



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Messenger

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

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Saints of St. Pauls,

Last Monday I was at Starbucks with the people who I meet with to look at the readings for the next Sunday. The idea of looking back with regret came up. This idea of looking back can often stop us from moving forward. One can spend so much time living in the past that the life before us does not get our full attention.

Think about the words of the Confessions, *If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Our role is to confess sins to God. Worries and regrets and reliving those mistakes of ours or of others leaves us living life going forward but more focused on the rear view mirror. God brings to us faithfulness and does what is just, and he cleanses us. It does not say hang on to the past, reliving it over and over again.

The Advent season is here. Christmas is coming. I ask that you look forward, and that you have Hope, find Peace, and feel great Joy. Confession of sins, forgiveness and forgiving others can move you a long way towards Hope, Peace and Joy. I would even point out that the only real way to feel or experience any of that is through Jesus.

In John 10 Jesus describing himself as the good Shepherd . He tells us, *I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.* He also gives this comforting word. *I know my sheep and my sheep know me.* Through the Holiday season as you seek Hope, Peace and Joy God knows your needs because he know you. And he has come that you may have life to the fullest!

Have a very joyful merry Christmas!

Pastor David Hardin