



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Messenger

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

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear St. Paul's,

Ahh November, the big holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas are right around the corner. I am excited and a little anxious, I want to get the most out of these moments. I want to have a great holiday celebration, enjoy my time with friends and family. I want to enjoy the seasonal music and contemplative reflection of faith and sharing of the Hope I have in Christ Jesus.

Excited, is the first thought, anxious is the second. I know scripture says to *Cast your cares on the Lord because he cares for you.* (1Pt5:7) My struggle is this: so often in my desire to get the most out of the moment, I look to see how I feel about a situation or try to control what will happen next and when it does not go my way I find myself disappointed.

The word that comes to mind is Hope. Hope for what is to come or a Hope in the Lord. Scripture tells us, *But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have?*(Rm8:24) Hope is this: A joy and an excitement for what the Lord has done and will do. Hebrews 11:1 tells us: *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.* Hope is the joy and anticipation of the Lord proving to us that he is faithful to all he has promised.

This understanding changes things. This understanding means I am not the one in charge of the things of life. Through the Holy Spirit comes a trusting faith and creates this Hope! The key to Hope is letting go of our own control and need to manage life and trust that God is who he said he would be. Trusting that he will be faithful to us.

This season have Hope. A Hope that trusts the Lord who says to us: *The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.* (1Thess 5:24)

Blessings in Christ Jesus,

Pastor David Hardin