



NOV 11
2018



One Day. One Voice. One Purpose.

"God sets the lonely in families." Psalm 68:6



Ladies, join us for our annual ornament exchange Tuesday, December 4th, from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. We are thrilled to welcome Katie Galloway as this year's guest speaker. Don't miss this perfect excuse to relax and enjoy delightful conversation and tasty treats with your LPMC sisters. Feel free to bring a guest or two!

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

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LPMC *messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE LAPORTE MISSIONARY CHURCH

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Advent 2018

The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire Advent season is preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ in His First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in His Second Advent. Thus, Advent is far more than simply acknowledging a 2,000 year old event in history. It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. That is a process in which we now participate, and the consummation of which we anticipate.

For our theme this year we have chosen, '*God's Gifts at Advent*' and we will be exploring the many gifts and blessings that are ours because of our Savior's First Advent. Our Advent preachers will share with us a 'gift' that has been especially meaningful to them. We will once again use various men from our congregation to serve us as song leaders and preachers during Advent. Pastor Steve will bring the message on Sunday morning, December 23 and at our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight service will include a variety of musical specials including a children's choir, a handbell choir, soloists and ensembles.

Advent devotionals for use in your homes will also be available on the last Sunday of November. These can be picked up in the foyer. These will be available at no cost to you.



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 it 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 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.

Harvest of Thanks

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to reflect on what God has done in our lives and rejoice in His many blessings. Sunday, November 18, at 6:00, the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving, we will have an evening of thanks. It will be a time of prayer, testimonies, and songs of gratitude. Several people from our own congregation will be sharing their stories of redemption. Come and see how God has been working in the lives of our people. Come rejoice and give thanks with us. Immediately following the service, we will enjoy fall treats in the fellowship hall. Bring a tasty fall dessert to share.



One Service Transition - Special Instructions

Parents

Parents, if you have children in the nursery or one of our Sunday school classes, it is important that you pick them up immediately following the Sunday school hour. One of our reasons for transitioning to a single service was to allow opportunity for us to talk and share some time together outside of Sunday school and the worship service. Picking your kids up promptly makes it possible for our teachers to be part of this fellowship time as well.

Nursery and preschool volunteers and elementary Sunday school teachers

We are so grateful for your service to our church families! If you volunteer during Sunday school, it is important that you are in place to receive children by 8:50. If you serve during the worship service, please be in place by 10:20. Your commitment to being in place and on time and will make this transition to a single service go even more smoothly.



LPMC Membership Class

We will be hosting our final membership class for the year on Saturday morning, December 15, at 10:00. If you would like to become a member of LPMC in time to vote in our annual meeting in January 2019, you will need to take this class. We will be receiving new members the following Sunday morning, December 16.

Preschool Volunteer Meeting

If you serve in our Sunday morning preschool during the worship service, we need to meet with you and discuss some changes that are coming as a result of our transition to a single service. We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday evening, November 7th, at 7:15. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please inform Katie Galloway.

Serving at LPMC

Our LPMC nominating committee will be meeting soon to put together our annual ballot of church officers and committee members. We are always looking for individuals, who are committed to our ministry, to help us serve. If you have a desire to be part of the worship, discipleship, outreach or hospitality committees or if you would like to serve as an usher or a trustee, please contact Pastor Steve.

