



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Messenger

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

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear St. Paul's,

Traditionally we follow a three year rotation of Bible readings for our Church Lectionary. During April and May the Old Testament reading is replaced with readings from the book of Acts. After Easter and leading up to Pentecost we have these Acts readings about the early start and teaching struggles of the apostles.

Reading Acts is kind of exciting. The death and resurrection of Jesus has changed everything for the Church. Acts is an action packed account of the early start of the Christian church. The central theme of Acts is not to be a model of how to run the church or to document the early ministry, but to create people of faith in Christ Jesus. We must be justified by faith alone. Being Christian is not the act of following rules perfectly or doing good deeds, it is believing in Jesus as Lord and savior. That faith in Christ changes how we see and do things.

Acts 4: 11-12. *"11 Jesus is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.' 12Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."*

We have this good news message! Christ has come and he takes our sins away. What remains is that we are no longer a slave to this world.

Gal 3:26 *So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, 27for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

My identity, my pride, what I do to make myself feel important or good is no longer motivated by my selfish will. What I do, how I act, or react to something is based on who Christ has made me to be. The Book of Acts is a story of living this different life Christ has called us to. My purpose in life and my motives are based on what Christ has done for me by giving me faith and life in Christ.

Acts is a book of faith, where examples and instances are given so that we may learn how this life in Christ really does work. Enjoy these lessons this month, as the writers of the Bible show us how faith is lived and acted because of our faith in Christ!

Blessings,
Pastor David Hardin