



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Messenger

“PROCLAIM CHRIST, MAKE DISCIPLES, SERVE THE LORD”

625 W. Gibson Road, Woodland, CA * Phone (530)662-1935 * May 2023

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Saints at St Paul's,

You don't know how precious it is until you are not able to be part of it on a regular basis. What am I speaking of? I am talking about those who say how much they miss partaking in the Lord's Supper. What is the point of the Lord's Supper? To be united with, connected with, and be one with our Lord Jesus, and with the body of Christ, the church. Communion is the thing people tell me that is so missed, it is like being home when they receive Communion.

Holy Communion in the early church was part of the meal at a person's home. I think back to some of the great family meals I have shared over the years. Sitting at a long table, filled with cousins, aunts, and uncles. The great joy of seeing family you have not seen in a while. The shared stories and moments over great food as the family celebrates an occasion.

Jesus met with his disciples in an upper room to celebrate a special occasion of remembering the faithfulness of God to his people in the Seder Meal. Then at a point in the meal Matthew tells us:

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." (Matthew 26:26-29)

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper so that we too may be part of something with Him. We are not just remembering Christ, but are partaking in Christ's real presence in, with, and under the bread and wine. We are receiving Christ himself! It is just like a great family meal. It reminds you of how you are connect to the larger family, the unity of the Church. You are taking part in the blessing, and that blessing reminds us.. *For if we have been united with him in a death like His, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like His. Rom 6:5.* We are connected to Christ because that's what Christ wanted with his people!

Blessings in Christ Jesus,

Pastor David Hardin

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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