

LPMC *messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE LAPORTE MISSIONARY CHURCH

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THE Story

An evangelism strategy coming to
LaPorte Missionary Church this month!

Know, Live & Share God's Story



Creation

In the beginning, God **created** everything to be perfect. There was no sickness, disease, sadness. Everything lived in **harmony**.

GENESIS 1:1
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

PSALM 90:2
Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.



The Fall

Man **rebelled** against a loving God & believed Satan's lie. **Sin** entered into the world & into every heart. Everything is now **distorted** & **broken**. Everyone is guilty before God.

ROMANS 3:10
None is righteous, no, not one.

ROMANS 3:19
Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God.



The Rescue

Jesus, who is God, came to **rescue** people by His life, death, & resurrection. By **faith** alone in Him, **anyone** can have their sins forgiven & enjoy eternal life with Him.

1 PETER 3:18
For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

GALATIANS 1:4
Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live.



The Restoration

Everything will be **restored** to the way that it was supposed to be & those who trust in **Jesus** will get to **enjoy** eternity in the new heaven & new earth.

REVELATION 21:1, 3-4
Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth... God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9
For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

You Can Be an Evangelist!

Our mission of making disciples begins with the process of evangelism. Unfortunately, for many of us, the idea of sharing the Gospel with our friends and family is a terrifying proposition. As we speak to others about this issue, we find that much of our fear comes from not knowing where to start. We seem unsure of how to engage others in a gospel conversation. That is where *The Story* comes in. *The Story* is a visually engaging narrative that explains the Bible's major plotline of Creation, the Fall, Rescue, and Restoration. This evangelistic tool was written with a non-Christian audience in mind to explain the gospel. *The Story* can be used as a helpful means of engaging someone in conversation to explain the gospel through the biblical metanarrative by asking 4 major worldview questions, *How did it all begin? What's gone wrong? Is there any hope? What does the future hold?*. Designed for the believer and non-believer, the visually stimulating graphics and simplified story-like text make it a great resource to share with others.

Pastor Steve will be starting a seven week sermon series outlining the biblical story of redemption beginning on January 7, 2018. In addition, the Discipleship Committee will be offering a seven week training course to use *The Story* as an evangelistic tool with our friends and family. This class will be offered during the Sunday school hour as well as on Wednesday nights. Mark Blake will be leading the Wednesday evening class beginning on January 10 and Pastor Steve will lead the Sunday school class beginning January 7. Both classes will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

Other Discipleship Classes this Winter

In addition to the classes being offered for evangelism training on Sundays and Wednesdays, Pastor Carl will continue his series on the Book of Revelation. This class will continue with chapter 7 on Sunday, January 7, 2018. Pastor Carl's class meets in the sanctuary. On Wednesday nights in the sanctuary, Pastor Steve will be teaching through the book of 1 Peter. Both of these classes are open to youth and adults.

Our Missional Communities Need **YOU**

Our missional communities meet on Sunday evenings for corporate prayer, sermon application discussion, fellowship, and mission. We currently have four different groups meeting in various places around La Porte. This is a tremendous way to grow relationships within the church family. If you're not currently involved with a missional community, please consider joining one this winter. See Pastor Steve, Rick Schmidt, Pastor Carl or Bob Marker for more information.

LPMC Annual Business Meeting

Our annual business meeting will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2018. This business meeting is a significant event in the life of our congregation. You will receive reports from our church board, our four committees and an update on our building project. We will also be affirming our annual slate of church officers and committee members. In addition to this we will be reviewing and approving our budget for 2018. Pastor Steve will share with us a report on the health of our congregation and our vision for making disciples in 2018. We will enjoy a carry-in lunch together followed by our meeting. The church will provide the meat and beverages, we are asking you to bring a side dish or a dessert to share.



I am sitting here writing this article on the day after Christmas. Happy St. Stephen's Day, by the way! I am surrounded by the debris of a very happy Christmas in our home. My heart is still full, as is my stomach! It was a great weekend spent with family and friends, celebrating the birth of our Savior. Our Sunday morning services at LPMC were also a tremendous blessing to me. Five of our families brought seven of their children before us to dedicate themselves to partnering with all of us to raise their children in the fear and instruction of the Lord. Most of these children represent the "third generation" to be a part of our church family, and one is a "fifth generation" LPMCer! How wonderful is that? And to top it all off, we had a beautiful candlelight Christmas Eve service. It is such a joy to serve the Lord alongside all of you here at the LaPorte Missionary Church.

And now, we are staring down the final week of 2017. Our committees and boards are working hard to complete budgets, write reports and plan for new ministry opportunities for 2018. Please remember to pray for us over the next couple of weeks. This is important work we are doing and we are well aware of the fact that all this is for naught without the blessing and support of God's Spirit as we plan and prepare. In light of this end of the year planning, let me remind you about our annual business meeting to be held on Sunday, January 21, 2018. It is important that all of you make an effort to attend this meeting. As a congregationally governed church, this is our most important meeting of the year. You will affirm your slate of officers and committee members for 2018, receive year end reports, approve a budget for 2018 and hear a "state of the church" address from me. We will meet for a carry-in meal following the second service and begin our meeting as close to 1:00 as possible.

As I prepare my own end of the year report and "state of the church" address, I have been reflecting on this year of transition at LPMC. During the church board's annual review of my "job performance" we had a great discussion about what is going well and what needs to be strengthened. It was a very healthy and helpful meeting for me. Our church is well served by a great group of men and women who are willing to volunteer their time, talents and resources for us. We are blessed to have all of them. Now let's take a look together at some highlights from 2017. Pastor Carl and I moved into our new roles; we added a few new families, welcomed a few new babies and said goodbye to some good friends we will see again in heaven; we shared one another's joys and sorrows; we had a good year financially, reached our building fund "trigger" and continued to fund local and international gospel ministries as well as our own ministry needs; we helped out some hurting families; experienced a full year of gospel centered, Bible saturated, worship services and discipleship classes; and I trust we all moved forward in our walk with Christ. It was a good year. I thank God for all He accomplished in us and through us. I am anticipating a great year of ministry next year as well. I am glad you will be with me for it. May God bless all of you!

Soli Deo Gloria!

Pastor Steve

Severe Weather Policy

Sunday Morning Services

A decision to cancel or delay services will be made by **7:00 am** on the morning in question. An all-church email will be sent out with the pertinent details. The same info will be posted on our church FaceBook page & website by **7:00 am**. Phone calls will be made to households without internet access. **Please inform the office if you do not have access to the internet.** In the event that a Sunday morning service is canceled, all other events for that day & evening will be canceled.

Wednesday Evenings

A decision to cancel the evening activities will be made by **noon** on the Wednesday in question. **Please note this is a change from previous years, we will not cancel just because school was canceled.** An all-church email will be sent with details. The same info will be posted on our church FaceBook page & website by **noon**. Phone calls will be made to households without internet access. In the event of cancellation, all activities & meetings for that night will also be canceled.

Be sure to visit lpmissionary.church & [Facebook](#) for cancelation information



The Story, A Preaching & Teaching Series

starting January 7, 2018



Share the beauty of the **whole** story.

CREATION • FALL • RESCUE • RESTORATION

Share God's story with everyone everywhere. *Story* provides tools and resources to engage unbelievers through a helpful framework. This resource complements the disciple making mission of LPMC by equipping us to **KNOW, LIVE, & SHARE** God's story.

Pastor Steve will be preaching a seven-week sermon series outlining the biblical story of redemption. In addition, the Discipleship Committee will be offering a seven-week training course during Sunday School & Wednesday nights to equip us in using *The Story* as an evangelistic tool.

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We update our website regularly so if you haven't visited the site in a while, you should check it out!

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