

Friday's Calendar:

7:00 a.m. Hour of Power AA
 9:30 a.m. Life Group
 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
 12:00 p.m. A Way Out
 8:00 p.m. AA Friday Nite Young People

Today's Ministry: Finance Committee

Saturday, November 18

Matthew 16:21-28 *Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (v.24)*

Our journey together is coming to an end, each of us must go our own way. If that journey is to follow Jesus, he tells us today how difficult that path may be. I have worked hard to develop this self, to feel good about this self. It is not easy to deny this self, to walk into unknown territory without the armor of this self.

Additionally, I am being asked to take up my cross and follow him. I wear a cross daily, an easy thing to do. One day I was asked, "If you wear the cross, can you bear the cross?" For me, that too has become a basic habit. As I fasten the clasp holding the cross, I begin reciting the motto of the Order of the Daughters of the King, to which I belong. It could be a motto for all of us, and I invite you to use it: "For His sake I am but one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do. What I ought to do, by the grace of God, I will do. Lord, what will you have me do?"

1 Chronicles 13:1-14; Psalms 87, 90; Revelation 20:1-6

Birthdays: Ken Flerx, Billy Hughes, Kandy Raulerson

Anniversaries: Eric & Jeanne Crawford

Saturday's Calendar:

9:30 a.m. Step Sisters Meeting
 10:00 a.m. Bible Study ONLINE
 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
 5:00 p.m. Courtyard Mass & Meal
 8:30 p.m. Not Alone Group

Today's Ministry: Flower Guild

by Elizabeth Hart

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"Growing into Jesus - Reaching out with Love"

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Sunday, November 12

Luke 14:12-24 *"At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses." (vv.17-18a NIV)*

Many years ago, I began writing a story that developed into a journey of my soul. I did not mean for it to develop in that manner, but my spiritual being must have been crying out; and from that pain I was drawn into a journey that continues today. This week as we read the Scriptures together, I hope that you will join me on this path as I continue to make my way down the rocky road.

One of the dangers of a journey is that we can start down a path, see a goal ahead and begin to be so engrossed in our own plan that we miss the diversions, the surprises, or the invitations. Today we're being invited to a banquet, a glorious banquet—but do we have time to even consider the invitation? After all, a journey demands a lot of time and energy.

We may have our eyes set upon those things that we need to do, and there is so little time. Let us slow down long enough to ponder the invitation—to take the time to make a wise decision—instead of continuing headstrong down the road, focused on a fleeting reward.

Ezra 10:1-17; Psalms 93, 96; Acts 24:10-21

Birthdays: Lisa Bach

Sunday's Calendar :

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Family Worship
 10:15 a.m. Youth Brunch
 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Today's Ministry: Cursillo

Monday, November 13

Nehemiah 9:1-25 *“In their hunger you gave them bread from heaven and in their thirst you brought them water from the rock.”* (v.15a)

A journey is a curious thing. On one hand, it is important to plan, yet some of the most interesting experiences develop out of the unexpected. One must be prepared for all emergencies, but if we carry all that might be needed, we may end up with excess baggage that weighs us down. There are basic necessities that are needed, but it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between need and want. We sometimes choose to carry around those things that make us feel better or that make us comfortable with ourselves.

On my spiritual journey, I have found it very difficult to “let go,” to give up control and allow Jesus to lead me by the hand. My ego fights to make the decisions, yet it is only when I release control that I begin to taste the food and water that my Father has provided. This is a journey we don’t have to plan. This is a journey where we do not have to prepare for all emergencies. This is a journey in which we will have experiences beyond all expectations—if we only let go.

Psalm 80; Revelation 18:1-8; Matthew 15:1-20

Birthdays: Jeff Tucker, Bob Ditmars, John Lockwood, Sadie Hibberd, Nina Nimmer

Monday’s Calendar:

7:00 a.m. Hour of Power AA
 10:00 a.m. Praying Hands (1st & 3rd Mondays)
 3:00 p.m. Daughters of the King (2nd Mondays)
 5:45 p.m. ACOA

Today’s Ministry: Daughters of the King

Tuesday, November 14

Nehemiah 9:26-38 *“But in your great mercy you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.”* (v.31)

I wish that I could say that once I make the decision to let go, I follow through completely. Unfortunately, I travel the peaks and valleys. I let go and as quickly wrestle control back.

There are many issues in which I think I know best and I find myself in the Valley of Sin—a valley of darkness, a desolate place where the landscape is broken only by people digging deep holes. In the spirit of fellowship, I join them in their digging, making a bigger and bigger hole for myself. As in today’s lesson where Ezra describes the failings of Israel time and time again, I too fail time and time again.

There is only one way out of my valley of sin, and it is clearly marked. God in His mercy sent His Son Jesus to personally lead me and you out of that valley. Even when we have willfully turned away from Jesus’ leadership, we have not been abandoned. Thank You, gracious God, for loving us so much that You sent Your one and only Son into the world not to condemn, but to save the world through him.

Psalm 78:1-39; Revelation 18:9-20; Matthew 15:21-28

Birthdays: Kimberly Myles

Tuesday’s Calendar:

7:00 a.m. Hour of Power AA
 9:30 a.m. Women’s Bible Study
 12:10 p.m. Healing Service
 7:00 p.m. The Kos Choir Concert

Today’s Ministry: Eucharistic Visitors

Wednesday, November 15

Psalm 119:97-120 *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.* (v.105)

I have such a good sense of direction that I have been known to recklessly set out on a journey without a map. Facing the general direction of my goal, I almost always end up where I had envisioned. If I were to retrace my steps, I would probably find that I had not traveled the shortest or easiest route. Furthermore, I only attempt a “mapless” journey in the daylight. Only a fool would wander around in the dark.

Knowing that His children would try to wander in the dark, God has given us a light for our path. His word directs us if we only open the pages and allow His lamp to show us the way. Furthermore, His word prevents us from running into one another. There are a lot of us trying to move from place to place, and, in the darkness, it is difficult to see our neighbors. The intersections can become very dangerous. Through the light of His word, we can acknowledge one another’s presence and care for one another as we travel our individual paths.

Nehemiah 7:73b—8:3, 15-18; Revelation 18:21-24; Matthew 15:29-39

Birthdays: Lucy Schillinger, Linda Brown

Anniversaries: Ted & Sally Murphy, Jonathan & Chloe Soares

Wednesday’s Calendar:

6:30 a.m. Men’s Bible Study
 7:00 a.m. Hour of Power AA
 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
 10:00 a.m. Life Group
 4:30 p.m. Mary’s Kitchen
 6:00 p.m. NAMI

Today’s Ministry: Facilities Committee

Thursday, November 16

Psalm 23 *He leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.* (vv.2b-3a)

I live a very hectic life; in fact the world can be a very hectic place. It is easy to get drawn onto a path where one rushes from one place to another, never stopping to view the flowers or listen to the birds. This hectic life makes it important for me to set aside time when I can

walk with Jesus beside the still waters.

Sometimes I just sit because I am too tired to move. Just by his presence, my soul is restored. Sometimes, I gaze into the still waters to ponder the reflections, the way the clouds and the trees cast their shadows. His creation restores my soul. The time arrives when I must gaze at my own reflection, at the depth of my own soul. It is not easy, yet I am not alone—his reflection overlaps mine, bringing to the surface those things that need to be healed. He restores my soul.

Without time with Jesus, my life could easily become a frantic race to the finish. With that time, I am able to calm down and appreciate the moment.

1 Chronicles 10:1-14; Psalms 27, 83; Revelation 19:1-10; Matthew 16:1-12

Birthdays: Ken Shuttleworth, Jeannine Warren, Elsie Hibberd, Karin Parisi

Thursday’s Calendar:

7:00 a.m. Hour of Power AA
 9:30 a.m. Life Group ONLINE
 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
 12:00 p.m. Lunch & Chamber Music
 1:30 p.m. Grief Support Group
 4:30 p.m. Life Group, Smith Hall
 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Stepping Stones

Today’s Ministry: Family Promise

Friday, November 17

Matthew 16:13-20 *“But what about you?” he asked, “Who do you say I am?”* (v.15)

I sat in the pew for many years before I was asked that question. It’s amazing how easy it is to be a part of the church community and never make a commitment. I was baptized as a baby, confirmed as a twelve-year-old, and then sent on my way. I mouthed the words each Sunday, but I never answered his question, “But what about you; who do you say I am?”

Fortunately, I attended a Sunday School Teachers Conference in my 27th year where my acquaintance with Jesus became a committed relationship. I was confronted by my own ignorance and complacency which forced me to make a decision.

Who was this man Jesus? Is he the Messiah, the Christ? Am I going to stand along the road and wave a few palm leaves or am I going to join his journey and go wherever that takes me? I have never regretted the decision to travel with him even though it has not always been easy. I only hope I have been able to reach out a hand of invitation to the many who are still standing along the road.

1 Chronicles 11:1-25; Psalm 88; Revelation 19:11-16

Birthdays: Kingsley Moore

Anniversaries: Tom & Sharon Hoffman