

# the sower

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... christ + charity + community ...



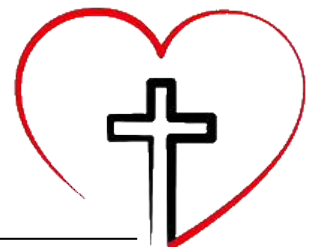
Another of "those" articles just came out. A few days before Easter. One of the "god-is-dead" kind that, always, sends the church into a tizzy. Wringing hands. Pacing the floor. Seems that a new poll shows that, for the first time in generations, "[Fewer Than Half of U.S. Adults](#)

[Belong to a Religious Congregation.](#)" Mosque. Synagogue. Church. I shared it on the congregation's Facebook page. But, purposely, waited until after the holyDays. No need to distract from what's really important, right? It's too easy to get swept up and carried away by the changes and chances?

Funny thing, though ... it's not, really, anything new. Think about it. The church has been around for two thousand years. There has to have been ebbs and flows beforeS, just like this. Times, when church is more yeast than flour. More mustard seed than sequoia. But, somehow, we survive. Adapted? Maybe. But faithful, even more. The world has changed. And it will change, again. That's what the world does. And when that happens, the "mustard seed" will, again, sprout ... and grow ... and become a tree ... At least, until the next time it turns. A never ending, everlasting cycle of highs and lows. But it's times like this ... the challenging ... the daring ... that remind us it's god who calls! It's god who gathers! And all we do is proclaim and administer and, of course, believe! We, always and forever, believe!



























"In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ!"

*Bob*



# Choosing Safer Activities

Accessible link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html>

	Unvaccinated People	Examples of Activities	Fully Vaccinated People
		<b>Outdoor</b>	
Safest		Walk, run, wheelchair roll, or bike outdoors with members of your household	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people	
Less Safe		Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households	
Least Safe		Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event	
		<b>Indoor</b>	
Less Safe		Visit a barber or hair salon	
		Go to an uncrowded, indoor shopping center or museum	
		Attend a small, indoor gathering of fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people from multiple households	
Least Safe		Go to an indoor movie theater	
		Attend a full-capacity worship service	
		Sing in an indoor chorus	
		Eat at an indoor restaurant or bar	
		Participate in an indoor, high intensity exercise class	

## Get a COVID-19 vaccine



**Prevention measures not needed**



**Take prevention measures**

Wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart, and wash your hands.

- Safety levels assume the recommended prevention measures are followed, both by the individual and the venue (if applicable).
- CDC cannot provide the specific risk level for every activity in every community. It is important to consider your own personal situation and the risk to you, your family, and your community before venturing out.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

# i inPERSON WORSHIP !

**SUNDAY, JUNE 6<sup>th</sup>**

## **the ranchHouse @ bealPark**

**10:30am – worship (including the Lord's Supper)**

**11:30am – semi-potluck lunch**

**12:30pm – annual meeting**

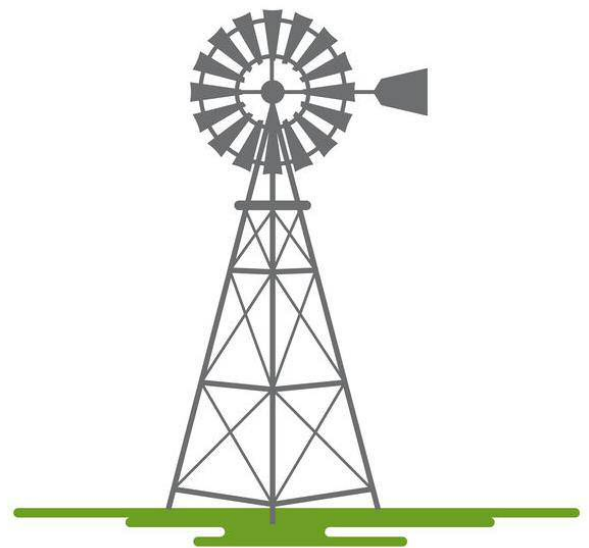
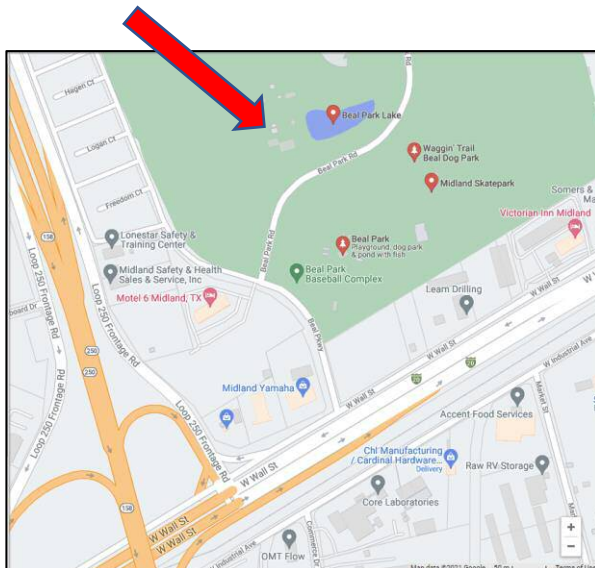
**in solidarity with the not-yet-vaccinated,  
we continue following cdc advice ...**

**washing our hands + keeping our distance + wearing our masks**

**fried chicken, drinks, plates/cups/utensils  
provided by the congregation Council  
& y'all're invited to bring a salad, a side, and/or a dessert to share**

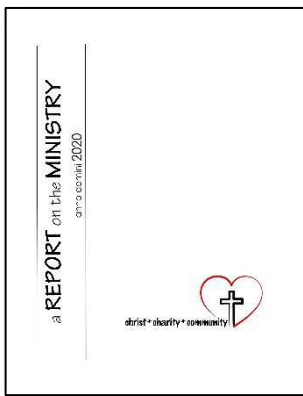
**if you need a ride, give a call - 432.349-7407**

**and be sure to check in with anyone not online  
to make sure they know about the goings-on, too**





**ABOUT THAT MEETING ...** According to the constitution, "The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held at a time specified in the bylaws!" That time's, usually, sometime "during the month of January." This year, however, due to the pandemic, the congregation Council put off that meeting until later in the year when it'd be safer to get together. Well, that time's now! The first Sunday in June! We'll be back at the ranch House in Bear Park. It's all ours from 10:00am to 3:00pm! So, worship – with Communion – is at 10:30am! A semi-potluck lunch'll be from 11:30am to 12:30pm! The council will provide the main course! Fried chicken! They'll, also, take care of iced tea, lemonade, and cups, plates, & plasticware! And you're invited to bring a salad, aside, or a dessert to share! Then, at 1:30pm, we'll start the meeting! There'll be two parts to it. Part 1: MLC 2.0! We'll talk about what's happening as far as the "journey" goes! And Part 2: Business! We'll receive the reports of the Secretary and Treasurer, elect the leadership for another year, and adopt the mission strategy – aka, the budget – for 2021! The whole thing should last about an hour, so we have time to clean and lock up!



The annual report's just about done. A PDF copy should be online, sometime this weekend, and a hardcopy in the mail for anyone not tech-savvy, by Tuesday! You should have plenty of time to "digest" it before the meeting, next Sunday. And if, for any reason, you don't get a copy, please get in touch with pastor Bob a call and he'll get one to you, A.S.A.P.! Call or text to **432.349-7407**!

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**WE'RE STILL AT IT ...** It's been over a year, but we're still going out to livestream the sunrise! And we have no plans to stop, now! So, join us, at sunrise, every Tuesday and Thursday, on [Facebook](#), for the amBlessing! Times are on the calendar! Or if that's a little too early, join us later! Once we've livestreamed, they're saved as videos! This image is from the latest "episode"!

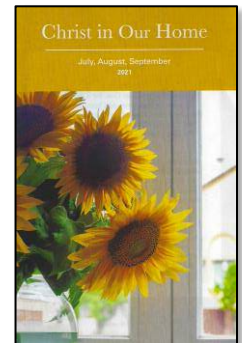




**AND ABOUT FACEBOOK ...** Saw this on Samantha's page! Emma's been swimming with COM and all the practice is paying off! "1<sup>st</sup> place in all 3 heats! This was also her first time competing in the 50m backstroke!" WooHoo! BTW, the meet was last Saturday!

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**CHRIST IN OUR HOME** – the quarterly devotional resource prepared by the ELCA – is in! Third quarter! July, August, September! Regular print! Large print! They'll be available at the next "inPerson" worship on June 06<sup>th</sup>. But if you can't make it – or want it NOW – give us a call or shoot us a text (432.349-7407). And we'll get it to you STAT! Or feel free to message us via [Facebook!](#) We have plenty! So, if you want to give a copy to a friend or two, have at it!



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**AS WE RETURN TO NORMAL ...** One thing to keep in mind ... *NORMAL WASN'T WORKING!* Not out in there in the world! Not in here in the church! That's why we sold the building! That's why we're in the wilderness! That's why we're on this journey! But one thing's for sure ... we learned to appreciate technology! And no matter where we go from here or how far we get, we'll, no longer, be a strictly inPerson church! We have too much goodNews to ration it out only to those who happen to stumble through the doors, any given Sunday! So, as we talk about getting back to business-as-usual ... remember ... this IS business-as-usual!

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**ONLY A FEW MORE WEEKS ...** till we host the familyPromise, again! Our stint is from Sunday, July 04<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>! Nothing to do, right now! Just a heads-up! Oh, and by the way, if you're in the old

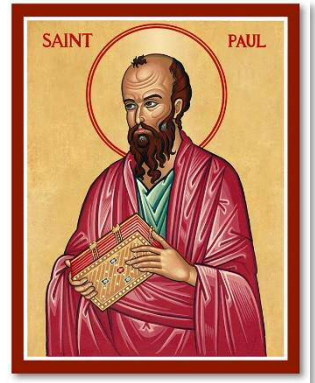




neighborhood – just down the street from Midland Chin Immanuel Church – take a look at the new “campus!” Transitional housing! Renovated and expanded our Day Center! It’s pretty amazing! It’s all at the corner of Ohio Avenue and Ward Street! And check out their [website](#), when you have the time! It’s pretty cool, too!

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**THE pmSTUDY IS BACK @ IT!** It started up, again, about a month ago. The topic: Galatians! “The Epistle to the Galatians is my own epistle,” Luther writes, “I have betrothed myself to it. It is my Katie von Bora.” The study’s still taking place online! FacebookLive, to be exact! If you’d like to join us, welcome! Every Wednesday evening from 7-7:30! And, of course, any other time after that ... at your convenience! Sessions are saved as videos you can watch, later. The only “homework” is reading through the letter, once a week, at one sitting! Should take about fifteen minutes, each time!



Then, we talk about it! No rights! No wrongs! No memorizing! No essays! No quizzes! About as different from confirmation as you can get! Any questions, phone or text pastorBob (432.349-7407) or message him via [Facebook](#)! Otherwise, see you, Wednesday! Oh! One other thing! If you’d like to get back together, inPerson, let pastorBob know! Call/text/message! If you do, it’ll take a couple weeks to get all the ducks in a row! But we can, definitely, start in that direction. And, again, if we get back together – inPerson – it doesn’t mean we stop livestreaming! We can – and will – actually do both at the same time!

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**CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETS** the third Sunday of each month! After worship! On Zoom! This month, that’s the 20<sup>th</sup> of June! Of course, for the sake of transparency, anyone is more than welcome to stop by and see what’s going on! All you have to do is give Jonathan Yee – secretary and official Zoom organizer – and let him know! Text or call 432.352-9387! And FYI, the council, at present, is ...



**ken spencer ( 432.853-6683 )**  
**janice taylor ( 432.661-5920 )**  
**fred behnken ( 432.212-1496 ), treasurer**  
**jonathan yee ( 432.352-9387 ), secretary**  
**bob barndt ( 432.349-7407 ), pastor**

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and a little something from the good doctor ...

**You dare not let your mind dwell  
on a splendid structure,  
root, vaulting, altar, singing, and ringing.  
Wherever God's Word rings out,  
be it in the forest, on the water, or anywhere else,  
there is a Bethel,  
so that one may say: Here God dwells.  
For, as we heard,  
before a solitary stone was laid at that place,  
Jacob called that open expanse a house of God.  
How did he know that it was a house of God?  
Because he had heard God speak at that place.  
For this reason one should not build God a house  
before knowing that God dwells there.  
But God does dwell there  
when God causes the Word to be preached there,  
when God works within us,  
and we recognize God by faith.**





## the PROPERs for june

### the SECOND SUNDAY after PENTECOST, june 06

the PRAYER of the DAY: All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the READINGS: Genesis 3:8-15 + Psalm 130 + 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:13--5:1 + Mark 3:20-35

### the THIRD SUNDAY after PENTECOST, june 13

the PRAYER of the DAY: O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the READINGS: Ezekiel 17:22-24 + Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15  
+ 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17 + Mark 4:26-34

### the FOURTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, june 20

the PRAYER of the DAY: O God of creation, eternal majesty, you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, and by your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the READINGS: Job 38:1-11 + Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 + 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:1-13 + Mark 4:35-41






























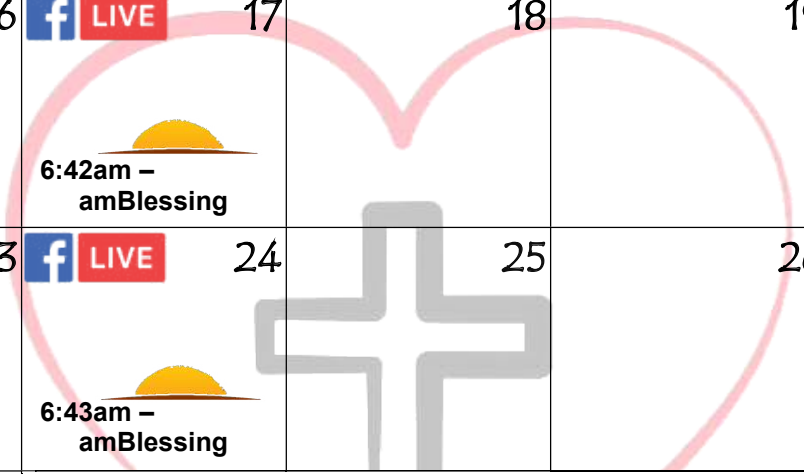
### the FIFTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, june 27

the PRAYER of the DAY: Almighty and merciful God, we implore you to hear the prayers of your people. Be our strong defense against all harm and danger, that we may live and grow in faith and hope, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the READINGS: Lamentations 3:22-33 + Psalm 30 + 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 8:7-15 + Mark 5:21-43



# junio 2021

domingo	lunes	martes	jueves	viernes	sabado
		 LIVE 1  6:42am – amBlessing	 LIVE 9 7:00pm – pmStudy	 LIVE 3  6:42am – amBlessing	4 5
	6  LIVE 10:30am – worship 11:45am – lunch 1:00am – annual meeting	7	8  LIVE  6:41am – amBlessing	9  LIVE 7:00pm – pmStudy	10  LIVE  6:51am – amBlessing
13  LIVE 10:30am – worship	14	15  LIVE  6:41am – amBlessing	16  LIVE 7:00pm – pmStudy	17  LIVE  6:42am – amBlessing	18 19
20  LIVE 10:30am – worship  11:00am – council	21	22  LIVE  6:43am – amBlessing	23  LIVE 7:00pm – pmStudy	24  LIVE  6:43am – amBlessing	25 26
27  LIVE 10:30am – worship	28	29  LIVE  6:45am – amBlessing	30  LIVE 7:00pm – pmStudy	 <p>Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum 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](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)

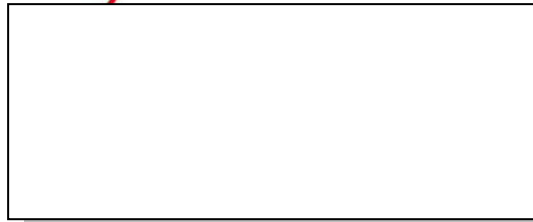
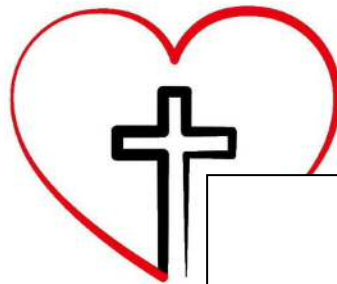
sunday morning schedule: **learning hour @ 9:15 \*worship @ 10:30**

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

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midland lutheran church

2705 w michigan av + midland, tx 79701-5840



June 2021