

the sower

... christ + charity + community ...



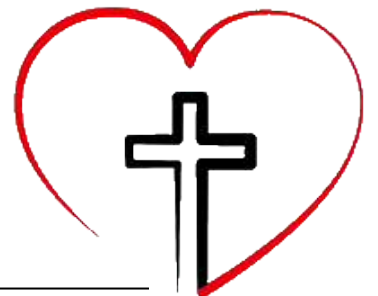
The past couple generations, here in America, haven't been easy on the church. After WW2, there were a few years when it seemed as if everyone would be going to church. New congregations were popping up all across the country. We were one of them. The pews were filled. Offering plates heavy. But things changed and, unfortunately, churches changed with them. Smaller. Grayer. At first, we didn't worry too much about it. But then, congregations started closing. First, just one or two, here or there. Then, by the hundreds. Finally, the thousands. Congregations on the edge –like us –began to panic! Wringing hands ... Pacing floors ... Grabbing at straws ...

But I've come to understand something ... about church ... It's tough! Resilient! That doesn't mean congregations won't dry up and blow away. But it does mean that even if – even when – they do, that's not the end of church. The church has been around for a long time. There isn't much we haven't seen, much we haven't gone through. But we're still here. Sure, there have been changes. And yes, there have been challenges. But god's people have persisted! Persisted and persevered!

Of course, god can be trusted. That goes without saying. But what we often forget, we can trust church, as well! Rely on it! Depend on it! Stake our life on it! Teetering on the brink? Hardly! One foot in the grave? Maybe! But, then, that's what church has always been about ...

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

Bob





< Friday, February 24, El Paso
You might remember
José Sorola ...
he and his wife Maria
took care of the church building
for a few years.
Anyway, Jose became an
American citizen, last week!
This picture is from his
oath Ceremony!
Welcome home, compadre!

Saturday, December 7, 2019 >
Odessa
Ipyana Tito,
a newly-elected member
of our congregation Council
graduated from Odessa College,
last December,
with an Associate of Science
in Engineering
from Odessa College!
“Tito” (on the right) is with
Samuel, a friend from Cameroon!
WooHoo!



directoryInformation ...

only 1 person / page, please (including kiddos) !

name _____

street address: _____

city, state, zip: _____

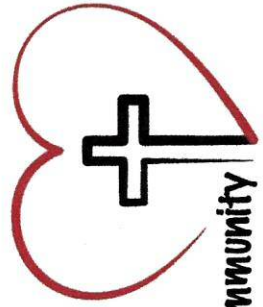
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cell: _____ (_____) _____ - _____

email: _____

birthday: _____

anniversary: _____



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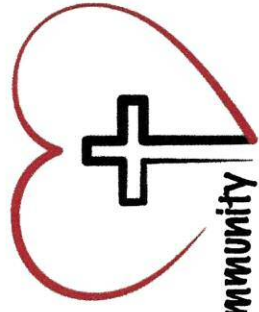
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THE adultCLASS

meets every Sunday morning before worship, from 9:15-10:15, in the patioRoom off the north hallway! We're still talking about "reshapingChurch," identifying the whos, whats, whens, wheres, whys, and hows of being church for a new century! Come when you can, as often as you'd like! Or just stop in & see what's going on! 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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HIGH SCHOOLERS



are meeting with Lael Pitts, most Sunday mornings, from 9:15 'til 10:15! If you'd like to join in, just come on down! They're either in the library or the serving Room across the hall! Any questions, call or text Lael

@ 432.296-2684!

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THE pmSTUDY meets Wednesday evenings, 7-8:00! There's only three evenings left till they "give it up" for Lent! The topic's diversity! "For you and for all: How Church Relates to NotChurch"! Just a hint ... it's all about GRACE! Any questions, talk with pastorBob – office – 432.694-1373 + cell – 432.349-7407 + home –



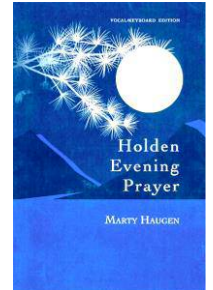
432.689-9274 + or email –

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

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WE MISSED IT, LAST

YEAR! But we remembered, this time! **Thursday, February 06th!** **Holden Evening Prayer Around the World!** We'll get together at Dollye Neal Chapel – outside the circle, south side of the Midland College campus, across the street from the Allison Fine Arts Building and over the bridge from Midland Community Theater! Doors open at 6:00. Worship begins at 7:00. And we should be through by 7:30. Again, any questions or need a ride, talk with pastorBob (call/text @ 432.349-7407). And be sure to extend an invitation – or two, or three – to family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, classmates, even the person in line at the grocery store! Oh, and if you want to know more about [HoldenVillage](#) (in general) or [HEPATW](#) (in particular), just click on the links!



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THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA



will get together, this month, on February 12th, for their usual second-Wednesday meeting. Fun begins at 9:30am, in the patioRoom off the north hallway. Everyone's welcome! Any questions or need a ride, call or text

Gretchen Shults, the study leader, @ 432.413-4354. !

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THE CAREGIVER SUPPORT



GROUP we started, a few years back, still gets together ... from 2-3:30pm, the second Thursday of each month! In February, it's the

13th! Only now, it meets @ StLuke's UMC, 3011 W Kansas Ave. Susan Frederickson, Caregiver Program Specialist for the Area Agency on Aging for the Permian Basin, continues as facilitator. No need to reserve a seat. But if you'd like to talk with her, beforehand, her number – at the agency – is 432.563-1061!

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FEBRUARY'S "3rd-SUNDAY"

SERMON – based on our "journey" together – will focus on the phrase "Onward and Upward!"



Being church isn't about making progress and becoming a success; it's all about love – being loved and loving!

The sermon's posted, each week, on our Facebook page –

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

– and our website –

www.MidlandLutheranChurch.org.

Take a look if you missed it ... or if you just want another look! Then, if you'd like to talk with pastorBob about it, give

him a call or drop a text: 432.349-7407! He'll, even, spring for the coffee!

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THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL

meets right after worship, the third Sunday of each month. This month, That's on the 16th. This will be the first time together since the annualMeeting. So, they'll be spending some time looking over the next year. They meet in thePatio room off the north hallway. Again, if you're not on council, but would like to see what's goin' on, the door's always open! Anyone and everyone's welcome! Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Talk with pastorBob: office 432.694-1373, call/text 432.349-7407, email bbarndt@juno.com! Or get in touch with any councilMember. They're listed inside the back cover of this newsletter!



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THE designTEAM



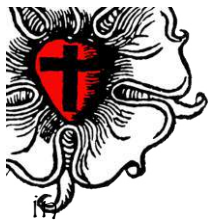
meets only once, this month, on the third Thursday, February 20th.

ThePatioRoom off the north hallway.

This meeting's agenda: Discuss conversations we had during the annualMeeting. Then, take it from there: ministry, staffing, location! Comments, suggestions, questions? Talk with pastorBob ... (office) 432.694-1373 + (cell) 432.349-7407 + (home) 432.689-9274 + (email) bbarndt@juno.com ... or with anyone

on the team: Sherice Barndt, Fred Behnken, Bob Boomer, Gretchen Shults, Ken Spencer, or Jonathan Yee! And, of course, like the meetings of the congregation Council, those of the design Team are always open to visitors! Feel free to drop in and spend the evening with them! The door's always open and the coffee's always hot!

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FAITH TALK, iii will be Saturday, February 22nd, from 10am-2pm! The focus of the conversations: NextSteps Together, Here in the Basin! We're talking about the mission of the ELCA in the Permian Basin over the next decade! This includes intentional relationships between existing ELCA congregations, relationships with our full communion partners (Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Methodists). We meet at Christ's Lutheran Church, 2002 N Lincoln Ave. Lunch is included. No rsvp necessary. And there's plenty of coffee! If you haven't been to a faithTalk before, to join us, now! It's never too late! Any questions, need a ride or directions, call/text pastorBob @ **432.349-7407**

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WE'RE ON DECK for hosting familyPROMISE ... the week of February 23rd! No details, yet, but we'll pass them on as soon as we get



them! For now, just wanted to get it on your calendar! Like to know about this communitywide ministry? Check out their website ...

familypromiseofmidland.com!

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WE HAVEN'T WORKED OUT ALL THE SPECIFICS, YET ...

but we do know, ashWednesday's closing in ... the last week of the month, this year, on the 26th!



Worship - including the imposition of ashes - begins at 7:00pm. We'll let you know the where, as soon as we figure it out! 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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THE SPRING ASSEMBLY of the



Conference Out West, Northern Texas - Northern Louisiana Synod, will be from 1:00 to 3:00, Saturday afternoon, February

29th, at Grace Lutheran Church, 1202 S Pioneer Dr, Abilene. In addition to the usual nuts-&-bolts meeting, there'll, also, be a presentation by Don Heller - from Bethel Lutheran Church, Avoca (30 miles north of Abilene) - on what happened at last year's ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee. If you just

can't wait for his report, here's the link to a [summary of actions](#).

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IF YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ... Some of you may remember the Krueger family. They were part of the life of this congregation, back in the '80s. Richard, Pat, Michelle, and Tyler. Pat – the mom – taught first-grade, at the time. Anyway, we received news, this week, that Pat had died, a couple weeks ago. If you'd like to take a look at her obituary or send your condolences online, here's the link to [Nally-Pickle & Welch's webpage](#).



Rest eternal grant her, O Lord;
and let light perpetual shine upon her

And please, remember to keep her family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

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SNACK BAR SIGNUP! Next time you're here for worship, take the time and look for the signup sheet for the "snack bar!" You don't have to whip up anything out of the ordinary. Just a little something to tempt people to stay, a while, after worship and get to know each other better! Anyway, pick a day and add your name!



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GOOD NEWS! The directory's in the works! We're almost halfway there! But we still need your help!



We've included a worksheet in this month's newsletter, printed on the back of the page with José's and Tito's pictures. Just fill it out and, either, bring it with you, next time you're here for worship, or email the information to us – bbarndt@juno.com – and we'll get it into the directory! Or, if it would be easier, simply, to give a call or send a text, that's good, too! PastorBob's cell number is, probably, the best connection ... **432.349-7407** One page per person. And put only the information you'd like to share! At the end of February, we'll get on the phone and give everyone we haven't heard from a call! But, feel free to keep in touch – (office) **432.694-1373** + (cell) **432.349-7407** + (home) **432.689-9274** + (email) bbarndt@juno.com ! We should have an up-to-date, complete directory of members – er, make that ministers – sometime in March! And thanks for 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](#)

– devotion posts –

[@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; **family & friends of Pat Krueger**; 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

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

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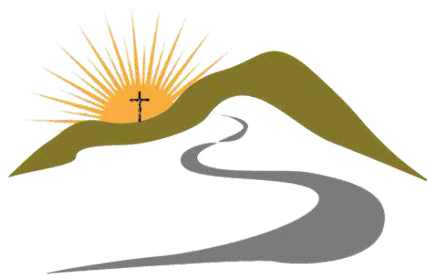
the BIRTHDAYS

rebecca hodes	02/06	alexis keys	02/19
mcKenzie howell	02/09	dave swenson	02/21
alex ortiz	02/09	joshua yee	02/26
cyndi stroud	02/14	kleigh keys	02/27
norma saenger	02/16		

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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 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.

the LEADERSHIP of the CONGREGATION

officers			
president	-----	-----	vice president
secretary	jonathan yee (432.352-9387)	fred behnken (432.262-3374)	treasurer

councilMembers	
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noma saenger (432.599-5979)	janice taylor (432.661-5920)
ken spencer (432.853-6683)	ipyana tito (432.250-0818)

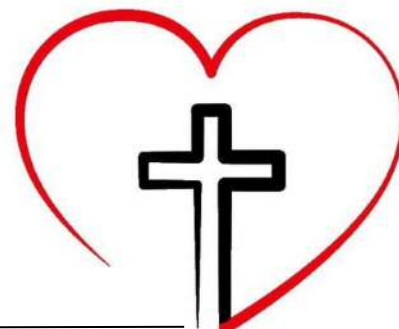
nominatingTeam	-----	-----	delegate(s)
organist	chad hauris	bob barndt	pastor

the WORSHIP MINISTERS

	reader	assisting minister	tellers
feb 02 nd	gretchen shults	sherice barndt	del bowie & lonnie yee
feb 09 th	ruth orson	erika weber	lonnie yee &
feb 16 th	bob boomer	fred behnken	alan sewell &
feb 23 rd	wanda hayes	gretchen shults	fred behnken &
altar guild	norma saenger	gretchen shults	cantor

“... surprise our dullness,
make us willing ...”

christopher idle, b. 1938, elw # 312





the PROPERs for february

the PRESENTATION of OUR LORD, february 02

the PRAYER of the DAY: Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the READINGS: Malachi 3:1-4 + Psalm 84 + Hebrews 2:14-18 + Luke 2:22-40

the FIFTH SUNDAY after EPIPHANY, february 09

the PRAYER of the DAY: Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the READINGS: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12] + Psalm 112:1-9 [10] + 1st Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
+ Matthew 5:13-20

the SIXTH SUNDAY after EPIPHANY, february 16

the PRAYER of the DAY: O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
















the READINGS: Deuteronomy 30:15-20 + Psalm 119:1-8 + 1st Corinthians 3:1-9
+ Matthew 5:21-37

the TRANSFIGURATION of OUR LORD, february 23

the PRAYER of the DAY: O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the READINGS: Exodus 24:12-18 + Psalm 2 + 2nd Peter 1:16-21 + Matthew 17:1-9

febrero 2020

domingo	lunes	martes	miercoles	jueves	viernes	sabado	
 <p><i>Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum</i> the word of the lord endures forever</p>							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
 9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship			 7:00pm - pmStudy	 7:00pm - holdenEveningPrayer aroundTheWorld			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
 9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship			 9:30am - women of the elca 7:00pm - pmStudy				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
 9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship 12:00pm - council	 <i>presidents day</i>		 7:00pm - pmStudy	 7:00pm - designTeam		 10:00am - faithTalks	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
 9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship familyPromiseWeek begins	>>>	>>>	 7:00pm - ashWednesday	>>>	>>>	 1:00pm - springAssembly conferenceOutWest	



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/

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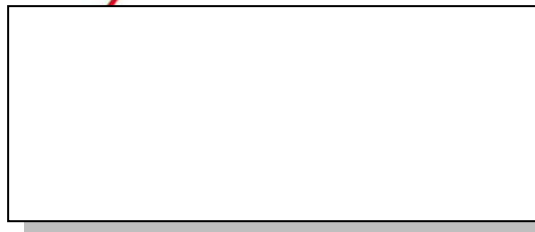
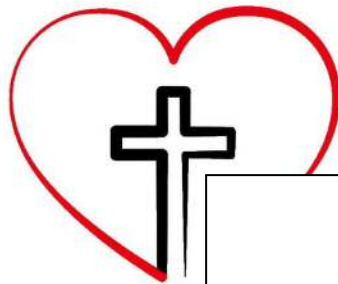
sunday morning schedule: **learning hour @ 9:15 *worship @ 10:30**

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

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midland lutheran church

2705 w michigan av + midland, tx 79701-5840



february 2020