



THE BANNER

October 2021

Walking In Our Faith

"Be very careful then how you live-not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil." Ephesians 5:15-16 NIV

Some people know that I like to run, though I do not run like I once did. Most runners I know do not like to be called joggers. When someone says, "I saw you jogging," that tells them that they don't look as fast they think they are. Somewhere back in time someone told me, "I saw you running yesterday." I replied, "Thanks for the compliment." I was really jogging.

While a good many of you may not run (or jog) for exercise, life can be like running from one activity to another with no time to rest or enjoy the gifts that God has given you, like family, friends, and work. The Bible in many places describes our relationship to God as a walk. In fact you have to go to the King James Version to pick up the walking image in Ephesians 5:15. It says to "Walk circumspectly." "Circumspectly." That's an old word urging us to be aware of what is happening above, in front, behind, and beside you. Why? St. Paul tells us, "for the days are evil." The Biblical writers love the image of walking for expressing what we would call the Christian lifestyle. So we have an exhortation to slow down. Don't go racing through life. Rushing leads to mistakes. Racing through life means we might miss something important. When we are walking with the Lord we begin to experience many of the benefits of slowing down of enjoying the Lord's presence.

One time with a group young people we came up with a few of these benefits. Walking can be done at a more leisurely pace. You can see more when you walk. You can meet others along the way when you walk, and they are more likely able to keep up with you. You have more time to reflect when you walk. You experience the place where you live in a more fuller way. And finally, walking slows you down to God's pace so you can see and hear where God desires you to go.

Our Christian faith is a "walking journey." It is a way of life that seeks godly wisdom and God's will for your life. It is a walk being aware of Christ's presence in our lives. More times than I would like to admit, I will sit down and rush through a Bible reading during my devotional

time. Talking about rushing! By rushing I am more likely going to miss something God is trying to tell me. Often, I have to remind myself to slow down and savor the words of scripture like dining on a fine meal. Savoring God's Word allows the Word to shape and form my life.

Walking involves God's will for your life. It is not always easy to understand God's will for your life. We don't always hear God's voice clearly. Discovering God's will requires patience and slowing down to listen.

In this light the walking image slows you down to God's pace. Rushing to a hasty decision can lead to a poor or wrong decision. Several years ago someone called facing a major decision about his job. Would it be wise to stay where he is or to pursue other possibilities? He laid out the pros and cons for each situation. Then I asked, "Have you slowed down to include God in this decision? Have you taken this to God in Prayer?" Through prayer one begins to understand where God is leading you.

Along with prayer we have our church members or better yet, other disciples of Jesus who are walking in the faith with you. I did not wake up one fine morning and decide I was going to be a pastor. For two or three years I prayed about this, shared with people of the congregation and other pastors about this decision to study for the public ministry. Did I have the gifts? Could I do it? During Seminary I met regularly with a group of people from my home synod who guided, encouraged, challenged, and affirmed along the way. All these people were walking with me on this faith journey. Living our faith means that we walk together in conversation, and prayer.

Lastly, we need refreshment each week. We need to gather for worship to be nourished by the Holy Scriptures. Later in Ephesians chapter 5 we hear Paul telling us that as we are on this walk of faith to join with others to sing spiritual songs, psalms and give thanks to God. We have a wonderful God. He has given us His Son Jesus to die for us so that we can have eternal life. So we can begin our walk of faith beginning now.

Look carefully how you walk. Grow in the wisdom of the Lord as you seek His will. As you walk with God, He nourishes our lives with His Spirit. On this walk of faith, as we round each corner Jesus our Savior is calling you onward.

Pastor David Klappenbach

Bible Reading Plan for the Disciples of Bethany

...standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel... Philippians 1:27b

Friday, October 1	2 Kings 1:2-17 1 Corinthians 3:16-23
Saturday, October 2	2 Kings 2:1-18 1 Corinthians 4:1-7
Sunday, October 3	2 Kings 4:8-37 Luke 3:7-18
Monday, October 4	2 Kings 5:1-19 1 Corinthians 4:8-21
Tuesday, October 5	2 Kings 5:19-27 1 Corinthians 5:1-8
Wednesday, October 6	2 Kings 6:1-23 1 Corinthians 9:9-6:11
Thursday, October 7	2 Kings 9:1-16 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Friday, October 8	2 Kings 9:17-37 1 Corinthians 7:1-9
Saturday, October 9	2 Kings 11:1-20a 1 Corinthians 7:10-24
Sunday, October 10	2 Kings 17:1-18 Luke 5:1-11
Monday, October 11	2 Kings 17:24-41 1 Corinthians 7:25-31
Tuesday, October 12	2 Kings 29:1-3; 30:1-27 1 Corinthians 7:32-40
Wednesday, October 13	2 Kings 18:9-25 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Thursday, October 14	2 Kings 18:28-37 1 Corinthians 9:1-15
Friday, October 15	2 Kings 19:1-20 1 Corinthians 9:16-27

Saturday, October 16	2 Kings 19:21-36 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Sunday, October 17	2 Kings 20:1-21 Luke 7:11-17
Monday, October 18	Isaiah 43:8-13 2 Timothy 4:5-13
Tuesday, October 19	2 Kings 21:1-18; 22:1-13 1 Corinthians 10:14-11:22
Wednesday, October 20	2 Kings 22:14-23:3 1 Corinthians 11:23-24
Thursday, October 21	2 Kings 23:4-25 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Friday, October 22	2 Kings 5:1-19 1 Corinthians 4:8-21
Saturday, October 23	2 Kings 23:36-24:17 12:12-13:3
Sunday, October 24	Jeremiah 35:1-19; 36:1-10 Luke 7:36-50
Monday, October 25	Jeremiah 36:11-26 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Tuesday, October 26	Jeremiah 36:27-37:2 1 Corinthians 14:1-12
Wednesday, October 27	Jeremiah 37:3-21 1 Corinthians 14:13-25
Thursday, October 28	Deuteronomy 32:1-4 Ephesians 2:13-22
Friday, October 29	Jeremiah 38:1-28 1 Corinthians 14:26-15:11
Saturday, October 30	Jeremiah 52:1-34 1 Corinthians 15:12-29
Sunday, October 31	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14 Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

Mentors Needed!

Help set a positive example for a Sioux Central Middle Schooler by providing support, friendship, and encouragement for the 2021-2022 School Year through our new Rebels Mentoring Program!

For more information please contact,

Sara Grossnickle

sgrossnickle@siouxcentral.org

office phone: 712-283-2571 ext. 5450

Request to Provide Altar Flowers for 2021



If you wish to provide altar flowers for church during 2021, please complete this form. Please place it the offering plate or mail it to: Shirley McKiernan, 313 2nd St., Laurens, IA 50554 *Thank you.*

Name of person providing flowers: _____

Date desired: _____

Do you want to provide flowers on this same date from year to year? yes no

Information needed for Sunday bulletin:

Altar Flowers in Loving Memory of: _____

From: _____

Or Altar Flowers

From: _____

Please contact Shirley McKiernan, 841-2637, if you have any questions.



In case of emergency contact
Pastor David Klappenbach
712-841-2181 (Office)
712-841-2532 Home)
419-603-8350 (Cell)

Services are currently being live streamed on Facebook

Visit us @ <https://www.bethanylutheran-laurens.org>

Women of Bethany ~ Women's Day Away

~ Saturday, October 9th

Relax. Connect. Learn. @ Ingham Lake Bible Camp, Wallingford, IA. Enjoy wonderful sessions & discussion, a banquet meal, worship, pampering stations, crafts, nature trails, pontoon rides, time to relax and connect with other women!!! Theme "It's OK to not be OK" with speaker, Brittany Spieker. If interested, pamphlets are on the back table and/or contact Jan Hersom or Linda Bieri for more details.

The **Youth Group's Trunk or Treat** event will be held in conjunction with the City of Laurens Trick or Treat night on **Saturday, October 30th** from **5:00 p.m. -6:30 p.m.** at the **Laurens United Methodist Church** (inside the church). The youth will be serving hot dogs, chips & water.

If you would like to participate in Trunk or Treat, please see Angie Christenson. Participants can decorate a table in fellowship hall from 4:00-4:30 p.m. on Oct. 30th. If you would like to donate candy, there is a box in Fellowship Hall for all donations. *Thank you in advance!*

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Name	Marriage	October
Latham, Laura Beth		10-01
Hodgell, Denise		10-02
Peterson, Dwayne		10-05
Oxenreider, Tammy		10-07
Arends, Michael		10-08
Fansega, Kaydance		10-11
Johnsen, Julian & MacKenzie	10-13	
Baumeister, Jessica		10-17
Runneberg, Hannah		10-19
Anderson, Elaine		10-20
Hudson, Ryan		10-20
Sandvig Theresa		10-26
Roberts, Steve		10-28
Gordon, Anthony		9-26

OCTOBER:

Altar Guild = Linda Galbraith & Elaine Anderson

Fellowship = October 10 – Ron & Jan Hersom, Jim & Denise Hodgell

October 17 – Ron & Jan Hersom, Gail Olson

October 24 – Linda Galbraith, Myles & Shirley Pedersen

October 31 – Myles & Shirley Pedersen, Gail Olson

USHERS

October 3- Dean Armstrong

October 17-Rich Ehlers

Sisters in Christ:

Come and join us and grow in your own relationship with Christ, with prayer and Bible Study and Encouragement.

It is all about Jesus.

Come as you are. Each one of us have something to share. Seeing each other with Christ's eyes. Loved and forgiven.

The book and video is Max Lucado "You are Never Alone". From the Gospel of John on the Miracles in which we will discuss. Starting Oct 10th 6:30PM-7:30PM.

Hope to see you there

October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Bethany Lutheran Church Fellowship/Coffee- 9:30 Adult SS- 9:15 Youth SS- 9:30 Worship-10:30			1	2
3 10:30-Worship w/Communion	4 4:00-W/M mtg	5 7:30AM Prayer Meeting 9:30-Morning Coffee	6	7	8	9
10 10:30-Worship 5-6:30PM Youth Group @ UMC	11	12 7:30AM Prayer Meeting 9:30-Morning Coffee	13 7:00PM- Council mtg	14	15	16
17 10:30-Worship w/Communion Potluck	18	19 7:30AM Prayer Meeting 9:30-Morning Coffee	20	21	22	23
24 10:30-Worship 5-6:30PM Youth Group @ UMC 31 10:30-Worship	25	26 7:30AM Prayer Meeting 9:30-Morning Coffee	27	28	29	

