



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Messenger

“PROCLAIM CHRIST, MAKE DISCIPLES, SERVE THE LORD”

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

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear St. Paul's,

We have had a few exceptionally nice days in the weather lately. The beautiful new growth of trees and flowers, white billowy clouds. It sort of caught me off guard. A situation where I am bumbling through my day and all of the sudden I am awe struck at the beauty.

I share this because it is the same thing I experience with faith. Some days or weeks I am bumbling along and I get a glimpse of God's grace. I see it in a persons new found hope. I see it in a preschooler who has an unconfined joy during chapel while they sing songs of love for Jesus. I have confidence and a joy in the Lord, but as I see this joy even more in others, as I see God's grace bring hope. This invigorates hope, and renews my faith once again.

Renewed joy and hope in the grace and blessings of the Lord is most often brought to me through others. I need you. I need other Christians around me to help refresh my faith. This too is part of God's plan for us.

Scripture tells us:

1 Thes 5:11 .. *encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*

Heb 10:23-25 *Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Someone may be able to get by without meeting with fellow Christians, but faith is freshest when we meet and share with others. Like the smell of fresh baked bread or the BBQ cooking, it fills you with hope and anticipation.

I want to encourage you, have hope, and be encouraged. Share your joy in the Lord and come worship so that you can be filled and refreshed with the many blessings the Lord has prepared for you!

In the Joy of Christ,

Pastor David Hardin