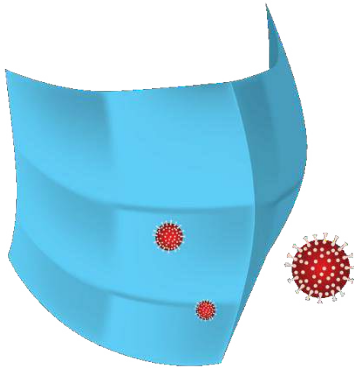


# the sower

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... christ + charity + community ...

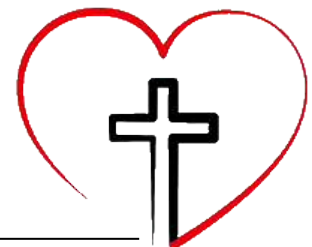


Today's day forty-six in the wilderness! That's seven Sundays (including Palm Sunday and Easter), three Lenten devotions, one Maundy Thursday, one Good Friday, and three evening studies! But who's counting, right! Anyway, according to the president, the federal government's social distancing guidelines expire, today, as does Texas' stay-at-home order. The state will, now, begin to reopen 🙌. And right about now, you're, probably, asking yourself that good Lutheran question ... What does this mean?

First of all, contrary to the weekly appearances on Facebook, we're, still, in the fellowship hall at Midland Chin Immanuel Church! I've been out and about, Sunday mornings, for a couple, three, reasons. First, I wanted to find a way to show that "church" isn't a place, it's a people! We're the church – not just behind colored glass – but at kitchen tables and patios and backyards and parks, even cemeteries. Second, one of the lessons we've needed to learn, for a while now, is how to be church out in the open! We know what to do and how to do it when no one's watching. But it's different when we're visible, vulnerable. People driving by! Walking past! Flying kites! Playing catch!

But now, here in Texas, it's business-as-usual ... kinda. Churches and other religious houses of worship are allowed to meet in-person. Social distancing is encouraged and people who are considered at-risk should use online services when possible. Attendees should keep at least two seats or 6-feet of separation between them. People of the same household can sit beside each other, with two empty seats on each side. However ....

The congregation Council has decided to keep doing things the way we've been doing them, for the past couple months. Most of us are in the "at risk" category! And getting back together too soon isn't



worth the risk. We figured we'd opt for that better part of valor! Take our time. Wait and see. That, by the way, is the advice from the Synod, as well.

So, Sunday morning "worship" will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook, 10:30am. We'll livestream the "Morning Blessing" from the *Small Catechism*, sunrise, every Tuesday and Thursday. And each Wednesday at 7:00, the pmStudy will be livestreamed on Facebook, as well. Of course, there will be the usual posts ...

to the congregation's website – [www.MidlandLutheranChurch.org](http://www.MidlandLutheranChurch.org)  
to "our" FacebookPage – [www.Facebook.com/MidlandLutheranChurch](http://www.Facebook.com/MidlandLutheranChurch).

For those of us not online, we'll continue sharing sermons and devotions via snailMail! And there's always the phone! Take the time to call each other! Check out how things are going. And if you haven't heard from anyone, lately, pick up the phone and call yourself! Funny thing how it goes both ways!

Now, a few things that might be able to change ... a few people could join us for worship on Sunday mornings! Bring a lawn chair! Enjoy the Word! The world! Some might want to attend the pmStudy in the fellowshipHall, now and then! And we might, even, have a little something on the Patio, every so often, to see each other along the way! Times and places when and where we can "socialize" ... responsibly! Let me know what you think.

Well, I think that's enough, for now. We'll give it another month and, at the end of May, see what's next! I'll be sure to let you know what that might be! If you have any questions, any suggestions, or just want to talk to someone other than the dog or cat, give me a call or shoot me a text! My cell number is 432.349-7407! But know this ... I'm still here ... the congregation's still here ... but best of all, god's never gone anywhere!

i Living, dying, and rising ... TOGETHER

*Bob*

**NOW ABOUT THAT OFFERING ...** Thanks to the sale of the building to Midland Chin Immanuel Church, financially, we haven't had too much to worry about, these last few months. Our first priority as a congregation, though, shouldn't be god and it shouldn't be the church. It should be our family and our neighbors. So, we haven't said anything about your giving to the congregation. With that said, though, and anticipating the future, the congregation Council has been looking into the "electronic" giving. Through Facebook. On the website. Over the phone. Nothing specific, at the moment. We just ask you to keep your eyes open for more information that'll be coming your way ... Oh, and by the way, donations to WorldHunger and DisasterRelief – along with other COVID-19 related concerns – can be made online @ [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) .

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**AND IF YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ...** Some of you may remember the Harris family – Jim, Terry, Neil, Kelly. Jim was baptized back in the early days of this congregation. He died almost eight years ago, now. Neil died, about three-and-a-half years ago. Well, Jim's wife – Neil and Kelly's mom – Terry died a couple weeks ago. Here's the obituary from the Reporter-Telegram if you missed it ...

Terry C. Harris, 67, of New Braunfels, Texas, was called home to her Heavenly Father on April 21, 2020. She was born February 14, 1953 in Midland, Texas, the daughter of Allen Hall and Fay Hall (Fine). Terry is survived by her daughter, Kelly Fuller, her husband Daniel, and grandchildren Jocelyn, 11, Makenzie, 7, Kylie, 5, and Carter, 2, all of Seguin, Texas; sisters, Allana Lange and family of New Braunfels, Holly Myrick and family of Midland, and Karen Shepard and family of Denton. Terry was preceded in death by her parents, husband, James Leslie Harris and her son Neil Allen Harris. Terry was known to her friends and loved ones as a joyful and loving friend, mother, and Nana. She enjoyed bowling, traveling, and Christmas holidays. Her hobbies included photography and volunteering at Summer Mummies in Midland. The family is having an intimate service in New Braunfels on Monday, April 27, 2020 with Pastor Kyle Rodgers officiating. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the family will be hosting a celebration of life post COVID-19. Published in Midland Reporter-Telegram on Apr. 26, 2020

If you'd like to share a kind word with Kelly and her family, call or text pastorBob at 432.349-7407.



## the PROPERs for may

### the FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER, may 03

the PRAYER of the DAY: O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the READINGS: Acts 2:42-47 + Psalm 23 + 1 Peter 2:19-25 + John 10:1-10

### the FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER, may 10

the PRAYER of the DAY: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the READINGS: Acts 7:55-60 + Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 + 1 Peter 2:2-10 + John 14:1-14

### the SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER, may 17

the PRAYER of the DAY: Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth 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: Acts 17:22-31 + Psalm 66:8-20 + 1 Peter 3:13-22 + John 14:15-21

### the SEVENTH SUNDAY of EASTER, may 24

the PRAYER of the DAY: O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



















the READINGS: Acts 1:6-14 + Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 + 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 + John 17:1-11

### the DAY of PENTECOST, may 31

the PRAYER of the DAY: O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

the READINGS: Acts 2:1-21 + Psalm 104:24-34, 35b + 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 + John 20:19-23

# mayo 2020

domingo	lunes	martes	miercoles	jueves	viernes	sabado
	<b><i>Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum</i></b> the word of the lord endures forever				1	2
3  10:30am – worship	4	5  6:58am – amBlessing	6  7:00pm – pmStudy	7  6:56am – amBlessing	8	9
10  10:30am – worship	11	12  6:52am – amBlessing	13  7:00pm – pmStudy	14  6:51am – amBlessing	15	16
17  10:30am – worship 12:00pm – council	18	19  6:48am – amBlessing	20  7:00pm – pmStudy	21  6:47am – amBlessing	22	23
24  10:30am – worship	25	26  6:44am – amBlessing	27  7:00pm – pmStudy	28  6:44am – amBlessing	29	30
31  10:30am – worship	<b>YOU WHO KNOW OUR FEARS AND SADNESS, GRACE US WITH YOUR PEACE AND GLADNESS;                      SPIRIT OF ALL COMFORT, FILL OUR HEARTS.</b>					



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

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# midland lutheran church

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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)

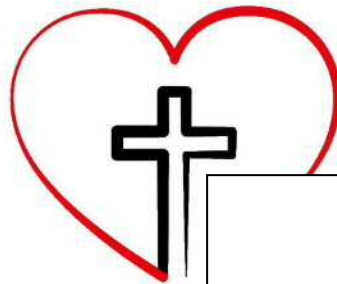
sunday morning schedule: **learning hour @ 9:15 \*worship @ 10:30**

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

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midland lutheran church

2705 w michigan av + midland, tx 79701-5840



may 2020