



# Holy Cross Connections

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June 2014

**Upcoming Events:**

**Vacation Bible School**  
**August 4 - 8**  
**6 to 8 PM**

**Classic Car Show**  
**September 13**  
**3 - 6 PM**

## Summer's Comings and Goings

I have always found saying "hello" to new friends much more fun than saying "good-bye" to old ones. One looks forward with excitement and anticipation; the other grieves the end of what was. We at Holy Cross are going to have the opportunity to do both this summer. Let me list our goings and comings in chronological order. First, **we will honor Judy O'Briskie on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, during worship and our fellowship hour.** After 22 years as our church secretary, Judy has chosen to join her husband, Bill, in full-time retirement. Thank you, Judy, for all you have done for us. Judy is not leaving Holy Cross, but she is saying good-bye to her office computer.

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Second, **Lee Zacharias and his wife, Vicki, will both come on board on Monday, June 2. Lee, of course, is our new Music Director** and we are getting him sooner than we first anticipated as he was able to wrap his obligations to his former church sooner than he has anticipated. **Vicki will be our new office manager.** She has been a church secretary for many years, serving in two different congregations. She knows the job well, loves serving people and comes with great references. They will be transferring their membership to Holy Cross and coming 'back home.' Lee served in our music ministry for a short time prior to my coming to North Canton.

Third, **we must say good-bye to Hunter and Elizabeth on Sunday, June 29,** during the Sunday School hour. It is hard to believe that they have already been with us 11 months and it is already time to send them back to St. Louis for Hunter's last year of seminary. He has grown a great deal since they came to us. And we have grown to love them both. We will miss them. And a year from now, a congregation somewhere within the LC-MS will be blessed to receive them as their new Pastor and his wife. While we are not going to formally give the Richards a financial going away gift, individuals wishing to give them such a gift to help offset their living expenses while back at the seminary next year, are welcome to do so. **We will miss you...and your little one!** (See announcement regarding a baby shower).

Fourth, our new **Vicar, Mark Gearing, and his wife, Jennifer, and baby, Ezra,** will be arriving in North Canton sometime early in July. Mark has finals for his summer classes on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. We have told him he needs to be here by Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, so he can participate in our VBS program at McGregor Elementary School which begins on Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. So let's plan on giving the Gearings a great big, warm welcome among us on Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, complete with a church picnic behind the youth house after 11 o'clock worship. Mark's letter of acceptance and a short biography can be found on the next page. (See announcement regarding a pantry shower.)

Of course, the one constant is that our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, continues to be with all of us always. May He bless all of our comings and goings from this day forward and forevermore. Amen.

Your brother in Jesus,  
 Pastor Kip

## Acceptance Letter from Vicar Mark Gearig

**Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Holy Cross Lutheran Church:**

**Greetings and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I hope all is well with you all. I am so thankful that God has given me the opportunity to serve your congregation this year and that He has chosen to work through you to help form me for the pastoral ministry.**

**I would like to formally accept my vicarage assignment at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in North Canton, Ohio. We are very excited to be coming back to Ohio and even more so to be joining in your ministry. I'm sure the look on my face at the vicarage service was one of surprise when they announced where we were going, for although we had requested to be relatively close to home, we did not think we would be in Ohio. I was definitely filled with anticipation the rest of the vicarage service as I waited to open my envelope and read all about Holy Cross. I am very excited to get involved in and learn from the many wonderful ministries you all are carrying out as God's church. I have read and heard only good things about your congregation and I look forward to being able to serve and to learn in there this coming year.**

**As I said above, this move will be a move back to Ohio for Jen and me as both of us are from small rural towns west of Toledo. I am from Wauseon and Jen is from Archbold. Jen and I have been married for two and half years, and we just recently had our first child, Ezra Charles Gearig, on April 16, 2014. Our move to Ohio will probably be Ezra's first trip there. Before coming to the seminary I taught high school science for three years at a small rural school just west of Toledo, where I also coached track and field. Coaching track is definitely one of my passions that I have missed while I have been at the seminary. Jen has been working as a physical therapist assistant for ten years and has been working in several different hospitals for the SSM healthcare group while here in Saint Louis.**

**Once again, I thank God that he has chosen the leaders and people of Holy Cross to aid in my formation for the pastoral ministry and that he has given me the opportunity to serve Him and his people through this experience. I pray that God would continue to guide and bless you in your ministry as the community of believers of Holy Cross Lutheran Church. I pray also that he would work through me in this coming year to faithfully serve along with you in this ministry to His glory.**

**In Christ,**

**Mark Gearig**

## Holy Cross Youth Goings On ...

Happy Summer! We have SO much fun waiting for us! June 1 begins Youth Summer Sunday School with all grades combined doing fun lessons and projects (beginning with Grace Unplugged) with Lorin (Mama Zuppe!)

The ALIVE Festival is June 18-21 with our group most likely going for the day on Saturday the 21.

Sign-ups coming! Details on [www.alive.org](http://www.alive.org)!

Wednesday, June 4 is our annual CEDAR POINT trip! Car seating is limited so you MUST sign up quickly — 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> seated in a car! Cost is \$37/each.

Thursday(s), June 5 & 19 is UrbanArk night in Canton.

Volunteer Staff sign-ups for McGregor VBS being held July 8-10 from 9:30-12:30 will be this month as well-be on the look-out for more information!

**Blessings on your month!**

## Ladies Book Discussion

June 9, 7:00 PM

Sandy Wood is hostess and leader for discussion of "*A Voice in the Wind*," by Francine Rivers. If you need directions, call Sandy at 877-0664.

Synopsis:

*A Voice in the Wind* (1993) is a novel by Francine Rivers, and the first book in the Mark of the Lion Series.



It is the story of a young Christian-Jewish slave named Hadassah living under the Roman Empire. When Hadassah is captured by Roman soldiers, her entire family is killed. She serves as a slave to a spoiled young Roman woman named Julia. Although Julia initially dislikes Hadassah because of her plain appearance, she comes to trust her. Hadassah is faithful and kind but afraid of many things. As the story progresses, she gains the courage to tell others about her faith and the God that she serves. Meanwhile, she struggles with her love for Julia's older brother, Marcus, thinking it's a trick from Satan to lead her away from God. All he wants is for her to love him the same as he loves her, but she struggles with a choice, remain close to God or fall for a man who will lead her on a dark road away from him. As she struggles to remain close to God, her hard life and difficult challenges are just beginning to the extent she is thrown to the lions.

The story goes into many different side characters, such as the young gladiator Atretes, who --as well as the main characters-- are all searching for peace and purpose but unable to find it in the world of pleasures Rome has to offer. Throughout the entire novel, Hadassah's Christian faith (kept a secret for fear of death) is continually challenged and evolved, helping her overcome the harsher aspects as life as a slave in the Roman Empire.

## Young at Heart

Tuesday, June 10 at 11:15 AM

We will meet at 11:15 AM to carpool to Hartville Kitchen to enjoy a delicious meal. After lunch, you may choose your form of entertainment — either we can go miniature golfing or go shopping at the Hartville Collectables. Come and bring a friend to share the day with us. Sign up on the sheet provided just outside room A3.



## Ladies Night Out

June 10, 7:00 PM

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, June 10. Come for an evening of fellowship and laughter. Hosts: Katie Cavalier-Swogger 330-806-3204 and Vonnie LaRue 330-896-2395. Please bring an appetizer OR your favorite grape vintage.



See you at 7:00 PM!

## Holy Cross Crafters

June 17, 7:00 PM

The Holy Cross Crafters will continue to meet during the summer months on the 3rd Tuesday evening of each month. The meeting this month will be on June 16 at 7:00 PM in Room M-6. Barbara Sautters will supply materials and guide us in the making of three cards, one for our shut-ins and two others for personal ministry. No experience in crafting cards is needed as we all help one another work through our projects. Please bring scissors and \$2.00 to defray the cost of postage and materials.

## As discussed at the November's Voters Meeting ...

We received a wonderful undesignated gift from Janet Johnescu's estate, and we wanted to make sure everyone was aware of how those funds ultimately got distributed.

- Endowment Fund \$60,000
- Answering His Call \$68,000
- 3-Year offset to Coordinator of Worship Ministries Fund \$58,735
- Special Event Celebrations Fund \$5,317
  - Haiti Support \$2,755
  - Senior Youth Gathering \$2,000

Bryan Comune/Chairman Vision & Leadership Board

## Congratulations

### Vicar Hunter & Elizabeth



Our Vicar, Hunter, and Elizabeth are expecting their first child this December. We want to shower them with gifts before they head back to the seminary in July. All the ladies of Holy Cross are invited to attend a shower for them on Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM in the Cafe. This will be a potluck, so bring a SMALL salad or dessert to share.

Elizabeth is registered at Babies R Us, but keep in mind that everything you give to them has to be shipped back to St. Louis somehow. Car/van space is at a premium! Gift cards are highly encouraged. If you still feel compelled to give a gift, please include \$3 to \$5 in cash so that we can mail their gifts to them in August. Please R.S.V.P. to Marjorie James or Katie Stiver so we know how many tables/chairs to set up.

## Stephen Ministry meets the needs of people.

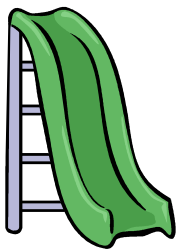


- ◆ The hospitalized
- ◆ The terminally ill
- ◆ The bereaved
- ◆ The elderly
- ◆ The disabled
- ◆ Those in job crisis
- ◆ The lonely and depressed
- ◆ Those in marriage crisis
- ◆ Those in spiritual crisis

If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders: Diane Diehl, (330) 491-1402; Judy Forsythe, (330) 494-7532; Rosemarie Millin (330) 966-9365; Joe Wonsettler, (330) 834-0365; or Pastor Kip Smith at (330) 499-3307, ext. 108. Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

## Holy Cross Playground

Holy Cross Lutheran Church is blessed with a wonderful outside playground. The children of Holy Cross and the neighborhood children are welcome to play on the playground whenever preschool is not in session.



Holy Cross Preschool, Kindergarten and Child Care is regulated by the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services. There is a regulation they must follow that says that during hours of operation, the playground is only for the use of the children attending the school on any given day. This is for the protection of the children to make sure that all adults on the playground have the required background checks on file, that all children are under the direct control and supervision of center employees, and that required adult/child ratios are maintained at all times. Any time the children of Holy Cross Preschool are not on the playground, the public, and of course our members are welcome to use it.

Evenings and weekends are always safe times to bring your children. Please be patient with us if you have your children on the playground and we ask you to leave. While the school is in session, that space must be directly accessible to the children per state regulation.

## School Ministry News

The Staff finds it hard to say good-bye to children and families who have been part of our lives for years. We pray that, through our efforts, the Holy Spirit has planted the seeds of faith in these children and He will nurture that faith and help it continue to grow. That is the reason we present all of our children leaving, the four & five-year-old class, and children who were new to our program in Pre-K and Kindergarten with a children's Bible. Thank you for your contributions to make this possible. They were extremely excited to receive a Bible of their very own to read and to treasure! They know that this book is "God's love letter" to them and couldn't wait to take their Bibles home to share with their family and friends!

The two & three-year-old children talked about mommies and daddies and learned that God loves them even more than their parents do. They made a special gift for Mother's Day. They learned about Noah and all the animals on the ark. Separation anxiety, toilet training, learning to share time and space with others, following directions and routines, the use of new materials and equipment and expressing wants and needs in appropriate ways have played a major role in learning within the two-year-olds. (Mrs. Anne Hankins, Ms. Kelli Picot and Mrs. Deanna Maze)

For Mother's Day, the three & four-year-old children made flower pots with flowers for their Moms! They worked hard to learn their phone numbers. During Bible time, they learned about



Timothy and how God gave them families to teach about His love. They also learned about the Holy Spirit and how He lives in all who believe in Jesus! The year ended with a picnic and visit to their new classrooms. (Mrs. Janet Eagon and Mrs. Patty Wallace)

The children in the four & five-year-old class began the month learning about the letter V. What excitement when Mrs. Hockman set off a volcano! For W the children played in water, made a worm and a weather cloud. For X they made an x-ray and a spy book called "See Inside With X-Ray Eyes". Next came the letters Y and Z. As the children played with the zoo animals in the sensory table, they talked about how God made each of the animals different, and that God gave people the job of caring for the animals He made. (Mrs. Teri Hockman, Mrs. Tiffany Clay and Ms. Leslie Martin)



The Pre-K class finished up their six-week imaginary trip around the world. As they learned words and tasted typical foods from each place they "visited" they talked about cultural similarities and differences, how God is always with them, and how people everywhere need to learn about Jesus. They ended with a discussion of rain and rainbows. The children learned that the rainbow is a reminder of a special promise from Genesis 9:12-13. The class also committed to memory simple Bible verses. They were challenged to share the verses and the many Bible Time songs they know about Jesus with others. (Ms. Leslie Martin &

Mrs. Cristina Maze)

Mrs. Linsky is so proud of how much the children have learned and grown and will miss them so much. The children are able to write sentences and their reading proficiency grows with each passing day. The children learned how to add and subtract. They learned the hard truth that living things die. Five of the seven quail eggs hatched. Two died in the first couple of days. At the end of the school year, the three remaining quail will be given to a woman who raises birds. The children took a trip to Rolling Ridge Ranch in Millersburg. They laughed as the animals slobbered on them and took the buckets of feed out of their hands. They were able to hold baby ducks and rabbits and touch a baby camel and a Brahma cow. They ended the school year learning about oceans and animals living in the water. Graduation day rolled around, complete with cap and gown. We pray they will continue to walk with Jesus. (Mrs. Angie Linsky)



Our summer program will be beginning soon. As much as the Staff might like the summer off, our child-care families still need us. Please pray for a fun and safe summer for the children and Staff. Please remember the school as you do your spring-cleaning. New and use toys are always appreciated.

In His Grace, Marjorie James,  
Administrator

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**Vacation Bible School  
August 4 - 8  
6 to 8 PM**

**Classic Car Show  
September 13  
3 - 6 PM**



**Faithful servants, Tyler and Judy move on to new horizons. Thank you to our Holy Cross family for supporting us in our ministries.**

## **Summer Sunday School**

Summer is here! During the summer, we give our regular Sunday School teachers a well-deserved break. So — we are looking for volunteers to help teach during the summer months. We are asking for a 2-week commitment with easy-to-follow— lesson plans provided. You may even pick the age group you prefer. Please sign up today on the bulletin board in the “B” hallway across from the Fellowship Hall.

### **McGregor Elementary presents Literacy on the Lawn 2014**

June 3, 10, 17, and 24

Picnic begins at 11:30 AM (—1:30 PM)

Volunteers of all ages are needed for cooking/serving and helping with crafts. This is a wonderful opportunity to build up excitement for VBS at McGregor in July!

Please sign up on the sheet you will find on the table in the North Welcome Center or check with Pastor Ralph for further information.



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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*

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. R. Lee Zacharias  
 Worship Ministries Coordinator

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

Mrs. Christi Ludwig  
 Assistant Director of Children's Ministry

Mrs. Vicki Zacharias, Office Manager  
 Mrs. Katie Stiver, Soul Accounting Secretary

Mr. Joel Maze, Technical Coordinator  
 Mrs. Rose Ann Crowder, Visitation Coordinator

Mrs. Diane Diehl, Stephen Ministry  
 Mr. Richard Reed, Property Manager

Mrs. Marjorie James



**July Newsletter  
 Deadline  
 Sunday, June 15**

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