



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Messenger

625 W. Gibson Road, Woodland, CA * Phone 662-1935 * July 2017

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear St. Paul's,

Wow what a blessing! Vacation Bible School had 35 kids come and many volunteers. Many people donated supplies, prayed, encouraged, and helped with donations. Jill my wife, and our Director of Christian Education (DCE) worked so hard and put together an amazing week. My first thought is to tell you the best part of VBS. What was the best part of VBS depends on who you are and how you were involved.

After being involved in VBS for so many years I have come to the conclusion that VBS may be one of the most important things we do all year. I recall being asked many years ago by another church council board, "Is VBS worth it?" Is it worth weeks of time in preparation, the amount of budget money for a program that serves only a few kids? I recall being stunned at the question. I sat quietly for a moment. They chimed in quickly over the awkward silence, letting me know that they did not want to offend me, but they wanted me to consider the question.

That is why I was silent. I was gathering in my thoughts, "What is VBS?!" My answer was this. "No, if VBS is just a program for a few, we are not getting our money's worth." VBS is not just for the kids, I need to always remember it isn't even a program. It is a time to interact with people, kids to grandparent age. It is an opportunity. It is new relationships. It is deepening the relationships with those around us. It is all of us practicing sharing our faith. We have seen people here at St. Paul's say "I don't know how" one year and asking about when they can get involved the next year. It is getting to meet parents, friends, and family.

Being Christian on a Sunday morning is easy. Being a Christian for a week of VBS, working together to share the Gospel as we do many different activities, share food and play games is a unique experience. VBS may be one of the best ways for us to practice living our faith. Don't miss that point, practice living our faith. VBS is how we practice being what GOD has called us to be. To share our faith, and love one another. The program is not just for the kids. It is all of us, for a week interacting together as Christian people. Christian people need to practice what they do. VBS is a week-long training course of Christians faith. Along with being part of an education program for children, we all were blessed by what the Holy Spirit has done through us all.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor David Hardin