

## ILCW Year-C Lessons for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

**OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 15:1-6 NIV** 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.

### Epistle

**Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16** Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. ... 8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. 9 By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11 By faith Abraham, even though he was past age - and Sarah herself was barren - was enabled to become a father because he considered Him faithful who had made the promise. 12 And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. 13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. 14 People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. 15 If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 Instead, they were longing for a better country - a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

### Gospel (Sermon Text)

**Luke 12:32-40** "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the Kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 35 "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, 36 like men 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. 37 It will be good for those servants whose Master finds them watching when He comes. I tell you the truth, He will dress Himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. 38 It will be good for those servants whose Master finds them ready, even if He comes in the second or third watch of the night. 39 But understand 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. 40 You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him."

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL, USA  
12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost-C  August 11<sup>th</sup> 2013  
9:30am  "Little Flock, Fear Not...Have Faith"



Woodcut illustration from a 1695 Bible – **Genesis 15:1-21**  
God shows Abram the stars and passes between the carcasses,  
sealing the Abrahamic Covenant and promise (with a sign).

Image courtesy of the Digital Image Archive, Pitts Theology Library,  
Candler School of Theology, Emory University  
<http://www.pitts.emory.edu/dia/detail.cfm?ID=1149>

# OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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PHONE (863) 859-3400— [www.osllakeland.org](http://www.osllakeland.org)

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM

Pastor Andrew Burmeister (863) 430-5859

Organist: Janice Thomas (813) 650-9198

## August 11<sup>th</sup> 2013 Pentecost-12(C) † Faith-Full Flock †

**WELCOME to Our Savior!** We are happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time, we ask that that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. Come and worship with us again! Thank you.

### ORDER OF SERVICE *(See insert)*

PLEASE NOTE: The service folder insert has been written so that it may be used more than once. If you prefer to use the hymnal, see **page 5**. Keep this bulletin but please leave the (ivory)insert with an usher after the service. Thank you. May the Lord bless your worship!

| Service       |               |   |
|---------------|---------------|---|
| Opening Hymn  | 11 (5v)       | Safely Through Another Week               |
| Hymn of Day   | 395 (8v)      | Sing v1-4,8 O God, Thou Faithful God      |
| Sermon        | Luke 12:32-40 | <b>“O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe”</b> |
| Offering Hymn | 283 (1v)      | God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage          |
| Sending Hymn  | 263 (4v)      | O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe          |
| Closing Hymn  | 394 (4v)      | My Faith Looks Up to Thee                 |

### PROPERs for (TRINITY11=) TWELFTH SUNDAY of PENTECOST-C ✠ AUG 11

**INTROIT:** God is in His holy Habitation; He sets the solitary in families. The God of Israel gives strength and power to His people. Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let them also that hate Him flee before Him. ...Ps. 68:5&6

**COLLECT:** Almighty and everlasting God, You are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, on True God, now and forever,  
C: ♪ A - - men.

**GRADUAL:** My heart trusts in God, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and I will praise Him with my song. Alleluia! Alleluia! I will cry to You, O Lord, my Rock, do not be silent to me; hear the voice of my pleadings. Alleluia!  
...from Psalm 90

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS: *(printed on the outside back page of the bulletin)*

**Genesis 15:1-6** Abraham believed and it was credited as righteousness.  
**Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16** Faith grasps what we do not and cannot see - heaven.  
**Luke 12:32-40** Jesus comforts His disciples and us, “Don’t be afraid.”

**SERMON:** Text (Gospel-C) Luke 12:32-40 Theme: *FEAR NOT, LITTLE FLOCK*”

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Madeline Beck   | Patty & Buster Brewbaker |
| Mary Fowler (Sharon Williamson’s mother)                | Delores (Dee) Kurczewski |
| Jonathan Jumper (Elaine’s grandson)                     | Jeanette Kubly           |
| Vivian Temple (surgery recovery), Shalem (10yr. Indian) | Mariah Sawyer            |
| George Wendt (brother of Steve Wendt)                   | Ann Wentz                |

| Volunteers | Today              | Next Sunday |
|------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Greeter    | (Volunteer)        | (Volunteer) |
| Usher      | (Volunteer)        | (Volunteer) |
| Treats     | !ICE CREAM! Social | (Volunteer) |

COFFEE will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the service. Everyone is invited to stay! We thank our volunteers for serving today. We are IN NEED OF SERVERS for future Sundays. If you can help, PLEASE SIGN UP. Thanks!

| Statistics           | Last week | Year to date (average) |
|----------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Sunday Worship       | 29        | 33                     |
| Communion Attendance | 22        | 26                     |
| Sunday Bible Class   | 10        | 11                     |
| Thursday Bible Class | 10        | 9                      |
| Sunday Offering      | \$        | (YTD total) \$         |

### Calendar of Events

|                |                                   |  |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Sunday, 8/11   | 8:30 am<br>9:30 am<br>11:00 ff... | Bible Study (Exodus 12)<br>Divine Worship (no Communion)<br>Fellowship time: <i>!ICE CREAM! Social</i> |
| Tuesday, 8/13  | 6:00 pm                           | Catechism Class with Prescott Dux  |
| Thursday, 8/15 | 6:30 pm                           | Bible Study at Madeline Beck’s   |
| Friday, 8/16   | 1:30pm                            | Catechism Class: Jon & Mariah Sawyer   |
| Sunday, 8/18   | 8:30 am<br>9:30 am<br>10:30 ff... | Bible Study<br>Divine Worship (W/ Holy Communion)<br>Fellowship time: <i>Treats and Drinks</i>         |

### Congregational Notes

Please contact our Elders with any concerns about church matters: **Jim Vanesky 644-7807 & John Weber 853-5458 & Don Wienke 863-815-8892.**

### Schedule notes here in August

- + First, Thank you Thrivent (Brian Heipp) for the ICE CREAM Social today!
- + On Friday past, **Paul & Daniella (Hernandez) Koehler** were married at Bay Pines Lutheran (WELS) in Seminole. Pastor officiated the wedding.
- + On Our church’s NEW webpage [www.OSLlakeland.org](http://www.OSLlakeland.org) are now posted weekly Sunday Worship materials: this bulletin, sermon, prayers, etc.
- + Next Sunday afternoon, The SLA Association meets at OSL at 2:30pm.  
*Next Sunday: 8/18 Pentecost-13C (W/ L.S. p.15) Hymns: 451, 447, , 516, 464*

TRINITY-11(P12C) Luke 12:32-40 **"DON'T WORRY; BE ☺ HAPPY" 08.11.13**

*The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith,  
and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety.*

INTRODUCTION Last week, we heard that life is more than the **abundance of possessions**. Today we hear that life is more than the **essentials – food and clothing**. Jesus zeros in on our basic, core anxiety – our everyday needs. And He says, *“Don’t be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.”*

That would appear to be the **opposite** of the prevailing opinion here in America and Florida. Life seems to **be defined by food and clothing**, coupled with endless **entertainment** and an almost insatiable desire for **electronic gadgets**. *Life is more than food, you say?* You wouldn’t know it by our grand obsessions with calories, fat grams, and carbs.

(But,) We **need** clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home. Those are basic, essential needs. In fact, we’re not going to worry about anything else until those are taken care of. And Jesus comes to us this morning and says, *“Don’t worry. Don’t be **anxious** about your life, or even the **most basic** of your needs. Your Father in heaven has you covered. **Don’t worry.**”*

Don’t worry? Has Jesus looked at the **economy** lately? My **retirement fund**? The **unemployment** statistics? Health care? Come on, who is alive and aware these days and **not worried** about something having to do with the means to support this body and life? Don’t be anxious(?) **Get real!**

But here is **the Reality**: Anxiety is a “liturgy.” It’s the **worship we offer our false gods** when they’ve failed to deliver on the goods. When we realize that our religious transactions aren’t working and we are left without an apparent safety net under us, the anxiety mounts and grows. **Sleepless nights, churning stomachs, headaches, heart palpitations, stress**, the list goes on. Anxiety is like a **cancer of the soul**, consuming us from the inside, paralyzing us, disordering our lives, our eating, our drinking, our priorities. Anxiety eats away at us like rust, corroding our souls until we are nothing but a shell. (**Arthur Somers Roche** put it this way):

*Anxiety is a thin stream of fear trickling through the mind.  
If encouraged, it cuts a channel into which all others thoughts are drained.*

*“Don’t be anxious.”* Jesus says. And He knows what He’s talking about. He’s the Lord of creation. He’s the One who died and rose again. And He’s intimately familiar with our anxieties. He worked the family trade. He knew the uncertainties of a family business. He came to bear the sin of the world on His shoulders. He was the **“Man of Sorrows,”** intimately acquainted with our suffering. Do you imagine that didn’t involve some potential anxiety?

Jesus knew His disciples’ hearts and He knows our own. He knew that He had **called them away from their fishing boats** (and tax collectors office). And there were probably days when they wondered aloud, *“What are we going to eat today? How will we afford clothing when ours wears out?”* They were following someone who had **no place to lay His head**, who didn’t promise

them wealth and prosperity like the prosperity preachers you hear today. Jesus never promised them any of that. What did He promise them instead(?) - **Hardship and persecutions in this life** and then an **eternal life in a Kingdom that has no end.**

Consider **the lilies** and all their beauty. They don’t weave or spin or shop at Macy’s, but even Solomon in all his over the top bling wasn’t decked out like them. And **aren’t you worth** (so much) **more than plants**, which are here today and gone tomorrow?

Does anxiety put daily bread on the table? **Not a crumb**. Does anxiety put clothes on your children? **Not a stitch**. Does anxiety pay the mortgage or the rent? **Not a dime**. Does anxiety add a single hour to your life? **No**. Instead, it will make the **hours you have most miserable**.

Jesus calls His anxiety-ridden disciples “little faith ones.” I guess little faith is better than no faith, but it’s still not the way of faith to be anxious over things. Faith is trust, trust that your Father in heaven knows what you need even before you ask. Trust that your value to God is so much greater than that of the birds and the flowers.

(OT) Our other readings this morning speak about faith as trust. There is **Abram, 99 years old** and his wife nearly as old, **childless**, and the only heir to his fortune is some relative named **Eliezer** of Damascus. And the Lord says to childless Abram, *“Look up in the sky and take a census of the stars. Count them, if you can. Here’s my promise to you, Abram. So shall your offspring be. You will have descendant as numerous as the stars in the sky even though you don’t even have a kid at this moment.”*

Abram **believed** the Lord. He **trusted**. He took the Lord at His Word, as improbable and unlike as that Word was. He trusted the Promise that against all odds, against all that he knew of reproductive biology, against all common sense, he would be the father of many, that through his offspring, all nations of the world would be blessed. He believed, trusted and God counted **this faith of Abram as righteousness**.

(Epi.) **Hebrews 11:1** - This is a key verse in the New Testament. It is a key and central verse with the apostle Paul, that a sinner stands justified before God by grace through faith, and that faith, trust in the promise, is counted as righteousness before God. The book of Hebrews devotes an entire chapter to faith. It begins with a definition: *“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”* Faith is trust in a promise **without** having the thing **in your hand**. It’s being so sure of the outcome, even before it happens, that you bank your entire life on it. You orient yourself around it.

Faith is much **like a little kid who is promised a candy bar** the next time they go to the store. He waits for it, expects it, can’t wait to go to the store and get it. And finally, the store trip comes, and the little guy can’t wait for the candy aisle. When they get to it, he runs and grabs his favorite one in complete confidence. And if there is the slightest piece of parental hesitation, he’ll say with a quivering lower lip, *“But you promised.”*

Hebrews goes on to list a kind of **“Hall of Fame of faith”**: Abraham and others who trusted God, who took Him at His Word and whose lives were

oriented around the Promise. They died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having **seen them and believing** them from afar. They knew there was a better country awaiting them, a better city built by God, and they oriented their entire lives around this promise. And yes, **the world thought them crazy and deluded and deranged**, but God is **NOT** ashamed to be called their God.

*“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the Kingdom.”* That’s the Gospel’s **good news** today that speaks to your anxieties and fears. Your Father’s good pleasure is to give you the kingdom, and He works everything together for you to receive the kingdom. You have it all, thanks to Jesus. His death and life has purchased what you cannot afford on your own. Life with God. You have His Word on it. He clothes you in **Baptism**; He feeds you in His **Supper**. You have the Kingdom. You trust Him with the big stuff. **Why not also trust Him with the little things of this life?**

(Now) This doesn’t mean we don’t work and plan and store in this life. But we hold things **loosely, lightly**, with that hand of faith. **Give freely**. Take care of the poor. Do your “banking” where your life is. Store treasures in heaven, eternal treasures that don’t corrode or decay, that can’t be stolen, that moths can eat, that won’t wear out like all the things we have in this life. Seek first the Kingdom and God’s righteousness, trusting that your Father in heaven who has saved you by the blood of His Son, knows what you need.

**CONCLUSION** In his letter to the **Philippians, St. Paul** speaks of anxiety and prayer. He wrote to the Philippians from jail. They had just sent him a generous gift of support, and he was writing to thank and encourage them. If anyone had reason to be anxious, it was Paul. His liberty had been taken from him, his work hindered, he had no guaranteed means of support. And he writes this:

***(Philippians 4:6-7) Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.***

You have the Kingdom. The Father has promised it; the Son has won it; the Spirit delivers it. Don’t be anxious about your life. The Lord has you covered.

***Abraham believed the LORD, and the Lord credited it to him as righteousness. Abraham trusted the Promise of God, and God justified him in his trust.***

Trust Jesus, my friends. He is God’s Promise fulfilled in human flesh. Trust His life, His death and resurrection, His **Baptism**, His **Body** and **Blood**, His **Word**. Trust Him, for He is **YOUR** righteousness. *That “Train” of Jesus’ Return is coming, and you are ready and waiting to board. ... Don’t need no ticket, You just thank the Lord. In Jesus’ Name, Amen. SDG*

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL, USA

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost-C  August 11<sup>th</sup> 2013

**SERMON**  “Don’t Worry(/Fear), Be ☺ (Happy)”

## Prayer of the Church + 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost + August 11 2013

*Because it is our Father’s good pleasure to give us the kingdom, let us pray to Him with confidence as dear children speak to their dear fathers.*

Gracious Father, You made amazing promises to Abraham, granted him faith to believe those promises and then counted that faith as righteousness. Grant us also a never-ending belief in Your promises, so that we trust You even when our eyes cannot see Your promises coming true. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father, teach us, as You taught Abraham, to look forward to the city You have built for us. Bestow the faith of Abraham and all the patriarchs on the people of Your Church today, so that we do not treasure possessions that fail but live knowing we are exiles in this present age and that our homeland is Your new creation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father, we confess that we grow anxious about the cares of this life. Forgive our lack of trust. Open our eyes to learn from the birds of the air and the flowers of the field that You take care of all Your creatures, including us. Fill us with a zeal that seeks Your kingdom, relies on Your care and gladly gives to those in need. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father, we give You thanks for all Your saints both ancient and recent who lived and died - yet still live - trusting in Your promises. Send Your Holy Spirit to work in our lives by Your Word, so that we emulate their examples of faith and life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father, Your Son provided a hint of heaven every time He brought healing to hurting people on earth. Provide that same hint of heaven to those who suffer today. *[Come to the aid of \_\_\_\_\_.]*

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

|   |                              |                                     |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Madeline Beck</b>                            | <b>Elma’s Mother</b>         | <b>Patty &amp; Buster Brewbaker</b> |
| <b>Mary Fowler</b> (Sharon Williamson’s mother) |                              | <b>Delores (Dee) Kurczewski</b>     |
| <b>Jonathan Jumper</b> (Elaine’s grandson)      |                              | <b>Jeanette Kubly</b>               |
| <b>Vivian Temple</b> (surgery recovery),        | <b>Shalem</b> (10yr. Indian) | <b>Mariah Sawyer</b>                |
| <b>George Wendt</b> (brother of Steve Wendt)    | (AndreaS’)                   | <b>Audra Ann Wentz</b>              |

Grant them faith in Your Son, the hope of heaven and peace in Your presence, so that through all the difficulties of earth, they cling to Your promises. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father, grant wisdom, compassion, courage and a clear understanding of right and wrong to all who govern us. Protect them from harm, provide for their needs and instill in them a sense of servanthood and duty so that they make decisions that reflect Your will, defend life, serve the cause of justice and promote peace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father, it is Your good pleasure to give Your Kingdom to children as well as adults. And Your Son taught us that unless we become like children we cannot enter Your kingdom. Yet there are so many children struggling in this world. Some are homeless or hungry. Some live without good parents or without any parents. Some have their lives threatened by abortion. Some have needs known only to You. We beg You to come to their rescue, spare their lives and provide for their needs. Send Your holy angels to protect them and grant them faith in Your Son. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**