



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Messenger

625 W. Gibson Road, Woodland, CA * Phone 662-1935 * February 2018

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Saints of St. Pauls,

Many of you may send Christmas cards. I have this grand idea. Why not send Valentine's Day cards? Many people don't get cards or anything on Valentine's Day. Think how nice it would be to get a card that said how much you are loved and cared for! At my children's school the younger classes even make special boxes so that the kids can receive Valentines, gifts and cards from classmates. Most of the students sign cards and give gifts of candy, it ends up being a pretty big ordeal.

I like this practice in the school. It is cute and the kids have fun with it, and I enjoy my kids sharing candy with me. The thought I have is this, *what is better, giving or receiving?* I would have to say it depends on where the heart is at.

Jesus Christ tells his disciples at the last supper, *John 13:34&35 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*

God's command is to love, but this love is a love that is given to us first. A love that has forgiven sin. God's love did not wait for us to be good or perfect first, it did not come with conditions before it took its affect. Romans 5:6-8 teaches us this: *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

God's love is amazing! Ponder the thought that God loved us first. When I consider what He has done, The peace he brings, the confidence I have in knowing he has all things under his control, it gives my heart a great desire to share. To share this joy and love that has been given to me.

So here is my Valentine's Day card for you! You are loved! You are cared for and I want you to know, God loved you first.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor David Hardin