

the sower

... christ + charity + community ...



Days can't get any shorter; nights any longer. The world drifts, once again, into the shadows. But it's here – at the edge of creation – that the savior comes! It's here that god appears! Born not in a palace, but a stable. Asleep not on silk, but straw.

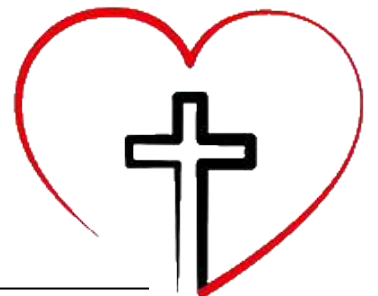
Worshipped not by angels, but shepherds. Everything about this moment is unexpected. Everything's a contradiction. Yet this is the true meaning of Christmas.

And this is the true meaning of church, as well. We, too, are unexpected. We, too, a contradiction! The world demands splendor. It seeks magnificence. But they look at us and, instead, see nothing more than stables and straw. On our best day, we're nothing more. The world overlooks us ... and ignores us ... and takes us for granted ...

"Do not look at the crowd, at the wealth," Luther says in a sermon for Palm Sunday, "but [look at] where the Gospel is to be found. These shams are to be removed from sight, and regard is to be had only for the Word, even though the despised people who have it are not sharp. Though they are poor and ride on mules or travel afoot, nevertheless they are the church. No wealth and no poverty make the church, but the Word [- the gospel -] does."

i Living, dying, and rising ... TOGETHER!

Bob



deciembre a.d.2019



THE adultCLASS meets every Sunday morning, before worship, from 9:15-10:15, in the patioRoom, off the north hallway!

The conversation continues: "reshaping

Church," as we identify the Whos, Whats, Whens, Wheres, Whys, and Hows of being god's people for a new century! Any 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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JR/SR HIGH SCHOOLERS and Lael Pitts get together every Sunday morning from 9:15 'til 10:15! If you'd like to join in, just come on down!



They're in the library or the servingRoom across the hall! Any questions, give Lael a call or send her a call/text @ 432.296-2684! Otherwise, see y'all, Sunday!

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THE pmSTUDY is taking Advent & Christmas seasons off! Classes resume the second Wednesday in January, the 08th! But there'll be more about that in January's newsletter! Which brings us to ...

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ADVENT MIDWEEKS! Fifty-two Sunday mornings! Christmas Eve! Ash Wednesday! Maundy Thursday! Good Friday! Officially, those are the moments that make up the church year! Unofficially, we've added a few more of our own ... like the three



Wednesday evenings leading up to Christmas!

The first get-together is Wednesday, December 04th! All begin with dessert, served from 6:30 to 7:00! You don't have to do anything! Just come, relax, and be our guest! Then, from 7:00 'til 7:30 (+/-), is the devotion, followed by Holden Evening Prayer. The topic, this season, is from the prayer that's inspired us for a few years, now ... Ventures, Paths, & Perils!

No need for reservations. We'll be in the fellowship hall @ Midland Chin Immanuel Church, 2705 W Michigan Ave. Parking and entrance are on the Ohio Ave side of the building! Any questions, call/text to 432.349-7407 or message us on [Facebook](#)! Otherwise, see you, Wednesday! Oh, and feel free to bring along a friend or two!

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THE designTEAM meets the first and third Thursdays of each month – December 05th & 19th. Out of convenience, we've

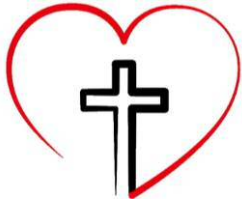


been meeting in thePatioRoom off the north hallway. The focus continues to be developing a visionStatement AND identifying the next steps in our journey! Any comments, suggestions, or questions are certainly welcome! Talk with pastorBob: (office) 432.694-1373 + (cell) 432.349-7407 + (home) 432.689-9274 + (email) bbarndt@juno.com. Or with any member of the team: Sherice Barndt, Fred Behnken, Bob Boomer, Gretchen Shults, Ken Spencer, or Jonathan Yee.

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THIS MONTH'S "3rd SUNDAY"

SERMON – rooted in the journey – will focus on "conceived by the spirit, born of a virgin!" Who we are and what we become isn't our choice. It's god's! By the way, the sermon, each week, is posted



on our Facebook page –

[@MidlandLutheranChurch](#)

– and on our website –

www.MidlandLutheranChurch.org.

Take a look if you missed it or if you want to take a second glance! Then, if you'd like to talk with the pastor about it, give him a call or drop him a text: **432.349-7407!** He'll, even, spring for the coffee!

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THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA get

together on Wednesday morning, December 11th, for their annual Christmas luncheon-meeting. Barbara Porsch – 2313 Stutz Place – will host! Haven't been? This might be a good time to start! They're saving a place just for you! The study/meeting begins at 10:00. Lunch follows. If you'd like or are able to bring a dish to share, please do! Any questions or need a ride, call or text Gretchen Shults, the study leader, @ **432.413-4354**.



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CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP meets

the second Thursday afternoon of each month from 2-3:30 (+/-), @ StLuke's UMC, 3011 W Kansas Ave. Susan Frederickson, Caregiver Program Specialist for the Area Agency on Aging for the Permian



Basin, is facilitator. No need to reserve a seat. But if you'd like to talk with Susan, beforehand, her number – at the agency – is **432.563-1061!**

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THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL meets

immediately after worship, the third Sunday of each month, in the Patio room off the north hallway. This month, that's the 15th! If you're not on council, but would like to see what's goin' on, no problemo! The door's always open! The agenda's an overview of ministry! But this time, we'll be looking more toward the annual meeting at the end of January. Again, anyone and everyone's welcome! Questions? Talk with pastor Bob: office **432.694-1373**, or call/text **432.349-7407**, or drop a line to bbarndt@juno.com! Or talk with any council Member (listed inside the back cover of this newsletter)!



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THANKS FOR EVERYTHING! We



finished another week of hosting Family Promise – "a partnership of congregations within the community helping families facing homelessness." Our next week will be the week of Ash Wednesday!

February 23th – March 01st! The next week, after that, is October 18 – 25! More information'll be coming as we get closer to the time! And by the way, there are four weeks on the schedule that don't have host-congregations! So, if you think we should "volunteer" for another week or two, talk with pastor Bob: office **432.694-1373**, or

So, this year, we're trying something different! Rather than compete for parking spaces, we're just going to move our worship – not to a different place, but to another night! From December 24th to the evening BEFORE! We're hosting our – for the first-time ever ... Christmas Eve Eve Candlelight Communion! It will be in the same place! Only the day before!

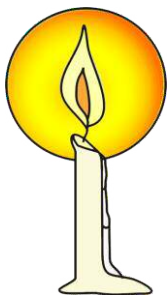
7:00pm, MONDAY, DECEMBER 23rd!
2705 west michigan avenue

Not only will we have the parking lot to ourselves! But we'll have the next night – Christmas Eve – all to ourselves, as well! To spend however we'd like! With family! Friends! Even, by ourselves! After weeks of getting ready, we'll, finally, have time just to sit back, take a deep breath, and enjoy! As god's Christmas washes over us! Turn down the lights. Turn up the music. As god gently places the child – god's own – not into a manger, but into our arms! It doesn't get much better than that! So, remember ... it's not the same old same old Christmas Eve service ... It's a Christmas Eve Eve one!

7:00pm, MONDAY, DECEMBER 23rd!
2705 west michigan avenue

Any questions, just message us on Facebook, give us a call, text, or email, and we'll get back to you a.s.a.p.! And please, feel free to bring a friend! Or two! Or three! It's not just unto us that a child was born! It's unto all of us all!

BTW, worship will be in the fellowship Hall of Midland Chin Immanuel Church – our 'old' property – at 2705 W Michigan Ave! Parking and main entrance are on the Ohio Ave Side of the building!



A NEW DIRECTORY's in the works! But we'll need your help! Names, addresses, phone numbers (landlines and cell), email addresses, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. We'll begin with an insert in Sunday morning's bulletins that you can fill out and get back to us. And we'll go from there until we've talked with everyone! And if you'd like to lend a hand – or a phone – just let us know! We'll need the help!

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For day-to-day, 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; 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; Dave & Judy Swenson;

Teresa; Tim; Tricia; Betty Tuminaro; Bill
Weber; Theresa & Tim York

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For telephone prayer chain requests - or if
you'd like to be a link on the chain -

contact Barbara Porsch -

683-4474 * bporsch@sbcglobal.net

or Ginny Behnken -

262-3374 *

fred_behnken@suddenlink.net



the BIRTHDAYS

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

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!

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)

ken spencer (432.853-6683)

janice taylor (432.661-5920)

todd wise (661.333-3725)

jonathan yee (432.352-9387)

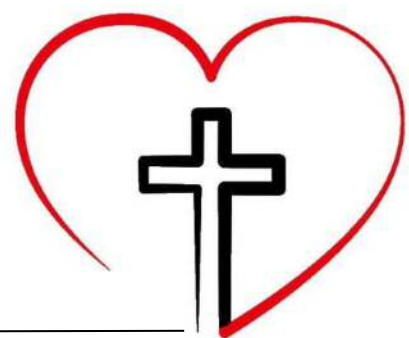
nominating team	sherice barndt	delegate(s)
organist	chad hauris bob barndt	pastor

the WORSHIP MINISTERS

	reader	assisting minister	tellers
dec 01 st	ruth orson	fred behnken	del bowie & lonnie yee
dec 08 th	gretchen shults	bob boomer	lonnie yee &
dec 15 th	bob boomer	marylin boomer	alan sewell &
dec 22 nd	wanda hayes	gretchen shults	fred behnken &
dec 29 th	erika weber	jonathan yee	del bowie & lonnie yee
altar guild	norma saenger	lonnie yee	cantor

“the rising sun
shall crown you
with light ...

marty haugen, b. 1950, elw # 242





the PROPERs for december

the FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT, december 01

the PRAYER of the DAY: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the READINGS: Isaiah 2:1-5 + Psalm 122 + Romans 13:11-14 + Matthew 24:36-44

the SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT, december 08

the PRAYER of the DAY: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10 + Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 + Romans 15:4-13 + Matthew 3:1-12

the THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT, december 15

the PRAYER of the DAY: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the READINGS: Isaiah 35:1-10 + Psalm 146:5-10 + James 5:7-10 + Matthew 11:2-11

the FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT, december 22

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 hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-16 + Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 + Romans 1:1-7 + Matthew 1:18-25

the FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS, december 29

the PRAYER of the DAY: O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the READINGS: Isaiah 63:7-9 + Psalm 148 + Hebrews 2:10-18 + Matthew 2:13-23

dicembre 2019

domingo	lunes	martes	miercoles	jueves	viernes	sabado
1  9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship	2	3	4  6:30pm - adventDessert 7:00pm - devotions& eveningPrayer	5  7:00pm - designTeam	6	7
8  9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship	9	10	11  10:00am - women of the elca 6:30pm - adventDessert 7:00pm - devotions&prayer	12	13	14
15  9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship 12:00pm - council	16	17	18  6:30pm - adventDessert 7:00pm - devotions& eveningPrayer	19  7:00pm - designTeam	20	21
22  9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship	23  7:00pm - christmasEveEve candleCommunion	24 <i>misd holiday</i>	25	26	27	28
29  9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship	30	31	<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

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

webpage: www.MidlandLutheranChurch.org

facebooki: www.facebook.com/GospelCrossWords/

www.facebook.com/MidlandLutheranChurch/

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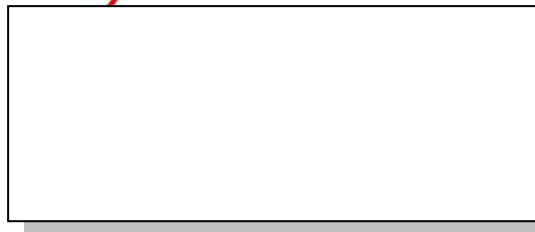
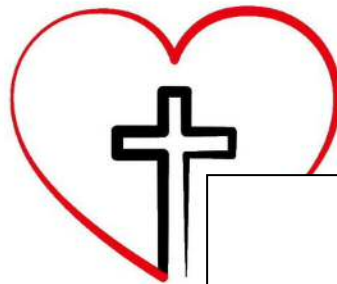
sunday morning schedule: **learning hour @ 9:15 *worship @ 10:30**

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

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midland lutheran church

2705 w michigan av + midland, tx 79701-5840



december 2019