

# the sower

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... i will not fail you or forsake you ...



I've, finally, gotten to a book a friend gave me, a few months ago! *Autopsy of a Deceased Church* by one of the "gurus" of our time! And, needless to say, it's, pretty much, what I expected. The church is dying because of us! We worship the past. We look inward. We don't read the bible enough. We don't pray enough. Blah, blah, blah. Yada, yada,

yada. Frankly, it sells a lot of books, but doesn't do a whole lot to change the status quo. Right now, I'm on page 85. Just fifteen pages to go! There's been plenty of guilt, but nothing much about love – god's or ours! A mountain of shoulds and oughts and musts, but next to nothing about Jesus!

That's what's made – for me – the work of the designTeam so exciting! They begin by staking our life together on the two things most "churches" don't even mention. First, **GRACE!** God's unearned, undeserved, unconditional love! God's love without limit, without measure, without exception! God's love for everyone and everything! And then, **JESUS CHRIST!** Grace, for us, is nothing in and of itself! It's not a philosophy or creed, a concept or idea! Grace, for us, is a person! A life! Jesus Christ is god's love in flesh and blood! Jesus Christ is god's love that we can see and hear and touch! Jesus Christ is god's love coming to us and living among us, dying and rising for us! Jesus Christ is the love that created us, the love that redeemed us, the love that makes us new!

There are two things that anchor us, that root us, in what matters! We don't have much. But we do have god's love and Jesus Christ. And you know, that may not be a bad place to begin ...

i Crossing over ... TOGETHER !

*Bob*

Station XIII. Jesus is taken down from the cross by Ettore "Ted" DeGrazia





**THE designTEAM** meets from 7-8:00pm, the first and third Thursdays of each month. For August, that's the 01<sup>st</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup>! For now, we're working on our coreValues. Those things that inspire us! That motivate us! That make us who and what we are! We've identified three:

- 1) CHARITY
- 2) JESUS
- & 3) CHURCH

They kinda parallel the way we Lutherans understand how we stand before god ... by grace, for Christ's sake, through faith (Augsburg confession, article 4)! Anyway, the meeting on the 01<sup>st</sup> – which, by the way, will be on the patio of Rosa's Café, 903 Andrews Hwy – will look closer at the second coreValue: Jesus! Members of Midland Lutheran Church who have been serving on the team are: Sherice Barndt, Fred Behnken, Bob Boomer, Gretchen Shults, Ken Spencer, & Jonathan Yee. Members of Christ's/Odessa who have joined us are: Mark & Ramona Russell and Bob & Delores Schuler. Father Rick Lopez, rector at Iglesia Episcopal San Miguel Arcangel in Odessa has, also, been lending a hand when he can! Pastor Bob's facilitating the meetings. Any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please talk with him ... (office) 432.694-1373 + (cell) 432.349-

7407 + (home) 432.689-9274 + (email) [bbarndt@juno.com](mailto:bbarndt@juno.com)

Then, the meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> will look closer at the third coreValue: Church. Time is the same, 7-8:00pm. Place to be announced! Keep an eye on the bulletin and/or our Facebook page for the details! And if you'd like to attend either meeting, to see what's going on or to help out, just feel free to come on down!

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**BTW, THIS MONTH'S 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY SERMON ...** focusing on our preparations to "cross over", will be based on the third coreValue identified by the design Team ... **CHURCH!**



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**THE SUNDAY amCLASS** for adults is meeting all summer long! 9:15-10:15, every Sunday morning in the "old"



PatioRoom! The topic has been "reworking Worship" We're trying to figure out the Whos, Whats, Whens, Wheres, Whys, and – eventually – the Hows of faithfully proclaiming and administering the gospel! 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)!

**THE WEDNESDAY pmSTUDY** is on sabbatical for the summer! Lord willin' and the creek don't rise, we should reconvene sometime in late September! We'll let you know for sure, next newsletter! Until then, enjoy and stay cool!

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### **THE CAREGIVER SUPPORT**



**GROUP** meets in the lobby of the church, the second Thursday afternoon of each month – August 08<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 save a place. Just come down and join in! 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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**A CLUSTER CONFAB** – intended to explore reasons for and ways of cultivating a closer “working” relationship between Midland and Christ's Lutheran Churches – has been meeting, once a month, for nearly a decade, now! However, that conversation has deepened and broadened over the years. With

FAITHTALKs, the designTeam, Fred and Gretchen serving as ParishLayMinisters, pastorBob's Monday-



morning phone conversations with Mark Russell who serves as the SynodicallyAuthorizedWorship Leader at Christ's. Well, we're going to take a break, for a while, and see if everything else going on is enough! So, if you've looked forward to the gatherings on the second Thursday of each month, well, you have the night off! But keep your eyes and ears open for other opportunities that crop up!

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### **THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

meets twice this month! The first is from 9:00 to noon, Saturday morning, August 10<sup>th</sup>! We'll get together at the YoungLife building, 925 W Wadley Ave, just west of COM Aquatics for a session



on identifying the long-range plans of this church. If you're not on council, but would like to take

part, no worries! Consider yourself part of the family! And no need to r.s.v.p.!

The second will be the regular meeting, after worship, on the third Sunday of the month – August 18<sup>th</sup>. It's the usual overview of ministry as well as further discussion of whatever happens on the 10<sup>th</sup>! Again, anyone's welcome to sit in and see what's going on! Questions? Need a ride? About either meeting? Call **432.694-1373**, call or text **432.349-7407**, or drop a line to

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

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**THE NEXT MEETING** of the women of the church is Wednesday morning August 14<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30-11:00 (+/-), in the "old" patioRoom, off the north hallway! No reservations are



necessary! Just come on in and sit right down! Any questions, talk with Gretchen Shults, the study leader @ 432.413-4354

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**sunday@windlandsPark**, last month, went well! A good time had by all! And we, even, had one person who saw us, came in, and stayed for worship and for the picnic, afterward! A few days later, a group of us, then, met at cowdenPark and, about sunset, worshiped using HoldenEveningPrayer! That's the order of service we've been using on the Wednesday evenings in Advent and Lent. No one joined us, this time, but they did play diskGolf around us! We met between the first basket and the second teebox! There's a video on our Facebook page – [www.Facebook.com/MidlandLutheranChurch/](http://www.Facebook.com/MidlandLutheranChurch/) – of both Sunday morning worship and eveningPrayer, if you'd like to take a look!

**AND EVENINGPRAYER WENT SO WELL THAT ...** we're gonna do it, again! Thursday evening, August 22<sup>nd</sup>! Sunset is at 8:25, so we'll begin at 7:30pm! We haven't had a chance to find a more accessible location, but as soon as we do, we'll announce it at worship on a Sunday morning and on Facebook! Or feel free to call, text, email, or message us on Facebook! (office) 432.694-1373 + (cell) 432.349-7407 + (home) 432.689-9274 + (email) [bbarndt@juno.com](mailto:bbarndt@juno.com)



**WE'RE LIVE STREAMING!** Or at



least, we're trying it out! [Facebook Live](#) is a service from

Facebook that lets us share live video – like of worship services – with followers and friends on Facebook! The video will, then, be published to our page so those who missed it, at the time, can watch it later! Or when you can't make it to worship sometime, you can still follow along when you can! Take a look, when you get a chance! Share it with your friends! And be sure to let us know what you think!

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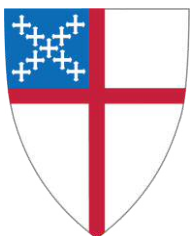
## **!! HELP STILL WANTED !!**

We haven't heard anything, yet, so ... We're still looking for anyone to help keep our small part of the "kingdom" in shape for Sunday mornings! Fellowship hall! Patio room! Restrooms! Five hours a week! Fifteen dollars an hour! If you – or anyone you know – would like more information, talk with pastor Bob – (office) 432.694-1373 + (cell) 432.349-7407 + (home) 432.689-9274 + (email) [bbarndt@juno.com](mailto:bbarndt@juno.com)

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## **COMING UP ...**

Sunday, August 04<sup>th</sup> – pastorBob will be filling in at St. Nicholas Episcopal Church (on the loop) for "Mother" Nancy



Springer, rector of St. Nick's, who's away at a continuing education event, this weekend! Fred Behnken,

parish lay ministry, will be filling in for pastorBob! And everyone should be back where they belong, the next Sunday!

PastorBob will be teaching another course at Midland College's College Classics, a low-cost, non-credit opportunity for citizens 50 and over. A couple years ago, he taught an overview of the Reformation. This time, he'll offer a course looking at the next generation or three. "After the Reform" and "Into a New Land." Classes are Thursday afternoons, 2:30-4:00, September 26<sup>th</sup> to November 14<sup>th</sup>. Of course, don't feel you HAVE to register for his class. Register for anything that catches your interest! You may register for as many classes as you wish all for a one-time fee of just \$25. A MEET & GREET will be held Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, from noon til 1:00! A light lunch is included! For more information ...

<https://www.midland.edu/continuing-education/community/college-classics.php>

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For day-to-day, 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](#)

- devotion posts -

[@MidlandLutheranChurch](#)

- us & our ministry -

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

Kaylee Academia; Adrian; Susan & Lee Anderson; Aunt Betty; Mike Bovington; Corbin; Heather Dellinger; Donovan; Marilyn Douglas; Shirley Dye; Emily; Forest; Jay Howell; Wanda Howell; Anneliese Hyde; Linda Jamison; Wayne Johnson; Marti Jones; Karen; Diane Keys; Kim & Sunny; Kirstie; Kristi & new daughter; Kurt; Toni Jean Lanier; Leanne; Lisa; Liz, Kurt, & Brian; Louie; Cassie Martin; Ruth Mendenhall; Doris Muehlbrad; Cindy Nelson; Shirley Nelson; Jennifer & Kyle Norman; Penny; Lael & Larry Pitts; Ray; Reagan; Geneva Russell; Ruth; Dean Saenger; Paul & Angelina Sicilly; Jody Smith; Johnnie Snider; Doug Speer; Erma Starling; 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)**

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### the BIRTHDAYS

<b>diane keys</b>	08/01	<b>sean rowell</b>	08/20
<b>brandon stroud</b>	08/02	<b>joseph spencer</b>	08/27
<b>delphine bowie</b>	08/06	<b>liz daneker</b>	08/29
<b>tony schaffrina</b>	08/12	<b>doris muehlbrad</b>	08/30
<b>janice taylor</b>	08/15		

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### the ANNIVERSARIES

**fred & ginny behnken** 08/13

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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

O GOD, YOU HAVE CALLED YOUR SERVANTS  
TO VENTURES OF WHICH WE CANNOT SEE THE ENDING,  
BY PATHS AS YET UNTRIDDEN,  
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!



I WILL NOT FAIL YOU OR FORSAKE YOU

## the LEADERSHIP of the CONGREGATION

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

### council representatives

noma 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		sherice barndt	delegate(s)
organist	chad hauris	bob barndt	pastor

## the WORSHIP MINISTERS

	reader	assisting minister	tellers
aug 04 <sup>th</sup>	ruth orson	gretchen shults	del bowie & lonnie yee
aug 11 <sup>th</sup>	bob boomer	kay sewell	lonnie yee &
aug 18 <sup>th</sup>	wanda hayes	jonathan yee	alan sewell &
aug 25 <sup>th</sup>	erika weber	lonnie yee	fred behnken &
altar guild	norma saenger	gretchen shults	cantor

“incarnate love song  
 of boundless grace ...”

marty haugen, OSB, b. 1950, elw # 878





## the PROPERs for august

### the EIGHTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, august 04

the PRAYER of the DAY: Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the READINGS: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 + Psalm 49:1-12 + Colossians 3:1-11  
+ Luke 12:13-21

### the NINETH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, august 11

the PRAYER of the DAY: Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the READINGS: Genesis 15:1-6 + Psalm 33:12-22 + Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 + Luke 12:32-40

### the TENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, august 18

the PRAYER of the DAY: O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the READINGS: Jeremiah 23:23-29 + Psalm 82 + Hebrews 11:29 - 12:2 + Luke 12:49-56

### the ELEVENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, august 25

the PRAYER of the DAY: O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the READINGS: Isaiah 58:9b-14 + Psalm 103:1-8 + Hebrews 12:18-29 + Luke 13:10-17



# augosto 2019

domingo	lunes	martes	miercoles	jueves	viernes	sabado
	<p><i>Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum</i> the word of the lord endures forever</p>			 1 7:00pm – design team  misd teacher professional development	2	3
 4 9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship 4:00pm - bsa 270	5	6	7	 8 2:00pm – supportGroup 7:00pm – clusterConfab	9	 10 9:00am – councilRetreat
 11 9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship 4:00pm - bsa 270	12	13	 14 9:30am – women of the elca  misd first day of classes	15	16	17
 18 9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship 12:00pm - council 4:00pm - bsa 270	19	20	21	 22 7:30pm – eveningPrayer @ thePark	23	24
 25 9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship 4:00pm - bsa 270	26	27	28	29	30	31



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



august 2019