

# the sower

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reflections. . .



So much to do, so little time! Halls to deck! Apparel to don! Carols to troll! And, of course, all those well-worn critiques of the holiday to endure! "Xmas is Christmas without Christ." Happy holidays versus Merry Christmas. And my own personal favorite, "Jesus is the reason for the season." Most, nowadays, are nothing more than clichés, full of sound and fury signifying nothing. Trite. Overused. Unoriginal. But this year, at least that last one – about Jesus being the reason – did spark something new, for me.

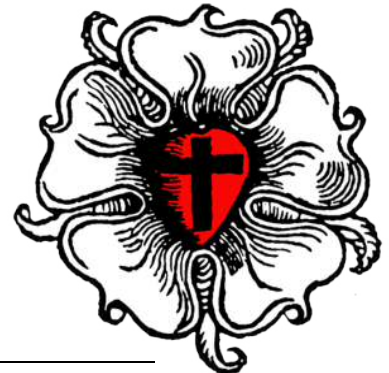
I saw the words, again, last week, as I headed to the mountains. Of course, I rolled my eyes. Muttered something under my breath. But this time, I, also, did some thinking. If Jesus wasn't the reason for the season, then who was! Theologically speaking, that is! And I was surprised at how quickly, how easily, the answer came!

Who's the reason for the season? WE ARE! EACH of US! ALL of US! Without US, there would be no Christmas! Without US, there would be no reason for it! God so loved US, that god gave Jesus! God so loves US, that god continues to give him, year after year! Conceived, again and again, by the Spirit! Born, over and over, of a virgin!

So, this year, as you go about your busy-ness, be sure to notice the people around you! Husband! Wife! Parents! Children! Neighbors! Friends! Classmates! Coworkers! Even that man or woman standing along the road holding out their hand! Notice them! Look at them! See them! Because they all are why there's a Christmas! They're all the reason for the season!

i Let's Be Radicals. . . TOGETHER!

*Bob*



## WHERE WE ARE, NOW. . .

**SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING**  
called by the Congregation Council  
Sunday, December 02<sup>nd</sup>, 2018  
immediately after worship  
purpose of meeting:  
final vote on selling building & grounds  
to Midland Chin Immanuel Church



**FAITHTALK, 2** – the continuing conversation between Midland and Christ's Lutheran Churches about all things "holy" – is first thing on this month's calendar! Saturday, December 01<sup>st</sup>! We're meeting a week or two earlier than usual not to interfere with all the festivities! We continue our discussion about Luther's seven characteristics of the church! We were planning to get together, this time, here @ Midland Lutheran. **HOWEVER**, Midland Chin Immanuel Church will be having a funeral, here, that day, instead. So, we'll just meet, once again, at Christ's Lutheran Church, 2002 N Lincoln Ave, in Odessa, as we have been. 10am to 2pm! Lunch is included! If you weren't there last time, no worries! You can pick up right where we left off! Any questions – or if you need a ride – just give the church office a call – 432.694-1373 – or call/text pastorBob @ 432.349-7407! Otherwise, we'll see you there!



**THE amCLASS** – for adults – meets, Sunday mornings, from 9:15-10:15, in one of the rooms off the south hallway, pastorBob teaching. The topic has moved on to something new! Something REALLY new! **#DecolonizeLutheranism!** For a foretaste of the discussion, check out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZabPNVsRpM>



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**CONFIRMATION** is in session! Lael Pitts, in the Patio room, with the Small Catechism! They're, still, looking at the Lord's Prayer!



Any questions about either class, talk with pastorBob – office – 432.694-1373 + cell – 432.349-7407 + home – 432.689-9274 + email – [bbarndt@juno.com](mailto:bbarndt@juno.com)

Or with Lael – cell – 432.296-2684 +  
or email – [larrynel@sbcglob.net](mailto:larrynel@sbcglob.net)  
or, of course, on any given Sunday!

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**THE pmSTUDY** is taking a break until  
next year! Wednesday,  
January 09<sup>th</sup>, we'll get back  
at it. Until then. . .



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**ADVENT MIDWEEKS BEGIN** on  
Wednesday evening, December 05<sup>th</sup>!  
And we'll get together on the two  
Wednesdays that follow, December 12<sup>th</sup>  
& 19<sup>th</sup>! As in the past, we'll meet in the  
Fellowship Hall. Supper is served from  
5:45 'til 6:45. The devotion and Holden  
Evening  
Prayer follow  
at 7:00! The  
focus, this year: *out of, through, into:  
the journey of faith*. Again, any  
questions – or if you need a way to get  
here – give the church office a call –  
**432.694-1373** – or call/text pastorBob  
@ **432.349-7407!**



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**THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH** will  
get together for their annual  
Christmas meeting &  
luncheon. 10:00,  
Wednesday morning,  
December 12<sup>th</sup>, @ the home  
of Barbara Porsch, 2313 Stutz Pl. No  
reservations required! Simply bring a  
dish of your choice and enjoy! Have any  
questions, talk to Gretchen Shults, the  
study leader, @ **432.413-4354** or



Donna Roberts, president of the  
organization, @ **817.223-3327** Or, of  
course, you can give Barbara a call,  
**432.683-4474.**

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**WHILE WE'RE AT IT. . .** For both  
Thanksgiving and Christmas, the women  
are collecting  
food and personal  
hygiene articles  
for TeenChallenge  
– both men and  
women! A collection box is in the  
entryway to worship! Like to know  
more about the program, check out  
their website:



<https://teenchallengepb.com/>

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### **CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP**

meets in the lobby of the  
church building, from 2-  
3:30 or so, the second  
Thursday of each month.  
This month, that's the 13<sup>th</sup>!

Susan Frederickson, Caregiver Program  
Specialist for the Area Agency on Aging  
for the Permian Basin, facilitates the  
conversation. No need to call ahead.  
Just come on down. Any questions,  
give Susan a call. Her number at the  
agency is **432.563-1061!**



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### **THE NEXT CLUSTER CONFAB** – our



ongoing talks with  
Christ's Lutheran about  
all things evangelical –

will be @ Christ's Lutheran Church, 2002 N Lincoln Ave, Odessa, Thursday evening, December 13<sup>th</sup>, from 7-8:00 (+/-). Everyone's invited! Just drop in! The agenda is a "flow of consciousness" kind of thing! So, whatever strikes your fancy! If you'd like to know more, talk with pastorBob

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### WE'LL BE DECKING THE HALLS,

Saturday morning, December 15<sup>th</sup>! We'll start at 10:00 and go until we're finished! Don't worry, that's usually by noon, if we do it right! Put up and trim the tree! Hang the wreaths! And a few other odds and ends! Come when you can! Stay as long as you're able! We might, even, troll an ancient yuletide carol or two while we're at it! Any questions, you know who to talk with!



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### THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL will



meet right after worship, Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>! Anyone's welcome to sit in and see what's going on! Questions? –

member or not – call 432.694-1373, call/text 432.349-7407, or drop a line [bbarndt@juno.com](mailto:bbarndt@juno.com)! Council members: if you can't make it, please do the same!

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### THE CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE-LIGHT COMMUNION will

begin at 7:00pm, Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>! (Actually, according to worship tradition of the church, a new day begins at sundown, not sunset! So anything after 5:50pm cst, isn't christmas eve, but, officially, christmas day!) Either way, join us in celebrating the coming of the god's light into the world! And know that any christmas visitors you might have – santa included – are welcome, too! Maybe, even, let a friend or two know there's room for them, as well!



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### WE'RE COLLECTING XMAS CARDS,



again this year, (for the record, xmas isn't christmas without christ. it's, simply, an abbreviation! christ – in greek – is xpistos, x being the

first letter! But I digress. . .) for [Church of the Damascus Road Prison Ministry](#), a Northern TX – Northern LA synodically-authorized worshipping community! Unsigned! Unused! Standard size! The cards will, then, be distributed to those incarcerated in Texas prisons. There's a donation box on the way to worship!

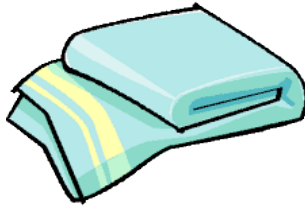
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**& WE'RE CONTINUING** our traditions of borrowing your poinsettias for the



night to add to the celebration and of collecting blankets to give to [Casa de Amigos](#) – a

community outreach in east midland – who will, then, distribute them to those who need a little extra warmth, this winter. You can fill out a slip included in the bulletin and include it with your offering any Sunday between now and Christmas Eve. Or you can give us a call – 432.694-1373 – call/text pastor Bob – 432.349-7407 – or send an email – [bbarndt@juno.com](mailto:bbarndt@juno.com) – and share your intentions! And then, please have your plant and/or blanket Sunday morning, December 23<sup>rd</sup>! Then you can claim your plant after worship on Christmas Eve and take them home with you or pass them on for someone else to enjoy! Any questions, talk with pastorBob.



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**FINALLY, FOR THE OVERACHIEVERS AMONG US,**

sermons for the next year will be rooted in the gospel reading for the week! So, if you like to take a peek beforehand, check out the passage from Luke – and sometimes John – in the propers for the month.



This next Sunday, December 02<sup>nd</sup>, for instance, the passage is Luke 21. 25-36!

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And when you get a chance, be sure to check out our presence online . . .

[www.MidlandLutheranChurch.org](http://www.MidlandLutheranChurch.org)

– our webpage –

[www.Facebook.com](http://www.Facebook.com) –

@GospelCrossWords

– devotion posts –

@MidlandLutheranChurch

– us & our ministry –

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**IF YOU HADN'T HEARD,** Bill Reinert



– Carol's husband – died Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. His memorial service was held Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Here's a link to Nalley-Pickle & Welch webpage if you'd like to

see the obituary. . .

<http://www.npwelch.com/obituary/william-henry-reinert/>

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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; Forest; Wanda Hayes; Anneliese Hyde; Wanda Howell; Linda Jamison; Pamela Jamison; Wayne Johnson; Marti Jones; Karen; Diane Keys; Kim & Sunny; Kirstie; 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; Reagan; **the family & friends of Bill Reinert**; Shellie Robbins; Geneva Russell; Ruth; Dean Saenger; Jody Smith; Johnnie Snider; Doug Speer; Luther Steele; Teresa: Tim; Tricia; Betty Tuminaro

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](mailto:bporsch@sbcglobal.net)**

or Ginny Behnken -

**262-3374 \***

**[fred\\_behnken@suddenlink.net](mailto:fred_behnken@suddenlink.net)**

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the **BIRTHDAYS**

<b>kylee demmier</b>	12/02	<b>madison schaffrina</b>	12/18
<b>will rodriguez</b>	12/04	<b>carol reinert</b>	12/20
<b>amanda taylor</b>	12/10	<b>rachel meyer</b>	12/27
<b>matthew keys</b>	12/16	<b>barbara porsch</b>	12/27
<b>david ross</b>	12/16	<b>jennifer nelson</b>	12/28

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

**LOVE  
HAS COME  
AND NEVER  
WILL LEAVE  
US!**



## the LEADERSHIP of the CONGREGATION

<b>president</b>	-----	<b>vice president</b>
<b>secretary</b>	fred behnken (432.262-3374)	deidre barnes (432.847-7253)
<b>ministry team</b>		<b>council representative/team leader</b>
	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)
<b>nominating team</b>	fred behnken (432.262-3374)	
<b>organist</b>	chad hauris	bob barndt
		<b>pastor</b>

## the WORSHIP MINISTERS

	acolyte	reader	worship ass't	tellers
dec 02 <sup>nd</sup>		bob boomer	jonathan yee	del bowie & lonnie yee
dec 09 <sup>th</sup>		wanda hayes	kay sewell	lonnie yee &
dec 16 <sup>th</sup>		erika weber	lonnie yee	alan sewell &
dec 23 <sup>rd</sup>		deidre barnes	sherice barndt	fred behnken & deidra barnes
dec 30 <sup>th</sup>		lisa starling	bob boomer	del bowie & lonnie yee
altar guild	norma saenger		gretchen shults	cantor

**“by thee are given  
the gifts of heaven”**

johann lindemann, 1549-1631, elw # 867

average sunday attendance for october: **29**

budget/month: **\$14,000<sup>00</sup>**

offering rec'd in october: **\$10,597<sup>64</sup>**

**rice bowl offering, y.t.d.: \$1,563<sup>30</sup>**





## the PROPERs for december

### the FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT, december 02

the **PRAYER** of the **DAY**: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the **READING**: Jeremiah 33:14-16 + Psalm 25:1-10 + 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 3:9-13  
+ Luke 21:25-36

### the SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT, december 09

the **PRAYER** of the **DAY**: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the **READING**: Malachi 3:1-4 + Luke 1:68-79 + Philippians 1:3-11 + Luke 3:1-6

### the THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT, december 16

the **PRAYER** of the **DAY**: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the **READING**: Zephaniah 3:14-20 + Isaiah 12:2-6 + Philippians 4:4-7 + Luke 3:7-18

### the FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT, december 23

the **PRAYER** of the **DAY**: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the **READINGS**: Micah 5:2-5a + Luke 1:46b-55 + Hebrews 10:5-10 + Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]







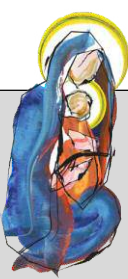
### the FIRST SUNDAY of CHRISTMAS, december 30

the **PRAYER** of the **DAY**: Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the **READINGS**: 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 2:18-20, 26 + Psalm 148 + Colossians 3:12-17 + Luke 2:41-52



# diciembre 2018

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
 <b>VERBUM DOMINI MANET IN AETERNUM</b> the word of the lord endures forever						1 10:00am – faithTalks
2 9:15am – learning 10:30am – worship 1:00pm – worship 4:00pm – bsa 270 7:00pm – worship	3 12:00pm – special meeting of congregation	4	5  5:45pm – supper 7:00pm – devotions & evening prayer	6	7	8
9 9:15am – learning 10:30am – worship 1:00pm – worship 4:00pm – bsa 270 7:00pm – worship	10	11	12  10:00am – women of the elca 5:45pm – supper 7:00pm – devotions & evening prayer	13  2:00pm – supportGroup 7:00pm – clusterConfab	14	15  10:00am – hall decking
16 9:15am – learning 10:30am – worship 12:00pm – council 1:00pm – worship 4:00pm – bsa 270 7:00pm – worship	17	18	19  5:45pm – supper 7:00pm – devotions & evening prayer	20	21	22
23 9:15am – learning 10:30am – worship 1:00pm – worship 4:00pm – bsa 270 1:00pm – worship	24 7:00pm – christmas eve candlelight communion <i>misd holiday</i>	25  christmas day	26	27	28	29
30 see above for times	31	<b>our souls thou wakest; our bonds thou breakest</b> johann lindemann, 1549-1631, elw # 867				



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](http://www.MidlandLutheranChurch.org)

facebooki: [www.facebook.com/GospelCrossWords/](http://www.facebook.com/GospelCrossWords/)

[www.facebook.com/MidlandLutheranChurch/](http://www.facebook.com/MidlandLutheranChurch/)

email: [bbarndt@juno.com](mailto:bbarndt@juno.com)

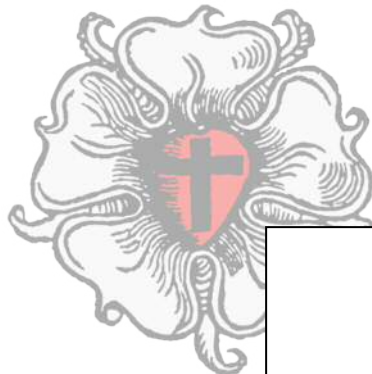
sunday morning schedule: **learning hour @ 9:15 \* worship @ 10:30**

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

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midland lutheran church

2705 w michigan av + midland, tx 79701-5840



december 2018