

# the sower

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... christ + charity + community ...



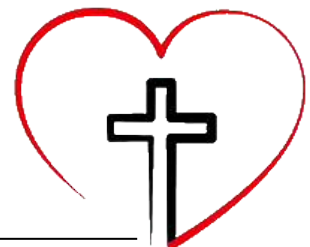
A couple days ago, we had our first “in-person” worship since the pandemic began! About a dozen of us got together at the pavilion in Hogan Park! But the challenge wasn’t, so much, doing it safely, as it was transforming a concrete slab and some picnic tables into a worship space. Instead of the usual table, I opted for the setup on the left. A processional cross and two flower stands. One for a bowl of water; the other for a bowl of communion wafers. But I, also, wanted something else. Something more. Something to set it apart. Something to draw attention. A napkin. A scrap of fabric. So, I went to DollarGeneral. The only thing they had were hand towels. Muddy green. I wasn’t excited about them, but decided to make do.

Well, Sunday morning, after setting up the plant stands, I added the towels and stood back. As I looked, I heard an echo of something Jesus had asked the crowds about the Baptizer. “What did you expect to see? Someone in soft clothing? Living like a king?” Jesus was saying, there was nothing refined about John. He was coarse. He was crude. And Jesus? Well, to be honest, Jesus, probably, wasn’t much better. They were more like a hand towel from DollarGeneral! And then, I recalled another verse. One about the night in which Jesus was betrayed. When he got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel – tied a towel – around his waist ...

They may not have been what I was looking for. What I wanted. But maybe two dirty-green hand towels from DollarGeneral were the best things I could have found!

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

*Bob*





**MY APOLOGIES ...** I'm a little late getting out this month's issue of the SOWER ... three weeks late! So, I've included next month's issue, as well! Hopefully, I'll be back on schedule – or close to it – by September! Until then, be safe! And enjoy!

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**IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ...** An email was sent out, last month, and the news was posted on the congregation's Facebook page. But I forgot to include it in June's newsletter ... Wanda Howell – longtime member here at Midland Lutheran Church – died, Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. A graveside service was held on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, at the Lutheran cemetery in Winters, TX. If you'd like to see her obituary, click [here](#). Rest eternal grant her, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her. And please, be sure to keep her family in your thoughts and prayers ...



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**SOMETHING NEW ... IN PROCESS!** Last month, we let you know about a new way of donating! GivePlus by Vanco! The goal is to bring offerings by check, cash, and snailMail into a new century! Now, you can give digitally! Online! Phone app! Text! Here are the links to a couple tutorials that may help ...



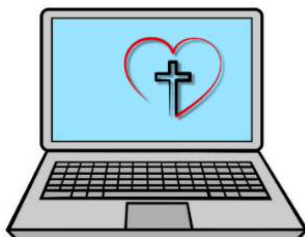
[GivePlus Mobile App](#) + [GivePlus Text](#)  
 GivePlus Text Phone Number: (855) 938-4165

Any questions, give Fred Behnken, treasurer, a call or sent him a text: 432.212-1496!

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**AFTER FOUR MONTHS ...** of pandemic protocols – washing hands, using sanitizer, keeping six feet apart, wearing masks, meeting outside, crossing fingers, hoping for the best – life as the church has fallen into a sort of rhythm. Most of it on [Facebook!](#)

- 10:30, sunday mornings – worship (on FacebookLive)
- sunrise, tuesdays & thursdays – morning blessing (on FacebookLive)
- 7:00, tuesday evenings – dearChurch discussion group (on Zoom)
- 7:00, wednesday evenings – pmStudy (on FacebookLive & Zoom)

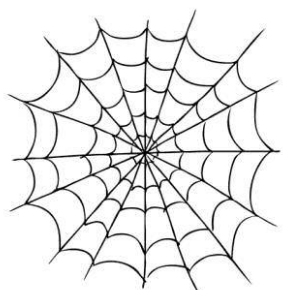


Add to that *Getting Out the Word* midweek devotions, memes from [@GospelCrossWords](#) (mondays & fridays), and an assortment of shares throughout the week ... the gospel's still being proclaimed!

Even here! Even now! Bulletin inserts, sermons, and devotions are snailMailed, each week, to those who may not be online. And recently, y'all should have received a copy of the congregational directory. (If you didn't, let us know!) Addresses! Phone numbers! Emails! I encourage y'all ... when you wonder how someone might be doing or what they're up to ... let 'em know you're thinking of them! Write a note! Call! Send an email or text! You might, even, discover they're thinking of you, too! We might be distanced; we're far from isolated!

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**WITH THAT SAID ...** and with the spike in cases in Texas, we probably **WON'T** be



getting back together – face-to-face and side-by-side – anytime soon. You see, on a scale of one-to-ten – with ten being the riskiest activity – worship consistently rates a nine! And our mantra, of course, is ... **SAFETY FIRST!** (Actually, my own personal motto is “Don't Do Anything Stupid!” But it's, basically, the same thing!) We might – and I emphasize 'might' – get together outside, occasionally, like we did at Hogan Park, last month. But we'll see!

(As an aside ... some of you might have heard me announce, last Sunday, that we'd be doing just that, the last Sunday of this month (July 26<sup>th</sup>). However, Lanie's been visiting and Sherice and I have decided – at the last minute – to drive her back to Tacoma instead of flying her! So, we'll be out of town for a few days.) But ... **NO OUTDOOR WORSHIP**, in July. Maybe August ...

**BTW**, if you have any ideas or suggestions as to how we continue to “do” church during a pandemic, don't hesitate to give pastorBob a call or text @ **432.349-7407!**

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**THE pmSTUDY CONTINUES ...** 7-7:30(or so), every Wednesday evening. It's livestreamed over Facebook AND, at the same time, we're meeting on Zoom. This platform gives us the opportunity to talk to each other and not just listen to the pastor and read the occasional comment. The topic under discussion: The Roots of the American Church. Who we are! How we got here! It's an overview of how the church was transplanted from one world to another. And how, in the process, it came to be something new. Good thing about FacebookLive? Once the livestream is over, what's been livestreamed is saved and posted to our page. So, if you miss one or just can't make it in realTime, you can go to a video anytime, anyplace, and take a look ... or take another look!

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**DEAR CHURCH DISCUSSION GROUP ...** has met a couple times, so far! We're working our way – one chapter/week – through the book by Pastor Lenny Duncan. *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.* Tuesday evenings, 7-8:00-or-so! We're using Zoom to be able to converse with each other. If you'd like to join in – and it's never too late – just go to the [Dear Church Discussion Group](#) page on Facebook and ask to become a member! No dues! No secret handshakes! Ask and you shall receive! Anyway, a link will be sent to you, each week. Just click and enjoy! There's about ten-or-so of us ... so far!

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**THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETS ...** twice, this month! The regular monthly meeting is right after worship, the third Sunday of the month, July 19<sup>th</sup>. Jonathan Yee, secretary, will text the link to the members. But there will, also, be a special meeting of the council on Saturday morning, July 11<sup>th</sup>. Again, we'll be meeting on Zoom – the link to be supplied by Jonathan – from 10:00-to-noon. The focus of the meeting will be a discussion of our agreement with Midland Chin Immanuel Church regarding the use of worship/office space and of the parsonage. If you remember, when the building was sold, an agreement was made for two years (with an option for a third). January, 2021 will be two years! This get-together is simply to deepen and broaden the discussion. Any final decision re: next steps is one the congregation will make, not the council. Any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact any council member or pastorBob.



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**LANIE – SHERICE & PASTOR BOB'S YOUNGEST** – has been visiting for the past few weeks! (That's one of the reasons this newsletter's so late!) Anyway, she's headed back to Tacoma, WA – believe it or not – for her Junior Year at Pacific Lutheran University! Rather than put her on the plane and wave good-bye, Sherice and Bob have decided to take time off and drop her off themselves! So, they're leaving Wednesday morning, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, and will be gone until Saturday night, August 1<sup>st</sup>, or sometime Sunday, August 02<sup>nd</sup>! But thanks to the marvels of technology, worship on Sunday morning will still be at 10:30am! (According to the itinerary, it should be from Yellowstone National Park!) ANSD the amBlessings will continue to be livestreamed, Tuesday and Thursday, as well! However, due to a difference in time zones, they may show up on your monitor an hour or two after the sunrise here in Midland! And since we're



camping along the way, there may, even, be a sunset or two thrown in with an evening Blessing! [I know, it's a dirty job, but someone's got to do it! At least, this way, you kinda get to go along!]

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**AS IN THE PAST ...** If for any reason, you need to talk with a pastor while he's away, just call or text any council person and they'll put you in contact with one of pastor Bob's colleagues who's available while he's away. Here's the list of this year's council with their cell phone numbers ...

+ the **CONGREGATION COUNCIL** +

**ken spencer ( 432.853-6683 )**

**janice taylor ( 432.661-5920 )**

**ipyana tito ( 432.250-0818 )**

**fred behnken ( 432.212-1496 ), treasurer**

**jonathan yee ( 432.352-9387 ), secretary**

**bob barndt ( 432. 349-7407 ), pastor**

**GOD, WHEN WE SUFFER ALL THAT WE CAN BEAR,  
THEN LET US KNOW THAT YOU IN TRUTH ARE NEAR  
AND WILL NOT LEAVE US LOST IN ALL OUR FEAR.  
LORD, HAVE MERCY,  
CHRIST HAVE MERCY,  
LORD, GRANT US PEACE.**

Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993, elw # 615



**be safe! take care of each other! see you in august!**



## the PROPERs for July

### the FIFTH SUNDAY of PENTECOST, July 05

the **PRAYER** of the **DAY**: You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the **READINGS**: Zechariah 9:9-12 + Psalm 145:8-14 + Romans 7:15-25a  
+ Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

### the SIXTH SUNDAY of PENTECOST, July 12

the **PRAYER** of the **DAY**: Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the **READINGS**: Isaiah 55:10-13 + Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13 + Romans 8:1-11  
+ Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

### the SEVENTH SUNDAY of PENTECOST, July 19

the **PRAYER** of the **DAY**: Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.












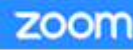



















the **READINGS**: Isaiah 44:6-8 + Psalm 86:11-17 + Romans 8:12-25  
+ Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

### the EIGHTH SUNDAY of PENTECOST, July 26

the **PRAYER** of the **DAY**: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the **READINGS**: 1 Kings 3:5-12 + Psalm 119:129-136 + Romans 8:26-39  
+ Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

# julio 2020

domingo	lunes	martes	miércoles	jueves	viernes	sábado
			 LIVE 1 	 LIVE 2  6:46am – amBlessing 7:00pm – pmStudy	3	4
<i>Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum</i> the word of the lord endures forever						
 LIVE 5 10:30am – worship	6	 LIVE 7  6:48am – amBlessing 7:00pm – dearChurch	 LIVE 8 	 LIVE 9  6:49am – amBlessing	10	 11 10:00am – congregation council
 LIVE 12 10:30am – worship	13	 LIVE 14  6:52am – amBlessing 7:00pm – dearChurch	 LIVE 15 	 LIVE 16  6:53am – amBlessing	17	18
 LIVE 19 10:30am – worship  12:00pm – council	20	 LIVE 21  6:56am – amBlessing 7:00pm – dearChurch	22	 LIVE 23  6:58am – amBlessing	24	25
 LIVE 26 10:30am – worship	27	 LIVE 28  7:01am – amBlessing 7:00pm – dearChurch	29	 LIVE 30  7:02am – amBlessing	31	



## the PROPERs for august

### the NINTH SUNDAY of PENTECOST, august 02

the PRAYER of the DAY: Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the READINGS: Isaiah 55:1-5 + Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 + Romans 9:1-5 + Matthew 14:13-21

### the TENTH SUNDAY of PENTECOST, august 09

the PRAYER of the DAY: O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the READINGS: 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 19:9-18 + Psalm 85:8-13 + Romans 10:5-15 + Matthew 14:22-33

### the ELEVENTH SUNDAY of PENTECOST, august 16

the PRAYER of the DAY: God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the READINGS: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 + Psalm 67 + Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32  
+ Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

### the TWELFTH SUNDAY of PENTECOST, august 23

the PRAYER of the DAY: O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the READINGS: Isaiah 51:1-6 + Psalm 138 + Romans 12:1-8 + Matthew 16:13-20






























### the THIRTEENTH SUNDAY of PENTECOST, august 30

the PRAYER of the DAY: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the READINGS: Jeremiah 15:15-21 + Psalm 26:1-8 + Romans 12:9-21 + Matthew 16:21-28



# agosto 2020

domingo	lunes	martes	miércoles	jueves	viernes	sábado
<i>Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum</i> the word of the lord endures forever				V   D M   A		1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
 10:30am – worship		  7:06am – amBlessing 7:00pm – dearChurch	  7:00pm – pmStudy	  7:07am – amBlessing		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
 10:30am – worship		  7:10am – amBlessing 7:00pm – dearChurch	  7:00pm – pmStudy	  7:11am – amBlessing		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
 10:30am – worship  12:00pm – council		  7:15am – amBlessing 7:00pm – dearChurch	  7:00pm – pmStudy	  7:16am – amBlessing		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
 10:30am – worship		  7:19am – amBlessing 7:00pm – dearChurch	  7:00pm – pmStudy	  7:20am – amBlessing		
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)

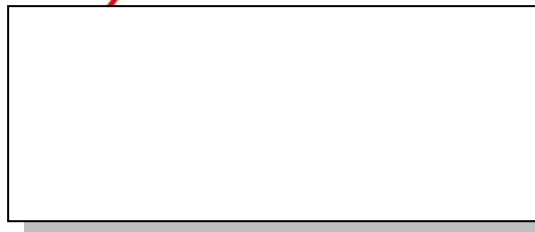
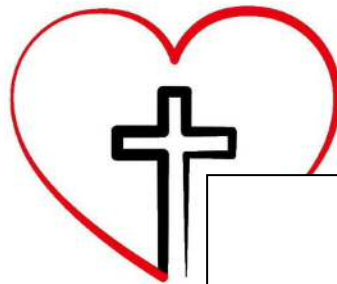
sunday morning schedule: **learning hour @ 9:15 \*worship @ 10:30**

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

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midland lutheran church

2705 w michigan av + midland, tx 79701-5840



july/august 2020