

A SERVICE OF HOPE AND REMEMBRANCE

From Pastor Luigi:

Dear friends and members of LaPorte UMC,

I want to express my appreciation for the generous gift and recognition you extended to my family and I in response to Pastor's appreciation month. I am very grateful for the many ways you encourage me as your pastor. Thank you for the thoughts and the prayers you offer on my behalf. Thank you for your partnership. Thank you for providing space for me to grow spiritually, emotionally, and professionally. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. May we continue flourishing as we serve God together.

With humble gratitude,
Pastor Luigi

LAPORTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Growing God's family through loving
community, passionate worship, and
life-changing discipleship*



**Sunday, November 3, 2019
11:00 am**

LAPORTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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laportechurch.org

A Service of Hope and Remembrance

November 3, 2019

Loving people transformed by a loving God.

- *(please stand if you are able)*

Announcements

Prelude

Enter to Worship

On this wonderful day which is designated All Saints' Sunday, we have come to invoke the presence of God. We welcome with joy all worshippers. Remember with gratitude all who have been faithful to God throughout the centuries and specifically those LaPorte saints who have entered into eternal life during the past year. On All Saints' Day let us give thanks for both the saints in glory and those on earth who have led us to Jesus.

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Leader: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: *And also with you.*

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow, a light has shone. For the yoke that was weighing upon them, and the burden upon their shoulders, you have broken in pieces, O God, our Redeemer.

Leader: Please join me in prayer.

People: *God of mercy, hear our prayer for ourselves and for our families who live with painful thoughts and memories. We ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow and peace for the past. We ask these things in the name of your Christ, who shares our life in joy and sorrow, death and new birth, despair and promise. Amen.*

Enriching Bible Study Opportunities:

How Sweet the Sound! A Bible Study on Grace - Pastor Luigi

Three more sessions: Thursday, November 7, 14 & 21 at 10:30 a.m.

SENT: An Advent Bible Study - Pastor Luigi

Tuesday, November 26 - Tuesday, December 17 @ 10:30 a.m.

“Coping Faithfully When Bad Things Happen” - Rev. Mark Vale

Beginning Sunday, January 5 - end date TBD @ 7:00 p.m.

For more information on these Bible study offerings, please see the inserts on the podium.

Prayer Concerns...

Anne Vale, Jim Baker, Ted Hessler, Jerry Vermilye, Jackie Miller, Tom Weese, Alicia Hess, Harry & Helen Brown, Todd (Vale's), Suzie Mulet (Miller), Glenn (Ellie Meier), Robert Dempsey, John Thompson, Jim Stang, Adam Greenly, Tim Leninger (Thompson), Larry Truxall, Pat Jordan, Kim Bradley (Messaros), Mackenzie Kokoski (Lincicome) Lyla (Zachea's), Carol Wilson, Evelyn Burns (Linda Cowie), Rev. Donald Brown (Jackson's), Chick Vollmer (Witherell), Lilliana Sanchez (Hignett), and all who are homebound, rehabilitating, or in nursing homes. *Please also keep in prayer the men and women who serve in ministries and missions, as well as those serving our country and communities.*

Our “Homebound” Person of the Week is: Anne Vale

Please feel free to shower her with your expressions of love and thoughtfulness. (5447 Deerpath Dr., Sheffield Lake, OH 44054)

Weekly Financial Review 2019 Budget: \$218,600

Collected last week: \$2,022 Year to date: \$155,862

Attendance - Last Week: 104

Veteran's Day Recognition

If you'd like to have a living person recognized for their previous U.S. military service in next Sunday's bulletin (November 10th), please complete a form and return it either in the collection plate or at the church office *by today, Sunday, November 3rd.*

Extra forms are on the podium as you exit the church. Thank you!

Ministers: All Members
Pastor: Rev. Luigi Perez
Custodian: Donna Smith
Choir Director: Anjanette Hignett
Head Ushers: Al Gilder & Carl Smith

Lay Leader: Gary Wilson
Secretary: Linda Gwinn
Organist: Marilyn Irwin
Youth Director: Stacy Goetz

Lay Readers: Stephen Ministers

Greeters: Steve & Linda Gwinn

This Week *Sunday, November 3 – Sunday, November 10, 2019*

Today	3:00 P.M.	MYF - All Youth: Middle/High School & Jr
Monday	6:00 P.M.	Missions Meeting
	7:00 P.M.	Stephen Ministry Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 A.M.	Ladies' Bible Study
	6:30 P.M.	Worship Service
Thursday	10:30 A.M.	Bible Study- The Sounds of Grace
	6:30 P.M.	Choir Practice
Friday		Office Hours on Fridays: 9:00 a.m. – Noon
Sunday	8:00 A.M.	Men's Study
	8:30 A.M.	Coffee Hour
	9:30 A.M.	Sunday School
	11:00 A.M.	Worship Service
	3:00 P.M.	MYF – Middle/High School

Please note: 6:18 Prayer Group does not meet on the Tuesdays preceding our Wednesday evening worship services, which take place on the first Wednesday of the month.

Announcements...

Communion Sunday/Caring Cupboard Outreach

Next Sunday, November 10 will be our next collection for Thanksgiving food baskets.

Needed items are applesauce, corn, green beans, boxed mashed potatoes, stuffing mix, apple juice, corn muffin/biscuit/roll mixes, gravy (mixes or bottled), pumpkin pie mix, and apple pie filling. If you would like to donate a turkey, please call the church office and let Linda know. Thank you for sharing your blessings with the community!

Help, Hope and Healing... Are you or a loved one going through a difficult time? Stephen Ministers listen, care, encourage and provide spiritual support. To learn how you can receive this confidential care, please see Sue Van Arsdale, Rev. Mark Vale, or Pastor Luigi.

- **Hymn** *We Gather Together* #131

1. We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known.
The wicked oppressing now ceases from distressing.
Sing praises to his name, he forgets not his own.

2. Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be thine!

3. We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

TIME OF CONFESSION

Communal Prayer

Leader: We have not believed you or trusted in your power.

People: *Lord, help our unbelief.*

Leader: We have stained our souls by our action and inaction.

People: *Cleanse us, Lord.*

Leader: We are broken by disease, bruised by the sins of others, weakened and unable to repair ourselves.

People: *Heal us, Lord.*

Leader: We ignore your call to center our lives in you, and so are deaf to the hopes and cries of the poor, the sick, the needy, and the earth.

People: *Ground us, Lord!*

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: In the midst of our darkness and ignorance, the bright light of God's love shines through, healing our anguished souls. Rejoice, beloved of God, for God's love and forgiveness are given to you this day.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven. Glory to God!

Passing the Peace of Christ

Leader: Rejoicing in the love of the One who gives us life, let us exchange signs of Christ's peace by saying to one another, "May the peace of Christ be with you today and always."

Choir Anthem *For All the Saints*

Offering

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah 40:1, 25-31 NIV

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²⁵ "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

²⁷ Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

• **Hymn** *Hymn of Promise* #707

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

- Leader: May the hope of our Savior Jesus Christ sustain us through the shadows of life.
- *People: That together we may shine again. Amen.*

If you wish, you are welcome to take home the candle you lit.

(This service was adapted from one developed by Heather Hill.
She has given permission for others to use it.)

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are facing a crisis or going through tough times. The care you will receive is confidential, free, and very helpful.

To learn how you – or a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative – can receive care, talk to Pastor Luigi, Rev. Mark Vale, or our Stephen Ministry Leader, Sue Van Arsdale.

Lighting of Individual Candles

Leader: Each of us comes bearing our own hurts, sorrows, broken places. I want to invite each of you to offer your personal wound to the God who loves each of us deeply and wants to carry our pain. God waits patiently, gently calling out: "Give me your pain, come to me... all who labor and are heavy laden, I will refresh you!"

I invite each of you to come forward and light a candle. As you light the candle, remember that it is God who lights a candle in our darkness and holds us close until we are able to shine.

If you wish, you may kneel at the altar rail or return to your seat.

Leader: These lights in their brightness are only symbols, but as they burn and finally go out, we remember that suffering passes, though memory remains forever.

Sending Forth

We are familiar with darkness. We also know that we are illumined by the light of Christ. So, People of God, stand tall!

The Lord conquered death for all generations!

He is resurrected and is sitting at the right hand of God Almighty!

Stand tall, People of God, remembering that death is defeated.

When any saint departs, he or she is resurrected into a new life with God.

Go in peace to experience God's daily resurrection in your life. Amen!

³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹ but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where is my help to come?

People: My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

Leader: He will not let your foot be moved and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

People: Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

Leader: The Lord himself watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

People: So that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

Leader: The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe.

People: The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for ever more.

Leader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

People: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Matthew 11:28-30 NIV

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn *Stand by Me* #512

1 When the storms of life are raging,
stand by me (stand by me);
when the storms of life are raging,
stand by me (stand by me).
When the world is tossing me
like a ship upon the sea,
thou who rulest wind and water,
Stand by me (stand by me).

A LITURGY OF REMEMBRANCE

Lighting of Four Candles

First Candle:

Leader: The first candle we light to remember those persons whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their names, their voices, their faces, the memories that bind them to us in this season. We hold them before God, giving thanks for their lives in ours.

*Please take a moment to remember those who have died.
I invite you to name them, aloud or in the silence of your hearts...*

People: *Lord, each of us takes our loved one by the hand and leads them to you, the God of love. Here we present them to you. Accept our love and thanksgiving as we entrust them to your loving care. We want our loved ones to be free at home with you. We ask that you save a place for us beside them. We ask that you fill us with motivation and energy in the days ahead when we feel like giving up; remind us often of our true homeland when we are caught up in the desolation of the journey. Help us to find joy in the people, events and the beauty of nature which surrounds us.*

• **Hymn** *Spirit Song* #347

O let the Son of God enfold you
With His Spirit and His love
Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul
O let Him have the things that hold you
And His Spirit like a dove
Will descend upon your life and make you whole

Jesus, O Jesus
Come and fill Your lambs
Jesus, O Jesus
Come and fill Your lambs

O come and sing this song with gladness
As your hearts are filled with joy
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name
O give Him all your tears and sadness
Give Him all your years of pain
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name.

***At this time, we acknowledge the LaPorte saints
who have died during the last year.***

Dorothy A. Acheson	Mildred A. Coffin	Holly J. Fabian
Betty J. Meier	William G. Reed	Barbara L. Stevens

We also acknowledge all those we hold dear in our hearts.

Prayers of the People

Leader: Let us now confidently ask our God for all the good things we need: For ourselves as we participate as special people coping with our many different losses.

People: *God, hear our prayer*

Leader: For our families and friends, that they may continue to help and support us.

People: *God, hear our prayer*

Leader: For any person we have loved who has died, for all the losses we know in our lives, that all may be redeemed by your promise of eternal life.

People: *God, hear our prayer*

Leader: For our family and friends, that you may bless them with love, peace, and joy

People: *God, hear our prayer.*

Leader: For peace throughout the world.

People: *God, hear our prayer.*

Leader: For a greater understanding of the lessons of love and acceptance as taught by Jesus our Christ. God, hear our prayer.

People: *And in your mercy, answer.*

Leader: God of great compassion and love, listen to the prayers of these your people. Grant to all, especially the bereaved and troubled ones, the blessing we ask in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray

People: *Our Father, who art in heaven, And forgive us our trespasses,
hallowed be thy Name, as we forgive those who trespass
thy kingdom come, against us.
thy will be done, And lead us not into temptation,
on earth as it is in heaven. but deliver us from evil,
Give us this day our daily bread. For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.*

Thank you for the gift each of these people has been in our lives. We want to believe that we will celebrate the treasure of love with them again when we are all in your presence forever. May this truth sustain us in the days to come. Take our sad and aching hearts and comfort us. Comfort us, for we only feel hollowness and emptiness. God of sorrowing draw near! Amen.

Hymn *Stand by Me* #512

2 In the midst of tribulation,
stand by me (stand by me);
in the midst of tribulation,
stand by me (stand by me).
When the hosts of hell assail,
and my strength begins to fail,
thou who never lost a battle,
stand by me (stand by me).

Second Candle:

Leader: The second candle we light is to redeem the pain of loss; the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs with the security they bring, the loss of health in ourselves or in family members, the loss of joy and peace in our lives from the stresses which surround us, the loss and loneliness we experience when our loved ones do not share our faith. As we gather up the pain of the past we offer it to you, O God, asking that into our open hands you will place the gift of peace.

*Please take a moment to remember the losses.
I invite you to name them, aloud or in the silence of your hearts...*

People: *God of mystery, we turn our hearts to you. We come before you in need of peace, grateful for the mystery of life and ever keenly aware of your promises of guidance and protection. We want to place our trust in you, but our hearts grow fearful and anxious. We forget so easily that you will be with us in all that we experience. Teach us to be patient with the transformation of our lives and to be open to the changes which we are now going through. Amen.*

Hymn *Stand by Me* #512

3 In the midst of faults and failures,
stand by me (stand by me);
in the midst of faults and failures,
stand by me (stand by me).
When I do the best I can,
and my friends misunderstand,
thou who knowest all about me,
stand by me (stand by me).

Third Candle:

Leader: The third candle we light for those who experience a loss of direction in their lives.

God of the Exodus, you led Moses and your people through the wilderness to a new land. Hear our prayer. We want so much to have a sense of direction, to know where we are and where we ought to be headed. But the darkness and the questions stay. You ask us to be full of faith, to believe deep within that you are our signpost, that you are our wisdom and our guide, and to trust in your presence. Your words to us are clear: “Do not fear, I go before you.”

People: *God of our depths, we cry out to you to be our guide. Help us to have a strong sense of inner direction and grant that we may have the reassurance of knowing that we are on the right path. Take our lives and use them according to your will. Take all that is lost in us and bring it home with you. Amen.*

Hymn *Stand by Me* #512

4 In the midst of persecution,
stand by me (stand by me);
in the midst of persecution,
stand by me (stand by me).
When my foes in battle array
undertake to stop my way,
thou who saved Paul and Silas,
stand by me (stand by me).

Fourth Candle:

Leader: The fourth candle we light as a sign of hope, the hope that Jesus Christ offers to us. We remember that God, who shares our life, promises us a place and time of no more pain and suffering.

People: *O God, whose Spirit is known by those whose hearts are thankful, and who makes cheerfulness a companion of strength, lift up our hearts, we pray, to a joyous confidence in your care. Guide us when we cannot see the way.*

Teach us to know that a shadow is only a shadow, because the light of eternal goodness shines behind the object of our fears. Where there is love in life, teach us to find it; help us to trust it and enable us to grow in the power of love. So, may our lives bring comfort and encouragement to others. We ask it, in the name of Jesus Christ whose life is our light. Amen.

Hymn *Stand by Me* #512

5 When I’m growing old and feeble,
stand by me (stand by me);
when I’m growing old and feeble,
stand by me (stand by me).
When my life becomes a burden,
and I’m nearing chilly Jordan,
O thou “Lily of the Valley,”
stand by me (stand by me).

Children’s Sermon

Homily Rev. Mark Vale