

August 7, 2016

12th Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST READING. Genesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

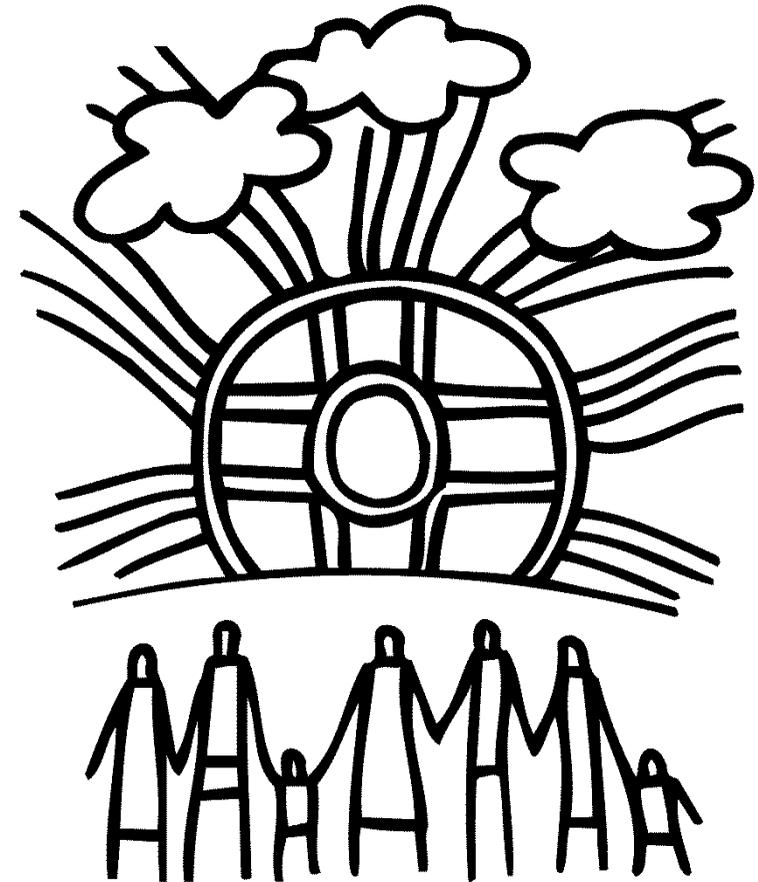
SECOND READING. Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, 'as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.' All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

GOSPEL. Luke 12:32-40

'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 'Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. 'But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

12th Sunday after Pentecost



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August 7, 2016
9:30 a.m.

First Lutheran Church
Fergus Falls, Minnesota
(218) 739-3348

www.firstlutheranchurchff.org firstlc@live.com

Online
Giving
(QR Code)



Well advanced in age, Abram was promised by God that he would be a Father. It seems like a pretty lofty promise. It's hard to believe – Abram doubts and Sarai laughs! What other promises are we given that seem a little too-good-to-be-true? And what if – they actually came true?

Prelude

Announcements

***Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, abounding in steadfast love toward us, healing the sick and raising the dead, showering us with every good gift.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

P: Just and gracious God,

C: we come to you for healing and life. Our sins hurt others and diminish us; we confess them to you. Our lives bear the scars of sin; we bring these also to you. Show us your mercy, O God. Bind up our wounds, forgive us our sins, and free us to love, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P: The apostle Paul assures us: "When we were dead in our trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ, nailing the record of our sins to the cross." Jesus says to you, ☩ "Your sins are forgiven." Be at peace, and tell everyone how much God has done for you.

C: Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

Abide With Me

ELW 629

***Apostolic Greeting**

ELW Page 147

***Kyrie**

ELW Page 147

***The Hymn of Praise**

This is the Feast

ELW Page 149

Women V.1&3 Men V. 2&4

This Week at First Lutheran:

Today:	9:30 a.m.	Worship/Holy Communion
Monday:	9:00 a.m. 12-7 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	WELCA Love Days Red Cross Blood Drive Al-Anon
Tuesday:	9:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting Mill Street Bible Study High School Senior FLY Ice Cream Meet Up Church Council Meeting
Wednesday:	9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Al-Anon AA FLY 57 to Skyzone & Pizza (return about 2:30 p.m.)
Thursday:	8:45 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m.	Morning Watch – Pr. Saul– KBRF AM 1250 Sr Bible Study & Coffee (Will resume in July) Worship/Holy Communion
Friday:	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	

Next Sunday, August 14

10:00 a.m. Annual Outdoor Worship @ Pebble Lake Picnic Shelter

Senior Pastor:	Saul Stensvaag
Associate Pastor:	Jennifer Rose
Visitation Pastor:	Stan Satre
Sunday School Superintendent:	Cindy Larson
Council President:	Elizabeth Abrahams
Organist:	Keith Melberg
Cantor:	Jon Gunderson
Sacristan:	Susan Hermes
Communion Assistants:	Jack & Sandy Pearson, Mark Hermes
Acolyte:	Jacob Spangler, Sydney Batzlaff
Lector:	Missy Mattson

First Lutheran Church
**ANNUAL OUTDOOR
 WORSHIP SERVICE**
with potluck to follow

NEXT SUNDAY, August 14, 2016
10:00 a.m.

**Pebble Lake Picnic Shelter
 (Old Gun Club)
 Fergus Falls**



Bring a dish to share. Hotdogs & buns provided. Picnic tables available, but bring a lawn chair if you prefer.

*(No 9:30 worship at First Lutheran that day)
 In case of bad weather worship will be held
 in the Fellowship Hall at First Lutheran*

***Prayer of the Day**

P Let us pray. . . .
 C Amen

First Reading

Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

(Congregational response after reading: **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

(Congregational response after reading: **Thanks be to God**)

***Gospel Acclamation**



(Congregation responds after Gospel is announced: **Glory to you, O Lord.**)

***Gospel**

Luke 12:32-40

(Congregation responds after Gospel is read: **Praise to you, O Christ**)

Sermon

Lofty Promises

Pastor Jennifer

Hymn of the Day

Blessed Assurance

ELW 638

***The Apostles' Creed**

Back Cover of ELW Hymnal

***The Prayers**

P ...Lord, in your mercy, **OR**
 C hear our prayer.

P ... Let us pray to the Lord,
 C Lord, have mercy.

***The PEACE is shared**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
 C And also with you.

Offering

***Offertory**

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
 it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
 not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the
 joy of your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

***The Great Thanksgiving
Words of Institution**

ELW Page 144

***The Lord's Prayer** (alternate version)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Hymns during Communion:

ELW 790, 838

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Post Communion Hymn**

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

ELW 204

Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev'ry-one what God has done.
 Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and bear Christ's holy name.
 Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy with
 shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.

***Prayer, Benediction. & Sending**

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

***Postlude**

*indicates when the Congregation stands

Coffee and Refreshments: Join us for coffee and goodies in the Narthex this morning, Serving this Sunday is the family of Leland & Leah Potter.

Altar Flowers are given by Bonnie Bartsch in memory of the Beckman family.

Known Hospitalized: Tom Willett and Mark Boen at Lake Region Hospital.

Large Print Bulletins are available. If you would like a copy for worship, please ask an usher.

Visitors! If you didn't get a "Visitors Bag" when you came in this morning please pick one up on your way out after worship. You'll find them in a basket located on the small table on the ramp coming up from the narthex into the sanctuary.

Wanna go to skyzone? Are you in next year's grades 5-7? Fly 57 will be going to Skyzone on August 10th. We will meet at church at 9:30, go to skyzone, and then have pizza lunch together. Cost is \$15 which includes lunch. Bring your sky socks if you have them. Sign up at the info counter!

Sunday, September 18th, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for farewell to our Senior Pastor and Children's Choir Director with a potluck meal to follow. Dessert will be provided. Save the date, more details to come!

ATTENTION OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans): Check the info counter and/or the kiosk for an exciting outing for the OWLs on Wednesday, August 17 to the show "I Do, I Do." at the Long Lake Theater

We are searching for volunteers to participate in worship on Sundays! Come check out the kiosk and sign-up to be an Usher, Greeter, Lector or Communion Assistant in the coming months. If you're brand new or have been here awhile, we are welcoming to all! Participating in worship can be a great experience with lots of fun and new things to learn. We appreciate all that have utilized the sign-up sheets so far, and hope to continue to allow people to pick the dates that work for them. This also reduces the number of phone calls to each family. THANK YOU!

Physical Offering for Convention: At the 2016 SWO (WELCA) convention we are asking you to bring gently used purses filled with items all ladies need and use. These purses will be distributed through Someplace Safe, a non-profit organization working to eliminate violence in West Central Minnesota and beyond. Please see the poster in the Narthex for items to include in the purses.

WEST VIRGINIA FLOODING AND HOW YOU CAN HELP Narrow valleys, steep mountains and torrential rain came together in West Virginia to produce deadly flash floods. We will respond and walk with survivors in the days, weeks, months and years ahead, for as long as we are needed. **Gifts designated for "West Virginia Flooding" will be used (100 percent) until the response is complete to help disaster survivors recover and rebuild their lives.** Your generous offerings of prayer and financial support will help address the many needs, especially long-term recovery efforts of those affected.