getting set on our feet, girding our loins, hoisting the Sword of the Spirit, and regrouping for the fight with gusto, no matter what else this dark and evil age might have in store for us.

You got it. **We Shall Rally**.

To celebrate this insistence that our Lord's Words and Sacraments are powerful to transform hearts, minds and lives, on August 26th we will have a single, special Divine Service at 10:30 am. It will be on the front lawn of the northwest site, with a free meal and entertainment for young and old to follow.

You absolutely **must** join us. We've invited many members and non-members by mail. It would be a shame if they all showed up and you weren't there to rejoice with them. Don't for a moment let worries about accessibility keep you away. Many good friends of yours have been hard at work making plans to ensure that everyone will be cared for according to their needs.

To top it all off, we will also be having a fall kick off for Family Bible study, preceding the service at 9am in the northwest parish hall. If you've still not come to check out why bible study is the latest, hot thing at St. Paul, I'm not sure what you're waiting for. We Shall Rally day is your chance. Join us!

St. Paul is not done, because Jesus the Christ is not done with **you**. He has plans for you, to hold you and your children tight, to redeem you and to sanctify you. We shall not be overcome, but **We Shall Rally**.

I look forward to seeing you there, Pastor Fisk

Calendar

Last Sunday

Attendance August 12, 2018: /=

Attendance August 13, 2017: 64/75=139

Attendance Summer Family Sunday School:

Sunday, August 19th Serving: Elders: Aaron Temple, Scott Sautel,

Organist: Dorothy Beck, Ushers: Group 3 & D;

8:00am – Worship/Communion (Central Site)

9:30am - Family Sunday School (Northwest Site)

10:30am – Worship (Northwest Site)

Tuesday, August 21st

9:00am - Piecemakers (Northwest Site)

Wednesday, August 22nd

7:00am – 8:15am – Men’s Prayer (Spring Garden-Loves Park)

6:30pm – Church Council (Northwest Site)

Thursday, August 23rd

11:00am – Knitting Etc. (Northwest Site)

Sunday, August 26th Serving: Elders: Aaron Temple, Scott Sautel,

Organist: Bonnie Dickinson, Ushers: Group D (NW Only)

Scripture Readings: Joshua 24: 1,2, 14-18, Ephesians 5: 6-21, John 6:51-69

8:00am – NO SERVICE (Central Site)

9:00am - Family Sunday School (Northwest Site)

10:30am – Outdoor Worship (Northwest Site)

11:30pm – “We Shall Rally” Picnic (Northwest Site)

Save the Dates: August 26, 10:30am - Rally Day/Picnic -NW

August 29 – Confirmation Meeting, 6:00pm –NW

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

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StPaulRockford.org

Pastor Jonathan Fisk 630-768-2797 RevFisk@gmail.com

(Email if you need me this week. Text if you need me today.)

Pastor Frank Ciprys 815-962-6814

Sue Wilkinson - 815-979-3952

Prayer for the Day 815-963-7641 *(press 3 when call is answered)*