



The Beacon Newsletter



OUR STAFF

Pastor:
Reverend Carol McCleary
Director of Music: John Rickert
Organist: Jeremy Reis
Administrative Assistant:
Linda Wieferich
Caretaker: Al Ferrell
Nursery Attendant:
Sarah Egerer

OUR CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator: Nancy Lewis
Vice-Moderator: Cheryl Zinz
Clerk: Cyndi James
Treasurer: Jody James
Missions Treasurer:
Roger Ellsworth
Financial Secretary: Mary Leary



He is RISEN !

CHURCH TEAM LEADERS

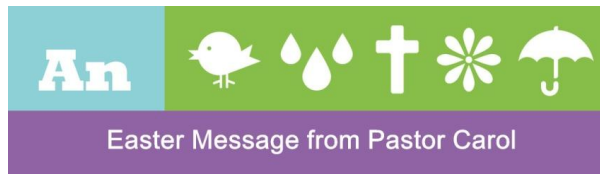
1. Christian Education:
Theresa King
2. Youth: Cheryl Ellsworth
3. Missions: Outreach/Evangelism:
Co-Leader: Nikki Anjakos-Seno
Co-Leader: Vacant
Historian: J. David Garn
Assistant: Cheryl Ellsworth
4. Music: David Garn
5. Finance: Jim Garn
6. Facilities/Maintenance:
Vacant
7. Hospitality: Connie Ellsworth
8. Worship: Jan Wheeler
9. Pastoral Relations: Vacant
10. Visitation: Lois Smith
11. Nominating: Appointed as needed

MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
203 S. Michigan Ave - Saginaw, Michigan 48602
Church office: (989) 793-8555
Email: MichiganAveBaptist@sbcglobal.net
Website: MABCSaginaw.org

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.





Dear Members and Friends,

Which of Jesus' disciples do you identify with the most?

Many people identify with Peter, who was perhaps Jesus' most outspoken disciple. Peter was a man of great faith. He was often the first to weigh in when Jesus asked a question. When the subject of Jesus' identity came up, Peter was quick to declare: "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." When Jesus came to his disciples in the midst of a storm at sea, Peter eagerly jumped out of the boat and tried to walk on the water to him. Although his efforts were not completely successful, we have to admire him for stepping out of the boat. When the topic of Jesus' death came up, Peter confidently claimed; "Lord, I am ready to go to prison with you, even to die with you." Yet, before the sun came up the next day, Peter denied knowing Jesus three times. But, thank God, denial is not the end of Peter's story; Jesus forgave and restored him, and Peter went on to become a powerful witness for the risen Lord. Yes, many of us can identify with Peter - especially when our good intentions don't work out as well as we planned.

Others of us see ourselves in James and John, two brothers who heard Jesus' call and dropped their fishing nets to follow Him. James and John were part of Jesus' inner circle. They, along with Peter, were privileged to witness Jesus' transfiguration. Yet time and again, they got into arguments about who was the greatest; they even asked Jesus for the privilege of sitting in places of honor in His kingdom. We see ourselves reflected in the stories of James and John whenever our pride trips us up or our temper gets the better of us.

And then there's Thomas, my personal favorite. He wasn't with the other disciples when Jesus appeared to them after His resurrection, and Thomas had a hard time believing that Jesus was truly alive. He famously declared: "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." His initial disbelief in the resurrection has earned him the nickname "Doubting Thomas."

We catch a somewhat different glimpse of Thomas' character in John 11. Jesus was preparing to go back to Bethany because his friend Lazarus had died, and the disciples were concerned that a return to Judea would result in Jesus being stoned. While the other disciples tried to stop Jesus from going, Thomas spoke up and said, "Let's go with him and die with him." And it's not at all clear to me if his statement reflects an attitude of devotion to Jesus or of pessimistic resignation. In fact, for as much as I am attached to Thomas, he remains a bit of a mystery to me. Was he a doubter, a skeptic, an eternal pessimist? Or was he a realistic follower of Christ and a faithful questioner? I may never know.

What I do know is that all of Jesus' disciples were people like you and me. At times they were filled with great faith and courage; other times they failed miserably in their feeble attempts to serve the Lord. But their faults and failings were not the final word. Jesus loved them, forgave them, and stayed with them through it all. And that's good news for you and me. Because Jesus doesn't abandon or give up on us no matter what. His death and resurrection demonstrates the extent of his love for you and me. And he has promised to never leave us or forsake us.

So in this Easter season, whether your faith feels strong or weak, whether you are filled with doubts and questions or are full of joy, may your faith be strengthened and your hope be renewed by the glorious promise Jesus gave us: "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Have a blessed Easter!
Pastor Carol

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY, April 9, 2017

9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
12:00 p.m. Lenten "Austerity" Luncheon

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 13, 2017

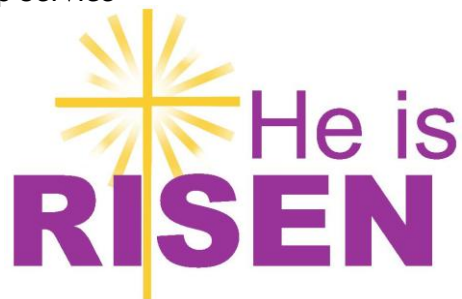
6:00 p.m. Agape Meal (Love Feast) and service at Michigan Avenue Baptist Church
(Please bring finger foods to the Agape Meal)

GOOD FRIDAY, April 14, 2017

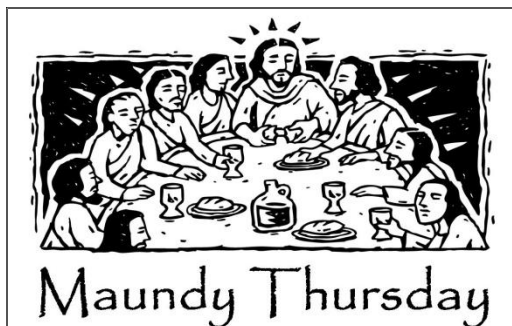
9:00-11:00 a.m.
CARRY THE CROSS
Meet at MABC at 8:30 a.m. to get ready for the 9:00-11:00
"Carry the Cross" as we silently witness for Christ.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 16, 2017

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



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MAUNDY THURSDAY

Agape Meal and Worship Service
6:00 p. at Michigan Avenue Baptist Church
Thursday, April 13, 2017

A Maundy Thursday meal will be offered at 6:00 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 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 he know what you will be bringing

GOOD FRIDAY

April 14, 2017

CARRY THE CROSS

9:00-11:00 a.m.

Meet at MABC at 8:30 a.m.



On Good Friday, MABC will join with other churches throughout the United States as we "Carry the Cross" to our community, spreading the word of Christ, by our visual presence. Please contact Becky Geidans for details. We hope you will join us. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Good Friday at MABC, to receive instruction. Please pray for this event to touch hearts for Christ. To learn more about the movement and its history, you can visit www.CarryTheCrossNow.com, and on face-book.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Please attend the church of your choice. MABC will not be offering a Good Friday service.

EASTER SUNDAY

April 16, 2017

- 8:00 a.m. Son-Rise Worship Service
- 8:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt
- 9:30 a.m. Church School
(Please check with your teacher)
- 10:45 a.m. Easter Worship Service



He is RISEN !

THE ROLE OF THE CROSS

If the cross is the place where the worst thing that could happen happened, it is also the place where the best thing that could happen happened. Ultimate hatred and ultimate love met on those two crosspieces of wood. Suffering and love were brought into harmony ...



To be “saved” requires a severance from the former life as clean and sharp as though made by a knife. There must be a wall of separation between the old life and the new, a radical break. That means death - death to the old life, in order for the new to begin. This wall of separation, this barrier, is the cross.

-Elisabeth Elliot, *A Path Through Suffering*

FORSAKEN FOR US

Church reformer Martin Luther considered Jesus’ cry from the cross, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46) as “the greatest words in all of Scripture,” writes Timothy Keller. In *Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering* (Penguin Books), Keller notes, “Luther knew personally about what he called *Anfechtungen*, a word that means the ‘assaults’ that the world, the flesh and the devil make on human beings through the evils and suffering of life.”

Jesus suffered *Anfechtungen* “in infinite degrees, beyond anything any other human being will ever experience,” Keller writes. And he did it all for us. As Luther said, “In Christ, the God-forsaken sinner has a Savior who has taken on himself the full depths of human estrangement from God - and overcome it.”

- We have not the reason to despair, quite simply because Christ has risen.”

-Richard John Neuhaus



Men's Breakfast

**9:00 a.m.
Saturday, April 8, 2017**

**All men are invited
to this time of Christian fellowship
and delicious food.**

EXPANDING OUR VIEW OF SERVICE

We often think of serving in terms of Matthew 25: supplying food and clothing; caring for the sick, incarcerated and other "least of these" members of society - service Jesus in the process. But we also can serve him with our unique talents and by doing things we love.

For example, Ged King, a barber in England, devotes some of his time off to giving homeless people free haircuts. Imagine Jesus saying, "For my hair was long and scraggly, and you cut it" - or "My heart was lonely, and you played music to lift my spirits. I could no longer read small print, and you read to me. I have to work two jobs, and you invited my child to spend afternoons crafting with you. My car broke down, and you repaired it." Then the King will say, ... "Come, you who are blessed by my father ... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:34, 40, NIV; emphasis added).



Would you be willing to help run errands?
If so, please contact Dorothy Croucher and
she will be able to answer your questions.
Thank you.

WHEN WE CAN'T FIND EASTER

Easter is the most joyous Christian holy day ... except when it's not. What do we do when our mood isn't what we think it "should" be? The kids are sugared up, we're juggling family gatherings (and conflicts), everyday challenges remain, and festive hymns - however rousing - fail to lift our spirits. We wonder, "What's wrong with me, that I can't seem to find Easter?"

Been there, done that. And it's okay.
You're okay.

Jesus' resurrection doesn't scoop us out of our troubles, but the death-defying Christ walks through them beside us, on our own Emmaus road (Luke 24). We aren't alone. When we can't find Easter, Easter somehow finds us - if not on this designated Sunday, perhaps two days from now, or next week or mid-May. Watch for it; keep your heart open. Christ is risen indeed - and you shall be too.

-Heidi Mann

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

**7:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 27, 2017**

EASTER'S DAWN

On the third day, the friends of Christ coming at daybreak ... found the grave empty and the stone rolled away. In varying ways they realized the new wonder; but even they hardly realized that the world had died in the night.

What they were looking at was the first day of a



new creation, with a new heaven and a new earth; and in a semblance of the gardener, God walked again in the garden, in the cool not of the evening but of the dawn.

-G.K. Chesterton



SUNDAYS
MARCH 5 - APRIL 9 (Palm Sunday)

On behalf of the Hospitality Team of MABC, Connie Ellsworth is extending an invitation to all to attend the MABC Lenten "Austerity" Lunches. These "SOUP & BREAD ONLY" lunches are intended to highlight the simple and reflective season of Lent.

The Lenten "Austerity" Lunches will begin on Sunday, March 5 following the worship service and run through Palm Sunday, April 9. Please plan on attending these times of fellowship and preparation for the holy season of Easter.

NOTE: Potluck Sunday during March and April will not be held due to the Lenten "Austerity" Luncheons. Please join us for the Lenten luncheons

BIBLE QUIZ

By what other name/s does the Bible identify the disciple we call "Doubting Thomas"?

- A. Didymus
- B. The Skeptic
- C. The Twin
- D. A and B
- E. A and C



The answer may be found on the calendar page.



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.

Information and applications about the scholarship program are available at the back of the sanctuary and in the church office.

Scholarship applications are due in the church office no later than Sunday, May 7, 2017.

2017 CAMP LAKE LOUISE

It's not too early to begin thinking about attending Camp Lake Louise this summer. Information will soon be ready. They are putting together a wonderful God-filled program for all ages. Church scholarships are available too! Check out their website at www.camplakelouise.com or see Cheryl Ellsworth for further information.



CAMP
 2017

LACQUERED WITH LOVE



Japanese artisans practice a 500-year-old Japanese art called *kintsugi*, or “golden joinery,” to resemble broken pieces of pottery using a lacquer mixed

with gold, silver or platinum. The premise is that brokenness doesn’t render something useless or ugly. Indeed, another Japanese term, *wabi-sabi*, means “to find beauty in broken or old things.”

We come to Jesus broken, but he doesn’t discard us. He heals us, though our scars do often remain visible - just as the spear and nail prints remained in his own body when God raised him from death. The Holy Spirit coats our wounds and fractures with the lacquer of divine love, and we become uniquely beautiful, appealing to others so they can find support for their own healing. Our scars tell them they aren’t alone, while the brokenness that’s part of another’s faith journey assures us that we, too, have companionship along the way.

Communion Table Flower Sign-Up

APRIL

02 Communion Sunday
09 Sharon Mason
16 Easter Flowers
23 Arlene Leary

Looking Ahead

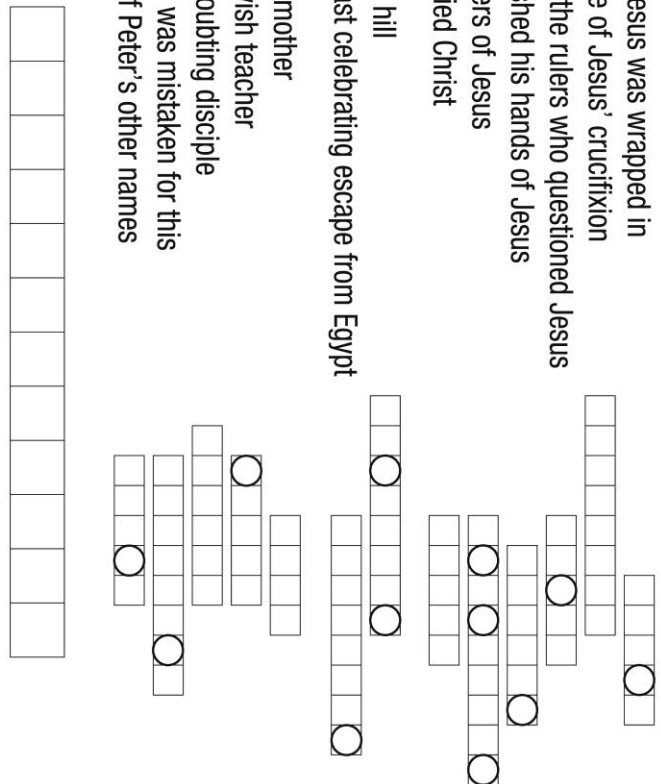
MAY 04 National Day of Prayer
07 Communion Sunday
13 Men’s Breakfast
14 Mother’s Day
18 Church Council
21 Potluck Sundry

June 2-4 Annual ABW Conference in DeWitt, MI. Please see Jackie Anjakos for further information.

Puzzle!

After completing this Easter crossword, unscramble the circled letters to discover a special word:

1. What Jesus was wrapped in
2. The site of Jesus’ crucifixion
3. One of the rulers who questioned Jesus
4. He washed his hands of Jesus
5. Followers of Jesus
6. He denied Christ
7. A large hill
8. The feast celebrating escape from Egypt
9. Jesus’ mother
10. A Jewish teacher
11. The doubting disciple
12. Jesus was mistaken for this
13. One of Peter’s other names



Answers: 1. cloth, 2. Golgotha, 3. Herod, 4. Pilate, 5. disciples, 6. Peter, 7. mountain, 8. Passover, 9. Mary, 10. rabbi, 11. Thomas, 12. gardener, 13. Simon; resurrection

- “The soul would have no rainbows if the eyes had no tears.”
-Native American proverb



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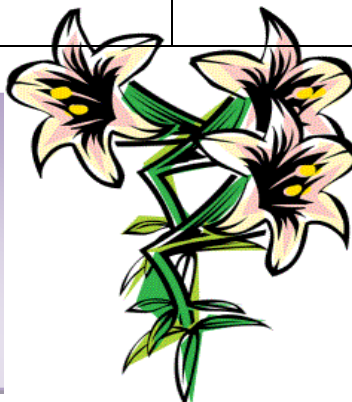
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Fifth Sunday in Lent Communion Sunday Lenten Luncheon	3 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	4	5 Rehearsal	6 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	7	8 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
H O L Y W E E K						
PALM SUNDAY Lenten Luncheon	6:15 p.m. Bible Study		Rehearsal	MAUNDY THURSDAY 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team 6:00 p.m. Agape Meal and Service at MABC	GOOD FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. Carry the Cross	
16 EASTER SUNDAY	17 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	18	19 Rehearsal	20 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	21	22
23	24 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	25	26 Rehearsal	27 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team 7:00 p.m. Quarterly Business Mtg.	28	29
30					Answer to Bible Quiz: Answer E (See John 20:24, NIV and ESV)	

EASTER SUNDAY AT MABC

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



SUNDAYS AT MABC

9:30 a.m. Church School for All
 10:45 a.m., Worship Service
 12:00 p.m. Lenten Luncheon or fellowship

Wednesday Rehearsal at MABC
 6:30-8:00 p.m. L. Burrows Choir
*The Belle Aire Handbell Choir
 will resume rehearsals in the fall.*

Happy Birthday



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

**04 Jeffrey Larkin
06 Destiny Helpap
11 Cynthia James
14 Justin Lemmer
19 Tricia Lewis
19 Logan Lewis
20 Val Geidans
21 Eva Kelly
21 Carole Moore
21 Marc Leaman
22 Christopher Smith**

If your birthday has not been listed, please contact the church office at (989) 793-8555 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.