

the sower

i will not fail you or forsake you

reflections. . . .



Candy eggs! Marshmallow chicks! And, of course, chocolate bunnies! Lots and lots of chocolate bunnies! Stores are full of them, nowadays! They've act as a sorta mascot for the season! And for the longest time, I wondered why. Then, last year, I tripped over something online. . .

In the ancient world, the dead didn't just die and go to heaven. They went, instead, to hell. Each and every one of them. But not the hell we're used to. Of wrath and retribution. Of brimstone and fire. It was, instead, a hell of shadows and darkness. Way back when, Hell – or Hades or Sheol – was, simply, a place where the dead came together. It was like one big common grave. Now, enter the bunny ...

It seems our ancestors held rabbits in high esteem! They were able to navigate the darkness and shadows of the underworld – without any light – and, then, emerge back, again, into the world, safe and sound! For the church, it reminded them a lot of Jesus! Descending to the dead and rising! So, over time, the rabbit became one more symbol of the resurrection. Not because they're so gosh, darn cute and cuddly. But because of their nearness to death and the grave! Descending into that ancient hell and rising, just like Jesus! Over ... and over ... and over ...

i crossing the river . . . TOGETHER !

Bob



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.
Yes! Yes! This is most certainly true!

THE LAST TWO MIDWEEK GET-TOGETHERS, this Lent,

will be Wednesdays, April 3rd and 10th! We're eating in the Patio Room and worshipping in the fellowship hall! A lite supper is served from 5:45-6:45pm. Devotion and Holden Evening Prayer follow at 7:00pm. The topic is "Reflection on a Logo: thoughts along the way." We've been spending time putting this part of our journey into perspective using the logo as the focus. 1) Crossing the River. 2) Be Strong and Courageous. 3) I Will Not Fail or Forsake You. Purpose and meaning don't drop down out of the sky, plain and simple. It takes time. And it takes "together"! Any thoughts or questions, talk with pastorBob – office – 432.694-1373 + cell – 432.349-7407 + home – 432.689-9274 + or email – bbarndt@juno.com



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THE NEXT FAIHTALK is Saturday,



April 06th @ Christ's Lutheran Church, 2002 N Lincoln Ave, Odessa! This will, also, be the last time we meet! At least, in this "go

round"! The conversation begins @ 10:00am, breaks for lunch around noon – which, by the way, is included! – and finishes up by 2:00pm. The topic under discussion has been "The Seven Marks of the Church!" We've already talked about the first four: Gospel Proclaimed, Baptism, Supper, Confession & Forgiveness. That leaves Ordained Ministry, Worship, and Suffering! If you haven't been able to make it to any of the others, No Worries! You'll fit right in! Any questions or need a ride, again, talk with the pastor – call the church office @ 432.694-1373 – or call / text pastorBob @ 432.349-7407!

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THE amSTUDY on Sunday for adults is still meeting in a room off the south hallway, from 9:15 to 10:15 (give or take!), pastor Bob teaching. The topic: "What Does This Mean?" The conversation has moved from transition to transformation! Becoming who and what god's been preparing us to be! There's no set curriculum! Just a continuing conversation! So, drop in and share you're 2¢ with the rest of us! It's, probably, the most important contribution you can make, at this point in time! Again, any questions, talk with the pastor – office – 432.694-1373 + cell – 432.349-7407 + home – 432.689-9274 + or email –



bbarndt@juno.com

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THE WEDNESDAY pmSTUDY



continues to be on its Lenten hiatus! We'll meet up, again, on the other side of Easter! Keep your eyes and ears open for the particulars!

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THE NEXT MEETING of the women of the ELCA will be Wednesday morning, April 10th! They'll be in the patioRoom, off the north hallway, from 9:30 to about 11:00! No reservations are required! Just come on down and join in! Any questions, talk with Gretchen Shults, the study leader, @ 432.413-4354 or Donna Roberts, president of the organization, @ 817.223-3327



A SUPPORT GROUP FOR CAREGIVERS meets in the lobby of the church building, the second Thursday afternoon of each month. That's April 11th! From 2-3:30 (+/-)! Susan Frederickson, Caregiver Program Specialist for the Area Agency on Aging for the Permian Basin, facilitates the conversation. No need to call ahead or make reservations. Just drop by whenever you'd



like or are able! If you want to talk with Susan beforehand, her number at the agency is 432.563-1061!

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SUNDAY, APRIL 14th – the Sunday of the Passion aka Palm Sunday – marks the beginning of Holy Week, this year! Worship, as usual, is at 10:30am. We begin with the blessing of the palms, remembering Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem and, then, "enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, [and] burial...."



THURSDAY, APRIL 18th – Maundy Thursday – we gather at 7:00 to commemorate "the night in which he was betrayed." According to John, it's, also, the night Jesus gives the greatest commandment – or mandate – to his disciples. "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another!"



FRIDAY, APRIL 19th – Good Friday –



we'll meet, again, at 7:00pm, this time, to "adore" the cross. By the time worship begins, though, Jesus will have, already, suffered under

Pilate, been crucified, died, been buried, and descended to the dead. It'll be as if we were standing outside the grave ... with Joseph ... and Nicodemus ... and the women ...

SATURDAY, APRIL 20th – the Great



Sabbath, Holy Saturday – we rest. "So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the

work that he had done in creation."

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SUNDAY, APRIL 21st – the Resurrection



of Our Lord, Easter Sunday! "On the third day," we celebrate not just Jesus' return from the grave, but the first day of a whole new creation! Worship is at

10:30am! And ...

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IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP add to the festivities (other than by your presence) with the loan of an easter lily, let us know – by call (432.694-1373), by text (432.349-7407), or by email (bbarndt@juno.com)! Be sure to let us

know in whose or what's memory or honor your gift's being shared! Please



have your plant here at the church building before Saturday morning, April 20th! Then, after worship on Easter morning, you can reclaim your offering and take it home to enjoy or to pass on to a friend or neighbor. Let us know as soon as you can so we can get it into the bulletin!

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CONGREGATION COUNCIL! There's a

couple mistakes on the calendar for April. First of all, we forgot to move the monthly meeting of the council to the third Sunday



of the month, as usually scheduled. And secondly, even if we'd remembered, the third Sunday, this month, is Easter! So be expecting a call or text to let you know when we'll be getting together! Other-wise, any questions, feel free to talk with pastorBob or Fred Behnken!

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THE 32nd NT-NL SYNOD ASSEMBLY,



is Friday and Saturday, April 26th and 27th, at Calvary Lutheran Church, Richland Hills, TX. We, still, don't have a voting

member! Soooooo, if you feel "called," talk with the pastor – **A.S.A.P.** – and we'll get you registered! Or, you can talk to Lonnie Yee! He's the registrar, again this year! If you'd like more information before you commit, talk with the pastor or Lonnie or take a look at the synod website ... Just click [here!](#)

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

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 -

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

Kaylee Academia; Adrian; Aunt Betty; Corbin; 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; Lael & Larry Pitts; Reagan; Joice Richter; 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

or Ginny Behnken -

262-3374 *

fred_behnken@suddenlink.net

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the BIRTHDAYS

ianie barndt	04/05	steve douglas	04/11
shawn demmier	04/06	collin schaffrina	04/20
gretchen shults	04/06		

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the ANNIVERSARIES

mike & carla rowell 04/27

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



FYI!

we just got new chairs to replace the pews we've been using! Gives us a little more flexibility - along with comfort - when we have to clear out for MCIC events in the fellowship hall! Stop in and give one a try, some Sunday morning!



SENIOR LIFE M I D L A N D

THE BEST THING ABOUT AGING IN MIDLAND SINCE 1974

Dear Members of Midland Lutheran
Church,

Senior Life Midland would like
to thank you for your donations to
the Texas Size Garage Sale. All of your
items were really nice and will help
raise money for Meals on Wheels.

It is people like yourselves that
helps make our program a success.

Thank you! Joan Huff

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"Every Sunday in worship the church celebrates the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gathers us to receive again the gifts of God that come to us through Christ, the saving Word. On several key days at the center of the church year, however, worship takes a particular shape. These central days have come to be known as the Three Days, recalling Jesus' own words to his disciples that he would be handed over to death, and that "after three days he will rise again" (Mark 10:34). The Three Days encompass the time from Maundy Thursday evening through the evening of Easter Day. In particular, the services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter unfold in a single movement, as the church each year makes the passage with Christ through death into life."

From sundaysandseasons.com.
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the LEADERSHIP of the CONGREGATION

president	-----	vice president
secretary	debbie wise (661.378-3481) fred behnken (432.262-3374)	treasurer
council representatives		

norma saenger (432.599-5979)
 b.j. shraeder (724.584-3633)
 ken spencer (432.853-6683)
 janice taylor (432.661-5920)
 todd wise (661.333-3725)
 jonathan yee (432.352-9387)

nominating team		delegate(s)
organist	chad hauris bob barndt	pastor

the WORSHIP MINISTERS

	reader	assisting minister	tellers
apr 07 th	deidre barnes	lonnie yee	del bowie & lonnie yee
apr 14 th	-----	sherice barndt	lonnie yee &
apr 21 st	lisa starling	bob boomer	alan sewell &
apr 28 th	sherice barndt	erika weber	fred behnken & deidra barnes
altar guild	norma saenger	bob boomer	cantor

“may the sun
 of christ’s uprising
 gently bring our hearts
 to life”



john patrick earls, OSB, b. 1935, elw # 329



the PROPERs for april

the FIFTH SUNDAY in LENT, april 07

the PRAYER of the DAY: Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the READING: Isaiah 43:16-21 + Psalm 126 + Philippians 3:4b-14 + John 12:1-8

the PASSION of OUR LORD, april 14

the PRAYER of the DAY: Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a + Psalm 31:9-16 + Philippians 2:5-11 + Luke 22:14--23:56

MAUNDY THURSDAY, april 18

the PRAYER of the DAY: Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the READING: Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14 + Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 + 1st Corinthians 11:23-26
+ John 13:1-17, 31b-35

GOOD FRIDAY, april 19

the PRAYER of the DAY: Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

the READING: Isaiah 52:13--53:12 + Psalm 22 + Hebrews 10:16-25 + John 18:1--19:42

the RESURRECTION of OUR LORD, april 21

the PRAYER of the DAY: God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the READINGS: Acts 10:34-43 + Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 + 1st Corinthians 15:19-26 + Luke 24:1-12

the SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER, april 28

the PRAYER of the DAY: O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the READINGS: Acts 5:27-32 + Psalm 118:14-29 + Revelation 1:4-8 + John 20:19-31

abril 2019

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
	1 misd student holiday	2	 3 5:45pm – supper 7:00pm – devotion, etc.	4	5	 6 10:00am – faithTalk, #4
 7 9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship 4:00pm - bsa 270	8	9	 10 9:30am – women of the elca 5:45pm – supper 7:00pm – devotion, etc.	 11 2:00pm – supportGroup 7:00pm – clusterConfab	 12	13
 14 9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship 12:00pm - council 4:00pm - bsa 270	15	16	17	 18 7:00pm – maundyThursday worship	 19 7:00pm – goodFriday worship	 20
 21 9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship 4:00pm - bsa 270	22	23	24	25	 26 ----- nt-nl synod assembly -----	27
 28 9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship 4:00pm - bsa 270	29	30	<p>lead us to the waters flowing from the cross on which you died herman g stuempfle, jr, 1923-2007, elw # 331</p> <p><i>Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum</i> the Word of the Lord Endures Forever</p>			



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

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webpage: www.MidlandLutheranChurch.org

facebooki: www.facebook.com/GospelCrossWords/

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email: bbarndt@juno.com

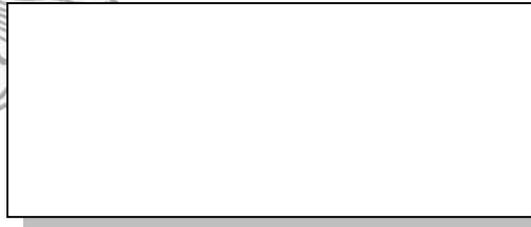
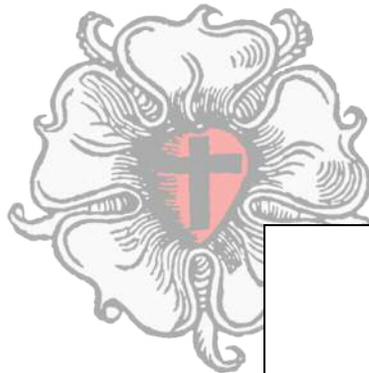
sunday morning schedule: **learning hour @ 9:15** * **worship @ 10:30**

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

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midland lutheran church

2705 w michigan av + midland, tx 79701-5840



april 2019