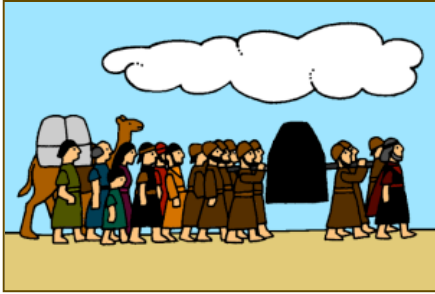


# the sower

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... crossing the river ...

reflections. . . .



This past Sunday morning was a watershed moment, for us. Everything before that point led us to it. And everything after it will have that instant as its origin, its source. The papers are signed. The building sold. And this past Sunday, we traded places, for the last time. Midland Chin Immanuel Church began worshipping in the large sanctuary and we "returned" to our "first" home. At least, for the time being.

For the next couple months, we'll, simply, let the dust settle. Regain our footing. And then sometime after Easter, we'll set out on the next leg of the journey. Investing time and energy in discovering where god is leading us, in determining what god has in mind for us. And the outcome of that effort will impact the future of the E.L.C.A. not just here in Midland, but throughout the Basin, for decades, for generations to come!

In a way, it's been a sad time. It's, definitely, been a challenging one. But it's, also, exciting! A second chance! A fresh start! A new beginning! Full of promise and possibility! One that doesn't come, all that often, to congregations. As god lifts us out of our yesterdays and places us on the road to our tomorrows! And just like god said to Israel when they stood together at the edge of the land, god says, now, to us, "Be strong! Be courageous! I'm with you!"

i crossing the river . . . TOGETHER !

*Bob*



# the sower

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reflections. . .



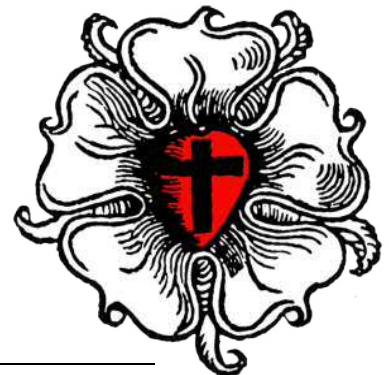
More often than not, a new year is determined by the path of a planet or the ticking of a clock or the turning of a page. One year, naturally and automatically, flowing into the next. And life, pretty much, goes on as it always has. But occasionally – more not than often – something happens that ushers in not just a new year, but an entirely different world! Everything changes! Everything turns upside-down and inside-out!

Last month, on the first Sunday of Advent – coincidentally, new year's day here in the church – we voted to sell the building and grounds of Midland Lutheran Church to Midland Chin Immanuel Church, the congregation that's been worshiping with us for over six years, now. It's not, just, a new year. For us, it's a whole, new world! After the papers are signed, nothing will ever be the same. For over six-and-a-half decades, Midland Lutheran Church has been rooted in this piece of property. Our hopes and dreams have been planted in this ground. But that will change. The closing date, last we heard, is sometime in mid-January. And we'll be trading places with the Chins, after that.

We'll meet here for a while, but we'll, no longer, be responsible for maintenance and repairs. We'll no longer have to wrestle with balancing the budget and making ends meet – at least, as far as building and grounds go. Instead, as a congregation – as the church – we'll have only one concern: "to preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission"! Happy new year! And happy new life!

i Let's Be Radicals. . . TOGETHER !

*Bob*



## WHERE WE ARE, NOW. . .

It's been a crazy few weeks, not counting the holidays! First of all, some news! If you haven't already heard, the sale is final! The papers were signed, Friday afternoon, January 11<sup>th</sup>! And the money's in the bank. (FYI, the council is in the process of determining where to "invest" the receipts from the sale. We'll let you know the details as they're available) Then, Sunday



morning, January 27<sup>th</sup>, Midland Chin Immanuel and Midland Lutheran traded places! So now, our "new" worship space is the "old" fellowship hall. We're using pews, for the time being, but for the sake of flexibility, pretty quickly, we'll be getting stacking chairs. We're, still, in the process of preparing a "covenant" between the two congregations re: the sharing of the building. A copy will be included in the March Newsletter. And over the next few months, we'll be cleaning up and cleaning out! And in the process, learning what we need and what we can do without!

The word to keep in mind, through it all, is **TRANSITION!** This move isn't an end in itself. It's only a means. So please remember, what is about to happen isn't etched in stone. And frankly, a lot of it, we'll be making up as we go! The pmStudy on Wednesdays – at least, until Lent – will be acting as an unofficial transition team, helping the council anticipate what's around the bend and over the hill. If you'd like to lend a hand – or maybe, a brain cell or two – just join them. Wednesday evenings, off the south hallway, from 7-8:00.

And if you have any questions or concerns – or just need to blow off some steam! – please don't hesitate to talk with the pastor, an officer, or any council member. Each month, their names and numbers are on the inside back cover of the newsletter! Communication and trust – not necessarily in that order – will be essential throughout this process!

Also, because so much has been happening so quickly, this past month, the January and February editions of *theSOWER* have been pureed! Hopefully, by March, we'll have things a little more back to normal! Until then, thanks for your patience!

**THE NEXT FAIHTALK** is Saturday,



February 02<sup>nd</sup>!  
Christ's Lutheran  
Church, 2002 N  
Lincoln Ave, Odessa!  
The conversation  
begins @ 10:00,

breaks for lunch around noon – which, by the way, is included! – and finishes up by 2:00pm. The topic under discussion: The Seven Marks of the Church! Any questions or need a ride, talk with the pastor – c all the church office @ **432.694-1373** – or call / text pastorBob @ **432.349-7407**!

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**THE amCLASS** for adults meets, from 9:15-10:15, every Sunday morning! We meet in a room off the south hallway, pastorBob teaching. The topic for the next few weeks? "What Does This Mean?" The "What" referring to the sale of the bulding and the future to which god is calling us!

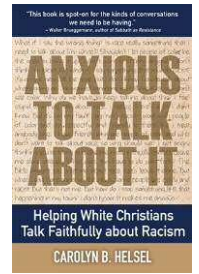


Any questions, talk with pastorBob – office – **432.694-1373** + cell – **432.349-7407** + home – **432.689-9274** + or email – [bbarndt@juno.com](mailto:bbarndt@juno.com)

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**THE pmSTUDY**, for Wednesday, February 06<sup>th</sup>, has been canceled! We've chosen, instead, to attend an event @ Grace Presbyterian Church – 2801 N Garfield St! *Anxious to Talk about It:*

*Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully about Racism* Led by the rev dr Carolyn B Helsel, assistant professor of homiletics (a.k.a., preaching) at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, the event's is sponsored by the Women in Ministry initiative of Princeton Theological Seminary and by local churches. The event is free! If you need more info, check out [@Gracepresmidland](#) on Facebook! Or give 'em a call at **432. 684-6542**! Of course, you can talk with pastor Bob!



The pmSTUDY will, then, reconvene Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>! We've been acting as a kind of "unofficial" transition team following the sale of the building. We'll continue to go with that until the start of Lent, Ash Wednesday, March 06<sup>th</sup>! Wednesday evenings! 7-8:00! Off the south hallway! Any questions – or if you need a ride, give a call the church office – **432.694-1373** – or call / text pastorBob @ **432.349-7407**!

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**THE ANNUAL MEETING**, originally called for Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> and, then, rescheduled for Sunday, February 03<sup>rd</sup>, will now be Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>! Because of all the distractions, it'll, probably, be a bare bones meeting. Election of officers and council members



and adoption of a mission strategy/  
budget for 2019.

This time around, rather than “sweating  
the details,” as we’ve  
usually done in the  
past – i.e., electing  
leaders for specific  
ministry teams – for  
the next year or so,  
the unique responsibility of the council  
will be to “lead this congregation in  
stating its mission, doing long-range  
planning, and setting goals and  
priorities,” all in partnership with the  
synod and churchwide. Please come  
prepared to make nominations from the  
floor.



As we’ve said, the annual meeting will  
be, immediately after worship, Sunday,  
February 10<sup>th</sup>. Any questions or  
concerns, contact the pastor, any officer  
or council member. Their names and  
numbers are listed inside the back cover  
of the newsletter!

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**THE WOMEN OF THE  
CHURCH** meet the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Wednesday of every month!  
In February, that’s the 13<sup>th</sup>! In  
the Patio room off the north

hallway! From 9:30-11:00 (+/-)! No  
reservations required! 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

## A CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP



meets in the lobby of the  
church, the second  
Thursday afternoon of  
each month (February  
14<sup>th</sup>), from 2-3:30 (+/-)!

Susan Frederickson, Caregiver Program  
Specialist for the Area Agency on Aging  
for the Permian Basin, facilitates the  
discussion. No need to call ahead to  
reserve a chair. Just come on down! But  
if you’d like to talk with Susan ahead of  
time, her number at the agency is  
**432.563-1061!**

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## THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL

meets right after worship, the  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month!

That’s the 21<sup>st</sup>! Everyone’s  
welcome to sit in and see  
what’s happening! Questions  
– member or not – call **432.694-1373**,  
call or text **432.349-7407**, or drop a  
line to [bbarndt@juno.com](mailto:bbarndt@juno.com)! And council  
members. . . if you can’t make it, please  
do the same!



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**AND A HEADS UP OR TWO!** First,  
Lent is late, this year! Ash Wednesday’s  
March 06<sup>th</sup>! Supper is served from 5:45-  
6:45pm and worship follows @ 7:00.

Secondly, the rev dr Erik Gronberg,  
bishop, NT-NL Synod, will be with us  
the weekend of Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>! The  
purpose of the visit is to see how things  
are going! We’ll let you know more as  
we find out!



+ + +

For the week-to-week details, be sure to keep an eye on social ministry. . .

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

- our webpage -

& our Facebook pages

[@GospelCrossWords](https://www.facebook.com/GospelCrossWords)

- devotion posts -

[@MidlandLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/MidlandLutheranChurch)

- us & our ministry -

+ + +

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; Anneliese Hyde; Wanda Howell; Linda 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; Doris Muehlbrad; Cindy Nelson; Shirley Nelson; Jennifer & Kyle Norman; **family & friends of Marie [Hudgins]**; Lael & Larry Pitts; Reagan;

Geneva Russell; Ruth; Dean Saenger; Jody Smith; Johnnie Snider; Doug Speer; Luther Steele; Judy Swenson; 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)**

+ + +

the **BIRTHDAYS**

+ + +

if we've - unintentionally - omitted a

<b>rebecca hodes</b>	02/06	<b>alexis keys</b>	02/19
<b>mckenzie howell</b>	02/09	<b>dave swenson</b>	02/21
<b>alex ortiz</b>	02/09	<b>joshua yee</b>	02/26
<b>cyndi stroud</b>	02/14	<b>kleigh keys</b>	02/27
<b>norma saenger</b>	02/16	<b>tom daneker</b>	02/28

birthday or anniversary, please let us know we'll be sure to get you NEXT YEAR

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen! Amen! This is most certainly true!

## 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	norma 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

	reader	worship ass't	tellers
feb 03 <sup>rd</sup>	gretchen shults	kay sewell	del bowie & lonnie yee
feb 10 <sup>th</sup>	ruth orson	lonnie yee	lonnie yee &
feb 17 <sup>th</sup>	bob boomer	sherice barndt	alan sewell &
feb 24 <sup>th</sup>	wanda hayes	bob boomer	fred behnken & deidra barnes
altar guild	norma saenger	gretchen shults	cantor

“let us find your hidden riches,  
taste your love,  
believe, and live!”

christopher idle, b. 1938, elw # 312





## the PROPERs for february

### the **FOURTH SUNDAY** after **EPIPHANY**, february 03

the **PRAYER** of the **DAY**: Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the **READING**: Jeremiah 1:4-10 + Psalm 71:1-6 + 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:1-13 + Luke 4:21-30

### the **FIFTH SUNDAY** after **EPIPHANY**, february 10

the **PRAYER** of the **DAY**: Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, and before you angels and saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in the world, and by your grace make us heralds of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the **READING**: Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13] + Psalm 138 + 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:1-11 + Luke 5:1-11

### the **SIXTH SUNDAY** after **EPIPHANY**, february 17

the **PRAYER** of the **DAY**: Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the **READING**: Jeremiah 17:5-10 + Psalm 1 + 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:12-20 + Luke 6:17-26

### the **SEVENTH SUNDAY** after **EPIPHANY**, february 24

the **PRAYER** of the **DAY**: O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the **READINGS**: Genesis 45:3-11, 15 + Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 + 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50  
+ Luke 6:27-38



# febrero 2019

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
	<p><i>Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum</i> The Word of the Lord Endures Forever</p>				1	 2 7:00pm – FaithTalk, 3
3 9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship 1:00pm - worship 4:00pm - bsa 270 7:00pm - worship	4 misd student holiday	5	 6 6:30pm – anxiousToTalk about it:	7	8	9
10 9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship 1:00pm - worship 4:00pm - bsa 270 7:00pm - worship	 11 12:00pm – annual meeting	12	 13 9:30am – women of the elca 7:00pm – pmStudy	 14 2:00pm – supportGroup 7:00pm – clusterConfab	15	16
17 9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship 12:00pm - council 1:00pm - worship 4:00pm - bsa 270 7:00pm - worship	 18 presidents day misd holiday	19	 20 7:00pm – pmStudy	21	22	23
24 9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship 1:00pm - worship 4:00pm - bsa 270 1:00pm - worship	25	26	 27 7:00pm – pmStudy	28	surprise our dullness christopher idle, b. 1938, elw # 312	



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)

facebook: [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)

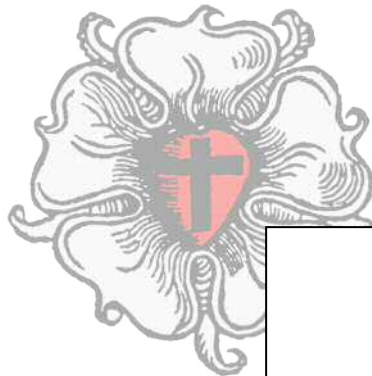
sunday morning schedule: **learning hour @ 9:15 \* worship @ 10:30**

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

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midland lutheran church

2705 w michigan av + midland, tx 79701-5840



february 2019