

the sower

... christ + charity + community ...



This building used to be home to First Presbyterian Church. Taiban, NM. Between Clovis and Ft Sumner. A block or two north of US-60. Built in 1908 for \$250. Last worship service, sometime in 1935. I took this picture around Thanksgiving, 2010 and used it in last month's newsletter. Since then, I've been thinking a lot about that congregation ...

Times have changed. They're still changing. And congregations have had to change with them. Some – like firstPres – locked the doors behind them (or apparently, took the doors with them), when they left. Most got smaller, grayer. And a few – like us – are starting all over, again. But truth is, it's amazing there's any churches left, at all! We talk a lot about grace! Free! Unearned! Undeserved! We act as if people need it. Want it. But most have a hard time believing! No free meals! Too good to be true! We'd rather try picking ourselves up by our own bootstraps – even when we're not wearing boots! We're a sweat-of-our-brow, strength-of-our-back kind of people! Proud! Independent! Self-reliant! Watch the ads, nowadays, and we see just how "unAmerican" grace really is! Giving a man a fish is a waste of time. Make 'em work! The longer! The harder! The better!

But in spite of that – week after week after week, Sunday after Sunday after Sunday – there are small, graying congregations all across the country gathering to teach and administer the one thing the world needs, but doesn't want. Grace! Charity! Love! Some congregations close. Others get smaller, and grayer. But love? Love just keeps on rising ... from the earth ... and the ashes ... and the dust ...

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

Bol



marzo, a.d.2020

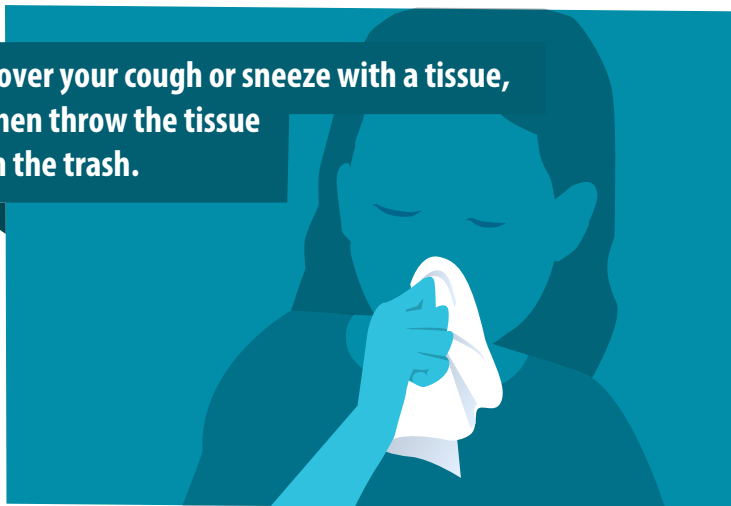
STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

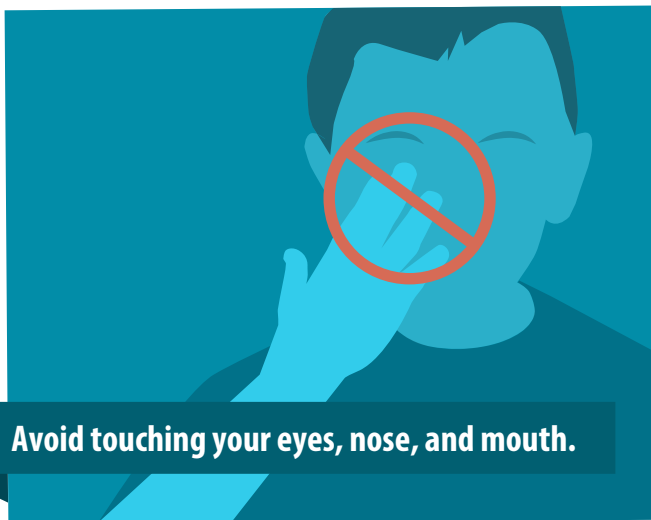
Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

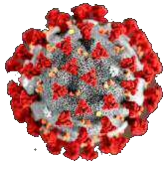


Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.





THINK BACK OVER THE PAST FEW DECADES ...

and you'll realize we've been here, before. Now, it's COVID-19, the corona virus. The lessons we've learned from past experience? 1) Don't panic! And 2) get back to the basics. On the opposing page is a chart from the Texas Department of State Health Services with advice on stopping the spread of germs! Wash your hands often, listen to the professionals, and follow their advice! There's more info on websites for the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [Texas Department of State Health Services](#). Just click and learn!

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THE adultCLASS meets

every Sunday morning before worship. 9:15-10:15, in the patioRoom off the north hallway! The conversation's still all about "reshapingChurch for a new generation!" 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!



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& THE HIGH SCHOOLERS continue to meet with Lael Pitts, from 9:15 'til 10:15am, most Sundays! If you'd like to join 'em, they're, usually, in the library!



Any questions, call or text Lael @ 432.296-2684! By the way, you don't have to be in high school!

THE pmSTUDY's on hiatus until after Easter. But don't "give up" learning for Lent. Join us Wednesday evenings, from now to HolyWeek, instead!



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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 04TH, we begin



our midweek get-togethers for Lent. Appetizers are served from 6:30 to 7:00. A devotion and Holden Evening Prayer follow. The topic, this year: **remember you are dust: reflections on dying and death**. We're usually through, each week, by 8:45. No reservations necessary! Just come on down, whenever you're able! Here's an quick overview ...

midweek 1, March 04th – passing away
midweek 2, March 11th – dying
midweek 3, March 18th – from within
midweek 4, March 25th – from beside
midweek 5, April 01st – for god so loved

Any questions, talk with pastorBob – office – 432.694-1373 + cell – 432.349-7407 + home – 432.689-9274 + email – bbarndt@juno.com!

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THE designTeam meets

from 7-8:00pm, first and third Thursdays of each month, March 05th and the 19th. We're beginning the nitty-gritty of identifying the details of moving forward! But, any comments, suggestions, questions are always welcome! Just 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 designTeam are always open to visitors! Feel free to drop in and spend the evening! The door's always open and the coffee's always hot!

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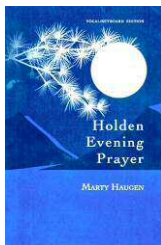


THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA will get together, this month, on March 11th, for their, usual, second-Wednesday meeting. Fun begins at 9:30am, in the patioRoom off the north hallway. Everyone's welcome! Any questions or need a ride, call or text Gretchen Shults, the study leader, @ **432.413-4354**.

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WE'RE GONNA TRY IT, AGAIN!

Holden Evening Prayer Around the World! If you remember, last month, it was snowed out! But we've rescheduled it! Doors open @ 6:00! Worship @ 7:00!



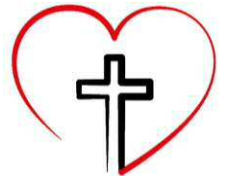
Thursday evening, March 12th! And we, still, have dibs on Dollye Neal Chapel – outside the circle, south side of the Midland College campus, across the street from the Allison Fine Arts Building and over the bridge from Midland Community Theater! Keep an eye peeled for our new sign! The black cross inside a red heart! Any questions or need a ride, talk with pastorBob (call/text @ **432.349-7407**). And be sure to re-extend your invitation

to family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, classmates, & complete strangers! If you want to see what the service is like, just click [here](#)! The video's a couple years old, but the service hasn't changed! BTW, the sound at the chapel should be AMAZING! Maybe we'll even try liveStreaming it on Facebook!

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THIS MONTH'S "3rd-SUNDAY"

SERMON – based on our "journey" together – will focus on "How Do We Know When Church Is Church?" Steeple? Windows? Organ? Worship? Pastor? Bible? What is it that makes us us? We're in the process of becoming church, again. So, it might be helpful to know what, exactly, that looks like!



As in the past, the sermon will be posted, each week, on our Facebook page –

[@MidlandLutheranChurch](#)

– and our website –

www.MidlandLutheranChurch.org.

Take a look if you miss it ... or if you want to get another look! Then, if you'd like to talk with pastorBob, 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 the 15th. Naturally, they'll be looking at a few of the nuts and bolts of ministry. But more importantly, they'll be



discussing what our next big step will be! As per our agreement with Midland Chin Immanuel Church, we planned to be here in the fellowship Hall until January, 2021 (with an option of another 12 months)! It's time to get serious! Anyway, the council meets in the Patio room off the north hallway. 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 pastor Bob: office 432.694-1373, call/text 432.349-7407, email bbarndt@juno.com! Or get in touch with any council Member. They're listed inside the back cover of this newsletter!

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A SPECIAL THANKS to everyone who helped host another week of family PROMISE, last week! Our next go-round is at the end of October! Like to know about this communitywide ministry? Check out their website ...

familypromiseofmidland.com!

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sus·tain·a·bil·i·ty – is a word that's

come up more than once in the discussions of the design Team. Sustainability of the ministry of this congregation, in particular. But, also, sustainability of creation, itself. "We do not inherit the land from our ancestors," the saying goes, "we borrow it from our children." And our



grandchildren. And their children after them! So, we thought this would be a good place to start ...

"In October 2003, Women of the ELCA began working with Equal Exchange to challenge millions of Lutherans across the country to purchase 90 tons of "fairly traded" coffee in a year. By October 2004, the campaign, "Pour Justice to the Brim: The 90-Ton Challenge," had exceeded its goal by nine tons. Thanks to the 90-Ton Challenge, women began to understand the importance of fair trade and what it means to pay small farmers a fair price for their goods."

So, we've placed our order! In a week or so, we'll be serving organic, fairly traded coffee! For the sake of creation! For the sake of the farmers! For the sake of our kids! It might not seem like a lot. But it's a start. For instance, do you know that it takes the average Styrofoam cup and plate 500 years (sometimes, forever) to decompose! Plastic utensils last for a thousand years! Like to know more about [Equal Exchange](#) or the ELCA's social statement on [Caring for Creation](#), click on a link and have fun exploring!

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WE'RE STILL AT IT on the directory.

But with Lent here and Easter on the way, it's simmering on a back burner. So, if you have a few hours to spare, give pastor Bob a call or text him @ 432.349-7407. We have a few people we still need to contact in order to get their '4-1-1'



(that's 'information')! Then it's printing, folding, and stapling! And your part can be done at home! Again, let the pastor know if you can help out!

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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; 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; **family & friends of Geneva Russell**; Ruth; Dean Saenger; Paul & Angelina Sicilly; Jody Smith; Johnnie Snider; Doug Speer; Erma Starling; Luther Steele; Dave & Judy Swenson; Teresa; Tim; Toby & Ryan; 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

jonathan yee	03/11	larry shults	03/16
kelly spencer	03/12	bob boomer	03/17
lyle eberly	03/15	jack bowie	03/26

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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 YEA

**Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!**

ruth duck, b. 1947, elw # 445

the LEADERSHIP of the CONGREGATION

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

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

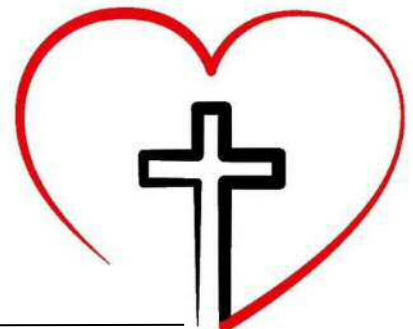
nominatingTeam	-----	-----	delegate(s)
organist	chad hauris	bob barndt	pastor

the WORSHIP MINISTERS

	reader	assisting minister	tellers
mar 01 st	erika weber	jonathan yee	del bowie & lonnie yee
mar 08 th	lisa starling	kay sewell	lonnie yee &
mar 15 th	sherice barndt	bob boomer	alan sewell &
mar 22 nd	fred behnken	marylin boomer	fred behnken &
mar 29 th	marylin boomer	lonnie yee	del bowie & lonnie yee
altar guild	lonnie yee		cantor

“... restore in us, O God,
the splendor
of your love ...”

carl p daw, jr, b. 1944, elw # 328





the PROPERs for march

the FIRST SUNDAY in LENT, march 01

the **PRAYER** of the **DAY**: Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us 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 **READINGS**: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 + Psalm 32 + Romans 5:12-19 + Matthew 4:1-11

the SECOND SUNDAY in LENT, march 08

the **PRAYER** of the **DAY**: O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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 **READINGS**: Genesis 12:1-4a + Psalm 121 + Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 + John 3:1-17

the THIRD SUNDAY in LENT, march 15

the **PRAYER** of the **DAY**: Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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 17:1-7 + Psalm 95 + Romans 5:1-11 + John 4:5-42

the FOURTH SUNDAY in LENT, march 22

the **PRAYER** of the **DAY**: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the **READINGS**: 1st Samuel 16:1-13 + Psalm 23 + Ephesians 5:8-14 + John 9:1-41

the FIFTH SUNDAY in LENT, march 29

the **PRAYER** of the **DAY**: Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the **READINGS**: Ezekiel 37:1-14 + Psalm 130 + Romans 8:6-11 + John 11:1-45

marzo 2020

domingo	lunes	martes	miércoles	jueves	viernes	sábado
1  9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship	2	3	4  7:00pm - lentenMidweek	5  7:00pm - designTeam	6	7
8  9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship	9 <i>misd studentHoliday</i>	10	11  9:30am - women of the elca 7:00pm - lentenMidweek	12  7:00pm - Holden eveningPrayer	13	14
15  9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship 12:00pm - council	16	17	18  7:00pm - lentenMidweek	19  7:00pm - designTeam	20	21
22  9:15am - learning 10:30am - worship	23 <i>misd studentHoliday</i>	24	25  7:00pm - lentenMidweek	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

facebook: www.facebook.com/GospelCrossWords/

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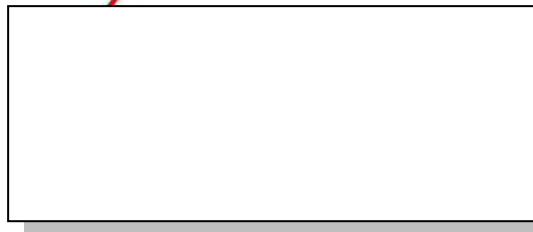
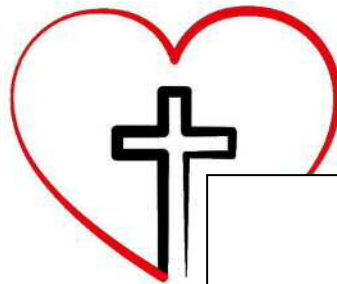
sunday morning schedule: **learning hour @ 9:15 *worship @ 10:30**

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

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midland lutheran church

2705 w michigan av + midland, tx 79701-5840



march 2020