

## Pastor Appreciation at LPMC

October is Pastor Appreciation Month at LPMC. We are encouraging you to write a letter, card, or note to Pastor Steve and Pastor Carl to encourage them in the work they do here at LPMC. We have provided a basket in the foyer for you to deposit these items. The deadline for submitting them is October 14. On Sunday, October 14, we will celebrate our pastors with a reception in the foyer. ***On that Sunday, we will have a single, unified service at 9:00 with the reception to follow. There will be no Sunday school or second service that week.***

## Men’s Saturday Morning Prayer Gathering

Our Saturday morning prayer gathering for men is back on the calendar. We are meeting in the sanctuary each Saturday morning from 8:00 - 9:00 for a short devotional followed by a time of corporate prayer. Corporate prayer is an often overlooked ministry of the church. At LPMC, it is our desire to provide as many opportunities for corporate prayer as possible. This Saturday morning time for men is an important one for our church. Please join us! We also provide the opportunity to join for corporate prayer on Wednesday nights, as well as in our weekly missional communities on Sunday evenings.

## Looking Ahead to November

If you like planning ahead you need to pull out your November calendar and mark these important dates down. Our annual men’s retreat will be held on November 2 - 3. November 4 is International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. In addition to that, retiring missionaries, Randy & Carolyn Fudge will be with us. November 11 is International Orphan Sunday. On November 18 we will have a Thanksgiving Service in the evening featuring testimonies, songs and prayer. This evening of gratitude will conclude with a time of fellowship around fall desserts.

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

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## Safe Families for Children - Informational Meeting

### Safe Families creates an extended family - you can help

Safe Families for Children is an alternative to foster care. In foster care, children are placed into homes through the courts and foster families receive compensation for their care.

Through SFFC, host families receive no compensation for caring for children, and parents voluntarily place their children with them.

This temporary care for children in need gives parents time to establish stability in their homes. Host families care for children whose families are in crisis.

**The goal of the SFFC ministry is to offer support in a time of need and reunite children with their families in a stronger home environment.**

***We will be hosting a volunteer information meeting on Sunday night, October 21, at 6:00, in the Fellowship Hall. Representatives from SFFC will be on hand to answer our questions and let us know how we can partner with them in this important ministry.***

***Please RSVP to the church office by October 18 if you plan to attend. Childcare will be provided so that couples may attend together.***

## 7th Annual Mission Quilt Sale

Over 200 quilts will be on display at this year’s annual quilt sale hosted by the La Porte Mission Quilters. The cost is \$55.00 per quilt. Quilts will be on display at the La Porte Missionary Church from 9:00 - Noon on October 6th. Proceeds go to various mission endeavors and for quilting supplies.



## Back to One Service! - Advent 2018

On the recommendation of the Worship Committee, your LPMC church board has decided to transition to a single, unified, worship schedule beginning with this year's Advent season. We spent significant time in prayer and discussion about this transition. We are so excited to be able to move our congregation back to a single worship service. Making this change before we are in the new sanctuary will provide us with several months to evaluate the new service times and schedule before we get into our new building.

We realize that "change" is often difficult for many of us but we are confident that we are doing what is best for us as a congregation and are confident that our church family will make this transition an opportunity for unity and not division.

As part of the transition back to a single service, we will begin our Sunday services with our Sunday school classes at 9:00. We believe that there is tremendous spiritual value to end with our worship service rather than Sunday school classes. Our weekly worship service is the highlight of our time with one another and finishing our Lord's Day morning together in worship is a fitting conclusion.

After the Sunday school hour, we are providing a half hour for fellowship time in our foyer. One of the reasons for returning to a single worship service each week is to encourage the strengthening of our relationships with one another. Providing an extended time for people to get to know each other better will certainly go a long way to facilitate this, particularly for those who volunteer as Sunday school teachers and nursery and preschool volunteers during the worship service.

We will then begin our worship service at 10:30. We will end our service each week by 11:45. This extra fifteen minutes allows us flexibility in our service planning and builds in time for a "normal" sermon on our communion Sundays. It also provides a cushion for times of ministry and prayer at the end of each week's sermon if needed.

As we begin this new schedule on December 2, 2018, we realize that these new times will not be ideal for everyone. We are asking for grace and patience from all of us as we consider the best possible schedule for our church family as a whole. We are asking that you give this new schedule a chance before you decide you don't like it! However, what you think is important to us. Please feel free to contact any member of the Worship Committee or church board, if you have any questions or to share your thoughts and opinions as we begin this transition.

## Short-Term Mission Trip

Marty Barr is organizing a short-term mission trip to Honduras in March of 2019. This trip will focus on providing medical and dental ministry to the Honduran people as well as providing an opportunity for evangelism. This trip is open to anyone; those under 16 years of age need to be accompanied by a parent. Medical knowledge or experience is not required, although doctors and nurses would be a welcome addition to the team! The trip will take place March 2 - 9, 2019. Total cost for this missions experience will be around \$1500.00 per person. A \$200.00 deposit, payable by October 14, is necessary to hold your place on this team. An organizational meeting has been scheduled for October 11 at 7:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Fundraising assistance will be provided. Contact Marty for more information.

## Gideon Presentation

The Gideons will be here on Sunday morning, October 21. They will be sharing about their ministry during the Sunday school hour. All youth and adult classes will meet in the sanctuary for this presentation. The Gideon International ministry works tirelessly to get the Bible into the hands of people around the world. Please plan now to be a part of this presentation and come prepared to give an offering in support of their ministry.

## Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat will be held this year on Wednesday night, October 31, in the church parking lot. We will forego our regular Wednesday evening programming on this date, but we will still provide supper for you at 5:00. Plan to arrive by 5:00 with your candy. Park your car in our parking lot lineup then join us in the Fellowship Hall for supper. Trunk or Treat officially runs from 6:00 - 8:00, but you need to be in place by 5:30 if you plan to participate.

## Worship Team Band Camp

Pastor Steve is hosting a "band camp" for all worship team members and audio-visual techs on Saturday morning, October 20. Please join us in the sanctuary at 10:00. We will be looking at some new music for Advent as well as some new songs for our regular worship services. A practice CD and music will be available from Steve by October 7. The rehearsal will last until 11:30 or 12:00 and lunch will be provided.

## Missional Community Reboot

Our Missional Communities are set to relaunch the first Sunday of October. After taking the summer off, we are excited to begin meeting again. Each of these groups meets on Sunday nights to pray together, to develop and strengthen relationships within LPMC, to discuss and apply the weekly sermon, and to strategize ways to serve the La Porte community together. If you have never been a part of a missional group, we encourage you to join one this fall. In addition to the groups meeting at the parsonage, the Schmidt's home, Bob Marker's home and Pastor Carl's, we will be starting a group for our teenagers meeting at Mark and Carrye Blake's house. If there is enough interest, we will consider forming a group to meet west of town. Sign up for a group at our display in the foyer beginning September 9. You are not obligated to rejoin the community you attended before. Feel free to switch to a different group to meet new friends!