

the sower

... christ + charity + community ...



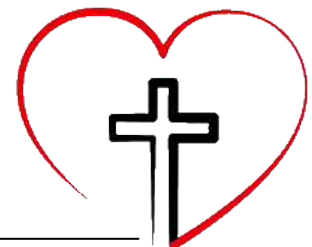
Six hundred thousand. It's impossible to get our head around a number like that. Six hundred thousand. That's the entire population of Midland AND Odessa AND Andrews AND Seminole AND Brownfield AND Hobbs AND Lamesa AND Tahoka AND Lubbock! Every man! Every woman! Every child! That's how many people have died, this past year, due to Covid-19. Moms, dads. Brothers, sisters. Husbands, wives. Daughters, sons. Grandparents. Grandchildren. Classmates. Coworkers. Neighbors. Friends. The worst is behind us ... hopefully. But it's not over. It never will be.

We can pretend we're back. Like we're rising from the ashes. But like love, grief never ends. Never. Ever. So, as we get back to "business-as-usual," we need to do it humbly ... with fear ... trembling. Not forgetting – or ignoring – those who bore the brunt of the suffering. Who weren't allowed to be there, "at the end." Who couldn't hold a hand. Who weren't able to say, "Goodbye." For them – for us – there will be no usual. Only a hole in the heart, a knot in the throat, a tear in the eye.

Rest eternal grant them, O Lord.

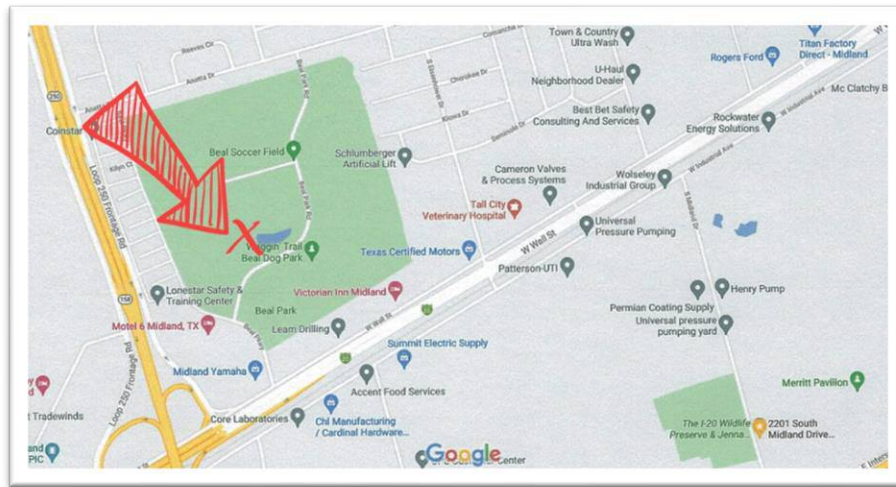
And rest eternal grant us, as well.

Bob



inPERSON WORSHIP & fourth-of-july picnic

!!! this sunday, july 04th !!!
the ranchHouse @ beal park



WORSHIP begins at 10:30am

then, we'll move to the gazebo for a 4th-of-july PICNIC

the congregation Council is bringing the hamburgers, hotDogs, & all the fixin's
(as well as drinks, flatware, and tableware)

you can bring something "picnic-ish" to share ... salad, side, dessert!
oh, and a chair! Definitely, a chair!

then, the rest of the afternoon is yours to enjoy

cornhole, ladderGolf, diskGolf, frisbee, throwing a football – baseball – back and forth, fishing
(a regular freshwater fishing license is all that's needed for those 17 and older),
or just kicking back under the trees enjoying life

No reservations necessary! Just come on down!

Any questions ... text or call pastorBob @ 432.349-7407
and please, share this info with those who may not be "online"
and extend an invitation to family and friends!

see y'all, sunday!

next inPerson worship ... sunday, august 01st

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ... At the annual meeting, last month, the following persons were elected/re-elected by the congregation to positions of leadership ...



lael cordes-pitts (432.296-2684 + larrynlael@sbcglobal.net)
kay sewell (432.559-8801 + k5aks8@gmail.com)
ken spencer (432.853-6683 + kps6293@outlook.com)
janice taylor (432.661-5920 + jpt50502004@yahoo.com)
erika weber (210.838-3211 + weber.history@gmail.com)
fred behnken (432.212-1496 + fhb12.93@gmail.com), *treasurer*
jonathan yee (432.352-9387 + jonathanhouyee@gmail.com), *secretary*
bob barndt (432.349-7407 + bbarndt@juno.com), *pastor*

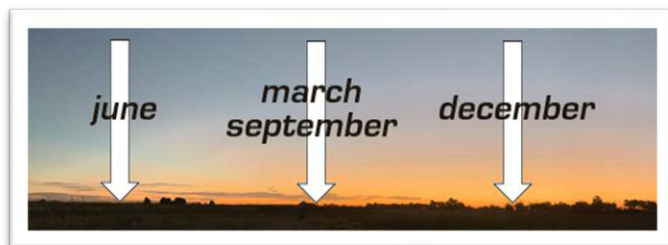
Included are their cell numbers and email addresses. If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please don't hesitate to give a call, send a message, or shoot an email! According to the constitution ...

- C12.04. The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:
- a. To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
 - b. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.
 - c. To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.
 - d. To maintain supportive relationships with the rostered minister(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling or employment.
 - e. To be examples individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.
 - f. To promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill and, as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.
 - g. To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor.
 - h. To emphasize support of the synod and churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

- i. To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- j. To seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel.

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amBLESSINGS GO ON! Sunday, July 20th was the summerSolstice! So, sunrises from now through Xmas will be coming later and the sun will be drifting southward along the horizon! This is a great way to focus the day! Or at least, every Tuesday and Thursday! Invocation! Creed! Lord's Prayer! Hymn! And it only takes about twelve minutes, beginning to end! Times are on the calendar! Catch it on our Facebook page – www.Facebook.com/MidlandLutheranChurch/. In real time on FacebookLive! Or at your convenience – on a video! Again, any problems, text or call pastorBob @ **432.349-7407** or send an email to bbarndt@juno.com !



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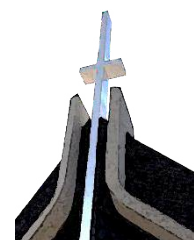
FAMILY PROMISE! "Family Promise is the leading national nonprofit addressing family homelessness, providing homelessness prevention, emergency shelter, workforce development, education, financial capability, health and wellness, and so much more." And we're one of a dozen or so congregations locally who help out! **Our next week hosting the families begins this coming Sunday, July 04th!** This time, there's only five people. Two moms, two teenage sons, and a one-year-old. They're still staying at the house on Haynes Dr. We're responsible for providing supper, each evening. We don't have to stay and serve. Just drop it off at about 6:00pm. If you have any questions or can help out, text or call pastorBob @ **432.349-7407**. If a couple of y'all would like to go in together, that'll be okay, too! Or rather than cooking yourself, you can provide the funds and we'll get something for you! And as we've done in the past, if there's a day not covered, we'll just dip into the congregation's funds and take care of business. If you'd like to know more about [Family Promise](#), in general, or [Family Promise of Midland](#), in particular, just click on the links and you'll be taken to their websites! And on behalf of the families (ALL OF THEM!), thanks for everything!



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HAVE PLANS FOR SUPPER? We've been invited by Grace Presbyterian Church to join them for BURGERS & BLESSINGS! Six Wednesday evenings, this summer, starting July 07th! 6:00! Their fellowshipHall! 2801 N Garfield St! They provide the hamburgers, hotDogs, and fixin's! We're invited to bring something to share! Salad! SideDish! Dessert! Any questions – **OR NEED A WAY TO GET THERE** – call or text pastorBob! No need to r.s.v.p.! Come when you can! And stay as long as you'd like! Well, within reason!

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THE pmSTUDY ... is finishing up a look at Paul's epistle/letter to the churches of Galatia! PastorBob plans on continuing the evening study throughout the summer. However, because of all the goings and comings – especially after the protocols – rather than focusing on one, single topic that might require six to eight weeks to cover, it'll, more likely, be one that can be "discussed" on just a Wednesday or two. Kinda like an "Everything You Wanted to Know" thing! So, now's the time to get your questions to pastorBob – **432.349-7407** – so we can put the schedule together. No question's too simple! No question's too silly! We'll plan on continuing with FacebookLive. However, if you'd like to get together – inPerson – we can do that, too! Again, let pastorBob know if you're interested.

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pastorBOB'LL BE IN ODESSA ... Sunday, July 11th! He's been invited to preach, that morning, at Christ's Lutheran Church. And since "our" service will be online, that gives him the chance to be in two places at the same time! One of the marvels of modern technology! Also, it's one of the directions in which we've been "evolving," the past few years. Church is becoming bigger than just an address or a GPS setting. It's not quite global, yet! But, at least, we're beginning to think regionally!



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OOOPS! FORGOT TO IT MENTION, EARLIER ... The congregation Council, usually, meets once a month ... the third Sunday ... right after worship ... For the past year or so, except for a couple special meetings, it's been on Zoom. This month will be on Zoom, as well. (But, we'll be revisiting that, soon!) Next council meeting ... about 11:15am, Sunday, July 18th! And for the record, you don't have to be a council member to attend! Everyone's welcome to sit/listen in! Just get in touch with Jonathan Yee – council secretary and resident "techie!" He'll get you all the special numbers so you can join in!

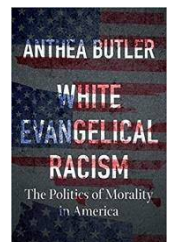


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the LUTHERAN BOOK CLUB ... has finished its second book! *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People* by Nadia Bolz-Weber. We're taking a break, for a couple months. But we'll be back ... toward the middle of September. At the moment, we're considering *White Evangelical Racism: The Politics of Morality in America* by Anthea Butler ...

The American political scene today is poisonously divided, and the vast majority of white evangelicals play a strikingly unified, powerful role in the disunion. These evangelicals raise a starkly consequential question for electoral politics: Why do they claim morality while supporting politicians who act immorally by most Christian measures? In this clear-eyed, hard-hitting chronicle of American religion and politics, Anthea Butler answers that racism is at the core of conservative evangelical activism and power.

Butler reveals how evangelical racism, propelled by the benefits of whiteness, has since the nation's founding played a provocative role in severely fracturing the



electorate. During the buildup to the Civil War, white evangelicals used scripture to defend slavery and nurture the Confederacy. During Reconstruction, they used it to deny the vote to newly emancipated blacks. In the twentieth century, they sided with segregationists in avidly opposing movements for racial equality and civil rights. Most recently, evangelicals supported the Tea Party, a Muslim ban, and border policies allowing family separation. White evangelicals today, cloaked in a vision of Christian patriarchy and nationhood, form a staunch voting bloc in support of white leadership. Evangelicalism's racial history festers, splits America, and needs a reckoning now.

But then, September's a long way off ... Until then, **HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!**

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CHRIST IN OUR HOME ... for july, august, september is in! CIOH, "the quarterly devotional resource of our denomination – the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – encourages readers to live out their faith daily. Each reflective reading is accompanied by a daily scripture reference and prayer for the day that follows the Revised Common Lectionary." Anyway, we have copies – regular & large print! So, if you'd like one, let us know and we'll get you a copy ... stat! We have plenty, so don't be shy! And, if you know of someone you think may appreciate a copy, just ask!



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A LITTLE SOMETHING FROM FACEBOOK ... or rather, a couple little someones! Meet James Wyatt (6#11oz) and Zachary James (6#10oz)! Or is it Zachary James and James Wyatt? I'm sure mom and dad – Debbie and Todd Wise – will straighten us out! If you want to wish them well ...



Todd & Debbie Wise
1 summit drive
middlin, PA 17058
Debbie's email:
daa6728@gmail.com

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IT WAS IN JUNE, 2002 ... that Chad began his stint, here at Midland Lutheran, as organist and choir director. And over the past nineteen years, he's become so much more. Repairer of the organ. Salvager of old pianos, old projectors, old ... well, of anything worn out or outdated! He's been a vital part of the worship ministry of this congregation. And he's become a friend. And, well, if you haven't heard ... last week, he was offered the position of organist at St Barnabas and St John Episcopal Churches in Odessa. He's accepted the call and this Sunday will be his last time – inPerson – with us. For a while, he'll continue preparing the



soundtrack for our online services. That will give us time to fill the chasm he's leaving behind. Our gratitude and our appreciation, our admiration and our respect, are with you, Chad! As you have been a blessing to us, go, now, and be that blessing to others! (BTW, the picture's from a photo directory that was put together about a year after he started!) He'll still be at the same address, if you'd like to send a card. But in case you can't find it ...

Chad Hauris, 16158 N Pecan Ave, Gardendale, TX 79758

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FAREWELL AND GODSPEED, AS WELL ... to Alex and his parents Jessica Burk and John Huber. Jessica and John both taught at Midland ISD and found new positions at schools on the FtWorth side of the Metroplex! The moving van comes toward the end of July! I'm not going to say, "Our thoughts and prayers go with them ..." But I will say, after sixteen months of becoming an "online" church, we're not that far away! Just a click of a finger, in fact! Stop by, now and again, and let us know how things are going! Okay. I'll say it ... our thoughts and prayers ARE with you! As soon as we get their new address, we'll pass it on. For now, Jessica's cell number is **479.463-9303**! Call or text!

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NOW, ABOUT GETTING BACK TO NORMAL ... From the moment the pandemic began, there was one thing that bothered us. Not being able to be together. Separated. Distanced. Isolated. There was the phone. And the internet. But it was, never, quite the same. Not just with family ... or friends ... but with the people from church, as well. No singing together. No eating together. No praying together. No Sunday School. No Bible Studies. No women's Groups. Nothing that, in normal times, brought us together. And we missed it. And now, that life is, finally, returning to normal ... well, it feels like we're dragging our feet. One Sunday a month, in person, isn't near often enough. Why not just get back together. Like everyone else. Well ...



This might be a good time to remember ... that our "normal" before the pandemic wasn't working, all that well. In fact, that "normal" was the reason we had to sell the building. We, simply, couldn't afford being church that way, anymore. And selling the building got us out from underneath the burden. And it gave us the resources to start all over, again. Then came covid. It forced us to do something we had a hard time doing ... "Be still!" Of course, the whole verse is, "Be still and know that I am God!" Psalm 46. 10! The same psalm, by the way, that inspired Luther to compose "A Mighty Fortress!" "Be Still!" We fidgeted. We squirmed! We wanted it to all go away! But now that it has, our "work" of being still ... continues!

Our job, right now, is not getting back to normal. It's moving ahead to new normal, to a different normal. One that works! And that means ... for now ... for a while longer ... continuing to be still ... sitting ... remembering ... dreaming ... because that's the only way we know - the only way we learn - that god is god! That god is god and that we are the church!



the PROPERs for July

the SIXTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, July 04

the PRAYER of the DAY: God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord

the READINGS: Ezekiel 2:1-5 + Psalm 123 + 2nd Corinthians 12:2-10 + Mark 6:1-13

the SEVENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, July 11

the PRAYER of the DAY: O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the READINGS: Amos 7:7-15 + Psalm 85:8-13 + Ephesians 1:3-14 + Mark 6:14-29

the EIGHTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, July 18

the PRAYER of the DAY: O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.





























the READINGS: Jeremiah 23:1-6 + Psalm 23 + Ephesians 2:11-22 + Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

the NINTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST, July 25

the PRAYER of the DAY: Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

the READINGS: 2nd Kings 4:42-44 + Psalm 145:10-18 + Ephesians 3:14-21 + John 6:1-21

julio 2021

domingo	lunes	martes	jueves	viernes	sabado	
	Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum the word of the lord endures forever		 1  6:46am – amBlessing	2	3	
 4 10:30am – inPerson worship 11:45am – potluck picnic	5 	 6  6:48am – amBlessing	 7 6:00pm – burgers& blessings @ gracePres 7:00pm – pmStudy	 8  6:49am – amBlessing	9	10
 11 10:30am – worship	12	 13  6:52am – amBlessing	 14 6:00pm – burgers& blessings @ gracePres 7:00pm – pmStudy	 15  6:53am – amBlessing	16	17
 18 10:30am – worship  11:00am – council	19	 20  6:56am – amBlessing	 21 6:00pm – burgers& blessings @ gracePres 7:00pm – pmStudy	 22  6:57am – amBlessing	23	24
25	26	 27  7:00am – amBlessing	 28 6:00pm – burgers& blessings @ gracePres 7:00pm – pmStudy	 29  7:01am – amBlessing	30	31



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

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midland lutheran church

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webpage: www.MidlandLutheranChurch.org

facebook: www.facebook.com/GospelCrossWords/

www.facebook.com/MidlandLutheranChurch/

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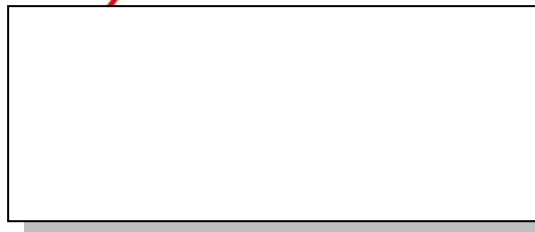
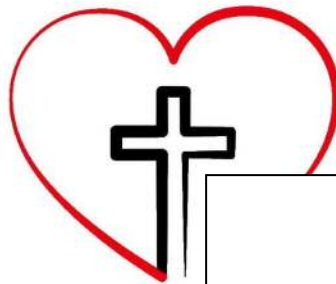
sunday morning schedule: **learning hour @ 9:15 *worship @ 10:30**

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

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midland lutheran church

2705 w michigan av + midland, tx 79701-5840



july 2021