

July 6<sup>th</sup>

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

## **“Walk By This Rule”**

Main Text: Galatians 6:7-16

(Isaiah 66:10-14, 14-17; Luke 10:1-11,16-20)

Rule has gotten a bad name. It has been, unfortunately, connected with authoritarian domination. Our connection with rules has been based on our experience with those who “rule over”. The same can be said regarding the word “discipline”, which has been closely tied with punishment. This can lead some to reject the notion of “rule” and “discipline”. When we do, chaos can abound. The word rule simply implies “regular or regulate”. Rules are important in providing structure and guidance as a people and a community of faith. The negative experience is not because of rules or discipline. The negative experience comes from the application or enforcement of such. That is why one of the most important rules a community can have to regulate and discipline (disciple) the Christian Walk is “love”. Christ’s love is the rule and our discipline to follow. Our readings for this Sunday point to this rule. In Galatians, Paul speaks of self-discipline and the foundation of our rules. When we put on Christ and walk by the Spirit, we walk by this rule that guides and regulates our journey. As we reach the end of Isaiah, we remember what happened in the journey when they did not follow the rule of God. They and we are then once again invited into the gracious rule and discipline of God. In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus gives guidance to his disciples (discipline and rules) to guide their journey and ministry. What rules do we follow and how do we discipline our lives to walk by this rule and be led by the Spirit.