



"Hear you the word of the Lord"

Jeremiah 21:11

Goethe spoke words of truth, when he said, "*we are shaped and fashioned by what we love.*" If we love unhealthy food it will shape our lives. If we love sports, our lives will be shaped around it. If we love shopping, our closets will be full. If we love people, our actions will show it. Whatever we love there will be our attention, our time, and our resources.

Jesus taught the church to, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind." He also taught us, "to seek first the kingdom of God and everything else will be added unto you." Here Jesus was saying and instructing all believers to allow God's Word and faith to shape and fashion our lives.

On September 13th St. Peter's has started another year of worship and Bible study for all ages. I would like to challenge everyone to take the time to become part of worship and study throughout the year. This coming year I would encourage and challenge everyone to be in worship regularly, attend a bible study, and find a way to volunteer by serving here at St. Peter's.

"Preach, Teach, and Reach" will be our ongoing theme as a way for each of us to grow in our faith toward God and in our love for one another. As we walk together this year as one body, I pray that we are shaped and fashioned by the thing that we love the most, the Word of God. Below is a brief summary of our theme for the upcoming year. Remember this is a progression of spiritual growth in each of us. Each of us will progress in our faith as God's word and Sacraments shape and fashion our lives differently. The key is that we are growing in faith always focused on Christ.

Preach. The first step is to be in person worship each week with other members of St Peter's. Here we learn of God's love for us through the reading of Scripture, singing of songs and hymns, hearing God's Word, and receive the Lord's Supper. This step is the foundation of the Christians life built upon God's works upon the cross. This the first step in our faithful living.

Teach. As we hear the Word of God preached in the worship service, the Holy Spirit encourages us to go deeper into that faith relationship with Him. This is done by studying God's word and learning the teachings (Doctrine) of the Christian church. This is done through personal study at home and on Sunday gathered with other believers in a bible study.

Reach. What does this mean? Having heard God's word preached and taught throughout the week, the Holy Spirit then encourages us to reach out in good works. This is done by to serving in many and various way at home, in the church and in the community. In faith we reach out in loving and caring ways to our neighbors helping our spouse, our children, our coworkers, and our community members by sharing God's love with them.

We are shaped and fashioned by the things we love. I pray that the greatest love you have is Jesus Christ. May the Lord bless St. Peter's focus this year as we come to understand what it means to be about of Preaching, Teaching, and Reaching the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Adams