



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,

Confirmation.

What's it for?

In my experience as a pastor, nobody really knows. We have a hunch that it has something to do with first communion. But more often than not, "the way we've always done things" is the real impetus for putting ourselves through its motions every year.

It's always been a little stunning to me that we have so much respect and commitment to something which is not mentioned anywhere in the Bible. When I bring up the fact that the early Reformation actually *did away* with Confirmation, only to have it magically reappear during the age of *Pietism* some two hundred years later, I am usually met with blank and wordless stares. There doesn't seem to be a category in our minds for that fact.

"But we have to have confirmation."

Announcements

Thank you to all who volunteered to make "We Shall Rally," a successful day! Even though it was a bit hot, we had great attendance! We had 35 visitors with us also! Thanks again for all who made this day happen!

Liturgy Sunday's will take place on September 9th at Northwest Site and September 16th at Central Site. These will be services on learning why our Liturgy is what it is.

SPYS Frisbee Golf will be held September 22nd at Anna Paige Park at 1:00pm. Parent help is needed. Please contact Mike Rolando, Katie Lopez or Jennifer Beck. Please meet at the park.

You are invited to the installation of Pastor Kevin Olson at Redeemer Lutheran church on Sunday, September 9th at 3:00pm. Refreshments served after the service.

In Case You Missed It

Mid-Week Bible Class – (Formerly Monday Morning Bible Class) will begin, Wednesday, September 5th at 9:00am in the undercroft with treats and fellowship. The first class will begin with a business meeting and Pastor Fisk will begin teaching at 9:20. Class is over at 10:20. Questions? Call Shirley Ahrens at 815-637-3110.

Wednesday Morning Prayer Service will follow the Mid-Week Bible Study in the Sanctuary at Central Site beginning September 5th at 10:30am.

Ladies of St. Paul - You are invited to the Ladies Guild Potluck on Wednesday, September 5th at 12:00pm at the Northwest Site. Guild members are asked to bring a dish-to-pass. Table service, Beverage, and Dessert is provided. At the meeting following the lunch the Programs, Activities, the Handbook and Budget for 2018-2019 will be presented. Membership dues of \$20 and MITES saved since June will be collected.

Save the Dates:

September 15th – Liturgical Training – 9:00am NW

September 15th – Set Apart Stewardship Team Lead Meeting
10:00am-NW

Standing Firm (*continued from p. 1*)

Why? It might be in the constitution, and it is certainly in the hymnal, but to what end? And what is its *means*? How do we do it? What does it achieve?

These are the questions I've wrestled with for many years as I face another sad and deplorable fact: for a minimum 50% of families (often more than that), Confirmation is *graduation from Church*. It has happened more than once to me that the first time I commune a young man or woman is also the last time I commune them.

It has been said by Albert Einstein, wisely, that "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, but expecting different results."

To me, this is doubly true when referring to something that is 1. mentioned nowhere in Scripture and 2. has no actual, agreed-upon meaning.

What is Confirmation? What does it do? What is it for?

This week our new catechumenate (class of confirmation aspirants) met for the first time. I am personally very excited about what we will be doing together. But it goes hand in hand with a broader view of overall congregational *discipleship*. The mission of the Church which Jesus has included us all within is that life of becoming disciples, of being hearers of the Word who guard, keep, cherish and *speak* it.

Next week, I will share more with you about what I believe this means, and how Confirmation, rightly understood, is an integral part of the baptized life, which does not belong to any one of us, but is the bringing of all of us together into this Faith we call "the body of Christ".

Until next time, Pastor Fisk

"Withstand in the evil day, and having done all... stand firm." - St. Paul, Ephesians 6:13

Calendar

Last Sunday

Attendance August 26, 2018: 174 = 174

Attendance August 27, 2017: 50/130= 180

Attendance Summer Family Sunday School: 54

Sunday, September 2nd Serving: Elders: Mike Woolery, Jon Schuknecht, Organist: Dorothy Beck, Ushers: Group 4, Group B

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

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

10:30am –Worship (Northwest Site)

Monday, September 3rd

OFFICE CLOSED – Labor Day

Tuesday, September 4th

9:00am - Piecemakers (Northwest Site)

Wednesday, September 5th

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

9:00am – Mid-Week Bible Study (Undercroft)

10:30am – Mid-Week Worship (Central Site)

12:00pm – Ladies Guild Potluck/Meeting (Northwest Site)

6:30pm – Board of Education (Northwest Site)

6:00pm – Confirmation (Northwest Site)

Thursday, September 6th

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

Sunday, September 9th Serving: Elders: Mike Woolery, Jon Schuknecht, Organist: Dorothy Beck, Ushers: Group 1 & C

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 35:4-7, James 2:1-10, 14-18, Mark 7: 24-37

8:00am – Worship (Central Site)

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

10:30am –Worship/Communion - Liturgy Sunday (Northwest Site)

Save the Dates:

September 15 – Liturgical Training – 9:00am - NW

Set Apart Stewardship Team Lead Meeting 10:00am-NW

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

600 N. Horsman St. 4881 Kilburn Ave.

Ch: (815) 963-5435 Sch: (815) 965-3335

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)*