



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Messenger

“PROCLAIM CHRIST, MAKE DISCIPLES, SERVE THE LORD”

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

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Saints at St Paul's,

I want to take this opportunity to remind you that the Lord is faithful to his people!

When you don't feel the Lord is near, HE IS! You are his dearly loved people. Faith is not just a measure of the amount of faith you have, but a promise from our loving savior that he will NEVER leave you nor forsake you... ever! In fact, faith is seldom quantified in the people. The example of faith that scripture does ask for is the faith as big as a mustard seed. A faith so tiny it can move mountains. The point is that it is not the measure of your faith, but that GOD is eternally faithful and provides because it is He that is faithful to us!

So where did this proclamation of the Good news of Jesus come from? Lately I have been talking with people struggling with loneliness and questioning of Jesus' presence. People struggling with understanding why God is allowing such difficult things to happen. My thought is that temptation takes many forms. Temptation is not just the tempt to sin, but it can take other forms as well. It can come in the form of doubt, fear, or questioning your own faith. It is tempting to have doubt and feel like you are losing faith when you don't feel the Lord near. Your own feeling cannot be trusted when struggling with temptation.

The Lord loves us too much to leave your salvation on the shifting sand of how you feel about it. Jesus tells us, *“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* Mt 28:20.

Paul sums it up in 1 Peter 5:7-9

7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.(NIV)

Resist the devil, and pray ... *lead me not into tentation, but deliver me from evil..*(the Lord's Prayer)
Remember who you are, a dearly loved child of GOD!

Praise be to Christ Jesus,

Pastor David Hardin

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

**625 W. GIBSON ROAD
WOODLAND, CA 95695**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL