

The Encourager

LAKEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

Adam Metzger, Pastor

MAY 2012

Nearly 100 years

ago to the day, the majestic RMS Titanic set sail on its maiden voyage from South Hampton, UK to New York City. It never arrived on our Eastern seacoast. Nearly 15 years ago James Cameron filmed his movie "Titanic," following the events that took place that cold night in 1912. The movie's recent release in 3D, in addition to the anniversary, has brought Titanic to the forefront of many people's imaginations again, including my own.

Years ago, I distinctly remember sitting in the dark theater as the main character, Rose, sat on a plank of wood from the Titanic's wreckage after the ship had sunk and watched Jack sink slowly into the dark waters of the Atlantic. The people behind me wailed in tears, blowing their noses often.

As an historical event, the event was truly tragic, although as a movie goer, I admit to laughing a bit at the teary eyed folk around me who were so engrossed in the scene that they convulsed as they sobbed.

Poor Jack. It was only until after Jack vanished into the depths, that I myself became a little emotional. I wasn't sad. I was sort of angry. Annoyed

even. I remember thinking about that plank. *Wasn't that plank that Rose was floating on plenty big enough for both her and Jack? Of course it was! Why didn't she let him on? Selfish woman! She killed Jack! She's responsible. Move over, Rose!*

To be fair, it may not have been Roses' fault. Perhaps the plank really wasn't big enough to fit both of them. Perhaps the plank would have sunk under the weight of both individuals. I've submitted this scene to the Discovery Channel's "Mythbusters" to test what would have happened had Jack tried to climb aboard. Look for my episode soon. Until they test it, I guess we'll never know what would have happened.

* * *

It occurs to me that that Titanic scene is analogous to what often happens in churches all over America, perhaps even here at Lakeview Baptist. We're like Rose. We're safe, comfortable, and secure. We sit securely on our little plank (the land that the church sits on) and there are hundreds, perhaps thousands of unchurched people ("Jacks") flailing about in the vast ocean of our communities looking for shelter and belonging that we can provide, but we (Rose) won't let them on the plank.

We might claim in our mission statement that we desire to

save "Jacks", but by our actions, we often let them drown.

Perhaps we should sympathize with Rose's character a bit. Do you know how inconvenient it would be for Rose to have let Jack on board? She would have to move over and give him space to live and breath and function. She might have to give up her preferred posture on the plank. She might have to sacrifice being a bit cold by letting a leg dangle into the water if that would offset a lack of buoyancy. She would have to risk being overwhelmed as other people who saw what Jack was doing may also try to climb on board, perhaps sinking the whole operation. Perhaps letting him drown was just easier than helping him on board.

Were those fake tears she cried for Jack?

It's the same thing with churches.

If "Jacks" got on board, we might have to move over a bit. We may have to sit in different pews than we're used to.

Things might get uncomfortable when "Jacks" don't dress like we want them to.

A bunch of "Jacks" might take up a lot of resources at first and risk sinking the budget.

Our preferences might have to be blown out of the water. What if we find out "Jacks" like loud music or like to dance

THE ENCOURAGER

when they sing? What if they don't like singing at all?

What if "Jacks" try to do things the way we've never done them around here before? That might make those already on the plank upset.

"Jacks" might make life on the plank less predictable.

"Jacks" might scuff up memorialized items.

"Jacks" might be a bit strange.

"Jacks" might swear in front of our children.

"Jacks" might make the plank not seem like "family" anymore. "Us four and no more," as some say.

And so we don't help them (or even let them) onto the plank.

And... they drown.

They descend into a Christ-less eternity.

Why? Because it's easier than helping them on board.

It's too costly for us to save them, not in terms of money, but in terms of energy, inconvenience, our comfort and our preferences. Perhaps we're not willing to "move over" and give other people space and ownership.

As I watched the movie, as I'm sure was the case in real life, every few seconds, someone slipped underneath the water

and slowly drowned. 1500+ people perished as people on planks (and even those in half-full life boats) failed to act.

We can't fail to act. The stakes are too high. Eternity is too long.

Move over. Let someone on board. In fact, why not even invite them?

Adam



**Lakeview Baptist
Begins Summer
Worship time
June 3 at 10:00 AM**



ABC-West Area Business Meeting

**May 8th—Noon
(light lunch served)**

**2nd Missionary Baptist
(Anyone invited to attend)**

LBC YOUTH

NEWS, VIEWS AND ZIPPITY DO'S

KIDS DIVE DEEP INTO GOD'S WORD AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It's almost time to come aboard.

The voyage begins on Monday, June 25 at 6 pm with *Operation Overboard*, our wet and wild vacation bible school for kids pre-school through 6th grade. It all happens here at Lakeview Baptist church.

Register kids online at mylakeviewbaptist.com or call the church office at (269) 963-4979.



What do you get when you cross a school of fish with a couple of elephants?

A pair of swimming trunks.



CHRISTIAN HOMEBUILDERS

The Christian Homebuilders is organizing a group for anyone in our church family to see the musical play,

“THE CONFESSION”.

Presented on Saturday, June 9th at 1 PM at the Blue Gate Dinner Theater in Shipshewana.

The cost of theatre ticket is \$29.

If dinner is desired, the price would be \$44 for ages 55 & older.

(If 12 or more attend there will be a \$2 discount.)

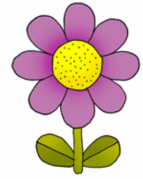
Please make check payable to Evelyn Holcomb by May 6th, so paid reservations can be turned in by May 9th. We will drive the church van and also car pool.



ELIZABETH CIRCLE NOTES

Next meeting

May 8
1 p.m.



XYZ Club

All retirees of the church are invited!

The next meeting will be Tuesday,

May 15, 2012

Meet in church parlor at 11:30 am
Devotions with Rev. Charles Sandum
Eating out and fellowship at
Country Kettle, Nashville.

OPERATION OVERBOARD Volunteer Form

We need OPERATION OVERBOARD VBS volunteers!

Name _____

Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

I can help BEFORE OPERATION OVERBOARD VBS. I can:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for VBS | <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinate publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Paint backdrops |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Distribute publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Make costumes | <input type="checkbox"/> Make phone calls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with preregistration | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide supplies | <input type="checkbox"/> Gather donations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Create decorations | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare craft packets | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with kickoff event |

I can help DURING OPERATION OVERBOARD VBS. I can:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with child care | <input type="checkbox"/> Be a registrar | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take photos | <input type="checkbox"/> Greet participants | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide snacks for leaders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pray for the children | <input type="checkbox"/> Set up rooms each day | |

I would like to help AFTER OPERATION OVERBOARD VBS. I can:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Send thank-you cards | <input type="checkbox"/> Take down decorations | <input type="checkbox"/> Return donated items |
|---|--|---|

Place this form in the offering plate or return to the church office. Thank you for helping!





IM will kick off the three-year anniversary with a huge 7-day World Mission Conference (WMC) May 18 -25, 2012. After a six-year hiatus, the weeklong WMC is coming back to the Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, WI. The 2012 conference, which will include a 3-day call retreat, focuses on discerning God's call to Christian service and how to make that call a reality. The theme for 2012 is **Mission3: Hear the Call**. (For more information go to <http://www.internationalministries.org/read/38513->



FAITH NIGHT

Battle Creek Bombers Game

June 4th, 2012 at 7:05 PM

C.O. Brown Stadium Bailey Park

\$3 Pre-game Gen. Adm. Tickets

\$5 (Gen Adm. Ticket, hot dog, chips & drink)

\$10 (Hat, Gen. Adm. Ticket, hot dog, chips & drink)

.25 ¢ Popcorn for Popcorn Paradise

Pre-game Christian Concert

Contact Cory Evans for more information 269.962.0735

Or email: evans@battlecreekbombers.com



GRADUATION RECOGNITION: We will recognize our 2012 graduates at a special service June 10th. Please let the church office know if you have a family member graduating this year.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

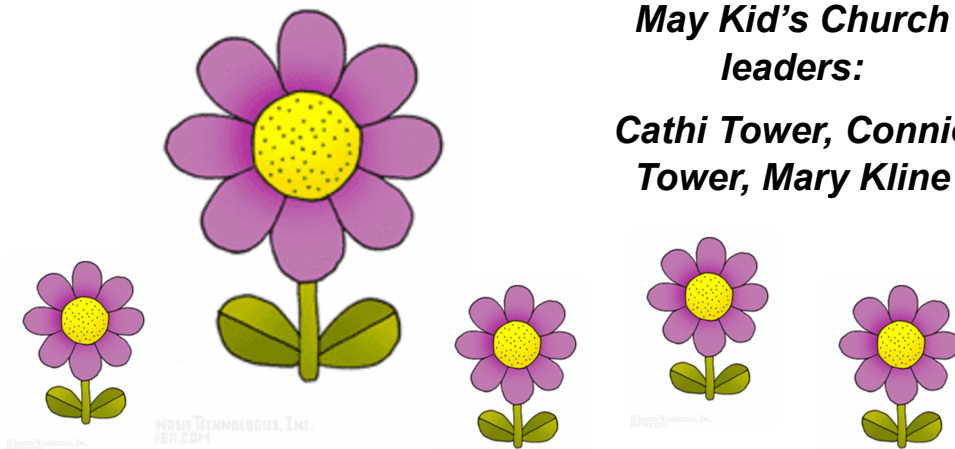
Scholarships grants are available to members of Lakeview Baptist Church who are interested in pursuing or continuing educational activity beyond the High School level at an accredited college or university. **Applications are available in the church office and should be completed and filed with the Scholarship Committee no later than June 24, 2012. All applicants must be an active member or have attended regularly or on a reasonable basis.**



MAY NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

CRIB

- 6 Evelyn Holcomb
Betty Trumbull
- 13 Sandy Allwardt
Mary Kline
- 20 Tonya Metzger
Sue Rose
- 27 Marni Haapapuro
Lisa Thomas



**May Kid's Church
leaders:**

**Cathi Tower, Connie
Tower, Mary Kline**

MAY EARLY GREETERS

- 6 Joby Ray & Kathy Snyder
- 13 Sandy Allwardt & Lucille Parrish
- 20 John & Marilyn Edwards
- 27 Dick & Evelyn Raber

MAY COFFEE HOUR

- 6
- 13 Evelyn Raber, Sandy Allwardt
- 20 Board of Christian Education
- 27 Mary Kline +

FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Please remember to designate on your offering envelope how you would like your offering distributed to the various funds, i.e. General Fund, Missions, Fellowship. Since we do not have pledge cards we need your direction each time you give an offering.

Thank you.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL RECORD

<u>for March 2012</u>		<u>for April 2012</u>	
Weekly need: \$ 3,924.		\$2,939.	
Needed to date: \$ 62,788.			
Received to date: \$ 55,189			
<u>Received:</u>		<u>Received:</u>	
3/4	4,101.	4/1	3,969.
3/11	2,181.	4/8	2,879.
3/18	1,160.	4/15	934.
3/25	2,409.	4/22	1,433.
		4/29	
<hr/>		<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$ 9,851.		\$ 9,215. +

MEIJER COMMUNITY REWARDS UPDATE

Earned in March: **\$ 42.41**

Since start of program **\$6,680** (77 months)

LBC earns up to 1% of your purchases each time you use your Rewards card and make a payment by Meijer Credit Card, Cash or PIN-Debit payment.



7 S. 20th Street
Battle Creek, MI 49015
www.mylakeviewbaptist.com
info@mylakeviewbaptist.com
Ph. 269.963.4979
Fax:269.963.6757

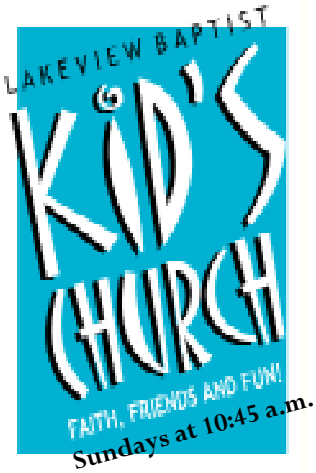
May 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
SUNDAY SCHEDULE 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Studies 10:45 a.m. Worship & Kid's Church 12:00 Fellowship 12:30 Chin Ministry 3 p.m. G.U.R.L.S. Group 4:30 Youth			2	3 National Day of Prayer 6:15 Praise Team	4	5
6 Communion Sunday	7	8 Noon—ABC-WA Business Mtg. at 2nd Miss. Baptist 1 PM Elizabeth Circle	9	10 6:16 Praise Team	11	12
13 <i>Mother's Day</i>	14	15 11:30 XYZ	16	17 6:15 Praise Team	18	19
20	21 6 PM Council 7 PM Bd CE, Diaconate, Trustees	22	23	24 6:15 Praise Team	25	26
27	28 <i>Memorial Day observed— Office closed</i>	29	30	31 6:15 Praise Team	Summer Worship begins June 3rd at 10 AM	



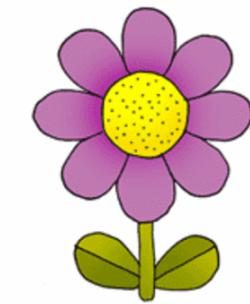
7 S. 20th Street
Battle Creek, MI 49015

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Birthdays

- 2 Shauneene Crowe
- 3 Karly Hamlett
- 6 Alexis Avery
Aaron Begley
- 7 Nora Kalkman
- 9 Tonya Metzger
- 11 Andrew Zesiger
- 14 Lloyd Eason
- 20 Rachel Neely
- 21 Jonathon Beaver
- 28 Mary Willavize
- 31 Erica Haapapuro
Heather Truex
Amy Zesiger



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BIRTHED.COM

Anniversaries

- 2 Carl Sleeper & Marcia Carle
- 8 Scott & Brigitte Salyers
- 24 Joe & Sonnie Boes
Keith & Melissa Herris
- 25 Rich & Deb Zesiger
- 26 Phil & Linda Daniel
- 27 Hershel & Kim Davis