

our community for these families.

*Pastor Steve also indicated his desire to “continue releasing our people” for ministry.* He drew attention to the Chmil family who will leave for language school this year before beginning service in Africa. He also mentioned our support of Chris and Michelle Allen and Brock Sell who are currently training for ministry. He also indicated a desire to raise up some of our “younger” congregants to serve in positions of leadership within our church.

*His vision for disciple making in 2018 is a two-pronged strategy:*

Develop an intentional “shepherding ministry” for all of our households at LPMC, so that all can be drawn deeper into the fellowship and ministries of our local body. (See this month’s “Pastor’s Pen” for more details)

Reach out to the community at large to bring new believers into the LPMC fold.

*men's*  
**PRAYER GROUP**  
*March 3-May 26*  
**Saturdays 8 am**  
*@LaPorte Missionary Church*

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Join us every Saturday at 8am. We will have a time of prayer & a short teaching. Those interested or if you have questions contact Dale Knouse @ 219-363-6538

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Don't forget to pick up your February issue of *Tabletalk* - in the foyer.

La Porte Missionary Church

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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!

[www.lpmissionary.church](http://www.lpmissionary.church)



New Resource Center for Children and Families



*If you are looking for some great books for your kids or parenting resources for yourself, please check out the newest addition to our LPMC library. Something missing that you'd like to see? Ask us!*

Even as we grow our digital library at LPMC through *Ligonier Connect* and *RightNow Media*, we recognize the importance of good, old-fashioned books! That's why we have added a children's and family section to our church library. We invite you to check it out the next time you drop off or pick up

your kids from class. It is conveniently located in the hallway between our children's classrooms and nursery.

Togo Talk - The Chmil Family Update

The Chmil family is in Tennessee attending a French language training course. This seven week course in French will give them a head-start before heading to France this fall for their formal language training. When they return from Tennessee, they will complete their support raising. They are currently at 87% of full support. If you would like to be a monthly supporter of the Chmil family, information is available in the foyer.

February Events

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee Chairs Mtg 9:30
- 4<sup>th</sup> Communion Sunday
- 7<sup>th</sup> Hospitality & Worship Mtgs.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Church Board Meeting
- 18<sup>th</sup> First Sunday in Lent
- 21<sup>st</sup> Discipleship & Outreach Mtgs.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Membership Class 10:00 am
- 25<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday in Lent
- 28<sup>th</sup> Deacons & Women's Ministry





# Building Project Update

*We will be calling a meeting soon for a final vote on the new sanctuary. God is good!*



we will call an all church meeting, where we will share the project with you for your approval and commitment to pay for the new building. We know that you are all excited about the future of a sanctuary space that can house both of our services at one time. We are too! We thank God for the faithful financial support you have already given to this project and we look forward to how God is going to use us to fill this space for His glory. Please continue to pray for His blessing through this whole process.

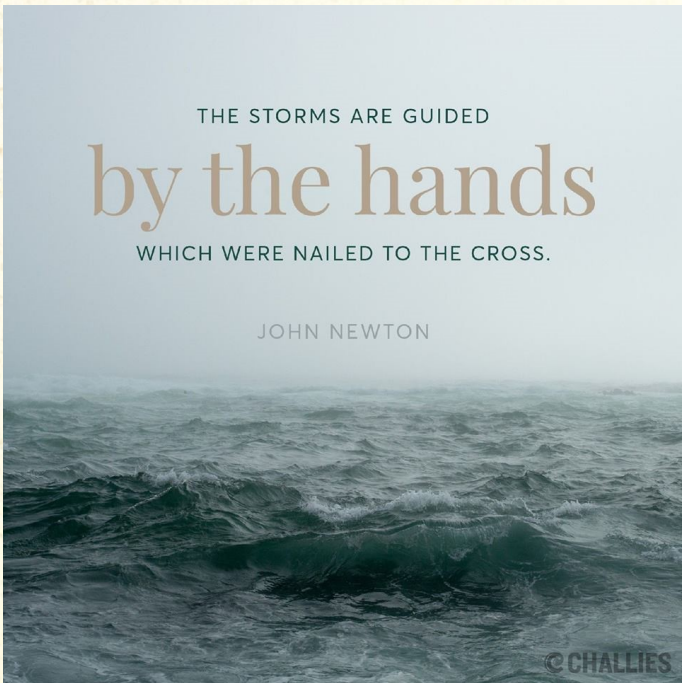
## Indelible Grace

We will be hosting Matthew Smith and the Indelible Grace Band for a concert and worship seminar at the end of April. The exact date is still to be set depending on scheduling of other churches in Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan for this tour. We will be working with several other churches in La Porte to bring you this event.

## Missional Communities

One of the best ways for you to get to know others in our church family is to participate in one of our Missional Communities. These groups meet on Sunday evenings in several homes around La Porte. Currently groups meet at the Parsonage, Pastor Carl’s home, Bob Marker’s and at Rick & Lynn Schmidt’s. Any of these groups would be glad to welcome you! Contact any of the group leaders or Pastor Steve for more information.

We are getting closer and closer to sharing with you the final design and cost for our new sanctuary! Our architect is busy completing the drawings necessary for us to send the project out for bids. When we have received the bids from various construction companies, the building committee will review them with our architect. We will send the best bid on to our church board and to the district office for their approval. Finally,



### *Growing LPMC through evangelism and intentional shepherding*

We are halfway through our evangelism sermon series, The Story, and our classes on this topic are going strong. I am very excited about how the Lord is going to use this emphasis on evangelism at LPMC. Would you join me in praying that He emboldens us to tell His Story to our many friends and family members who so desperately long for the hope that is found only in the Story we are telling? Pray too that God is even now, preparing the hearts of those with whom we will be sharing this gospel message.

Even as we focus our attention on sharing the message of hope with those who need to hear it, we have not forgotten our LPMC family! Pastor Carl and I, along with your deacons and other members of our shepherding team, will be sharing the shepherding responsibilities for the family units in our congregation. It should be obvious that in a congregation with 120 plus families and households, adding up to over 240 people, one or two pastors would have difficulty being aware of the many needs in these families, let alone be equipped to meet those concerns. In addition, we have almost 30 widows in our family here at LPMC. Each of us will take responsibility for seven or so LPMC households. We will be making contact with you soon to let you know that we are praying for you every day, that we are here for you to help you work through needs you may have or struggles you are experiencing. We want you to know what the body of Christ can do for you! You are so very important to us.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Pastor Steve

## Business Meeting Report

The LPMC Annual Business Meeting was held on Sunday, January 21, 2018. A little over seventy adult congregational members were in attendance. Major highlights of this meeting were the following:

All twenty positions on the ballot were affirmed with overwhelming majorities.

Our Treasurer assured us that we are in sound financial shape. In 2018 we paid all our financial commitments on time; and we ended the year with a General Fund balance in excess of \$37,000. Additionally, our liquid assets (cash and cd’s) *grew* by some \$50,000.

A proposal from the Church Board to spend up to \$8000 from General Fund Reserves for a new church sign was approved by the congregation.

The proposed 2018 Annual Budget for \$353,852.13 was approved by the congregation.

The Building Committee reported that the architectural drawings are over half done; and that the bidding process should begin in mid-February. The Committee is hopeful that we may be able to break ground on our new Sanctuary sometime this Spring.

Pastor Steve presented a brief “State of the Church” message. He referred us to his written report to see the long list of accomplishments our church experienced in 2017. In his oral report, he highlighted several key issues of ministry focus for 2018.

*Our men’s and women’s ministry teams are working with our Pastoral staff and the Discipleship Committee to develop a mentoring ministry in 2018.* Mentors will be identified and trained to provide this service for anyone in our congregation who would like to be involved.

*Pastor Steve informed us that we would be highlighting “orphan care” ministry in 2018.* The purpose for this ministry is to bring awareness to the needs of foster and adoptive families in our community, recruit others to this gospel-driven ministry, and provide the support of

*(Continued on page 4)*