

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost ~ September 1, 2019

THEME: Physical eyes cannot see what the heart of faith accepts.

HYMN 402: *“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”*

SERVICE OF THE WORD – Page 38

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 15:1-6 (sermon text)

Hoping beyond hope, Abraham believed the Lord’s promise of a son and the Lord “credited it to him as righteousness.”

15:1 After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”

2 But Abram said, “O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3 And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

4 Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.” 5 He took him outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars – if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 33 (p.79) (sung in unison)

God’s faithfulness in all things causes his people to “wait in hope for the Lord.”

SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 (EHV)

Faith grasps that which we do not see. True faith will raise our sights to life eternal and heaven as our only goal in life.

11:1 Faith is being sure about what we hope for, being convinced about things we do not see. For by this faith the ancients were commended in Scripture.

By faith we know that the universe was created by God’s word, so that what is seen did not come from visible things.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go to a place that he was going to receive as an inheritance, and he left without knowing where he was going.

By faith he lived as a stranger in the Promised Land, as if it did not belong to him, dwelling in tents along with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

By faith Abraham also received the ability to conceive children, even though Sarah herself was barren and he was past the normal age, because he considered him faithful who made the promise. And so from one man, and he as good as dead, descendants were born as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand along the seashore.

One by one, all of these died in faith, without having received the things that were promised, but they saw and welcomed them from a distance. They confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. Indeed, people who say things like that make it clear that they are looking for a land of their own. And if they were remembering the land they had come from, they would have had an opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better land—a heavenly one. For that reason, God is not ashamed to be called their God, because he prepared a city for them.

VERSE OF THE DAY: Alleluia. Faith is being sure about what we hope for, being convinced about things we do not see. Alleluia. (Hebrews 11:1 EHV)

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40 (EHV) (Please Stand)

Our Savior tells us “do not be afraid” for the kingdom of heaven is ours. We set our hearts on this promise as we prepare and patiently wait for our Lord’s return.

12:32 Do not be afraid, little flock, because your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the needy. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not become old, a treasure in the heavens that will not fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“Be dressed, ready for service, and keep your lamps burning. Be like people waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. Blessed are those servants, whom the master will find watching when he comes. Amen I tell you: He will dress himself and have them recline at the table, and he will come and serve them. Even if he comes in the second or third watch, they will be blessed if he finds them alert. But know this: If the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. You also be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you are not expecting him.”

HYMN 405: *“Oh, For A Faith That Will Not Shrink”*

SERMON THEME: On This Labor Day Weekend, Let Us Go to Bethlehem with Abraham

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OFFERING HYMN 485 Verses 1 & 2: *“We Give Thee but Thine Own”* (Please Stand)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN 411: *“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”*

BENEDICTION

HYMN 619: *“God Bless Our Native Land”*

SILENT PRAYER & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Serving Us Today ~ September 1, 2019

Guest Preacher: Pastor David Pagel

Organist: Marjean Schroeder-Oaks

Ushers: Dave Schroeder, Dave Leatherman, Gary Troudt & Dennis Troudt

Altar Guild: Dave & Judy Zarter & Jan Zellmer



Thank you to Pastor Pagel for joining us this morning and sharing God’s Word with us. Pastor Seelman will be returning to Oshkosh on Tuesday.

Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV) Translation: You will note we have been using this new version in our weekly readings. They will always be noted as “EHV”. These “new” Bibles are available to purchase. Please see the sign-up sheet on our bulletin board.

It’s Time To Start Planning for another year of fun playing dartball! If you are interested, let Mark Juedes know.

Ladies’ Guild: Members will soon begin their Autumn/Thanksgiving banner project. Please watch our future worship bulletins for upcoming dates they will meet to work on this newest project.

Special Congregational Voter’s Meeting Next Sunday: There will be a brief meeting after Worship Service to review and update our current *Tuition Assistance Policy*. A copy of our current policy and proposed changes are located near our guest registry for your review.

Griefshare Sessions Begin Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday School Resumes Sunday, September 15 at 10:00 a.m. Our Sunday School is available for children four years old through eighth grade. We are still looking for substitute teachers.

Coming in September: A visit to hear the Rodgers organ recently installed near Green Bay. Available dates are being compiled for us. More details will be forthcoming in our Worship Bulletins.

Please keep in your prayers: Gloria Pagel and Julaine Hanneman.

Mark Your Calendars! Choir start-up will commence Wednesday, September 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the choir loft. Anyone interested in singing is welcome. It’s fun!

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GIFTS		THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL	
Needed per week	\$3,379.00	Office Hours	Tues. Weds & Thurs. 8:00 a.m. -Noon
Budget Received 08-25-19	\$1,715.00		
Budget Need to date	\$114,886.00	Wednesday	5:00 p.m. GriefShare Meeting
Budget Received to date	\$102,609.48	Sunday	9:00 a.m. Communion Service
Attendance on 08-25-19	89	Sunday	10:00 a.m. Congregation Voter Mtg



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