



#### OUR STAFF

Minister:

The Reverend Laura Lee Strawser

Director of Music: John Rickert

Guest Organist: Eugene Groenhof  
And Jan Eggers

Administrative Assistant:  
Linda Wieferich

Caretaker, Al Ferrell

Nursery Attendants:

Sarah Egerer and Theresa King

#### OUR CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator: Heather Ballien

Vice-Moderator: Tom Carr

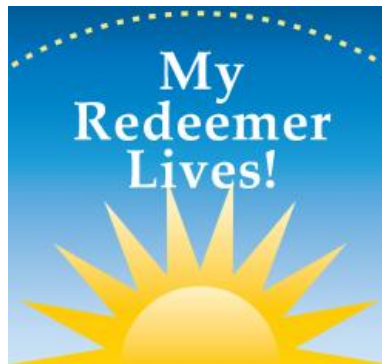
Clerk: Cyndi James

Treasurer: David Garn

Missions Treasurer:

Roger Ellsworth

Financial Secretary: Laurella Smith



April 2012

#### TEAM LEADERS

1. Christian Education:  
Sarah Egerer
2. Youth: Cheryl Ellsworth
3. Outreach/Evangelism:  
Jan Wheeler  
Historian: Teddy Pelkey  
Assistant: Cheryl Ellsworth
4. Music: Jennifer Morris
5. Missions: Nikki Anjakos-Seno
6. Finance: Jim Garn
7. Facilities/Maintenance: Jim Larkin
8. Personnel: Margaret Leaman
9. Hospitality: Connie Ellsworth
10. Worship: Nancy Lewis
11. Pastoral Relations: David Quinnan
12. Visitation: Lois Smith
13. American Baptist Women's Society  
Of MABC: Dianne Ellsworth
14. Nominating: Sarah Egerer
15. Prayer: Renee McGregor

#### OUR CHURCH VISION

Drawing upon its rich history of service to God in an urban setting, Michigan Avenue Baptist Church serves as a beacon of Christ-centered ministry to the community through witness, worship, and fellowship in a culturally diverse population.

#### MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Reverend Laura Lee Strawser

203 S. Michigan Avenue - Saginaw, Michigan 48602

Church office: (989) 793-8555

Email: [MichiganAveBaptist@sbcglobal.net](mailto:MichiganAveBaptist@sbcglobal.net) Website: [MABCSaginaw.org](http://MABCSaginaw.org)



Pastor Laura Lee Strawser may be reached:

Cell phone: (989) 307-9063 Email: [revlls59@charter.net](mailto:revlls59@charter.net)

Pastor is on Face-Book. Please feel free to contact her.





*A Message from  
Pastor Laura Lee*

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY...LORD GOD ALMIGHTY!!**

**HOLY WEEK...**

As of Sunday, April 1st, Holy Week begins. This very special and 'holy' week begins with Palm Sunday and ends with Easter Sunday. Most Christians observe the following special days during this week: Palm Sunday recognizing the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem; Maundy Thursday re-enacting the 'Last Supper' that Jesus had with his disciples; 'Good' Friday remembering the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus; and Easter Sunday celebrating the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Here at Michigan Avenue Baptist Church we will observe this week with three services of worship. On Palm Sunday we will wave palm branches, sing, praise God, pray and hear a message entitled, "The Wounded Healer." On Thursday, April 5th, we will re-enact the 'Last Supper' in the Fellowship Hall by sharing an Agape Feast together followed by a time of partaking of 'bread and cup' along with music and scripture reading. On Easter Sunday morning we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord with a Sunrise service presented by our youth group, an Easter Breakfast, an Easter Egg hunt for our children and a joy-filled 10:45 worship service that will include the Latham Burrows Choir, the Belle Aire Handbell Choir, hymns, scripture and preaching.

I hope you will plan on joining us for all of these opportunities so that your faith and spiritual journey might be enriched beyond measure!

**HOLY PRAYER...**

On April 22nd we will embark on a 4 week journey to understand, practice and appreciate the holiness of prayer. Using the Lord's Prayer (also known as the Disciples' Prayer) as our example, we will explore the importance of prayer in our lives.

- April 22nd - "Holy is Your Name" (Matthew 6:9)
- April 29th - "Your Will Be Done" (Matthew 6:10)
- May 6th - "Give Us?" (Matthew 6:11)
- May 13th - "Deliver Us" (Matthew 6:12-13)

I would love to hear thoughts from the MABC family about the meaning of prayer in your life or a time in your life when prayer was 'transformational'. Call me, email me or drop a note to me. Perhaps your sharing will help others.

**HOLY SPIRIT...**

Pentecost is Sunday, May 27th. As we look forward to the celebration of the giving of the Holy Spirit to the 'Church' with a capital 'C', let us consider the gift of the Holy Spirit in the life of our congregation TODAY. We continue to plan for the future, ask some tough questions, pray for God's guidance and seek the Holy Spirit's power. We want to be transformed like those first followers of the Risen Lord so that we might move forward in seeking the transformation of others.

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY...LORD GOD ALMIGHTY!!**

# HOLY WEEK

at Michigan Avenue Baptist Church



## Sunday, April 1, 2012, Palm Sunday

9:30 a.m. Church School  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service: "The Wounded Healer" Luke 19:33-41  
12:00 p.m. Fellowship



## Thursday, April 5, 2012, Maundy Thursday

A Maundy Thursday meal will be offered at 6:30 p.m. at MABC. There will be a worship service following the meal. Both the meal and the worship service will be held in the fellowship hall. We will be inviting Beacon of Hope church to join us. We will partake in an Agape Meal (Love Feast). You are asked to bring "finger foods" to share. Examples of finger foods are: pita chips and hummus, nacho chips and salsa, fresh veggies and fruit, finger sandwiches (egg, bologna, cucumber, etc.), cocktail wieners wrapped in crescent rolls, meatballs served with tooth picks, veggie or fruit pizza (cut into small squares), cookies, sweet rolls, etc. **Please contact Connie Ellsworth** to let her know what you will be bringing and remember to bring enough for eight to ten people, since our guests will not be asked to bring food.

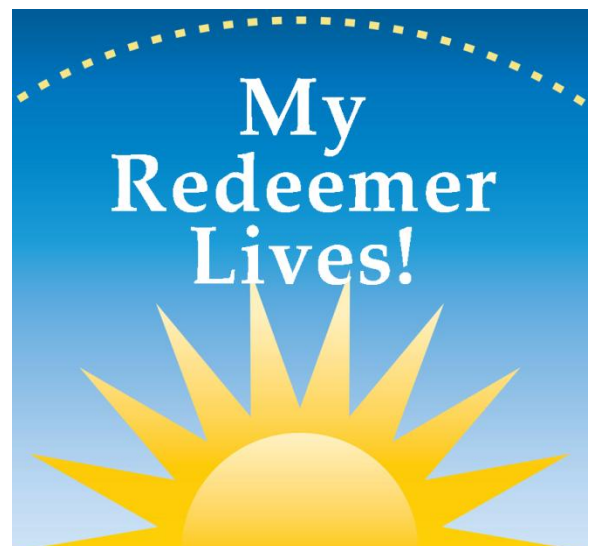


## Friday, April 6, 2012, Good Friday

MABC will not offer Good Friday services this year.  
Please visit the church of your choice this year.

## Sunday, April 8, 2012, Easter Sunday

8:00 p.m. Son-Rise Worship Service  
8:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt  
9:30 a.m. Church School  
10:45 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship Service:  
"All is Well", Matthew 28:1-10



## **BELIEVING IS SEEING**

When the disciples saw Jesus after his resurrection, they believed. But Thomas, who was absent, doubted until he, too, got to see and even touch Jesus. For him, as the others, seeing, was believing.

But what of us who don't get to see Jesus in the flesh? If "seeing, is believing," are we out of luck? No. In fact, sometimes it works the opposite way; sometimes "believing, is seeing."

Try this: Despite any doubts, choose to believe, trusting the witness of someone who's seen God at work - a biblical figure or present-day Christian. You'll be amazed at the love, healing, peace and new life that spring out of troubles.

"With the eyes of your heart" (Ephesians 1:18, NRSV), you will see your Lord and your God.

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### **MABC SOFTBALL TEAM MEETING** **Monday, April 9** **7:00 p.m. at MABC**

Want to play softball this summer? Then come to the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and find out all the particulars. During this meeting we will be going over the rules, regulations, schedule, playing positions, etc. If you would like to play this year, this meeting is very important and highly encouraged that you attend. Cyndi James or Jim Garn will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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"I've long since stopped feeling guilty about taking 'being time'; it's something we all need for our spiritual health, and often we don't take enough of it."

*-Madeleine L'Engle*

## **PRAYER MEETINGS**

Remember our Thursday night Prayer Meetings. Here we gather at 6:30 p.m. to offer pray individually and corporately for the needs of our nation, our community, our church, our families, our friends and any other needs the Lord lays upon your hearts. Prayer works. All are welcome.

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST** **Saturday, April 14, 2012** **9:00 a.m. at MABC**

All men of the church are invited to join in this time of delicious food and Christian fellowship.

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## **POTLUCK SUNDAY**

Please note the potluck originally scheduled for Sunday, April 15 has been cancelled. See you at the May 20 Potluck.

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## **"IN THE GARDEN"**

In 1912, as Charles Austin Miles grabbed his Bible, it opened to John 20. Reading the account of Mary Magdalene outside the garden tomb where Jesus' body had been laid, Miles felt powerfully that he was there. Inspired, he quickly wrote the poem "In the Garden" and later composed the music.

This hymn might seem sentimental and trite, if understood to refer to just any garden. But the song takes on profound meaning when recognized as Mary's personal encounter with the living Lord.

-And he walks with me, and he talks with me,  
-And he tells me I am his own,  
-And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
-None other has ever known!



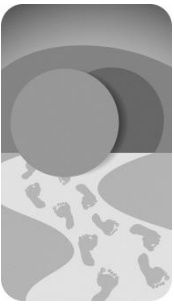


## SCRAPBOOKING At MABC

Friday, April 20  
from 6:00-11:00 p.m.  
And  
Saturday, April 21  
from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

If you have an interest in preserving photographic or 'treasure' memorabilia, this is an activity for you. Sally Egerer will be happy to answer any of your questions.

## A WAY OUT



Because possums are known for having trouble crossing the road, you might think the animals aren't particularly bright. Yet they are reported smart enough to enter a hole only if two sets of tracks lead in and out. If only one set of tracks exists, a possum won't enter.

The grave was a hole with one set of tracks, and even the bravest souls feared to go in. But on Easter, Jesus came out of the grave, stripping it of its terror. We can approach death confidently, knowing that our Savior conquered it - and provides a way out.

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING  
7:00 p.m.  
Thursday, April 26, 2012

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS



If you are going back to school in the fall and are a member of MABC, you may be eligible for a scholarship from the church. You may pick up your application, and a bit about the scholarship program, at the back of the sanctuary. **Scholarship Applications** are due in the church office no later than May 6, 2012.

## WHERE WAS I?

Our young son often asks where he was when something significant happened before he was born. "Where was I when you two got married?" Where was I when Nana died?" And even, "Where was I before I was inside your body?"

My response is always. "You were in God's heart." God said as much to Jeremiah: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you" (Jeremiah 1:5, NRSV).

A Good Friday spiritual asks plaintively, "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" Clearly none of us was present when Jesus died. Yet as we worship on Good Friday, we place ourselves at the cross, where Jesus bore our sins.

"Where was I," we might ask our heavenly Father, "when they crucified Jesus?" I'm confident that God's tender answer is "You were in my heart." Indeed, only because of our place there did Jesus go willingly to the cross - and rise to assure us of everlasting life.

-Heidi Mann

## GREAT LAKES LOONS GAME FAITH NIGHT



MABC is going to the Great Lakes Loons Game Faith Night on Sunday, June 3. Jim Garn will be ordering tickets and will need to have your reservation no later than May 6.

## LOOKING AHEAD - SAVE THE DATE

### ROAD BLOCK

"We can depend on God to fulfill his promise, even when all the roads leading to it are closed," wrote Bible commentator Mathew Henry about 300 years ago.

For the disciples on Good Friday, all the roads had closed and the gates were barred shut. Jesus was dead - and with him, their hope. In fear and grief, they locked themselves in an upper room.

But soon they discovered the tomb was empty. The grave wasn't the end. Even death wasn't strong enough to thwart God's plans. Easter is proof that no situation is hopeless. God offers a way through every type of roadblock.

*-Kari Myers*

**June 12, 7:00 p.m. at MABC**

Celebration Singers, Youth Concert. There will be further information to come in upcoming newsletters.

**August 23-25**

Church-wide Camping event at Evert.

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### DID YOU KNOW

St. Mary's of Michigan Center of HOPE provides many services for the residents of Saginaw County and surrounding areas at no charge. The Center of Hope focuses on health promotion and disease prevention. They have recently started two new educational programs on Diabetes and Hypertension. They also offer classes in parenting, knowing your numbers, and self-awareness of personal glucose, cholesterol and BP readings. They also offer free Tai Chi, Yoga, sewing, and quilting classes. If you have any questions, please call Dawn Bellinger, Faith Community Nurse Coordinator of St. Mary's of Michigan at 907-5650 or email her at [dmbellinger@stmarysofmichigan.org](mailto:dmbellinger@stmarysofmichigan.org).



### COMING IN JULY

Our New Organist/Pianist  
**Mark Rethman**

The Music Team and Personnel Team are happy to announce the hiring of our next organist. Mark Rethman will begin his duties at MABC in July. Mark has over 30 years experience as a piano teacher and accompanist in the Saginaw and Tucson areas. He received his Bachelor of Arts / Music from Saginaw Valley State University and received his Master of Music / Collaborative Piano from the University of Arizona. Mark has served as the interim organist at First Congregational Church in Saginaw and organist at Zion Lutheran Church and Our Savior Lutheran Church. He has accompanied the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra and many choirs. His professional experience and accomplishments are extensive. We are so excited to add Mark to our staff. We are certain that he will make a positive addition to our family here at MABC.

*Jenny Morris*  
Music Team Leader

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"Faith does not struggle;  
faith lets God do it all."

*-Corrie ten Boom*

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### EASTER'S PROMISE

'T was by a path of sorrows drear  
Christ entered into rest;  
And shall I look for roses here,  
Or think that earth is blessed?  
Heaven's whitest lilies blow  
From earth's sharp crown of woe:  
Who here his cross can meekly bear,  
Shall wear the kingly purple there.



*-L.B. Cowman,  
Streams in the Desert*

# Hallelujah



## ORDER YOUR 2011 Church History UPDATE

Our Church Historian, Teddy Pelkey, has graciously written our 2011 Church History Update for your Church History book. If you would like to update your book, please fill out the form and enclose \$5.00 for each update.

**Please return to the church office no later than April 15, 2012.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of copies requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

### VOLUNTEER PERKS



Celebrate National Volunteer Week (April 15-21 this year) by meeting a need in your church or community.

Volunteering not only helps the people we serve. It also has surprising benefits for the volunteer. Serving others builds social and relational skills, increases self-confidence and boosts physical health. Studies show that volunteering can even

ease chronic pain and heart disease.

So do yourself - and others - some good by following Jesus' example of serving. Visit [www.VolunteerMatch.org](http://www.VolunteerMatch.org) for short and long-term local opportunities.

### BIBLE QUIZ

All four gospels tell of Jesus' resurrection, but each gives a different list of women as the first to arrive at the empty tomb. Which woman appear in all four accounts?

- A. Joanna
- B. Mary, the mother of Jesus
- C. Salome
- D. Mary Magdalene
- E. Mary, the mother of James

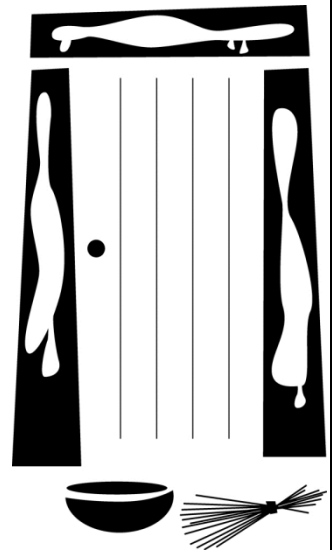
*(Answer can be found on the calendar page)*



### CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

#### DOORPOSTS

The image of a doorframe marked with blood comes from the Old Testament Passover account, when the Israelites prepared to flee slavery in Egypt. God directed them to slaughter lambs for a final meal and paint their doorposts with the blood. God sent the Angel of Death to kill the firstborn sons of Egypt, but the blood on



the Israelites' doorposts served as a signal that the Destroyer should "pass over" those homes. Likewise, the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, saves us from eternal death.



MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH  
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## APRIL 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>HOLY WEEK</b>						
PALM SUNDAY	6:15 p.m. Bible Study		Rehearsals	6:30 p.m. MAUNDY THURSDAY Agape Meal & Worship Service	GOOD FRIDAY	
8 	6:15 p.m. Bible Study  7:00 p.m. Softball Team Mtg	10	11  Rehearsals	12  6:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	13	14  9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
15	16 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	17	18 Rehearsals	19 6:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg	20 6:00 p.m. Scrapbooking	21 10:00 a.m. Scrapbooking
22	23 Newsletter articles due  6:15 p.m. Bible Study	24	25 Rehearsals	26 6:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg.  7:00 p.m. Quarterly Business Mtg.	27	28
29	30 6:15 p.m. Bible Study					

  
**CHRIST THE LORD**  
 IS RISEN TODAY!

8:00 a.m. Son-Rise Worship Service  
 8:45 a.m. Breakfast & Egg Hunt  
 9:30 a.m. Church School  
 10:45 a.m. Worship Service

**Sunday at MABC**  
 9:30 a.m., Church School for All  
 10:45 a.m., Worship Service & Extended Session  
 12:00 p.m., Fellowship

**Wednesday Choir Rehearsals**  
 6:30 p.m., Belle Aire Handbell Choir  
 7:30 p.m., Latham Burrows Choir

Answer to Bible Quiz:  
 Answer: D

(See Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:1; Luke 24:10; and John 20:1).

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

01	Dennis Lemmer
04	Jeff Larkin
06	Destiny Helpap
06	Sue Giessel
09	Earl Settle
11	Cyndi James
14	Justin Lemmer
19	Tricia Lewis
20	Val Geidans
20	Casey Tuck
21	Eva Kelly
21	Carole Moore
21	Marc Leaman
22	Chris Smith
30	Betty Cooper

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If your birthday has not been listed, please contact the church office at (989) 7893-8555 with your birth date. We'd like to wish everybody a Happy Birthday during their birthday month. Please contact the church office should you have a change of address. We want to keep our records current. Thank you.