



Holy Cross Connections

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April 2011

Upcoming Events:

Easter Breakfast
April 27
8:00—10:45 AM

Vacation Bible School
June 20—24

The Greatest Story Ever Lived

There was a movie made in 1965 entitled, “The Greatest Story Ever Told.” Some of you may remember it. The movie was packed with Hollywood stars and recounted the life and death of our Savior, Christ Jesus. It quickly became a classic and made a lot of people rich.

from the dead for us.

This is all now history – with far more evidence to support its truth than most critics have the courage to dig into. John heard Jesus proclaim in a loud voice, “**It is finished!**” with his own ears. He saw the blood and water gush from his dead Lord’s side with his own eyes. Then, three days later He saw his risen Savior alive, as did the rest of the disciples. Paul tells us in I Corinthians 15 that more than 500 witnesses saw the Risen Savior at one time.

rose for me, is faith. It saves everyone who believes it. And it makes all the difference in every true believer’s life. For you see, **by faith, Jesus’ story becomes our story.** It is as if we died with Him on that cross and then rose

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”
 Galatians 2:20

with Him on that first Easter morning. This is what Paul is

saying in Galatians 2:20, when He writes, “**I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.**”

My prayer for you this Easter season is that you will do more than reflect on the historical account of the greatest story ever lived. My prayer is that believing Jesus died for your sins, you will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to die to sin and believing that Jesus rose for you, you will be empowered to live for Him. God bless your celebration of your salvation!

But as great as this story is, **it will do you no good, unless Jesus’ story becomes your story, by grace through your faith** in what He has done. Believing that Jesus lived, that Jesus died, even that Jesus rose again from the dead, will not save anyone. Nor will it make any difference in anyone’s life.

But believing that **Jesus lived for me, that Jesus died for me, that Jesus**

Long before the movie, however, was **the reality.** God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law so that we could become the children of God (Galatians 4:4-5). Yes, **Jesus Christ came into this world to live for us.** He lived the perfect life that God’s law demands of us for us because we could not live this perfect life for ourselves. Then **Jesus Christ voluntarily went to a cross in order to suffer the spiritual death sentence we deserved for our sins for us**, as our substitute, so that we will never have to suffer the eternal consequences of our sins ourselves. Three days later, **He proved Himself to be the Holy Son of God by rising again**

Your brother in Jesus,
 Pastor Kip

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Community Serving Opportunity

Holy Cross has the opportunity to reach out to Haiti along side other Christians in the North Canton area. On April 16, First Christian Church on Market Avenue is hosting a **Feed the Hungry** day where volunteers assemble 300,000 meals for shipment to Haiti. 1,000 volunteers are called on to do two things: 1) help package the meals and 2) contribute \$10 per person to cover the meal cost. Actual cost is \$40,000 (\$10,000 from volunteers and \$30,000 from First Christian members).

The Men's Bible Study would love to help them achieve their goal. Please call Phil Rangel at 244-8875 or Marty Rohrer at 494-5150 to sign up. This is a perfect opportunity for families to serve together. Keep in mind that April 16 is the Easter party at Holy Cross, so be sure to schedule around that! Confirmands — this constitutes 2 hours of serving time!

Coming to the Adult Bible Study on April 10 – Dave and Nancy Dickens from Campus Crusade for Christ in Orlando, Florida. Dave and Nancy train new missionaries who join with Campus Crusade as they prepare for one of the most strategic mission fields in the world—the university campus. Come and join the Sunday Morning Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall and learn about their exciting Kingdom work! Check them out at: www.daveandnancydickens.com

Mission Action News You Can Use!

The Mission Action Team continues to be amazed at the outpouring of God's love through your generosity as we seek to serve people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and meet people needs locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Our February Giving Tree netted \$3,430 for desks and books at God's Little Lambs Orphanage. This is close to \$900 more than was asked of you! That means that you were able to provide 11 more sets of books!

Did You Know? Holy Cross has three Haiti mission funds you can support the Gospel partners in Haiti. **Be sure to earmark your donation to the fund** you desire to support. Break down as follows:

1. **Haitian Mission Fund** – Provides up to one half of the travel expense of those who go on a mission trip: Volunteers who go, pay 50% of the travel/hotel costs. The monies we collect in this fund also provide for **substantial medical and/**

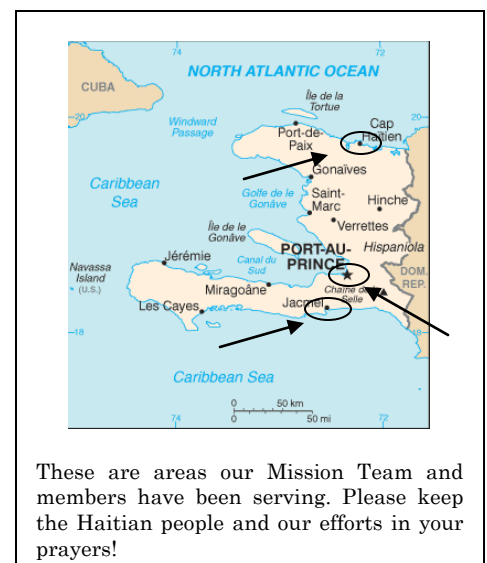
or building needs. We were able to provide an additional \$2,000 for auto repairs for Pastor Bernard. With five churches and other ministries that he is responsible for, his motoring ability is a necessity.

2. **Haitian Scholarship Fund** – For \$250 per child, you can provide a full year of quality schooling that will be the biggest help for Haiti's future. This includes one meal a day and school uniforms which are made in the sewing shop. So far, Holy Cross has provided for the schooling needs of 19 students!
3. **God's Little Lambs Orphanage** – Provide for the needs of this orphanage that cares for 40 little girls. This past year, Holy Cross has been able to provide mattresses for their sleeping quarters (\$2,500+) and \$3,430 for desks/books for the school.

As you can see, we are able through your help, serve in a way that makes a huge difference in the lives

that are touched with your love gifts! Check out our website or bulletin boards in the hallway for pictures of the smiles/relief your donations provide to those who know their Lord Jesus and want to learn more about Him as well as grow in knowledge to serve Him as they have been served by you!

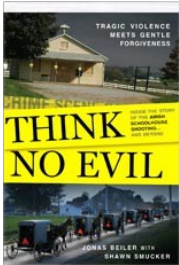
Thank you so much for your ongoing prayers and generous giving so that God's love in Jesus is seen and felt in their lives!



These are areas our Mission Team and members have been serving. Please keep the Haitian people and our efforts in your prayers!

Ladies Book Discussion

April 11 at 7:00 PM



The book we will be discussing this month is *“Think No Evil”* by Jonas Beiler with Shawn Smucker. — Inside the story of the Amish Schoolhouse Shooting ... and beyond — We will meet at Jane Comune’s home with Chris Daianu and Michelle Rivard as our leaders for the evening.

All ladies are invited to join us at any time during the year. Please call Sharon Ludwig for information at 492-8198.

Holy Cross Crafters

Holy Cross Crafters will meet on **Tuesday, April 12** in the Adult Conference Room. We will be making cards for the shut-ins and for our own use as well.

Barb Sautters, Cindy Ickes and MOPS will lead for the evening.

You need only bring a pair of scissors and \$2 to defray the cost of materials.

No experience necessary.
Everything is provided.

Young At Heart

April 12 at 11:15 AM

Lunch at Belgrade Gardens
3476 Massillon Road
Uniontown

Bring friends and join us for a delicious lunch and fellowship.

We will meet at Holy Cross at 11:15 AM to carpool.



Sign up on the board across from the office as soon as you can so we can make reservations.

EASTER PARTY

Saturday, April 16 at 12:30 PM

Crafts, Easter Lesson and Egg Hunt

Bring a basket to collect your eggs.

Please donate 12 plastic eggs and candy by April 1 and put in the church office. THANK YOU!!!



Sign up on the Children’s Ministry bulletin board in the hallway.



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Sign up on the Children’s Ministry bulletin board in the hallway.

Youth in Christ Goings On ...

What a busy April we have!

Girls of Grace, an overnight retreat for all girls 6-12 grade will be Friday, April 8 at 7 PM thru Saturday, April 9 around 2 PM at the Youth House! Sign up on the Youth Bulletin Board. We're asking each girl to bring a snack and drink to share. Pizza and breakfast will be provided but donations are welcome!

The Youth are hosting the children's annual **Easter Party and Egg Hunt** on Saturday, April 16 from 12:30-1:30 PM at church! Lots of help is needed in hiding eggs and helping with crafts and snacks! Please let me know if you can help!



Our annual **Easter Breakfast** is on! Set up will be Saturday, April 23 at 10 AM with the breakfast the next morning from 8—10:45. I need cooks, set-up help, serving help, and clean-up help. Please let me know what you are able to do. Donations are welcome and will be used towards the National Youth Gathering in San Antonio! We look forward to serving on the day of celebration of our Lord Jesus' Resurrection!

He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

Created by God with Vonnie LaRue and the Holy Cross Health Ministry Team will be held for all 6th graders on Friday, April 29 from 6:30-8:30 PM and Saturday, April 30 from 9 AM —1 PM. Please RSVP and contact Vonnie LaRue at 896-2395 for more information!

Offerings continue to be taken weekly in all Sunday School classes to help support Nicole Creutz, who is again serving a missionary family in Honduras this year. Please designate these special offerings in a marked envelope!

Offerings also help to keep hospitality snacks at the Youth House on Sunday mornings for these hungry kids, along with other youth events. This is a great opportunity for parents to teach their youth to be good stewards!

Don't forget to be using www.goodsearch.com as your regular Internet search engine, with Holy Cross North Canton as the beneficiary charity organization. Every search helps our Youth Group get to San Antonio! Thank you!

Lorin Zuppe

Holy Cross U

Holy Cross University will not have classes during Holy Week-April 20. Spring Quarter starts Wednesday, April 27! Check out the Spring Course catalogs in your church mailbox and pick up an extra one in the main hallway to share with friends! Class sign up sheets are on the countertop in the hallway as well.

Holy Cross U will wrap up for the summer on Wednesday, May 18 with 8th Grade Confirmation the following weekend.



Pandamania is coming to Holy Cross Vacation Bible school June 20-24! Be on the lookout for volunteer sign ups soon! We'll need all the help of our dedicated VBS staff again this summer to reach more little hearts with the love of Jesus and let them know that God is *WILD* about us!

School Mission and Ministry News

This year we again would like to put a children's Bible in the hands of the children leaving our program. It is our way of helping them stay connected to God's Word. We know the children love the Bibles and will ask their parents and older siblings to read their Bible to them. God's Word is alive and powerful. We pray that God will use the Bibles to plant seeds of faith. The Bibles cost \$12 each. If you would like to put the Scriptures in the hands of one of God's children, please watch the Giving Tree in the hallway for when this opportunity comes available.



There is still space in our childcare program along with our two-year-old class, a couple Kindergarten spots, and preschool afternoon openings in the four-year-old class. We are seeing more and more of our families attending worship here on Sunday mornings. Praise God!

Mrs. Hankin's class spent March learning about the weather, God's first creations, dark and light. The children had fun cloud watching, and making fluffy "clouds." Rain-drops started falling in the form of art projects, finger plays songs and dancing. They learned that God made the land, trees and plants. God put the sun in the sky for daytime and moon and stars for nighttime. The children will continue to learn about all God's creations in April. (Mrs. Anne Hankins & Mrs. Katie Armstead)

Mrs. Ludwig's class has reached number 10. They had a unit on the food groups. The three-year-old

class watched Painted Lady caterpillars as they changed into a chrysalis and then into butterflies. The children had a great time talking about the pets God gave them to care for. They planted pumpkin seeds that were saved from last Fall. Bible time focused on Jesus and the miracles that He performed. They learned that taking time to hear God's Word should be first in their lives. The story of the Good Samaritan showed that God wants us to help those in need with kindness and love. (Mrs. Christine Ludwig & Mrs. Patty Wallace)



Mrs. Hockman's class had a Pajama Party, ate Popcorn, and made a P book for the letter P. The children learned about Zacchaeus and how Jesus forgave him just like He forgives us. They learned that we celebrate the life of St. Patrick because he brought Christianity to Ireland. Along with a treasure hunt they learned that Jesus is our most valued treasure — a gift from God. They learned about the letter "Q." As you go past the room, notice that the yellow quilt pieces form a cross. This is to remind the children that Jesus is their best friend. The Bible is filled with stories about the importance of serving others. (Mrs. Teri Hockman & Mrs. Leslie Martin)

Mrs. Samara's class had a unit on health. Dr. Vance visited to tell the children how important it is to take care of their wonderful bodies. The unit on transportation included a visit from Mr. Samara, a former Navy pilot and current corporate pilot, who talked about flying and

made paper airplanes for each child. They learned that it is important to have reminders of what the Lord does for us as God's people. They learned about the gift of the Holy Spirit and this corresponded with St. Patrick's Day as they learned how the shamrock was used by St. Patrick to explain the Trinity to the Irish people. They had a short unit on springtime and explored bugs, butterflies, and birds. The story of Joseph reminded them that they must forgive others because Jesus' death on the cross was for our forgiveness. (Mrs. Ginger Samara and Mrs. Christina Jacobsen)



Mrs. O'Briskie's Kindergarten class has now studied all 26 letters of the alphabet! Next are the long vowel sounds and consonant digraphs that make reading tricky. Their handwriting is coming along nicely. They learned to estimate length, capacity, and weight of objects. The children explored their 5 senses, bones, respiratory system, digestive system, and circulatory systems. The children also enjoyed learning about food groups and eating healthy food. The unit on life cycles started with the hatching of quail eggs in the bird incubator giving them the opportunity to talk about the egg symbolism of Easter. (Mrs. Sarah O'Briskie)



The school is always in need of good new or used toys. If you have anything you can donate to us, it would be put to good use and very much appreciated.

Marjorie James, Administrator

Kindness and Gratitude Improve Quality of Relationships

(reprinted from Concordia Plan Services, Fall 2010 Issue)

A study by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill showed that small, thoughtful gestures and everyday gratitude toward your spouse can yield a great deal of happiness and help strengthen your relationship. The findings confirm what most happy couples already know: The more you express your appreciation toward your spouse, the more you let go of negative thoughts and emotions toward one another. As you become more attentive, aware, and appreciative toward your spouse, you end up building and reinforcing your relationship.

The findings suggest that extending positive emotions and gratitude can increase the benefit of positive thinking. “Gratitude triggers a cascade of responses within the person who feels it in that very moment, changing the way the person views the generous benefactor, as well as motivations toward the benefactor,” observed Sara Algoe, and assistant professor or research at Chapel Hill.

During the course of a married life together, words or gestures of gratitude sometimes get lost among the hectic schedules of work and raising children. Here are some simple gestures of gratitude that can help build your bond toward one another:

- Don't just think compliments, say them:
 - Thanks for doing the laundry.
 - Thanks for driving the kids to practice.
 - Thanks for making dinner.
 - Thanks for taking care of our yard.
- Do more than you need to do. Unload the dishwasher when it is not even your turn. If you pour yourself something to drink, pour some for your spouse.
- Practice you listening. Listening and remembering what your spouse tells you reinforces that you care about him/her.
- Be affectionate. Hug and kiss your spouse and say, “I love you” on a regular basis. Show your love through your actions: warming up her side of the bed, filling her car with gas, or making a special meal.
- Say “thank you” and “please”. We tend to use these words with strangers but we don't always remember to use them with our spouse.

Even what may seem as the simplest gesture can send a reassuring message to your spouse that he/she is appreciated and loved.

Upcoming Events:

Easter Breakfast
 April 27
 8:00–10:45 AM

Vacation Bible School
 June 20–24



Quincy the quail resides in the Kindergarten class.

‡ Wednesday Lent Schedule ‡

5:30 PM Soup Suppers

4/6 Music Ministry/Young at Heart

4/13 Potluck using the same letters as we did on Ash Wednesday. If your name begins with

- Letters A - E bring a salad**
- Letters F - R bring main dish**
- Letters S - Z bring dessert**

Lenten Devotions — 7:15 PM

Rend Your Hearts
 Surrendering to His Sacrifice

April 6, Sacrifice of Self Will
 April 13, Sacrifice of Pride

Holy Week/Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 17
 7:30 AM, 8:45 AM, 11:00 AM

April 21, 7:00 PM
Maunday Thursday Worship

April 22, 7:00 PM
Good Friday Worship

Easter Sunday
April 24
7:00 AM, 8:45 AM, 11:00 AM
8:00 — 10:45 AM

Easter Breakfast served by
Holy Cross Youth



Holy Cross Lutheran
 7707 North Market Avenue
 North Canton, OH 44721

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Holy Cross Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered, friendly, mission-minded, Bible-based community of believers who strive to carry out ministry with integrity and excellence.

Sunday Mornings At Holy Cross

7:30 AM Liturgy of Praise
 Traditional Worship

8:45 AM Majestic Praise
 Blended Worship

10:00 AM Sunday School, Youth Bible Class,
 and Adult Bible Class Hour

11:00 AM Expressions of Praise
 Contemporary Worship

Richard "Kip" Smith, Senior Pastor

Ralph Hough
 Associate Pastor for Outreach and Discipleship

Ted Voss, Pastor Emeritus

Mrs. Ellyn Dillon
 Worship Ministries Coordinator

Mr. Steve James
 Audio/Visual Tech Coordinator

Mrs. Lorin Zuppe
 Director of Youth Ministries & Children's Ministry

Mrs. Sarah O'Briskie
 Assistant Director of Children's Ministry

Mrs. Judy O'Briskie, Office Manager
 Marie Erb, Soul Accounting Secretary
 Karen Slaggy, Visitation Coordinator
 Mr. Richard Reed, Property Manager

Mrs. Marjorie James
 Holy Cross School Administrator



**May Newsletter
 Deadline
 Sunday, April 17**

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