

THE UPDATE

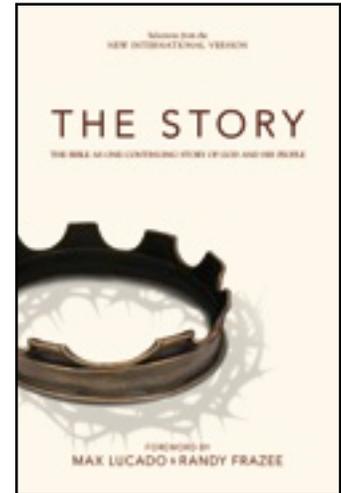
The Story: Coming September 15

For many Christ-followers, reading the Bible is a rich, life-affirming, daily encounter with the living God, full of comfort, inspiration, direction, and promise. But for many others, including some believers, words like *intimidating*, *imposing*, *boring*, *confusing*, *guilt-producing*, and *inconsistent* come to mind, and they may walk away from the Scripture, confused and disillusioned, missing out on one of the most amazing things God has ever provided for his people.

Wherever you may find yourself in that spectrum, The Story is for you.

On September 15, we will begin a nine-month, church-wide adventure with the Bible called *The Story*. Our text will be the Bible itself, in a special version titled *The Story*, an abridged and chronologically-ordered edition of the New International Version. Each week, preschoolers through adults will cover the same material, with age-appropriate curriculum, all designed to help us all experience God's great story and understand how it connects with and impacts our own individual stories.

You don't want to miss this. And you will want to make sure your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and their families have an opportunity to experience this fresh presentation and exploration of God's Word, as well. For more information and resources, see the "Jumping into *The Story*" article on **page 3** in this issue of *The Update*.



Fall Kickoff!

Sunday, September 22, noon-3:00 p.m. on the church lawn

Summer may be trying to make a last-minute comeback, but have no fear, fall is around the corner and with it our annual Fall Kickoff!

Invite your friends and neighbors, and make plans now to stay after the second service on **Sunday, September 22**, for a picnic and party on the church lawn! We'll have great **food**, live **music**, and all kinds of **family fun**, including games, inflatables, Funky Fotos and much more! NEW this year: **Extreme Fun for All Ages!** Lace up your sneakers and start stretching! The Kickoff's going extreme with a **20-foot rock climbing wall** (see photo at right) and an **Extreme Dodgeball Tournament**, with the winners of early



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Blended worship (nursery and pre-school care provided)
Contemporary worship and programs for kids and teens

9:00 a.m.
10:35 a.m.

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rounds going up against our very own staff in the final round!

VIP wristbands! VIP wristbands are \$10 each (1/ person) and allow you one trip through the foodline and unlimited play on everything else! No more afternoons full of "Mom, Dad, I need more money, I need more tickets!" 50-cent tickets are still available and valid for the Kickoff, but if you and your family plan to play a lot, VIP wristbands are the way to go!

Look for ticket and VIP wristband sellers in the lobby Sept. 8 and 15 to avoid in the ticket booth lines on the day of the Kickoff! More information, including food and game pricing, will show up in the bulletin in the coming weeks.

If you would like to help in some way, contact Bethany Harvester at bharvester@lfmchurch.org.



Arts and Crafts Fair

September 21, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

September 22, noon-3:00 p.m.

Family Life Center (the gym)

If you came to 4 for Others in June, you saw and perhaps purchased some great handmade items at the arts and crafts fair. That was just a preview of a bigger fair to come this month, with proceeds going to missions. Spread the word to friends and neighbors! Plan to stop by for a little shopping with friends (for items handcrafted by friends)!

Examples from our June fair include hand embroidered and crocheted items, a stained glass window, jewelry, cards, journals, canned goods, spice and dip mixes, and handcrafted wooden boxes.

Calling All Artisans!

We're looking for artisans just like you to donate handmade items! If you would like to donate one or more items to our fair, please contact Jeanette Sanger (785-249-6295 or sanger.jeanette12@gmail.com) or Kelly Monroe (785-764-0507 or littlehawk12@juno.com).

All-Church Work Day

Saturday, September 14, from 8:00 a.m. to noon, we are planning to have an all-church work day, to spruce up our facility as we head into fall. Our Fall Kickoff is a wonderful opportunity for us to welcome people from our community and neighborhood and introduce them to our church, and we want everything to look great.

The Trustees are organizing the work, and there will be plenty for everyone to do, so please plan to come and help out, even if you can't be here all morning. "Many hands make light work!"

Giving to LFMC is easy online!

If you've been considering using our online giving system but you're a little apprehensive about setting it up, we can help. Contact Doug Heacock at dheacock@lfmchurch.org or call him at the church at 785-842-2343.

Jumping into *The Story*

The Story is a nine-month, church-wide, coordinated series that will take our congregation all the way through the Bible in a chronological sequence, revealing the connectedness of God's amazing story and helping us discover how his story makes sense out of our individual stories. Using age-appropriate materials and curriculum, our whole church will be on the same page each week, providing opportunities for families to interact and share the experience throughout each week.

As we prepare for our journey through *The Story*, there are many ways you can participate and make it personal and meaningful for you, your family, and your friends:

1. **Pray!** Will you pray for our church as we participate in *The Story*? You can pray with complete confidence that the Lord will hear and answer and act—he wants his people to have his Word. Will you pray for others you know who need to hear *The Story*? Will you pray for opportunities to invite people, and the boldness to actually invite them?
2. **Invite someone.** We have postcards that you can give or mail to friends, co-workers, neighbors, and others to invite them to come experience *The Story* with you. The Word of God is powerful and life-changing, and you may be surprised how many people you know would respond to a simple invitation to come with you.
3. **Get *The Story* resources.** We are making *The Story* available to LFMC attenders for just \$8 for the hardcover version for adults. This is a significant discount, and we are also taking orders now for additional resources for your family, including books for pre-schoolers, elementary-school kids, and teens. You may order online at <http://lfmchurch.org/thestory>, or place your order at the resource table in the lobby on Sundays. Order now, so you'll receive your materials in time for the beginning of this series!
4. **Pray!** (Yes, we mentioned this earlier, but it's a key part of this whole thing, and our prayer and praise team has been on it for days! Pray with us!)

THE STORY

Primetimers

Primetimers will resume our second-Tuesday-of-the-month schedule with a potluck luncheon on September 10 in Room 24/25. Please bring a main dish and a salad or dessert, along with a healthy appetite. If you have never attended one of our luncheons, you can come as our guest—just bring your appetite. Booklets will be ready for distribution on the 10th.

Our guest speaker will be Elizabeth Stephens, Mrs. Kansas (we are hopeful that by the 10th we

will call her "Mrs. America"). She will share with us her experience as Mrs. Kansas and what inspired her to enter the Mrs. Kansas pageant. Elizabeth is also the Director of the Family Program at the Lawrence Community Shelter. Her position with the shelter is a key reason why she entered the pageant. She will share information about the shelter and her position there.

What more could you ask for than good food, wonderful fellowship, and a terrific speaker? To be a part of this, all you need is to be 50-or-better. If you have questions or need more information, you can contact Ernie Dyer at 785-841-2990.

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES • ADULT MINISTRIES

Equipping men and women to walk with God, make disciples and serve Christ for a lifetime

One person can make a difference!

The Ways of the Alongsider: Growing Disciples Life 2 Life

Jesus understood the worth of the individual and the significance and impact of relationships. His final command to His disciples was to "go and make disciples." He commissioned His disciples to become disciplemakers! Whether we're pastors, accountants, construction workers, or stay-at-home moms, our lives and ministries can get so cluttered that we miss out on what is most important. The clamor of competing demands can drown out our God-given mission *to make disciples as we are going through life*. *The Ways of the Alongsider* training will help you clarify your priorities and equip you to begin intentionally laboring in the lives of people.



Much is written about the curriculum and content of discipleship, but relatively few writers tell us how to make disciples. The adventure of becoming an Alongsider is more than reading a book, attending a class, or mastering some skills. The Alongsider journey is all about a lifestyle—ministering to people where they live, work, and play. *The Ways of the Alongsider* will help you understand some ways and principles needed to help people become wholehearted followers of Jesus. Small group leaders, parents, youth workers, teachers, and anyone involved in ministry will learn some helpful ways (and be equipped with some tools) to disciple others.

Pastor Larry will facilitate the 12-session training series. The goal of the Alongsider training is not just to read or talk about discipling, but to actually begin making disciples. We will begin with the foundations of the Alongsider ministry, then learn the ways or skills of an Alongsider. Those who complete the training will also receive some helpful tools to use in discipling others. Our objective for those who complete all the training is that they can say: "By faith, I can do this. God can use me to make disciples!"

When: *Alongsider* training begins Sunday, September 29.

Where: Room 24/25 (next to the kitchen and Family Life Center)

Time: 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$20 (includes training manual and handouts)

If you are interested and have questions, please contact Pastor Larry for more information. lbaldridge@lfmchurch.org.



CONTACTING THE UPDATE

The UPDATE is a monthly publication of the Lawrence Free Methodist Church. Letters to the church ("thank you" notes, etc.) may be dropped in the UPDATE box in the church office, or e-mailed to update@lfmchurch.org. The deadline for the October issue is September 23, 2013. The online version is at <http://www.lfmchurch.org/update>.

MOPS: Mothers of Preschoolers

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) invites all mothers of children from birth through Kindergarten to join Lawrence Free Methodist MOPS. Meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at LFMC.

If you would like information regarding our MOPS ministry, please contact Kirsten Mock, this year's MOPS coordinator, at 785-856-0142 or klonicu@sunflower.com

Women's Bible Studies

Join us this September as we begin three exciting studies. *All* women of the church and friends are invited! Wednesday studies begin September 11 and Thursday studies begin September 12.

Watch the women's ministry table in the lobby for sign-up sheets in September. See you in class!

Sermon on the Mount

On Thursday mornings, 9:30 to 11:30, we will engage in a Searching the Scriptures study with focus on the *Sermon on the Mount* (Matthew 5-7). In this study, we will be challenged by the revolutionary words of Jesus to live in simple faith and honesty. Daily scripture readings from the sermon, personal applications, sharing with others, plus background teachings will help us discover what it means to be an authentic Christian in everyday life.

Cost is \$10 (\$5 if you already have a notebook).

For more information or to sign up, contact Susan (785-843-7660) or Dana (785-331-2795).

Sacred Secrets

On Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8:00, we have a very promising new study, *Sacred Secrets* by author Beth Moore. If you have wanted to try a study by

Beth, here is your chance, because this one is only five weeks long!

The world is obsessed with telling secrets for the sake of sensationalism. But not all hidden things are poisonous and dark. In *Sacred Secrets* we will explore secrets: some forgiven, some covered, and some just between you and God. Join us to find out what happens when we let God teach us "wisdom in the secret heart" (Psalm 51:6, ESV).

Cost for the book is \$10. For more information or to sign up, please contact Brenda at 785-550-5422 or bflynn169@gmail.com. Childcare will be provided.

The Beloved Disciple

Thursday mornings, 9:30-11:30 will be an exciting place to be as we study *The Beloved Disciple* by Beth Moore. Every disciple and early follower of Christ left a legacy for future believers. John's legacy was love. Perhaps like no other disciple, John understood that relationship is the point. Every command of Christ and call to obedience is to enhance relationship and place the recipient in a posture the Giver can bless. This study is about finding our way to the heart of Jesus and reclining so closely that our pulse begins to throb in tandem, loving what He loves and hating what He hates.

Cost is \$16 for the book. For more information or to sign up, contact Jan at epdyer@att.net.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Midweek Programs for 1st – 6th graders

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

September 11, 2013, through April 30, 2014

Fee: \$10 for the school year (scholarships available upon request)



Kids LIVE, for 1st–4th graders, is all about helping kids grow their friendships with Jesus. Kids will build that relationship in a relevant way as they experience the Scriptures through fun, engaging activities. At Kids LIVE, kids get into the Bible and the Bible gets into kids!

Club 56 Hands-On Bible Study, for 5th and 6th graders, offers a unique, hands-on approach to learning about God. When Jesus taught, he used everyday objects like coins, fish, and plants to help people remember God's truth. Most kids retain more by interacting with a lesson instead of just hearing it. At Club 56 Hands-on Bible Study, preteens will EXPERIENCE each lesson, arming them with valuable truths and life-lessons that will stick with them for a lifetime.



Register in the DU lobby or online at <http://www.lfmchurch.org/kids-midweek>.

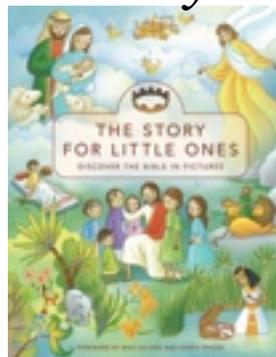
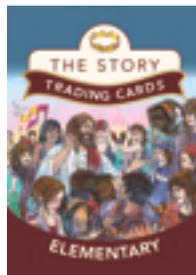
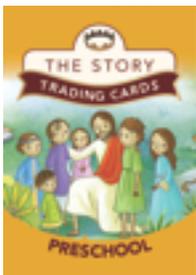
DU in September

It's a new DU year! This past Sunday we welcomed new kindergartners as all kids moved up into their 2013-14 DU groups. We had a blast playing games, getting to know our new groups and leaders, and settling into our new rooms!

We are eagerly anticipating beginning our journey through The Story with the rest of the church, beginning Sept. 15! But we still have some Sundays to go before then, so we're going to go back to basics!

September 1 and 8, we'll review three basic tenets of DU: **Wisdom** – I need to make the wise choice; **Faith** – I can trust God no matter what; and **Friendship** – I need to treat others the way I want to be treated.

The Story Resources for children



Order these resources at <http://lfmchurch.org/thestory>

REVOLUTION

STUDENT MINISTRY

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS starting September 11: Infuse and Bible Quizzing

For 7th – 12th graders

*From 6:30 – 8:00. Doors open at 6:15
so come early to hang out with your
friends.*

Wednesday nights are all about making friends, fitting in, and exploring how the rubber meets the road in our Christian Faith. We have two programs available for you on Wednesday nights: Infuse and Bible Quizzing.

Infuse provides 7th-12th graders with a chance to discuss real-life issues with other teens in a small group environment and go deeper in their faith through Bible exploration and prayer. Yes, Infuse will focus on important topics, but it won't be boring. Come ready to have fun while you get to know God better.

Bible Quizzing is designed for teens who want to grow in their faith through in-depth Bible study and memory. This year we'll study the Gospel of Matthew. There will be monthly quiz meets and a national competition in Greenville in the summer. Quizzing is not for the faint-of-heart, but if you are ready to accept the challenge to study and memorize God's Word and apply it to your life, you won't want to miss this opportunity!



Wednesday, Sept. 4 • Bible Quizzing Information Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

All interested 7th-12th graders and their parents should make plans to attend. The meeting will be in the Teen Center. For more information, contact Vicki Case, our quizzing director, at lovetocrop@gmail.com or 785-727-8132.

Sunday, Sept. 8 • The Battle Royal: Food Fight Against Hunger

For 7th – 12th graders

Time: 5-7 p.m.

*Suggested donation: 5 lbs of food or \$5. All donations
will be given to Just Food.*

*Drop off and pick up location: Christ Community
Church, 1100 Kasold Dr.*

Join other teens in Lawrence for the biggest food fight of your life! Live musical performance by Jonathan Thulin (hit single "Dead Come to Life") on the main stage, condiment war (ketchup vs. mustard), chocolate slide, apple bobbing, potato sack races, pudding fling, snack tent, and more. Plus, help set a world record for the largest game of Hot Potato leading up to the finale Smashed Potatoes and Gravy food brawl!

Invite your friends, have some smashing fun, and help us fight hunger in Lawrence!

Sunday services and programs

9:00 a.m. Blended Worship, programs for nursery and preschool

10:35 a.m. Contemporary Worship, programs for nursery through senior high teens

Nursery available 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Church Office Information

Office hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m. to noon and
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Phone: 785-842-2343

Fax: 785-842-2351

E-mail: info@lfmchurch.org

Web: <http://www.lfmchurch.org>

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