



# Holy Cross Connections

## Upcoming Events:

**Vacation Bible School**  
**August 5 – 9**  
**6:00 PM – 8:30 PM**

**Classic Car Show**  
**September 14**  
**3:00 PM – 6:30 PM**  
**(Rain date, September 15)**

## Inside this issue:

ALPHA News!	2
Men's Bible Study	2
Young At Heart	2
Practicing Hospitality	2
Holy Cross Crafters	3
Youth/National Gathering	3
Ministry Tree	4
Preschool Positions	4
Living Discipleship	4
Ladies Retreat	4
School Ministry News	5
VBS Registration Form	6
VBS Staff Needs	7

Holy Cross Connections

July 2013



## The Curse of Affluence ...

is such an easy curse to fall under. People have been doing it for thousands of years. God, out of fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of our own, blesses us with material wealth. So what do we do? We become so preoccupied with our enjoyment of God's blessings that we forget all about God Who gave these blessings to us.

Moses warned the children of Israel of this in his final instructions to them before they entered the Promised Land. "Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God..." He tells them in Deuteronomy, chapter 8. Then he proceeds to warn them that forsaking God in pursuit of greed, false gods and worldly pleasures will surely lead Israel's destruction.

Israel forgot about God. They arrogantly began to think that their prosperity was of their own doing. They sloughed off God's commands and worshipped and served their "stuff," rather than their Savior. The rest is history, repeated over and over and over again, to the devastation of everyone who has fallen into the same trap.

Beware! Stocks are up. Unemployment is coming down. Houses are starting to sell. Consumer confidence is climbing. Guess what? Church attendance is declining. Why? We have some more money than we did a couple years ago. We can take some more trips, enjoy some more weekend getaways with this extra cash. After all, 'God is good.' 'Life is good.' Before we know it, our worship life is gone.

Ask yourself, "If God is giving me all of this wonderful health, wealth and weather as a test of my faithfulness to Him, how am I doing? Am I passing the test or is my faith failing? Am I maintaining my spiritual disciplines or am I forming some slothful habits that I need to correct? What is the Holy Spirit nudging me to do in response to my reading this article?"

Heavenly Father, thank You for all the blessings that You lavish upon me every day. Give me the faith, wisdom and discernment not to allow Your temporary and material blessings to sever me from the eternal, spiritual blessings that come from growing closer to You in my Lord Jesus Christ on a daily basis. All praise, honor and glory to You, Lord God, forever and ever. Amen!

Pastor Kip

## ALPHA News!

Well, it is planned and we are getting everything ready in the Fall for a fantastic time of bringing Jesus to those who have questions about the Christian faith. ALPHA is designed as a non-threatening way to teach about Jesus and Christianity. It's a pre-Living Discipleship class.



We meet once a week in the evening, share a meal, watch a video and discuss what we see! It's that simple! What you can do to help us is pray about this and be mindful of someone you know who may benefit from ALPHA and give them a brochure that describes what will take place. You can do this and help us in ways that pay eternal dividends for that someone the Lord has placed on your heart. Pick up brochures in either north or south Narthex's.

If you want to know more about ALPHA call Ron Akins (330-966-7711) or Karl Schulze (330-494-2425)

## Young At Heart

Please join the Young at Heart for an afternoon of food and fellowship. We will meet at the church at 11:30 AM on July 9 to travel to Leno's at Oakwood Square where we will enjoy lunch. Then on to the Beech Creek Butterfly House and Garden, located near Alliance.

Beech Creek Butterfly House & Gardens is a place where many native Ohio butterflies, moths, and skippers call their home. We will stroll down the garden paths and discover stages of the butterflies, moths, and skippers life cycles. There are gardens surrounding the Butterfly House which includes a Sensory Garden, where visitors can touch, smell, hear, and experience plants that stimulate the senses. The facility is handicap accessible.



Please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board.

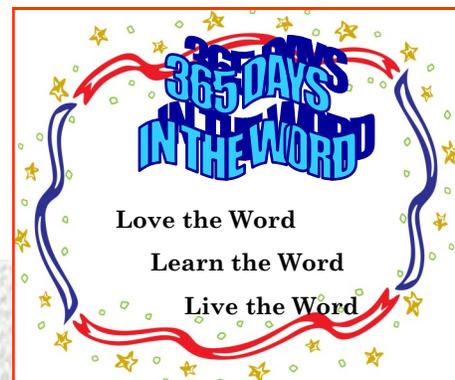
## Saturday Men's Bible Study

We have begun looking at LHM men's study: He Who Dies With the Most Toys Still Dies! This study will last through July. Don't forget breakfast on July 13! We meet every Saturday from 7:30 - 9 AM. All are welcome!

## Practicing Hospitality

Be on the Lookout! August 4, Pastor Ralph's S.H.A.P.E. class will end and we will begin Practicing Hospitality (a Lutheran hour ministry resource). We will learn what it means to be welcomers who have our guests best interest in mind.

By the way, "What does church look like to the guest when guests come to visit?" Great question! We will learn what it means to leave a good impression and how following up with them can keep them coming for Christ-filling worship, fellowship and service to our Lord Jesus! We meet in room A-1 — right next to the coffee room!



## Holy Cross Crafters

Join us in blessing our shut-ins! Holy Cross crafters will be meeting on Tuesday, July 16 at 7 PM in room M-6. The purpose of the crafters is to make cards for the shut-ins. All the materials will be supplied by Sherry Lemke as well as instructions on how to do the evening's project. Bring \$2 and a pair of scissors.

## Holy Cross Youth Goings On ...

Summer Sunday School runs through the end of August. All Youth will be together with yours truly at the youth house for classes and servant projects all summer. It will be really fun! Graduating 5<sup>th</sup> graders (going into 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the Fall) will stay with Children's Ministry until the new school year. Blessings on your summer!

Lorin Zuppe

The 65th Regular Synod Convention



**The National Convention of the Synod** shall afford an opportunity for worship, nurture, fellowship and the communication of vital information. It is the principal legislative assembly, which amends the Constitution and Bylaws, considers and takes action on reports and overtures, and handles appropriate appeals. It establishes general positions and policies of the Synod, provides overall program direction and priorities, and evaluates all such positions, programs, policies, directions, and priorities in order to provide responsible service for and on behalf of its members.

**Pastor Ralph will be in attendance July 20-25, 2013 in St. Louis, MO.**

## National Gathering San Antonio 2013 Update!

San Antonio here we come! We take off from Cleveland Hopkins Monday, July 1 at 8:39 AM, arriving in San Antonio (after a short layover in Houston where we will bide our time playing Ninja I'm sure) @ 12:30 PM. We check into our hotel in downtown San Antonio Market Square, get settled in and go register at the Convention Center where we will receive our Bibles, backpacks and other supplies for the week, grab some dinner then head over to the Alamodome for the Gathering opening!

Go to <http://www.lcmgathering.com/Index.asp?PageID=14143> for the gathering schedule and follow Holy Cross on Twitter and Facebook for tweets and postings live from the Gathering via our youth (hopefully they will remember)! We will be keeping quite busy with mass events & worship (all 25,000 of us Lutherans together in the Alamodome), Bible studies, servant events in the city, interest centers & various speakers at the convention center along with Christian concerts, sight-seeing, going to a working ranch, river boat cruise and more! It will be an *amazing* trip! Please keep our participants in your prayers for a life and faith strengthening experience!

Follow us on twitter and facebook

*Thank you so much, our Holy Cross family, for supporting our youth and the faith-filled trip and experience of their high school years! Love in Christ from our Gathering participants and their families: Jim, Robyn, Sydney, Zach Booth, Denise & Zach Berry, Madi Carper, Ashley Dinger, Clayton Evans, Sam Hankins, Joe Howard, Jimmy & Lauren O'Leary, Lauren Penvose, Hannah Rackov, Erika Stewart, Colin & Emma Svatos, Roland Swiger, Taylor Ulik, Emily & Patty Wallace, & the Zuppe clan!*

## July/August Ministry Tree

We are currently collecting girls and boys socks and underwear for our McGregor children along with Vacation Bible School snack donations and school supplies on the Giving Tree (now renamed Ministry Tree). Thank you for your generous support and blessing these children!

## Preschool Positions Available

Staff Openings in the Preschool for the coming school year:

- Teacher's Aide for Toddler-3 year old class
- Teacher's Aide for Pre-Kindergarten (old 4's/young 5's)

Job Requirements: Must love the Lord, must have at least a high school diploma, must love children. If you or someone you know would be interested, please have them call Marjorie James at 330-494-6478.

## Living Discipleship — A Great Class

It's called "Living Discipleship". It's a very practical and insightful study of what we believe as Lutheran Christians. **It's adult instruction for those wishing to join our church**

AND

**It's for present members who want to grow in God's grace and knowledge!**

Beginning Sunday evening, **September 8<sup>th</sup> from**

**7:00 – 9:15 PM.**

It's 15 weeks of great learning and fellowship! It's being taught by Pastor Kip. It is such a good class, he wishes he could take credit for it!

Please call the church office at 499-3307 to register so we can have your materials ready.

Childcare provided.



Everybody knows that "Cleveland Rocks!" but now that Lutheran Hour Ministries' Regional Outreach Conference is coming, Cleveland "ROCs!" This power-packed outreach conference brings you inspiring presentations, hands-on outreach projects, awesome worship music, and loads of practical tools that will transform the way you live as a witness and how you think about outreach!

**Would you like to go? August 9-10** — more info on bulletin board in "A" hallway to sign up or go to [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)

## Bible Quiz

During Israel's 40-year sojourn in the desert, where did the Lord turn bitter water sweet so the people could drink it?

- A. Egypt
- B. Mt. Sinai
- C. Canaan
- D. Marah



Answer: D (See Exodus 15:23-25)

## Ladies Retreat

Ladies! Reserve the weekend of November 15-17 for a long-awaited women's retreat! The weekend will be at Camp Mowana in Mansfield. The setting and facilities are perfect! We will leave Friday afternoon and return early Sunday afternoon, following a special worship together at the site! Expected cost is under \$100 including all meals! Young and old will totally enjoy and benefit from this time together as women of faith!

Contact Vonnie LaRue for additional information. Hope you can join us!

## School Mission and Ministry News

The school year has ended with tearful good-byes to children (and families) moving on to kindergarten or first grade. Our prayer is similar to the prayer Jesus prayed for all believers in John 17:21-26. We can't stand the thought that even one of these precious children could be lost forever. Thank you for your generous contributions to purchase Bibles for the children. If you could have seen the looks on their faces and the reverence with which they handled the Word of God, you would have been touched just as we were. We were able to cover the cost of all of the Bibles.

Under the direction of Barb Hardin, the Link group gave a luncheon for the Staff on May 24. This was our opportunity to meet and thank our secret prayer partners. All year long, a note or card would come from a secret friend and we would once again realize that we are never alone. We are being upheld and helped by Almighty God. Special thanks, Barb, to you and all your prayer warriors. We could not do this without God's help.

The Staff and I were surprised one day in May as we sat eating lunch in the lunch room to hear a loud crash. We ran outside to see what had happened, and saw that a van had been driven into the building at the preschool end. The driver thought she had put on her brake but had instead compressed the gas pedal to the floor. Thankfully, no one was hurt. The van requires extensive repair. The damage to the building is not readily apparent from the outside, but is a different story on the inside. The force of the impact was taken by the wall that separates the school secretary's office and the administrator's office, with most of the damage being done in the secretary's office. The south

door was shifted enough so that ¼" had to be shaved off to allow it to be closed and locked. The driver's insurance will cover the cost of repairs. An estimate has been received from Pavlis and insurance has given permission to proceed with repairs. We are praying the wall will be rebuilt before kindergarten starts on August 21.

The Early Childhood Administrator's Conference of the Ohio District of the LCMS was held here at Holy Cross on June 11 and 12. We used the north narthex as our meeting area and enjoyed a delicious dinner that night in the café, catered by Roger Stewart from his restaurant, The Bistro in Green.



The administrators couldn't quit commenting on the wonderful facilities. The narthex was light and spacious. The café and wall of windows made the area beautiful as well as functional. They even commented on the bathrooms! Joel Maze took care of our audio-visual needs; hospitality was taken care of by Barb Hardin and the Link Group. After dinner, I introduced Barb and the ladies seated with her, I told the other administrators about all the wonderful things the Link Group does for the school and for the church. They requested a write up how the Link Group came into being along with a description of all the things the group does. Other schools would like to get a group like this started. Gordon Stuckert, retiring Superintendent of Schools for the Ohio District,

reminded me again how blessed we are here at Holy Cross. Thank you, Barb and thank you to everyone else who helped.

We receive many wonderful notes from parents when their time with us comes to an end. I wanted to share one of the most beautiful letters we have ever received with you this month.

"To the Staff of Holy Cross, I can't believe I will not be bringing a child to Holy Cross next Fall. After 6 years it has become part of my routine. You are all just amazing. I wish I could remember if someone recommended Holy Cross to me because I feel I owe them a huge 'thank you.' Holy Cross has been such a blessing in the early years of my 3 children. I really can't thank you enough! My mom was a private school teacher so I know that all of you are underpaid. But, my mom always said she just felt that was where God wanted her. Well, I thank God that He continues to put teachers like you at schools like Holy Cross. Yes, I thank you for teaching my children their ABC's, how to share and how to be a friend; but most of all; I thank you for teaching them that Jesus is their friend and that He loves them. I smile every time (my son) tells people that he believes in God and that God wants him to tell others about Him. Thank you! The entire family is better for knowing the Holy Cross family over the past 6 years! God bless you all!"

We are here to make disciples, and we are blessed to be a blessing. With God's help we will continue in this important ministry to our Lord and King.

Marjorie James, Administrator

**COME *KEEP IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT* AT “GOTTA MOVE!”  
 HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!**

**August 5-9 6:00 PM — 8:30 PM**



**REGISTRATION FORM**

(ONE PER CHILD)

Child's Name:	
Child's age:	
Date of Birth:	
School grade going into this Fall or preschool age:	
Name of parent(s):	
Street address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Home phone:	
Parent/caregiver's cell phone:	
Home email address:	
Home church:	

	
Allergies or other medical conditions:	
In case of emergency, contact:	
Phone:	
Relationship to child:	

**We hope you join us for a jamming time with Jesus and bring friends!**

Holy Cross Lutheran Church 7707 Market Ave. N. North Canton, 44721 (330) 499-3307  
[www.holycrossnorthcanton.com](http://www.holycrossnorthcanton.com)

**Upcoming Events:**

**Vacation Bible School**  
August 5 – 9  
6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

**Classic Car Show**  
September 14  
3:00 PM – 6:30 PM  
(Rain date, September 15)



**This is what happens to naughty children.  
(Cedar Point)**

---

## VBS 2013 is coming! Spread the Word!



Join us August 5-9 from 6-8:30 p.m. for GoFish Guys' GOTTA MOVE Vacation Bible school! We are now accepting volunteers for our Elementary and Preschool staff to help in the following areas:

Crew Leaders/Guides	Snacks	Games
Bible Leaders	Crafts	Music/Karaoke/Dance Time
Openings/Closings/Tech	Decorating	Set-Up & Clean-up

You name it, we need your help with it! Please prayerfully consider joining our staff this summer to reach lots of little hearts and keep in step with the Spirit! Please see the VBS display to sign up and contact Christi Ludwig (preschool staff) or Lorin Zuppe (elementary staff) for more information! Staff meeting will be held after late service on Sunday, July 21. Thank you!

---

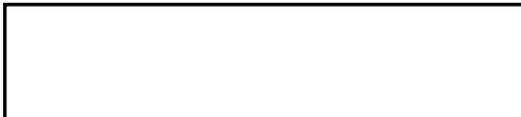


Proposed Address for Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
P A I D  
Canton, OH  
Permit No. 123

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**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*

8:00 AM Liturgy of Praise  
Traditional Worship

8:45 AM Majestic Praise  
Blended Worship

8:45 AM Adult Bible Class

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

11:00 AM Expressions of Praise  
Contemporary Worship

Richard "Kip" Smith, Senior Pastor

Ralph Hough, Associate Pastor

Ted Voss, Pastor Emeritus

Mr. Joel Maze, Audio/Visual Tech Coordinator

Mrs. Lorin Zuppe

Director of Youth Ministries & Children's Ministry

Mrs. Christi Ludwig

Assistant Director of Children's Ministry

Mrs. Judy O'Briskie, Office Manager

Mrs. Katie Stiver, Soul Accounting Secretary

Mrs. Rose Ann Crowder, Visitation Coordinator

Mrs. Diane Diehl, Stephen Ministry

Mr. Richard Reed, Property Manager

Mrs. Marjorie James

Holy Cross School Administrator

**August Newsletter  
Deadline**

**Sunday, July 21**

Office Phone 330-499-3307 Office FAX 330-499-2319

Preschool 330-494-6478

[www.HolyCrossNorthCanton.com](http://www.HolyCrossNorthCanton.com)

e-mail [info@holycrossnorthcanton.com](mailto:info@holycrossnorthcanton.com)

DVDs of Sunday  
worship services are  
on the counter in  
the north and south  
hallways. Audio is  
on the website.