

THE UPDATE



Women's Anam Cara Winter Gathering: Who Has Your Heart?

For all women 18 and above

Saturday, Feb. 4, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center (gym)

Ladies, it is close to "Galentine's" Day! Who has your heart? All ladies 18 and above are invited to join us for a morning of sharing, conversation, and laughter; some sweet treats, connecting, and praying with other women, of course.

Anam Cara's Winter Gathering (Who Has Your Heart?) is coming up on Saturday, February 4, from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center (gym) here at church.

Please RSVP on your connection card Sunday morning or by emailing Jill Anderson at jaand3@hotmail.com. When you RSVP, please let us know if you need childcare. (We are asking for a little donation if you need childcare so we can give a little something to our wonderful teen volunteers.)

We will be accepting donations for our Valentine project if you would like to bring a few dollars to help out. More details on how to help will be available at the February 4 gathering. Hope to see you there!

Discipleship Ministries

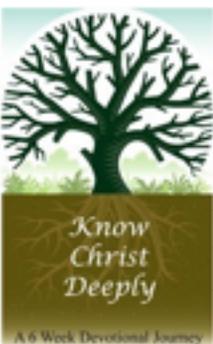
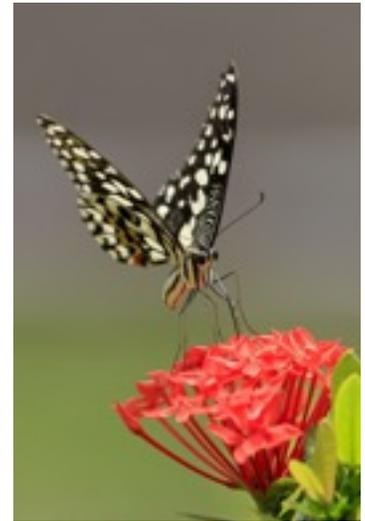
Primetimers

Tuesday, Feb. 14, at noon in Rm. 24/25

Twenty-three of some of the best people in the world were in attendance on January 10 to partake in the Primetimers potluck. As always the food was delicious, and the fellowship was delightful. Marguerite Carlson from OrganizeU presented a very helpful program on downsizing. She provided hints on how to organize your belongings and dispose of items if you have too much.

We will do it again at noon on February 14. If you are a regular attendee, please bring a covered dish: a salad, a main dish, or a dessert. If you have never attended Primetimers or if it has been a while since you attended, you are welcome to attend as our guest and you do not need to bring anything. Primetimers is open to all who are 50 or better. In February, our guest speaker will be Ann Peuser from Clinton Parkway Nursery, sharing about *Gardening Hints for Springtime*. This program will get us to think about gardening and spring. We will also have names and addresses of those in the service to whom you can send a Valentine's card. You can either bring a card with you to the meeting, or you can take the name and address and send a card later.

If the weather would require us to cancel the meeting, an attempt to email you will be made. If you have not received an email and the weather is threatening, you can call Ernie Dyer at (785) 393-3846 to find out if we will be meeting. If you have questions, you can contact Ernie Dyer at (785) 393-3846 or epdyer@att.net. Hope to see you on February 14!



Know Christ Deeply Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays, Jan. 25-Mar. 8, 6:15-7:45 p.m. in Rm. 22

Knowing God is more than discovering facts about God; it is a relationship.

Most people find their identity in accomplishments, titles or positions, trying to prove themselves by what they've achieved. But what if our identity - our greatest claim to fame - was not based on what we have done or will do, but on Whom we know?

The apostle Paul wrote, "Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may have Christ. As a result, I can really know Christ." Philipians 3:8-10

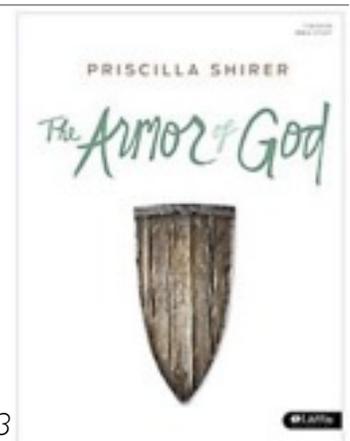
Know Christ Deeply is open to all women. The cost of the book is \$5. It's not too late to sign up! Contact Beth Baldrige at bethbaldrige@gmail.com to sign up.

The Armor of God Women's Bible Study

Thursdays, Feb. 2-May 4, 9:30-11:30 am in Rm. 24/25

All day, every day, an invisible war rages around you – unseen, unheard, yet felt throughout every aspect of your life. A devoted, devilish enemy seeks to wreak havoc on everything that matters to you: your heart, your mind, your marriage, your children, your relationships, your resilience, your dreams, your destiny.

But his battle plan depends on catching you unaware and unarmed. If you're tired of being pushed around and caught with your guard down, this study is for you.



continued on pg. 3

continued from pg. 2

The enemy always fails miserably when he meets a woman dressed for the occasion. The armor of God, more than merely a biblical description of the believer's inventory, is an action plan for putting it on and developing a personalized strategy to secure victory.

Join us for *The Armor of God*, a video-driven women's study by Priscilla Shirer. The study workbook costs \$13. If you've never done a Priscilla Shirer Bible study, you can go to lifeway.com and check out *The Armor of God* video clips.

Student Ministries



Church-wide Chili Cook-off

Sunday, Feb. 19, 5 p.m. in the FLC (gym)

Influx Student Ministries is hosting a chili cook-off at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 19, in the Family Life Center (gym) here at church.

If you have a recipe of cuisine perfection and would like to enter your chili in the cook-off, please let the church office know by calling, (785)842-2343, or emailing, office@lfmchurch.org, to let us know. There will be prizes for the winners!

Come out and enjoy this time of fellowship with your church, as well as various forms of entertainment from our teens!

The teens are asking for help to raise money to go to the Free Methodist Youth Conference, this summer in Fort Collins, Colorado. As a fundraiser, we suggest a minimal donation of \$5 per person or \$20 per family. See you there!

FMYC

June 26-30 in Fort Collins, CO

FMYC is a week-long youth convention open to 8th-12th graders. The Free Methodist Youth Conference has its roots in the Free Methodist Student Mission Movement which took place in the early 1900s. Since then, it has evolved and experienced several name changes. From Student Mission Movement, to Youth Advance, to Young People Mission Society, to International Youth Conference (IYC), and now to Free Methodist Youth Conference (FMYC). For the past several decades, FMYC has met every three years and students from Free Methodist churches around the country and world gather together to develop authentic relationships with God and others, discover their potential for ministry, and connect students and leaders to the greater body of Christ! We want to see all our teens get away from regular structure of their lives for one week and experience the Holy Spirit move in great power!



Children's Ministries



Jr. Camp 2017

June 12-16 at Rock Springs 4-H Center

Jr. Camp is a week-long summer camp for children finishing 3rd-5th grade. Located at Rock Springs 4-H Center near Junction City, KS, Jr. Camp is a wonderful, safe, and fun environment for kids to begin to explore new hobbies, make new friends, gain more independence, and connect with God on a deeper level. Jr. Camp is not just for kids from the Lawrence area; kids connected with Free Methodist churches in Kansas and Nebraska come, too!

For more information, contact Pastor Allie or Bethany Engel (the Jr. Camp Director) in the church office. Registration forms are available in the children's lobby and online at lfmchurch.org/junior-camp.

Note: The gift card fundraising program is a great way to save money for camp without spending any extra. Inquire in the church office during the week or at the gift card kiosk in the lobby Sundays.

February in DU

Love is a reflection of the character of God.

God is love. As we read through God's One Big Story in the Bible, we see an epic love story unfold that started in a garden with a perfect relationship between God and His creation. When Adam and Eve sinned and broke that relationship, God didn't give up on creation. His love for us drove Him to make the ultimate sacrifice: sending His one and only Son, Jesus to pay the ultimate price to make it possible for us to be with God forever.

Because we are created in God's image, we have the capacity to love.

Every time we choose to treat others the way we want to be treated, we show others a glimpse into the perfect love God has for each and every one of us.

Jesus is the ultimate example of love.

When God sent Jesus to earth, Jesus showed us exactly what it means to love. Jesus prioritized love above everything else. When the Pharisees asked Jesus about the greatest commandment, He reached into the 600+ laws of the Old Testament and took a law that existed about your neighbor and He linked it to loving God. Jesus said, *'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul.*

Love him with all your mind . . . and Love your neighbor as yourself,' (Mark 12:30-31 NIV). Our relationship with Jesus changes how we love God, love others, and even love ourselves. Love, above all else, was what Jesus stressed most.

That's why we think it's important for us to help our kids and families discover more about **Love—**

choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated.

Our memory verse for February comes from 1 John 4:10.

In 1 John 4:10, we read, Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins. (NIV)



We want our families to learn a verse that gives them the essence of why love is important. Love isn't just something we demonstrate because it's a good thing to do. Love doesn't even start with us. We love because God loves us. Love is an essential part of who God is and how God interacts with the world. We love others because of the capacity He put within us to love. His love drove Him to sacrifice His only Son on our behalf to make the relationship between us right again.

We will spend the month of February taking a closer look at the way love shows up throughout the Gospels in how Jesus interacts with others.

**WEEK 1**

We start off the month learning about God's perfect love.

In **John 15:12-13**, we discover that Jesus showed us love in the most sacrificial way possible, by laying down His life for us. Jesus asks us to love one another, just as He loved us in the way we sacrifice for our friends.

Bottom Line: **Love others because Jesus loves you.** As kids learn about Jesus' sacrificial love for us, we pray they will start to understand how they can show love sacrificially to the people in their lives. Showing love to others will not always be convenient. When we begin to see our potential to love in light of Jesus' love for us, we will understand that showing love, even when it's difficult, is worth all the effort.

**WEEK 2**

We continue our look at love in **Mark 4:35-41** as we look at a familiar story from a different point of view. Jesus and His

disciples were out on the sea when a flash storm struck fear into the disciples. Jesus showed love for His disciples. He calmed the storm and showed that He can be trusted no matter what.

Bottom Line: **Comfort others who are hurting.** We meet people everyday who need comfort. We pray that as kids discover how Jesus showed love in comforting His disciples during the storm, they will start to become aware of ways they can show love and comfort people in their lives. We can all learn to encourage people in our lives and show them how much God cares about their needs.

**WEEK 3**

In **Mark 6:30-44**, we see how Jesus' care for others turned into one of His most amazing miracles. Jesus reached a point in His ministry when He was extremely popular. Everyone wanted to hear what He had to say about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, thousands of people showed up to hear Him speak. As it became later in the day, Jesus could have sent them all home to grab some dinner; instead He made the unthinkable happen. He

turned five loaves of bread and two fish into a meal for more than 5,000 people.

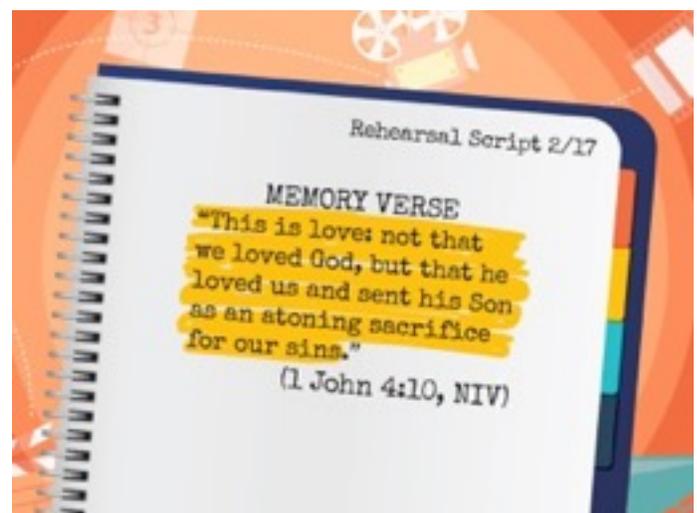
Bottom Line: **Give to others who are in need.** As we start to see others the way God sees them, we will become more aware of their needs. We have opportunities everyday to help others and meet their needs. This can be as simple as lending a pencil to a friend or offering to share part of your lunch. It's amazing how kids will start to show love to others when they become aware of the needs around them.

**WEEK 4**

We finish the month in **Luke 10:25-37**. When Jesus told the Pharisee's "Love your neighbor as you love yourself," they shot

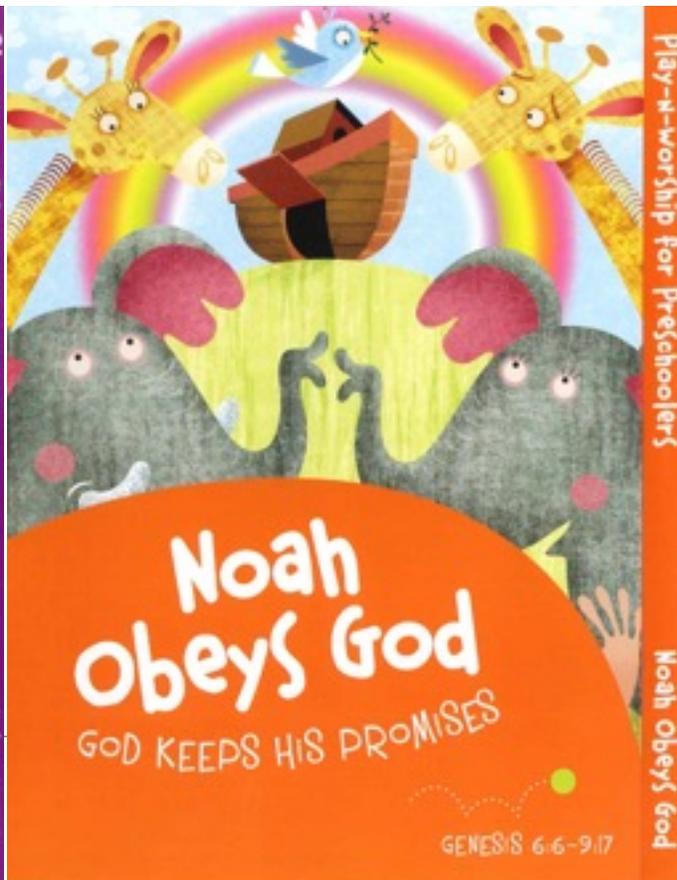
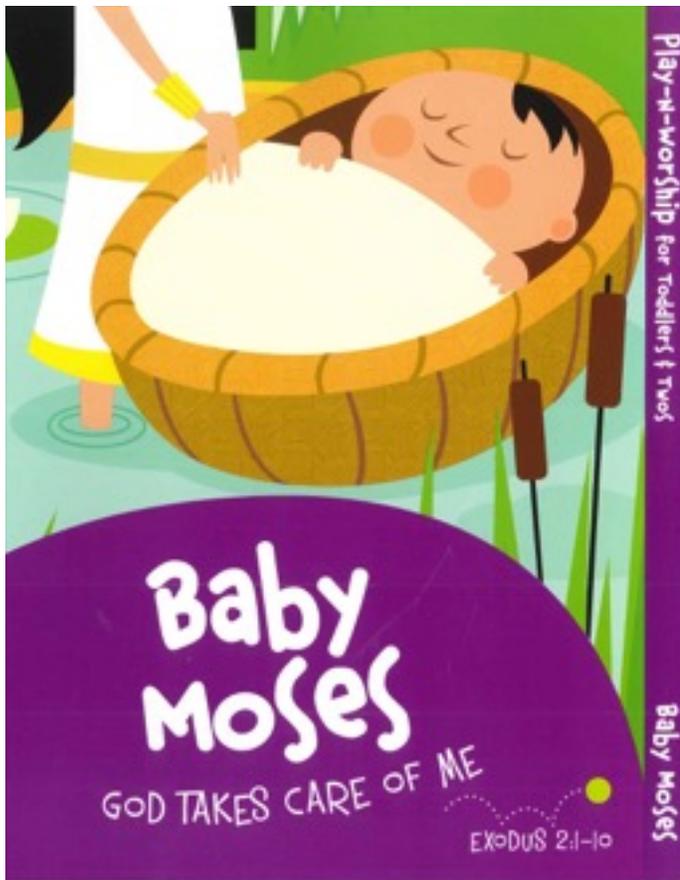
back with another question. "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus went on to tell the story of the Good Samaritan. When faced with the decision to ignore an enemy or have compassion, the Samaritan chose to set aside His differences and show love.

Bottom Line: **Love others because they matter to God.** We won't always get along with everyone we meet, but that doesn't mean they aren't deserving of God's love. Through this story, we pray that kids will see that all people matter to God, and we should show His love to everyone we meet.



February in Twos...

and in Threes and Fours



Missions



Follow the Haiti Team!

Our missions team will be in Haiti from January 28 to February 4--we hope you will take some time to pray for the team and for the people they will be meeting and serving there. If you are interested in learning more about the team's activities in Haiti, you can follow the team blog at <http://lfmchurch.org/missions-trip-blog>. Internet access is not reliable in Haiti, but the team will try to send updates whenever possible.

Thank You

*Dear Lawrence Free Methodist,
We appreciate your kind donations! We couldn't help the homeless individuals, families, and children without you!
Thank you,
Lawrence Community Shelter Staff*

(Thanks to your generosity, we were able to deliver 700 items to Lawrence Community Shelter!)





Family Promise

Feb. 13, 14, and 16

LFMC is scheduled to serve at Family Promise Feb. 13, 14, and 16. We need volunteers to provide food for meals, as well volunteers to "host" the evening meals by sharing the meals with Family Promise participants at First Southern Baptist Church. Please sign up in the church lobby starting Sunday, Feb. 5. For information regarding food, contact Nancy Ezell at nancyezell34@yahoo.com.

For information about Family Promise, contact Dan Flynn at dflynn@deciphera.com.

L.I.N.K.

Thursday, Feb. 2

Thursday, Feb. 2, LFMC is scheduled to provide and serve an early afternoon meal at L.I.N.K. (Lawrence Interdenominational Nutrition Kitchen). If you are able to provide food or help serve that day, know that it is needed and appreciated. You will be blessed as you are a blessing. Sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/hb7n8en>.



Misc.

Year-End Giving

Thank you for your faithfulness in your stewardship and in your obedience to God. Because of your generosity in our year-end giving, we were able to...

...end the year in the black.

...get new floors in the kitchen and in Room 24/25.

...get two new fridges,

two new ovens,

and a new dishwasher in our kitchen.

...donate \$12,000 to finish the Kids Alive school in Cap-Haïtien, Haiti (where we're sending a team Jan. 28-Feb. 4). Our donation was matched by an anonymous donor, turning it into a \$24,000 donation!

Thank you for your faithfulness, obedience, and generosity!



Library News

It's a new year! Have you made any New Year's Resolutions? Have you included reading some good books? Can you recommend any that you have read that you would like others to know about? Let the library know. We are always open to suggestions. Below is a list of some of the new books that have been added to the church library in the last 6 months:

Prince Warriors series, books 1 and 2 by Priscilla Shirer. Written for her sons, but good for girls and boys. Find them in our Youth section.

Risen, a novelization of the motion picture by the same name by Angela Hunt.

Prophetess – Deborah's Story by Jill Eileen Smith. Excellent historical fiction.

Jack Staples series, Books 1-3 in our Youth section.

Ring of Time

City of Shadows

Poet's Storm

The Emmaus Code-Finding Jesus in the Old Testament by David Limbaugh in our Understanding Our Faith section.

Fiction by Colleen Coble

Without a Trace – Rock Harbor Series #1

Beyond a Doubt – Rock Harbor Series #2

Into the Deep – Rock Harbor Series #3

Fiction by Irene Hannon

Against All Odds – Heroes of Quantico #1

An Eye for an Eye – Heroes of Quantico #2

Some of these titles may be located in the book display outside the library. They can be checked out like all others in the library. Come check us out!!



MLK Gospel Extravaganza

After a week of rehearsals for the children's and adult choirs, the MLK Musical Celebration was held at LFMC on the evening of Sunday, Jan. 15. The threat of icy weather affected the size of the crowd but did not prevent those present from enjoying an inspirational evening of music and reflection on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The theme of the evening was *Working Together in Unity*, based on Amos 3:3.

The event was sponsored by the Ecumenical Fellowship, chaired by Anita Martin. The children's choir was directed by Renita Gailbreath from 9th Street Baptist Church in Lawrence, and the adult choir was directed by Randall Fears, from Plano, Texas. This year's adult choir performance included a solo by our very own Katie Jacobsen.



Gift Card Fundraiser

Want to pay for Jr Camp, FMYC, Awana, youth group events, or missions trips without spending extra money? Use the gift card fundraiser program. It's easy and can make a huge dent in out-of-pocket expenses. *(You can help others pay for events, too!)*

How does it work? Buy a gift card, and 2-14% of the total goes into fundraiser account, ready to use for any church-sponsored event. You choose whether it goes toward your family, another family, or a ministry (eg. missions or children/youth).

What can you use them for?

Just running to the grocery store? Get gift cards to purchase your groceries!

Traveling? Get gift cards to pay for gas, airlines, or hotels!

Shopping? Get gift cards to pay for purchases in-store or online!

Picky person's birthday? Get them a gift card!

Need a break? Get gift cards to go out to eat or to the movies!

Where can you use them? Checkers, HyVee, Kohls, and Walmart/Sam's Club are always onhand. Hundreds of others ("prepaid cards") can be ordered--from Amazon to Zappos, Applebee's to Wendy's, AMC Theatres to Walgreens, and many, many more. See the complete list at the kiosk in the lobby on Sundays or in the church office during the week. (Orders for prepaid cards are placed on Mondays and arrive on Fridays.)

When can you buy/order them? Every Sunday in the lobby and in the church office during office hours (Mon-Fri, 8-12 & 1-5)



Sunday Services & Programs

9:00 a.m.

Blended Worship

Care for infants through preschoolers

10:35 a.m.

Contemporary Worship

Care for infants through 2-year-olds

Programs for preschoolers through 12th graders

Church Office Information

Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. & 1-5 p.m.

Phone: (785) 842-2343

office@lfmchurch.org

www.lfmchurch.org

Bill Bump

Senior Pastor

bbump@lfmchurch.org

Larry Baldridge

Pastor of Discipleship

lbaldridge@lfmchurch.org

Bryce Ball

Pastor of Student Ministries

bball@lfmchurch.org

Allie Klopenstein

Pastor of Children's Ministries

aklopenstein@lfmchurch.org

Bethany Engel

Administrative Assistant

office@lfmchurch.org

Doug Heacock

Director of Media & Contemporary Worship

dheacock@lfmchurch.org

Vanessa Thomas

Director of Choir & Blended Worship

vanessathomasvoicestudio@gmail.com