



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

## Messenger

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

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### *PASTOR'S MESSAGE*

Dear St. Paul's,

Summer is here. What an exciting time, with the changes in the weather we see visitors and many of you get out of town to see family or vacation. When you find yourself visiting or you happen to be at another church at some time, ask yourself, "what do I like about this place?" What do you enjoy about this church? Do you enjoy the people, the music, the message, what is it that would bring you back? I ask this because as we look to the future of St. Paul's all these things you enjoy will be looked at and considered. How can we do what we do in a way that encourages our faith and creates an inviting atmosphere for people that come through our doors?

What does it mean to belong, or to consider that a place belongs to you? At what point did you start calling St. Paul's "my Church?" I have my coffee shop, my hardware store, my grocery store, and it is not just the product they have and the location that bring me back. It is the service, the convenience or they have the more unique things that I am looking for. Even more importantly, what we do is share the Gospel of the good news of Jesus Christ!

This is why we move coffee outside, or wear name tags, try to provide ways of service and try new things. We hope to create an atmosphere where we can get to know each other better. We hope to have a place where unbelievers become dedicated believers to Christ. I would love to think that it was all about the Word and my great preaching, but it is only part of what is church. Church is the people. You are the church. We together make up what is the church experience. And this is Christ's plan for us as well. He calls us together like in Prov 27:17 *Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.*

We need each other. We come together for worshipping the Lord, but we need each other to encourage and to be encouraged. Matthew 18:20 tells us, *For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.* I ask you to consider how important you are to St. Paul's. What you do, and the relationships you have matter! Having that shared faith in Christ builds up each of us.

Encourage and be encouraged in your faith!

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor David Hardin