



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Messenger

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

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear St. Paul's,

Last March we had a special meeting on a Saturday to gather input and look at the future of St. Paul's Church. Along with that discussion, we were attempting to put together a mission statement at that time. After many months we have come up with two mission statements and on Oct 8th we will be collecting these votes for one of the two nominations for our new mission statement.

Why does this matter? Being church is not just having services on Sunday. I have been part of other churches and the mission statement is there to focus and direct why and how the church uses resources and how the church fulfills the great commission Jesus gave to us Christians. What is St. Paul's Church about? Our two statements are very similar. The choice you are asked to pray and think about is this; is our focus *service* or is our focus *reaching the lost*? How will we go about this ministry in the future?

Serve the Lord: Is St. Paul's going to organize itself around the service of others and this community we are in? More service in foodbanks and finding ways to serve others with our resources of time, facilities, and the desire of the people to connect with others through the act of service.

Reaching the Lost: Is St. Paul's going to look for ways to connect with people who have not heard the Word of God? Our focus would be our preschool and training in ways to share Christ with friends and families that we come into contact with in our daily lives. This would be more of a focus on home groups meetings and sharing faith.

Either statement is good and God pleasing. Adopting one statement does not mean we will abandon the ideas of the other. The question is where do we focus as a church? What will St. Paul's focus our ministry on? How would you like to see this statement completed? "St. Paul's is the church that _____." Pray about this. Think about what the future holds? How do we continue into the future and thrive and grow as a church?

Scripture is clear with instruction and direction from the Lord. It even tells us Proverbs 29:18a *Where there is no vision, the people perish.* KJV. God uniquely places each community of believers in this world, to be the church, like a lighthouse to those lost at sea. Pray that we are able to focus our efforts to be what the Lord has uniquely called us to be to this world.

Blessings in Christ Jesus,
Pastor David Hardin