



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Messenger

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

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear St. Paul's,

I often joke that the church is trying to save the world by the use of a committee. As much as I feel that is an oxymoron to some extent, it is what we are trying to do. God calls us to relationships. God calls us to work together, and even the early church struggled with direction and sticking to it faithfully. The Apostle Paul wrote the New Testament letters to churches and people with directions on how to carry out ministry and act as Christian people. He would correct and clarify their theology as they learned to apply the Gospel of Christ to their lives.

So where is St. Paul's Lutheran Church going and how are we going to get there? I have recently asked many people "where do you see St Paul's in the next 5,10, and 15 years? Several people have said to me, "Well I won't be here!" As much as it grieves me to hear that response, it makes the question just as, if not more, important to figure out. What are we doing for our children, grandchildren, friends and families? The saying goes "If you fail to plan, plan to fail". What are we doing to continue to reach people with the Gospel message of Jesus? What plans do we have?

We have a building and people as our resources. We have a location next to a hospital. We have a preschool where 30+ families come through our doors all week long. What can we do with that? We have a community with needs: needs of service and the need to hear the good news of Jesus. Many new start up churches spend years trying to be where we are today! We are truly blessed as a community with many assets to our credit. So what do we do?

First step is we pray, and please pray now and often as we go forward. God has a purpose for us here. What do we need to do, where should we put our efforts, how do we use the resources God has blessed us with. Matthew 19:26 tells us, ***Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."***

On Saturday March 18th we will begin this process as a group, as we discuss the Mission and Vision of our church. We will look at the future direction of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. We will look at our values as a church and then talk about what it is we are going to do, and we will pray.

I could as a pastor just tell all of you to do this and do that... but that does not work. I am your pastor, I offer leadership and guidance. This moment matters. Coming together, eating food together and praying matters. Working together as the body of Christ matters. You are part of this! Please come join us. please talk among yourselves about our future. Ask the lord to guide us.

Blessing in Christ,
Pastor David Hardin