



The Update

A publication of Lawrence Free Methodist Church



For the Kids

"Whatever you do unto the least of these, you do unto Me."

— Matthew 25:40

We went to the Dominican Republic to help the children. And we found them – dozens of them.

Some were flying homemade kites. Others wrestled. They played baseball, too. Their joy was apparent. They would smile and play and climb into wheelbarrows for rides around the yard. They didn't notice their sad conditions.

They were just being kids.

We went to try to make their lives a little better and to spread God's love.

Ten of us traveled from Lawrence to

the mountain town of Constanza, far inland on the island of 8 million people. It was the third trip by a team from LFMC during the past year.

What we found was a far cry from the United States.

It was most apparent in the children.

Many didn't have shoes. Their clothing was clean but worn. When they ran among their houses, they skipped past rusty metal, barbed wire fences and broken glass.

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May 2006

The Update

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Church

highlights

- The Update newsletter will be available for pickup in the foyer and will not be mailed out.
- Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast coming up!
- Lake Baptism is coming up. Come to a class if you want to be baptized.

Church News

Letters to the Church...

Dear Friends,

The palm-type houseplant you sent was such a "breath of fresh air." I love the green and especially your thoughtfulness.

In Christ,
David Aber

Lawrence Free Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness during my recent hospital stay and surgery. The flower arrangement was beautiful and helped to brighten my room. Tina is lucky to have you as her church family.

God bless you,
Herb Dissinger

Dear LFM Church Family,

We appreciate the many acts of kindness and love we have received during the sudden illness and loss of our husband, father, and grandfather.

The Chalmer Martin Family

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the prayers, calls, visits, and cards during my recent surgery. Also for the delicious food we have so enjoyed.

God bless you richly for your thoughtfulness and help for Ray and me.

In Christ,
Vivian June

Newsletter Will No Longer Be Mailed

As a cost-saving measure, starting June '06 we will discontinue mailing *The Update*, our church newsletter. The newsletter will be available for pick-up in the foyer each month. It can also be downloaded from our church website at www.lfmchurch.org by clicking on "News and Calendar." If you are unable to pick up your copy of the newsletter, please call the church office at 842-2343 and request to have a copy sent to your home.

Contact The Update:

The Update is a monthly publication of Lawrence Free Methodist Church.

If you have **Letters to the Church**, please e-mail them to Lauren Hanni at update@lfmchurch.org or drop them into *The Update* box in the church office. The deadline for the next month's newsletter is the second Sunday of the previous month.

CLASS 101: Membership Sunday, May 21 at 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

If you would like to know more about the beliefs, mission and ministries of the Lawrence Free Methodist Church, make plans to attend our next membership class. Childcare is available on request. For questions or to register please contact Rick Ostrander at rostrander@lfmchurch.org or 842-2343.

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

Saturday, June 10

8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

We appreciate you and your partnership in ministry with us this past year at the Lawrence Free Methodist Church. Whether you have ministered on a weekly basis or for an hour or two, your contribution to building God's Kingdom is vital!

As a token of thanks from the Pastoral Staff, we'd like to invite you to bring your family to the church anytime between 8 and 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 10, and have a quick breakfast on us.

RSVP by June 5 by calling the church office at 842-2343 or e-mailing the church at info@lfmchurch.org.

Ministry Board Update

The Ministry Board met April 11. Mike Flory led a time of prayer and a devotion based on the video series "Good Sense". John Oehlert gave an update on the new children/youth wing. The Building Committee has been working with contractors for estimates and bids and with The City of Lawrence for approval to break ground. We hope to be underway some time this summer!

Church News & Adult Ministries



Randy Mullis and Ryan Leary were baptized during the 2005 Lake Baptism.

Lake Baptism & Church Potluck June 4th, 5:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar now for our Lake Baptism on June 4. We'll have an all-church potluck at the lake and then celebrate water baptism with those who want to make a public profession of their faith. If you would like to get baptized on June 4, please contact the church office at 842-2343 or send an email to info@lfmchurch.org. You can also write "lake baptism" on your Communication Card.

People desiring to be baptized must attend one of these required meetings: Wednesday, May 24th at 7 p.m. or Saturday, June 3rd at 9:30 a.m.

Food Drive

In July we will spend the entire month collecting non-perishable food items to contribute to the LEO Center. We hope that everyone will plan ahead for this event! Please bring your contributions to the church any day during the month of July.

There will be a collection box at the Adult Ministries table throughout the month where you can deposit your much needed contributions. Thank you for your generosity!

Informational Meeting Everyone's Invited!

Meet with the staff on Sunday, May 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary! You'll hear about the exciting events that are happening in our church, including an update on the new Children/Youth Wing!

Women's Life Ministries Lights Out!

Friday, May 5th, 6:30 p.m.

You are invited to attend the first of our "Lights Out!" gatherings, for women only, at the church in our Family Life Center. Prominent Christian women authors Anne Graham Lotz, Priscilla Shirer, Angela Thomas, Beth Moore and Jennifer Rothschild are featured in the new *Bible Studies by Demand* videos. Each presentation is a Bible study that stands alone, meaning it is not a series of related talks or a continuing weekly Bible study. A few of the themes are *Walking By Faith*, *The Vision of His Glory*, and *He Speaks to Me*. A simple meal will be provided at a cost of \$5.00, and we will be selling a variety of books from Signs of Life (not a fundraiser, just a courtesy to you). Look at this as a mini-retreat, bring friends, and plan to enjoy each other's company! Sign up at the Adult Ministries table in the church foyer in April.

Adult Ministries

Team Changes Lives in Dominican Republic

Story continued from Page 1

Sewage ran in the ditches.

Many of their parents cooked with wood. Not every home had running water. Some had no electricity.

When the children tired, some simply would curl up on the ground to sleep. Some were sick with infection.

The town was built on agriculture. You could find nearly any kind of vegetable growing in the fields that surrounded the town – cabbage, onions, garlic, carrots, potatoes and beets.

Field workers were recruited daily. Large trucks would drive through the neighborhoods to pick them up. Twenty people would pile on board.

Our work was at a children's home on the city's west side. The campus, created by Kids Alive, eventually will house 40 orphans in four homes. The first is expected to open in June.

Each house will be molded in the form of a family – with two Christian parents and 10 children.

Our job was to push the homes toward completion. We painted the exterior of one home and came close to completing its septic system.

At a nearby care center where children will come for tutoring, we poured concrete along the top of 8-foot walls. Most of the work we did was by hand, shoveling concrete into buckets and lifting it into place.

Sore muscles and sunburns were common.

But perhaps more profoundly, we rebuilt a home for a couple in the local church. Their old home in a poor, mountainside neighborhood was built from flattened metal cans that had been nailed to rotting posts.

It took just minutes to tear it down.

Over the next two days, we built a more solid structure of wood – this one with a concrete floor and a watertight roof. The three children who lived there would have a dry place to sleep.

Our sponsors said it was like giving the family a million dollars. Perhaps, they said, it would bring them closer to God and more involved in the local church.

They say such short-term missions trips are as much about transforming the lives of the missionaries as



they are about the physical work that gets done.

For me, that was the case.

I have a picture that I already cherish from the Dominican.

It shows a boy, no more than five years old, holding an old tire in one hand and a homemade paddle in the other. The shirt he was wearing was the same he'd worn the day before... and probably the day before that.

He wasn't wearing shoes. His future likely is a bleak one. But the work of Christian missionaries is making it a better one.

We saw dozens of children like that. I hope I never forget them.

God won't.



Youth Ministries

Spring Plant Sale, Saturday, May 13, 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Spring is here, and it's time to bring those outdoor gardens and flower beds back to life for another summer. We're having our annual Spring Plant Sale on May 13th in the west parking lot of the church. We'll have all kinds of annual and perennial flowers, ornamental grasses, and vegetables. Come out to see us and maybe pick up some extra flowers for Mother's Day!! All proceeds from this sale will help fund summer camp and missions trips for our teens.



Graduate Recognition



We will be recognizing high school, post-high school, and college graduates on May 14th during all 3 worship services. If you are a graduate or have a graduate in your family that would like to be recognized on that day, please contact Travis Evans at 842-2343. We'll need to know the graduate's name, school, degree or plans after high school, and in which service they would like to be recognized. Graduation is a great accomplishment at any level, and we want to take the time to applaud these students for all their hard work!

Missions Support

Our Free Methodist teens are gearing up for some very exciting missions trips this summer. We've marked our calendar for a trip to Croc, Mexico, June 12-21 and a trip to Cairo, IL, July 22-28.

We're looking for support in many different ways. Please visit our Summer Missions Station at the Student Ministries Table in the foyer of our church on Sundays. At this table you will find opportunities to support us financially, donate needed items, and offer prayer. We are also looking for more people to join us for the trip to Mexico. At this station, there are informational brochures and registration forms for that trip.

If you have any questions about our plans or how you can partner with us in these ministries please call Travis at 842-2343 or e-mail him at tevans@lfmchurch.org.



Ski Club Volunteers

As summer approaches, we're trying to make arrangements to get our LFM Youth Ski Club started back up. This is a great ministry where we take teens out to the lake for skiing, tubing, and swimming. It gives them a chance to enjoy the summer out on the lake and get connected to other students in the youth group. We need adults to help pull this off. Our greatest need is BOATS. If you own a boat, or know someone who does and would be willing to help out by dragging kids all over the lake, please contact Travis Evans at 842-2343. We try to go out on weeknights when it isn't very busy, and it is a BLAST!!

May Calendar

May 7	Fuel 78 9:45 a.m. Refuge 6 p.m.
May 13	Spring Plant Sale, 9 a.m. to Noon
May 14	Fuel 78 9:45 a.m. No Refuge (Hang out with Mom!)
May 20	Eudora Graduation
May 21	Fuel 78 9:45 a.m. Refuge 6 p.m. Lawrence Graduation KU Graduation
May 24	Baptism class, 7 p.m.
May 28	Fuel 78 9:45 a.m. Refuge 6 p.m.

Children's Ministries



Palm Sunday & Easter Sunday 2006



What a wonderful Easter morning we had in Children's Ministries with a record number of children hearing about the hope that comes through the resurrection of Jesus! At the end of our preschool classes and Kids' Cove, the children (all 225 of them!) had a great time searching for Easter eggs in the playground and on the church lawn.

An Island Getaway Just For You

Does the child in you wish you could still attend VBS...the drama, the snacks, the music, the Bible stories, and recreation? Being a small group leader at Son Treasure Island allows you to participate in all the VBS activities! You can set sail through VBS with your small group of 6-8 students. You can bask in the joy of leading them in a 15-minute discussion of the Bible story, memory verse, and each day's treasure (all discussion materials are provided for you). No one will notice that you are having as much fun as the all the kids in your group. If you are interested or want more information please contact Mandy Grosdidier at vbs@lfmchurch.org.



Kids' Cove Hawaiian Luau

Sunday, May 28, 9:45 – 11a.m.

We're pulling out at the stops at Kids' Cove on Sunday, May 28, for our end-of-the-year Hawaiian Luau. Invite your friends for a morning of fun activities that will be sure to give you the time of your life. You just might get a little wet, so dress accordingly.

CLC Honor Council & Success Celebration

Wednesday, May 17, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

You are invited to attend the CLC Honor Council and Success Celebration on Wednesday, May 17 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Come honor the children as they receive the badges earned second semester, and celebrate with them as we party during our Success Celebration, after the honors are bestowed.

A spaghetti dinner will be served 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. for \$2.50/person or \$10/family. Please RSVP for the dinner if you are not a regular CLC dinner participant (841-6088 or clc@lfmchurch.org).



Celebration

Children's Ministries

Kids' Cove to learn about obedience in May

Obedience – trusting those who lead you by doing what you're asked to do.

It isn't always easy to do what you're asked to do, especially when you don't agree with the person in authority. Even so, God asks us to obey our leaders and trust that He can lead us through them. That's what we will be teaching children in Kids' Cove in May. Our key lessons are (1) God knows what's best for you because He made you, (2) respect whoever's in charge and do what they say, and (3) things will work out better in the end if you do what God says first.



Memory Verse:

“Memory Verse: “Obey your leaders. Put yourselves under their authority. They keep watch over you. They know they are accountable to God for everything they do.”

— *Hebrews 13:17*

Parents, remember to keep an eye out for the Godtime Card and Refrigerator Card each week and read them with your children to reinforce what they are learning on Sundays.



Junior Camp for 3rd – 5th graders

June 5-9, 2006

Registration deadline: May 14.

Third through fifth graders at LFMC are preparing for summer camp at Rock Springs Ranch near Junction City, Kansas. Camp is scheduled for June 5-9. The week will be filled with fun activities, interesting classes, exciting chapel times and great food. Students can build lasting friendships, grow closer to God and – all the while – make wonderful memories! The cost is \$180. Brochures are available at church or can be downloaded at www.lfmcchurch.org. The final day to register is May 14.



Christian Life Club Missions Month

Our CLCers were very busy in March working on their Missions badge. They studied about countries in the Middle East and Africa and had fun making crafts and learning about missionaries who serve in these countries. Doug Hartwell came to share some artifacts that he brought home from Iraq, Robin Jacobsen shared a traditional South African costume, and the kids also got a “taste” of these countries by eating special ethnic desserts.

While the kids munched on these delicious treats, they listened to some South African gospel music. The CLCers also participated in a missions project and raised money to feed three children in Zimbabwe for a week, and buy two blankets and some other clothing. The children's minds and hearts were expanded as they learned about other cultures and raised money to make a difference in the lives of a few children in Africa.

**Lawrence Free Methodist Church
Sunday Morning Services and Programs**

- 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
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- 9:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship
Pre-school classes
Kids' Cove for children
grades K-6
Fuel 78 - grades 7 & 8
Small groups for high school
and adults
.....
- 11:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship
.....

Nursery is available 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Church Office Information

Office Hours: Mon.—Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
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The Update

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