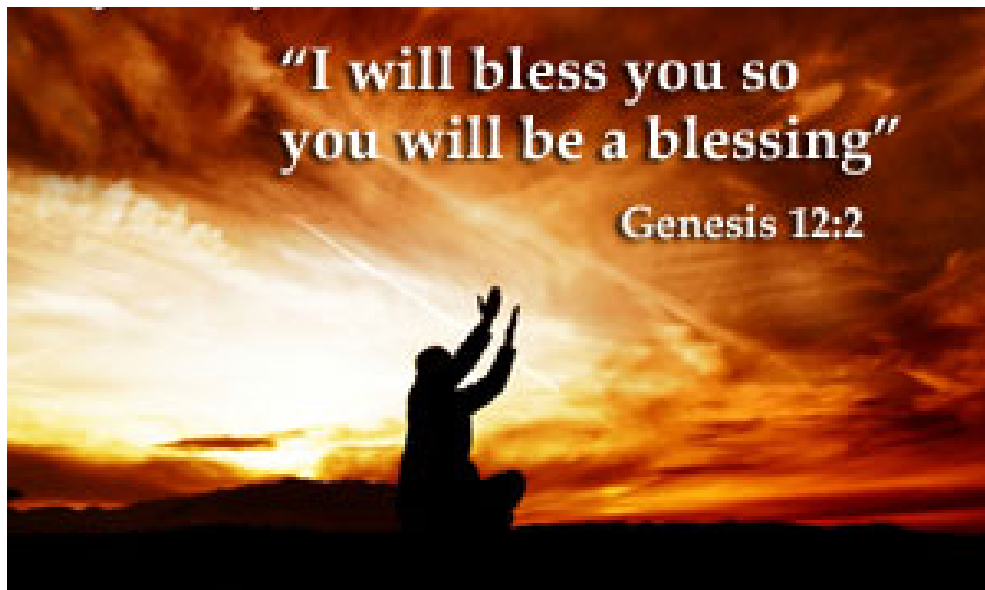


Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



Genesis 12:1-9
September 18, 2022



Scan with your Smartphone and link to our web page, our Facebook page, and our YouTube Channel.



- **Prelude** **Roxanne Groff**
- **Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell**
- **Welcome** **Pr Mel Musser**

* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: God of promise,

C: You have given us all we are and all we have, and still we have not trusted you fully. We have tried to be god in our own lives, hurting ourselves and those around us in our attempts to control. Wash us clean in the waters of your salvation, and bring us back into right relationship with you.

P: God welcomes you home with open arms, and forgives you all your sin, for the sake of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, live in the promise of God's love, freely given.

C: Amen.

- * **HYMN OF PRAISE** **“Take My Life, That I May Be”** **LBW 406**
(Verses 1, 3 4, & 6)



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

*** APOSTOLIC GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

*** KYRIE**

A: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord have mercy.**

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord have mercy.**

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord have mercy.**

A: For this Holy House, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

C: Lord have mercy.

A: Help, save, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray... God of blessing, you called Abraham and Sarah to leave all they knew in order to follow you, and without hesitation, they went. Give us that same trust in you, that we might follow where you lead.

C: Amen.

• CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Theme: Trusting God on Our Journey of Faith

Object: A Blindfold

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9

Good morning girls and boys! I'm so happy to see you all this morning... Did you have a good week? I prayed for each of you this week.

Today we're going to try to see what it would have been like for a man named Abraham who lived a long, long time ago. He was very rich and had many servants. One day God spoke to Abraham and asked him to leave the country of his fathers where he grew up and to take his family and all of his servants and move to some far away place that Abraham had never heard of before.

Have you ever tried to do something completely new to you that you had never done before? I'm thinking of something like the first time you rode a bicycle. Someone like your dad or mom probably held onto the bike and walked beside you until you got the hang of it. Or have any of you learned to swim? I'll bet your parents didn't take you out to the middle of the ocean or river and just throw you in all by yourself. No they went in the water with you and held you up until you learned to float and swim by yourself.

That's how God is with us. God is always with us even when you can't really see God with your eyes, God is still always by our side, holding us up until we get the hang of how to do life. God may not be physically present, but the Holy Spirit is with us and God even placed other people in our lives to help us along the way too. That's one reason we come to Church every Sunday, so we can be with all the people God has chosen to be our travel companions on our journey of faith in this life.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

September 18, 2022

Page 4 of 20

I'm so happy God has put all of you right here today so we can all help each other find the way God wants us to go. To help us understand how God is always with us I need a volunteer... Great! I have this blindfold. Now can you see anything? No. Great. Would you please go to the back pew and get me one of the green hymnals. What? You can't see to find the hymnal? Don't worry. I'll be right by your side and I'll hold your hand and help you every step of the way. Do you trust me to lead you in the right direction? Let's give it a try!

That was really fun! How did it feel for you to have to walk all the way back there without being able to see where you're going. Scared... Embarrassed? Did it help to know that I was going to help you find the hymnal? That's how it is when we trust God in our lives. God will never let you down or leave you alone!

Let's pray... Dear God, thank you for always being with us and helping us to live our lives trusting in you. Amen.

• **SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 12:1-9**

P: Our scripture reading for this day is from Genesis, Chapter 12.

C: **Glory to you O Lord.**

12 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's

house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan,

⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. ⁹And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ (*Spoken*)**

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

September 18, 2022

Page 5 of 20

- **SERMON**

Pr Mel Musser

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the one who still calls you to follow, Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

Last week we heard the story of Noah, his family, and the animals sailing in the ark, and then God making a promise to all the people and creatures of the earth. Noah's family included three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The oldest son, Shem, is the great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandfather (that's seven greats!) of Abram, who we heard about today. Abram had two brothers, one of whom died, leaving a son. The whole family, including Abram's wife, his father, Abram's brother and his wife, and their nephew decided to move away from their home in Ur and go to the land of Canaan. Along the way, they stopped in a town called Haran — which was also the name of Abram's brother that had died. The family stopped there and couldn't bring themselves to go any further, and Abram's father died there as well. We picked up the story today when the family is there in Haran.

Last week in the story of Noah, I asked what made Noah so special that God decided He and his family should be saved from the flood. My conclusion was that Noah (1) listened to God's Word, (2) trusted God's word, and (3) acted on God's Word. Many Christians point to Abram as the Father of our faith, but he

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

was carrying on in the long tradition established by his forefather 7 generations removed, Noah. Since Abram gets the publicity as being the father of our faith, lets take a closer look at what that really means...

In the very first verse we hear God calling Abram to leave the country of his father and go to an unknown destination. He's asking Abram to leave his relatives and friends behind and to go someplace where only God knows what awaits. Abram packs up his wife, his father, his brother and his wife and his nephew from his other brother, Haran, who had already died. Along with these few family members Abram brings along over 300 servants and their wives and children as well. This is no small move. We're talking about a pretty good size migration and Abram is the patriarch of the caravan. The way God dealt with Abram is typical of the way that he deals with all sinners. If contact between God and sinner is to be established, God has to make the first move. Therefore, one facet of faith is that it is a gift from God. Abram's father was a pagan and worshipped false gods. If the one true living God had not interceded, Abram would most likely follow in his father's footsteps and worshipped false gods as well. That was not God's plan. God came to Abram and Abram was never the same again. The same scenario was true of the Disciples. In the Gospel of John, Jesus said, "You did not choose me,

but I chose you” (John 15:16a). I reject the notion that it was my decision to believe in the Lord God. It was and always will be God who does the choosing!

What would motivate God to pick one person out of all the humans that were alive during the time of Abram for God’s special gift of faith? The answer for Abram is the exact same answer I came up with for Noah last week. Abram listened to God’s Word, Abram trusted in God’s Word, and Abram acted on God’s Word. That is all true for Abram, but as in the case of Noah their stories would not be told or remembered except that God spoke to them first and then they listened, trusted, and acted... We would have never heard the name Abram if God hadn’t first spoken to Abram and called him into a relationship of trust. So, what moved God to do this? It was the same thing that motivated God to call your name. God has this inexplicable undeserved love for sinners. Paul said it best to the Roman Christians, “[salvation] does not, therefore, depend on man’s desire or effort, but on God’s mercy” (Rom. 9:16). The same thing, of course, can be said about us. If God had not graciously used our parents, grandparents, or friends to bring us into contact with his Word, we would still be lost and condemned sinners. God always acts first. God always comes down from heaven out of kindness to the creation God made with love.

The second thing we discover about faith from this story of the call of Abram is that faith is not blind, nor is it some kind of a betting or speculation based on the best evidence at hand. When God told Abram to go to a land he would tell him about, Abram went, not because he felt this was the right thing to do, or because he had heard about great riches and prosperity in other lands, but because God had given him a cluster of awesome promises. God said to Abram, “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” (Gen. 12:2, 3). Faith is a certain confidence based on the rock-solid promises of our God who never lies. In that way Christianity is truly unique. When God wants to move us to action He does so not by demanding or threatening punishment, but by promising. For example, when God tells us not to be afraid, He doesn’t just command it, but promises to protect and provide for us thereby giving us a reason not to be afraid. When we base our faith on our feelings, our own thoughts and desires, or on anything in this created world, we’re on thin ice. True faith is founded on God’s promises and nothing else. That’s why it’s important for us to stay connected to God’s Word—that’s where we find those promises.

* Please stand if able
● Please be seated

A story about a long dead man and his trip across the desert from Ur to Canaan might not seem all that relevant to us modern folks, but the promises God made to Abram are still true for us today. God said Abram would be blessed with many descendants. He was. God said every family on earth would be blessed through those descendants. Since Jesus Christ is a direct descendant of Father Abraham and since Jesus is the one who lived without sin and took our sin upon himself and since God raised Jesus from the dead with the promise that we will be with Jesus for all eternity, we are the direct beneficiaries of God's plan of salvation. God's plan for the world runs through this wandering Aramean named Abram. So, why did God pick Abram, you'll have to ask God someday for yourself. For me it comes down to trust. I simply trust God has the master plan and I don't need to know all the nitty gritty details. It's enough for me to read these stories about redemption and faith and know God not only had a plan for the world, but also has a plan for me. Why did God pick Mel Musser, all the way up in Alaska for this journey. I have no idea, but I know my mother made certain I knew from an early age that God did indeed have a plan for my life. No matter how far I ran away from the plan, God always sought me out and spoke words of love and forgiveness. God always invited me into a deeper relationship and when I

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

finally responded to that call, God has always carried me through the highs and the lows.

Abram's story is the very same story for each and every one of us who have responded to God's call. The details about who, what, and where may be totally different, but the plot and the story line are the same. God appears, speaks, calls your name and you listened. You trusted the promises of God were for you and then you acted in faith to be in that loving relationship with our awesome God. I think that's how faith works...

May you hear God's voice when He calls your name. May you trust the promises God is making to you today, because God is incapable of telling a lie. May you act in faith on the call God is placing on you this day and every day until in God's mercy, He calls you to your heavenly rest. All glory and honor be to this God of promise, amen.

Silence may be kept for meditation...

*** APOSTLE’S CREED**

The Nicene Creed is said on all festivals and on Sundays in the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. The Apostles’ Creed is said at other times. The Creed is omitted here if the service of Holy Baptism or another rite with a creed is used.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

➤ *Or, He descended to the dead.*

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: Confident in the promises of our covenant God, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L: God of abundant blessing, your extravagant love for Abraham became blessing for all the earth. Make us instruments of blessing for others, so that all may know your love. God of promise,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Make every blade of grass, every drop of dew, and every wisp of wind reminders that your creation is a precious gift, entrusted to our care. God of promise,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Make every conversation in board rooms and government offices, in community halls and household kitchens contribute to the blessings that you intend for all creation. God of promise,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Make every medicine, every healer, every prayer warrior, and all who heal, instruments of your divine healing. Bring healing and wholeness to all who need care, (*especially*). God of promise,

C: You hear our prayer.

L: Make every hungry belly, every unsheltered head, every sick soul, and every exiled person find love, acceptance, nourishment, housing, and aid.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

God of promise,

C: You hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: With gratitude we remember all the saints who have fulfilled your call to bring blessing to this world. Unite us again with them when all the world is made new. God of promise,

C: You hear our prayer.

P: Trusting in your grace and mercy, we lift these prayers to you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

While the congregation is still standing say:

P: Instead of passing the offering plate, we ask you to please place your offering in the Offering Plates conveniently located on your way out of worship. For those worshipping with us from their vehicles, there is an offering basket located near the back door of the church and for those worshipping online if you go to www.pitsburgtlc.org you can make your offering online.

P: So, let's pray for the offerings we receive this day.... God, you have blessed us to be a blessing to the world. Use these gifts, we pray, for the good of all those in need of your loving care.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*** DIALOGUE**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*** THE PREFACE**

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

* **THE SANCTUS**

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

* **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P: Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C: Amen

* **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: We are united together by this heavenly food, which is the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. So, let us pray as Jesus taught...

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: God nourishes us with this meal that we may be a blessing to all the world.
Come share in the blessing of Jesus body and blood.

• COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

During the distribution the minister says these words to each communicant:

P: At this time you may open the communion bread and partake of The Body of Christ, given for you.

Now please open the wine and you may now partake of The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen.

*** POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: May this Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen, keep, and unite us, now and forever,

C: Amen.

*** POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray... Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** SENDING BLESSING**

P: God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, † one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

C: Amen.

* **SENDING HYMN**

“Here I Am, Lord”

ELW 574

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

September 18, 2022

Page 16 of 20



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

- * Please stand if able
- Please be seated

*** DISMISSAL**

P: Thank you all for joining us to worship our great and gracious God! Thanks also to our Facebook and other social media viewers for joining us as well. We're glad you're with us today. In a world where you can be anything, be kind! Until the next time we gather together as God's people to offer our worship and praise, depart in Christ's Love.

C: Seeking, welcoming, and serving all. Amen!

*** POSTLUDE**

Roxanne Groff

Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS023830. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	Mark Oswalt
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser
Altar Flowers	Given to the Glory of God by Pastor Mel and PJ Musser in celebration of the wedding of Trevor Musser and Alexis Lowery.

Health Tips for the Week

BODY: Be sure to drink plenty of water

MIND: Read a book by your favorite author

SPIRIT: Tell a friend how important they are to you

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

September 18, 2022

Page 18 of 20



Trinity is on the Air at FM 88.3

If you are near the Church on Sunday morning, you can tune in to FM 88.3 at 10:30 AM and hear the sermon from your car.

This Week @ Trinity – September 18 thru September 25, 2022

Sun, Sept. 18	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Holy Communion
Tues, Sept. 20		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Wed, Sept. 21	6:00 pm	Finance Team Meeting
	7:00 pm	Trinity Council Meeting
Fri, Sept. 23	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sun, Sept. 25	10:30 am	Worship Service



Scripture readings for next Sunday, September 25th
Genesis 39:1-23

Holy Communion Delivery Available to ALL:

If you or anyone you know would like to have Holy Communion delivered to a home or place of business, please call Pastor Mel at 937-626-7100. He will bring a prefilled communion chalice including both sanctified wine and a morsel of bread all prepackaged from the Concordia True Vine company. This is a safe way to stay connected to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Trinity Contact Info

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

Pastor:	Mel Musser
Email:	pastor@pitsburgtlc.org
Cell Phone:	937-626-7100
Secretary:	Sharon Fourman
Email:	secretary@pitsburgtlc.org
Office Hours:	By Appointment
Office Phone:	937-692-5670
Website:	www.pitsburgtlc.org

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated