

the sower

reflections. . .



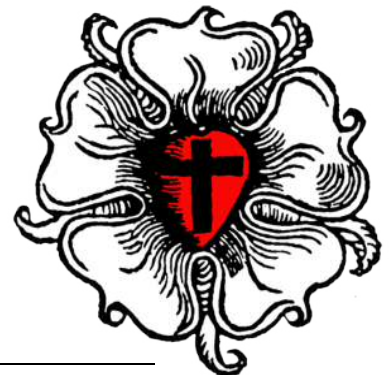
Fragile the article calls us! A casualty! Back in the Sixties, it was god who was dead. Today, I guess, it's our turn. At least, that's what they'd like us to believe. And so, we hang heads and wring hands and pace floor. Hoping against hope that we won't be next. . .

But the thing the articles never bother to mention is that the church is anything but fragile! Sure, congregations come and go. Steeples fall. Spires crumble. But the church remains. The church continues. Just imagine everything god's people have faced over the past two thousand years! The changes and chances over which a hundred generations have prevailed! And we're still here! In spite of dungeon, fire, and sword! In spite of falling short and missing the mark! Far from fragile, the church is tough! It's resilient! Sure, sometimes it feels like were perishing, but the church persists. Persists because that's what love does. . .

Like love – like the god who loves – the church bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things! The church never ends! And like the gospel we proclaim, like the good news we administer, we can trust it! We can depend on it! We can stake our life on it! Again and again! Over and over! Time after time after time. . . We believe in the Holy Spirit! But we believe in the church, as well!

i Let's Be Radicals. . . TOGETHER !

Bob



septiembre a.d.2018

The church of Christ, in ev'ry age
beset by change, but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live before they die.

Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

For he alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.

We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord;
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating word.

fred pratt green
elw # 729



FIRST THINGS FIRST. . .

The story began, that first Sunday after Easter, with an "infoMeeting" held right after worship. For about a year-and-a-half, now, the finances of the congregation have been shaky. Offerings haven't kept up with expenses. So we got

together and talked about it. (FYI: That hasn't changed.) But, Friday, May 25th, Steven Uk, pastor of Midland Chin Immanuel Church (MCIC) – the congregation that's been worshipping here, for over six years – asked pastor Bob if "we" might be interested in selling "them" the building. For years, they've been planning a new facility in northwest Midland. But they've begun to realize this place is their "home". And if it would be possible, they thought we might switch places!

Pastor Bob took the question to the congregation Council and for the next month, they thought it through. Another infoMeeting was held, the last Sunday in July, to discuss it with the congregation. And last Sunday, August 19th, a special meeting of the congregation was called to vote. **That the congregation council be charged to enter into negotiations with Midland Chin Immanuel Church regarding the purchase of the buildings (incl. parsonage) and grounds of this congregation.** Please note, this motion was not – I repeat, NOT – a vote to sell. It was only to enter into a conversation. The motion passed.

Last night, August 23rd, the congregation Council met and at the end of the usual, monthly business, began discussing the possible sale of the facilities. There aren't a lot of details, yet. But in general, they identified three emphases we'll need to look at before any action is taken. First, of course, is the business of selling. Cost, financing, etc., etc., etc. Second is beginning to dream the mission of Midland Lutheran Church from this point forward. Truth is, if the way we've been church for the last sixty-five years isn't working in this building, it probably won't work in any other building. At least, not for long. Selling the building isn't a quick fix to financial struggles. But it is an opportunity to do things differently. Effectively. Creatively. And thirdly, we need to figure out how we're going to shift gears, how to make the transition from old to new.

Like I said, no details, yet. But keep your eyes and ears open. We'll keep you informed of progress. And if you have any questions or concerns, please – PLEASE – don't hesitate! Ask them! Voice them! And remember, none of this is a "done" deal! That comes later – if it comes, at all. For now, we're, simply, asking, "What if?"



FIRST, A QUICK THANK YOU! to everyone who made Pr. Totzke's visit, a couple of weeks ago, an experience! Coffee with the council, Saturday afternoon! potluckBBQ with the congregation, Saturday night! And then worship, Sunday morning! And to top it all off, she got back to Dallas in one piece! If you have a chance, take a look at what she wrote about "us" on her blog, ["Go West, Old Woman!"](#)

BTW: Next month, we've been invited to get together with Christ's/Odessa for a visit from Pastora Irma Benales, Director for Evangelical Mission! But more about that next month!

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BLACKBERRY BBQ SAUCE! A few people asked me for the recipe for the sauce I made for the potluck! So, here 'tis (from allrecipes.com). . .

- 1/2 cup blackberry preserves
- 1 1/2 cups ketchup
- 1/8 cup brown sugar
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon mustard powder
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar

I substituted crushed, smoked chipotles for the cayenne pepper. Bon appetit!

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BUSINESS AS USUAL! Sunday, September 09th, the regular schedule returns! The Adult Class meets in a room off the south hallway, pastor Bob



teaching. Throughout the summer, we've been looking at the firstReading for the week. But on the 9th, we'll choose a topic to study for the next six-to-eight weeks! So be sure to join us and give your input! All you wanted to know, but never asked! This is your chance!

And as far as the kiddos go, confirmation continues with Lael Pitts, in thePatio room!



This year, they'll be looking at the Lord's Prayer, à la *Small Catechism!*

Any questions about either offering, talk with pastorBob – office – 432.694-1373 + cell – 432.349-7407 + home – 432.689-9274 + or email –

bbarndt@juno.com

Or with Lael – cell – 432.296-2684 + or email – larrynel@sbcbglobal.net

or any given Sunday morning!

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THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH meet



the 2nd Wednesday of every month! This time, it's on September 12th! In the Patio room off the north hallway! From

9:30-11:00 (+/-)! No need to rsvp! Just come on down and join right in! Any questions, talk with Gretchen Shults, the study leader, @ 432.413-4354 or Donna Roberts, president of the organization, @ 817.223-3327

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PMStudy reconvenes Wednesday evening, September 12th! No topic chosen, yet! So, this is your chance! 7-8:00! A room off the south hallway! Just follow the arrows! Any questions – or if you need a ride, call the church office – 432.694-1373 – or text pastorBob @ 432.349-7407!



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THE NEXT CLUSTER CONFAB – our ongoing conversation with Christ’s Lutheran about all things evangelical – will be @ Christ’s Lutheran Church,

2002 N Lincoln Ave, Odessa, Thursday evening, September 12th, from 7-8:00 (+/-). Anyone and everyone is welcome! Just come on down and join the discussion!

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FAITHTALKS has been going on for five years, now. It’s, exactly, what it sounds like – a conversation about things that matter! Over the years, people from Midland and Christ’s Lutheran Church have gotten together to talk about worship, conversion, the bible, Lutheranism, means of grace! This year – year # 6 – we’ll discuss the marks of the church! What is it that makes the church the church? How can we tell if something IS the church? What do we look for? Listen for? Usually, we begin



in September. However, this year, thanks to the AirSho, we’ll start, the first week in October, instead! Christ’s Lutheran Church, 2002 N Lincoln Ave, Odessa, 10am-2pm, Saturday, October 06th! Lunch’s included! There’ll be more info in next month’s *Sower*!

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THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL

meets right after worship, the 3rd Sunday of each month! For September, that’s the 16th! Everyone’s welcome to sit in and see what’s happening! Questions – member or not – call (432.694-1373), text (432.349-7407), or drop a line (bbarndt@juno.com)! And council members. . . if you can’t make it, please do the same!



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IF YOU HAVEN’T HEARD. . .

[Scott Enga](#) died July 18th
[pastor Danny Koenig](#) died July 31st

just click on their names
to read their obituaries

Rest eternal grant them, O Lord;
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

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Be sure to check out our presence online, in your spare time. . .

www.MidlandLutheranChurch.org
– our webpage –

www.Facebook.com –

/GospelCrossWords

- devotion posts –

/MidlandLutheranChurch

- us & our ministry –

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PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE in your thoughts, words, & DEEDS. . .

Kaylee Academia; Adrian; Aunt Betty; Corbin; Liz & Tom Daneker; Heather Dellinger; Donovan; Marilyn Douglas; Mary & Steve Douglas; Shirley Dye; Emily; **family & friends of Scott Enga**; David Fisher; Forest; Terri Gordon; Anneliese Hyde; Wanda Howell; Linda Jamison; Pamela Jamison; Marti Jones; Mike Jones; Karen; Diane Keys; Kim & Sunny; Kirstie; **family & friends of Danny Koenig**; Kristi & new daughter; Kurt; Toni Jean Lanier; Leanne; Eric Lee; Lisa; Liz, Kurt, & Brian; Louie; Cassie Martin; Ruth Mendenhall; Bill Reinert; Doris Muehlbrad; Cindy Nelson; Shirley Nelson; Jennifer & Kyle Norman; Peacekeepers; Reagan; Shellie Robbins; Geneva Russell; Ruth; Dean Saenger; Norma Saenger; Jody Smith; Johnnie Snider; John Spaight; Doug Speer; Luther Steele; Teresa: Tim; Tricia; Betty Tuminaro

family & friends of Tom Sullivan;
Teresa: Michael “Donny” Tergerson;
Tim; Tricia; Betty Tuminaro; **family & friends of Joe vanHoff**

For telephone prayer chain requests – or if you’d like to be a link on the chain – please call Barbara Porsch –

683-4474 * bporsch@sbcglobal.net

or Ginny Behnken –

262-3374 *

fred_behnken@suddenlink.net

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the **ANNIVERSARIES**

david & bennie ross	09/17
alan & kay sewell	09/29

+ + +

the **BIRTHDAYS**

wanda hayes	09/06	amoura saenger	09/17
doug howell	09/10	shirley nelson	09/26
ruth mendenhall	09/12	chad hauris	09/27
terri gordon	09/17		

if we've – unintentionally – omitted a birthday or anniversary, please let us know we'll be sure to get you NEXT YEAR

the LATEST from the TREASURER (FYI) . . .

total income – year to date	\$97,503
total expenses – year to date	\$107,305
current balance	\$8,917

the LEADERSHIP of the CONGREGATION

president	-----	vice president
secretary	fred behnken (432.262-3374)	deidre barnes (432.847-7253) treasurer
ministry team		council representative/team leader
	building and grounds	todd wise (661.333-3725)
	education	-----
	fellowship	-----
	outreach	lael pitts (432.296-2684) ruth orson (432.684-4587)
	stewardship & finance	b.j. shraeder (724.584-3633)
	worship	noma saenger (432.599-5979)
nominating team	fred behnken (432.262-3374) delegate(s)	
organist	chad hauris	bob barnet pastor

the WORSHIP MINISTERS

	acolyte	reader	worship ass't	tellers
sep 02 nd		gretchen shults	lonnie yee	del bowie & lonnie yee
sep 09 th		ruth orson	marylin boomer	lonnie yee &
sep 16 th		bob boomer	fred behnken	alan sewell &
sep 23 rd		wanda hayes	erika weber	fred behnken & deidra barnes
sep 30 th		erika weber	gretchen shults	del bowie & lonnie yee
altar guild	delphine bowie & cyndi stroud		gretchen shults	cantor

**“let none
the gospel gift impede”**

martin luther, 1483-1546, elw # 594

average sunday attendance for july/august: **30/37**

budget/month: **\$14,000⁰⁰**

offering rec'd in july/august: **\$11,270⁹²/8,548⁷⁹**

rice bowl offering, y.t.d.: \$1,076⁴⁷

(f.y.i.: only three weeks in august is recorded)





the PROPERs for september

the FIFTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, september 02

the PRAYER of the DAY: O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 + Psalm 15 + James 1:17-27 + Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

the SIXTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, september 09

the PRAYER of the DAY: Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

the READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a + Psalm 146 + James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17 + Mark 7:24-37

the SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, september 16

the PRAYER of the DAY: O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a + Psalm 116:1-9 + James 3:1-12 + Mark 8:27-38

the EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, september 23

the PRAYER of the DAY: O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the READINGS: Jeremiah 11:18-20 + Psalm 54 + James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a + Mark 9:30-37

the NINETEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, september 30

the PRAYER of the DAY: Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
















the READINGS: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 + Psalm 19:7-14 + James 5:13-20

+ Mark 9:38-50

septiembre 2018

sunday monday tuesday wednesday thursday friday saturday

proclaim the wonders god has done

 <p>2</p> <p>9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship 1:00pm - worship</p>	 <p>3</p> <p>labor day misd holiday</p>	 <p>4</p> <p>7:00pm - bsa troop 270</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
 <p>9</p> <p>9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship 1:00pm - worship</p>	<p>10</p> <p>student holiday/ teacher planning</p>	 <p>11</p> <p>7:00pm - bsa troop 270</p>	 <p>12</p> <p>9:30am - women of the elca 7:00pm - pmStudy resumes</p>	 <p>13</p> <p>2:00pm - supportGroup 7:00pm - clusterConfab</p>	<p>14</p>	 <p>15</p> <p>7:00pm - faithTalk_1</p>
 <p>16</p> <p>9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship 12:00pm - council 1:00pm - worship</p>	<p>17</p>	 <p>18</p> <p>7:00pm - bsa troop 270</p>	 <p>19</p> <p>7:00pm - pmStudy</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
 <p>23</p> <p>9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship 1:00pm - worship</p>	<p>24</p>	 <p>25</p> <p>7:00pm - bsa troop 270</p>	 <p>26</p> <p>7:00pm - pmStudy</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> 

30
same schedule
as above

proclaim the vict'ry god has won

martin luther, 1483-1546, elw # 594



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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midland lutheran church

2705 west michigan avenue * midland, texas 79701-5840
bob barndt, pastor

office: 432.694-1373 * home: 432.689-9274 * cell: 432.349-7407

webpage: www.MidlandLutheranChurch.org

facebook: www.facebook.com/GospelCrossWords/

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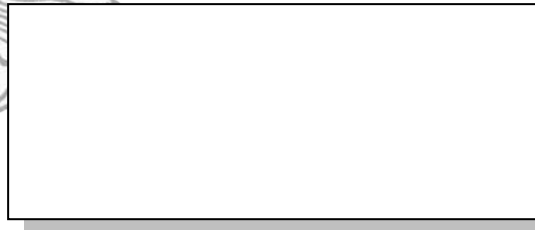
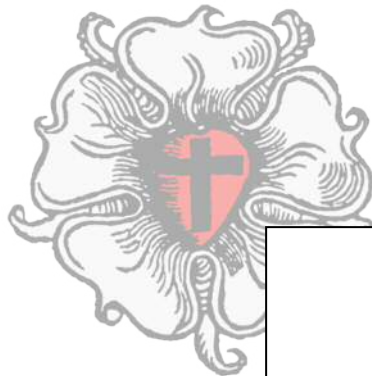
sunday morning schedule: **learning hour @ 9:15 * worship @ 10:30**

office hours: monday-thursday, 9am-noon & by appointment

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midland lutheran church

2705 w michigan av + midland, tx 79701-5840



september 2018