

# the sower

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... christ + charity + community ...



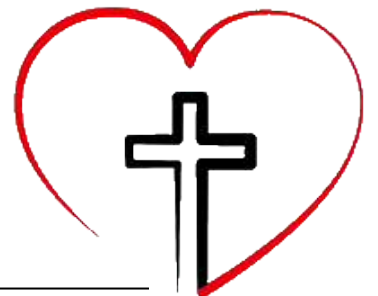
The clock counts down. First, the hours. Then, the minutes. Finally, the crowd shouts out the last, final seconds. Three ... Two ... One ... Cheers! Fireworks! Singing! And we mark the exact moment something new begins! Truth is, we knew it was coming! No surprises. Nothing unexpected. And we were ready for it! But it's different when the "new" just happens. No signs. Without warning. It, just, sneaks up and takes us unaware. A page turns and we don't realize it's happened until we look back.

Change is even more difficult to notice, especially when it looks like failure. Sheer. Absolute. Like when a man is nailed to a cross ... Like when a body's wrapped in linen ... When a stone closes a tomb ... That kind of change can't be predicted. It can't be anticipated. More often than not, we don't recognize it happened until it's too late. Only from the other side can we see what happened! After we've stared into the grave! Only after we've stood weeping in the garden! Only after Jesus has come up behind us and called our name!

A couple weeks ago, after worship, a friend came up to me and asked, "When do you think the new will begin?" I thought a moment and I said, "You know, I think it already has!"

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

*Bob*



# ! ONE WEEK ONLY !

Midland Chin Immanuel Church needs the fellowship Hall,  
Sunday afternoon, January 05<sup>th</sup>!

So, rather than break things down, right after worship,  
we'll, simply, worship offsite ... for that morning only!

Sunday morning, January 05<sup>th</sup>,  
we'll be in the great Room,  
margaret Cowden Clubhouse, Manor Park, 5212 sinclair Ave.

usual times: sunday School @ 9:15-10:15 + worship @ 10:30

*directions: enter at the main entrance off Sinclair Ave  
turn right onto Helen Greathouse Circle  
take 2<sup>nd</sup> right onto Pevehouse Parkway  
the clubhouse is across the street from the gazebo  
parking on right and left of clubhouse*

any questions, need a ride, or got lost along the way ...  
text/call pastor Bob @ 432.349-7407

**THE adult CLASS** meets every Sunday morning before worship, from 9:15-10:15, in the patio Room off the north hallway (except January 05<sup>th</sup>)! We're still talking about "reshaping Church," as we identify the Whos, Whats, Whens, Wheres, Whys, and Hows of being god's people for a new century! Come when you



can, as often as you'd like! Or just stop in & see "whats happnin"! Any questions, talk with pastor Bob - 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** continue 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 (except January 05<sup>th</sup>)! Any questions, give Lael a call or send her a call/text @ 432.296-2684!

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**THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA** will get together, this month, on Wednesday morning, December 08<sup>th</sup>, for their usual monthly meeting. The fun begins at 9:30, in the patio Room off the north hallway. Haven't been? This is the perfect time to start! Any questions or need a ride, call or text Gretchen Shults, the study leader, @ 432.413-4354.



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## THE pmSTUDY's starting up, again!



Wednesday evening,  
January 08<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:00! No  
topic, yet! That's the first  
order of business! So, have

a question you've always wanted to ask,  
but never the chance? Now's the time!  
Ash Wednesday's the last week of  
February, this year, which means we have  
seven weeks to dive into a topic! 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 CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

we started hosting a few years ago is still at  
it. The second Thursday afternoon of each  
month – January 09<sup>th</sup> – from 2-3:30 (+/-  
). 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, is, still, the  
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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## FAITH TALK, ii will be

Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, from  
10am-2pm! This year's topic  
of conversations: NextSteps!  
We're thinking about the  
mission of the ELCA here in the Permian  
Basin over the next decade! This includes  
discussing more intention relationships  
between existing ELCA congregations, as



well as with congregations of the ELCA's  
full communion partners (Episcopal  
Church, Presbyterian Church USA, United  
Methodist Church). 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, feel free  
to join in, now! Any questions, need a  
ride or directions, call/text pastorBob @  
432.349-7407 ...

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## THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL

meets right after worship,  
normally, on the third Sunday  
of each month. This month,  
however, they'll be meeting, a  
week earlier – Sunday, January  
12<sup>th</sup> – to make sure everything's ready for  
the annual meeting! Agenda! Elections!  
MissionStrategy! And, of course, the  
Report itself. They'll be in thePatio room  
off the north hallway. And 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? Talk with pastorBob: office  
432.694-1373, or call/text 432.349-  
7407, or drop a line to  
[bbarndt@juno.com](mailto:bbarndt@juno.com)! Or talk with any  
councilMember (listed inside the back  
cover of this newsletter)!



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## THE designTEAM will meet only once,

this month, on the third  
Thursday – January 16<sup>th</sup>.  
We're still in  
thePatioRoom off the north hallway. This  
meeting's agenda is the report to the



congregation for the annual meeting!  
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](mailto:bbarndt@juno.com) ... or with any member of the team: Sherice Barndt, Fred Behnken, Bob Boomer, Gretchen Shults, Ken Spencer, or Jonathan Yee! If they don't have an answer, they'll find one for you! Or feel free to drop in and spend the evening with them!

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**JANUARY'S "3<sup>rd</sup>-SUNDAY" SERMON**  
– based on our "journey" together – will

focus on "whyChurch?"  
Being church isn't, so much,  
about what we do, as it is  
about why we're doing it!



By the way, like I'd said last month, the sermon, each week, is posted on our Facebook page –

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

– and our website –

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

Take a look if you missed it ... or if you want 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!

## ! ANNUAL MEETING, 2020 !

*and dinner ...*

**The congregation Council and the design Team decided we needed to do a little something special for this year's meeting!**

**It's been a year, since the papers were signed!**

**The dust has settled and we've gotten our feet on the ground.**

**And now, the real "work" begins!**

**We'll deal with the usual nuts and bolts.**

**But we'll also take time to talk about where we are and what's ahead.**

**So, this year's Annual Meeting will be**

**4:30-6:30, Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>!**

**The wortloff Room, Margaret Cowden Clubhouse, Manor Park, 5212 Sinclair Ave!  
(same room we met with Bishop Gronberg, last year)**

**directions: enter at the main entrance off Sinclair Ave**

**turn right onto Helen Greathouse Circle**

**take 2<sup>nd</sup> right onto Pevehouse Parkway**

**the clubhouse is across the street from the gazebo**

**parking on right and left of clubhouse**

**any questions, need a ride, or just got lost along the way ...**

**text/call pastorBob @ 432.349-7407**

## OUR NEXT OPPORTUNITY

to host FamilyPromise is the week of AshWednesday ... Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday, March 01<sup>st</sup>! We'll get more information as the time draws nearer. Just wanted to get it onto your "radar," for now!



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**YEAR END!** For 2019, our unofficial giving to ELCA WorldHunger (50%) and to the ELCA LutheranDisasterResponse (50%) was **\$1,682<sup>00</sup>**! That means, since Hurricane Katrina back in '05, we've given – as a congregation –



somewhere in the area of \$28,000 to these ministries! I'm not going to ask you to give yourselves a hand! I just wanted you to be aware of what God has been doing through you ... with just a handful of coins, at a time!

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**BY THE WAY**, we were able to give twenty blankets to Casa de Amigos, this Christmas! They'll pass them on to anyone who needs something to keep them a little warmer, this winter!



A little background about the blankets... I was serving a congregation southwest of Phoenix, two calls ago, when a young mother stopped by the church office, just before Christmas. She was looking for someone to sign a paper for her. Her husband was working on one of the farms in the area and the two of them – and their newborn – lived in one of the old

farmhouses ... with no heat! Anyway, if someone would look at the situation and vouch for her, one of the local agencies could help out. I went with her, saw the situation, and signed the paper. When I got back to the office, I started looking around for things they could use until the help came through. All we had were poinsettias! So, next year, we started collecting blankets, as well. It was the "least" we could do to help out! Well, here in Midland, we've provided ... eighteen Christmases x about twenty-five blankets/Christmas = around 450 blankets over the years! Again, it's not our doing! It's God's!

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## SNACK BAR SIGNUP!

Next time you're at worship, take a moment and look at the signup sheet for the snack bar! You don't have to whip up anything exceptional. Just a little something to tempt people to stay, a while, after worship to get to know each other better! Anyway, just pick a day and add your name!



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**A NEW DIRECTORY's** in the works! But we'll need your help! Names, addresses, phone numbers (landlines and cell), email, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. We'll start with those at worship and work from there! All through the month of January, we'll include an insert in the bulletin that you can fill out and get back to us. We'll send the same form out online and in the mail. And you can respond. Finally, we'll hit the phones to hear from the rest! But,



at the end of the month, if you haven't heard from anyone, please get in touch - (office) 432.694-1373 + (cell) 432.349-7407 + (home) 432.689-9274 + (email) [bbarndt@juno.com](mailto:bbarndt@juno.com) ! We should have an up-to-date, complete directory of members - er, make that ministers - by February! And thanks (ahead of time) for your 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](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 -

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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](mailto:bporsch@sbcglobal.net)

or Ginny Behnken -

**262-3374**

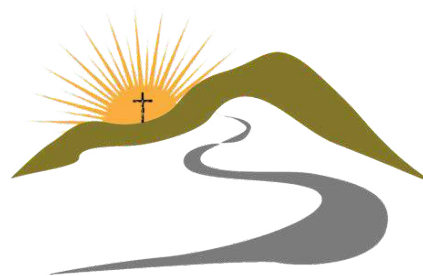
[fred\\_behnken@suddenlink.net](mailto:fred_behnken@suddenlink.net)

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### the BIRTHDAYS

<b>dean saenger</b>	01/02	<b>judy swenson</b>	01/22
<b>wanda howell</b>	01/03	<b>a.j. magallanez</b>	01/27
<b>william keys</b>	01/03	<b>ginny behnken</b>	01/31
<b>ruth orson</b>	01/13	<b>kerrick demmier</b>	01/31
<b>stephen nelson</b>	01/19		

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



## the LEADERSHIP of the CONGREGATION

president	-----	-----	vice president
secretary	-----	fred behnken (432.262-3374)	treasurer

### council representatives

noma saenger ( 432.599-5979 )

-----  
ken spencer ( 432.853-6683 )

janice taylor ( 432.661-5920 )

-----  
jonathan yee ( 432.352-9387 )

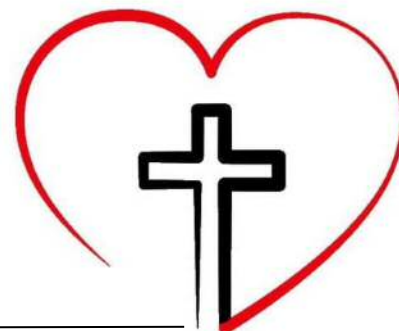
nominating team		sherice barndt	delegate(s)
organist	chad hauris	bob barndt	pastor

## the WORSHIP MINISTERS

	reader	assisting minister	tellers
jan 05 <sup>th</sup>	lisa starling	kay sewell	del bowie & lonnie yee
jan 12 <sup>th</sup>	sherice barndt	bob boomer	lonnie yee &
jan 19 <sup>th</sup>	fred behnken	marylin boomer	alan sewell &
jan 26 <sup>th</sup>	marylin boomer	lonnie yee	fred behnken &
altar guild	delphine bowie & cyndi stroud	bob boomer	cantor

“... bear us  
into light ...”

susan palo cherwien, b. 1953, elw # 306





## the PROPERs for January

### the SECOND SUNDAY of CHRISTMAS, January 05

the PRAYER of the DAY: Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the READINGS: Jeremiah 31:7-14 + Psalm 147:12-20 + Ephesians 1:3-14 + John 1:[1-9] 10-18

### the BAPTISM of OUR LORD, January 12

the PRAYER of the DAY: O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, 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 42:1-9 + Psalm 29 + Acts 10:34-43 + Matthew 3:13-17

### the SECOND SUNDAY after EPIPHANY, January 19

the PRAYER of the DAY: Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the READINGS: Isaiah 49:1-7 + Psalm 40:1-11 + 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:1-9 + John 1:29-42





### the THIRD SUNDAY after EPIPHANY, January 26

the PRAYER of the DAY: Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the READINGS: Isaiah 9:1-4 + Psalm 27:1, 4-9 + 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:10-18 + Matthew 4:12-23



# enero 2020

domingo	lunes	martes	miércoles	jueves	viernes	sábado
<p><i>Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum</i> the word of the lord endures forever</p>			 1 <i>misd holiday</i>	2	3	4
 5 9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship	 6 <b>offsite</b>	7	 8 9:30am – women of the elca 7:00pm – pmStudy	9	10	 11 10:00am – faithTalks
 12 9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship 12:00pm - council	13	14	 15 7:00pm – pmStudy	 16 7:00pm – designTeam	17	18
 19 9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship	 20 <i>misd holiday</i>	21	 22 7:00pm – pmStudy	23	24	 25 4:30am – annualMeeting & supper
 26 9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship	27	28	 29 7:00pm – pmStudy	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)

facebooki: [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)

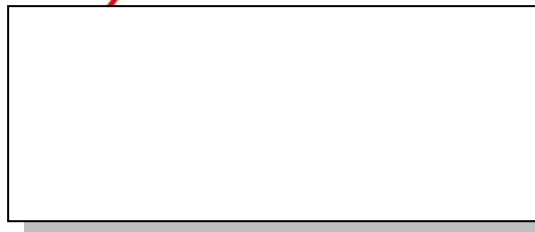
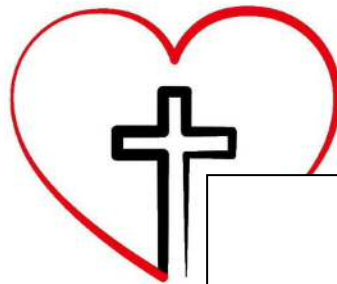
sunday morning schedule: **learning hour @ 9:15 \*worship @ 10:30**

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

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midland lutheran church

2705 w michigan av + midland, tx 79701-5840



january 2020