

## **AN ENCOURAGING WORD FOR TROUBLING TIMES #109 (by Rev. Dr. Alice Wolfe, 8/11/20)**

### **“Keep Your Eyes on the Son”**

Sunflowers are fascinating (like the ones pictured here at Smeck Park, in front of our family's windmill). The young flowers “turn their faces” toward and follow the sun as it moves across the sky (a process known as heliotropism). Perhaps these beautiful flowers can remind us of our need to turn our face toward The Son, to keep our eyes on him, and to follow him throughout each day.

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.” (Hebrews 12:1-3, NLT)*

Sometimes we grow weary from life and challenges, and we feel tempted to give up. However, if we keep our eyes on Jesus, he will help us turn away from sin and temptations and toward our goal—(hopefully) living for Jesus throughout each day. If we keep our eyes on The Son, he guides us, reminds us that he is with us, helps us focus on him and not our troubles, and gives us the courage to take the next faithful step... one step at a time, even when we don't know what lies ahead. So as you see sunflowers, let them remind you to turn your face toward, keep your eyes on, and follow The Son, Jesus Christ!

#### **PRAYER:**

Jesus Christ, thank you for being the Light of the World and guiding our way! Help me turn my face toward you and away from sin... Help me seek your face, keep my eyes on you, and follow you as you lead me throughout each and every day. Help me, like the sunflowers, point me to you! Amen.

#### **LIVE IT!**

Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus throughout each day, and follow The Son wherever he leads!

