



# Holy Cross Connections



## Upcoming Events:

May 17 at 7:00 PM  
Confirmation Night

September 13  
Classic Car Show

Holy Cross Connections

May 2013

## Thank You, Thank You, and Thank You!

My May article is one of three-fold thanks giving! **First and foremost, I ask you to join with me in thanks to God, our heavenly Father, for the gift of Jesus Christ** – His perfect life in our place, His innocent suffering and death in our place and His glorious resurrection by which He has secured us a place with Him in heaven for eternity. **Thank You, dear Jesus**, for your steadfast obedience to the Father when You knew full well it meant Your suffering and dying in punishment for our sins. Never has there been such love! And **thank You, Holy Spirit**, for bringing people into our lives who brought the love of Jesus into our lives, so that You could create saving faith in Jesus in our hearts! Thank You, God!!!

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Second, I want to **thank you, people of God here at Holy Cross**. You stepped up in many marvelous ways during this Lenten/Easter Season. From the soup suppers to the special altar decorum, the altar committee and the greeters, **you did a bang-up job**. You special ensemble and choir folks, you never cease to amaze us with your dedication and praise to the Lord through music. **The Hallelujah Chorus brought chills to us all!** What about the children's choir and the bells! Way to go! And I don't think anybody does **hospitality** any better than the folks who always have goodies laid out for us on Sunday mornings.

**Special thanks to those of you who invited guests**. 38 registered visitors, 6 of whom were first timers joined us on Maundy Thursday. 63 visitors registered Good Friday, 12 of whom were here for the first time. We had 184 registered visitors on Easter Sunday; 22 were here for the first time. Praise God! It just goes to show that when you are excited about Jesus and you ask people to come and see what you are excited about, they will come. **Great job inviting!** Keep it up!

Finally, I share **two thank you letters sent to you from Cap Haitian**. The first one is from Pastor Bernard. The second one was from a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student for whom you provided a school desk and a daily lunch. I want you to know that you are making a difference in the lives of your Lutheran sisters and brothers in Northern Haiti. I pray that as you read them, you can hear Jesus saying to you, "Thank you! What you did for my Haitian brothers you have done for Me."

So thank you. Thank you. And thank you from Haiti. Let me close with the Apostle Paul's last thoughts at the end of his great chapter on Christ's resurrection from the dead. **"My dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (I Cor. 15:58).**

Pastor Kip

## Letters From Haiti

Cap Haitien, April 9, 2014

To Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Good day,

My name is Romeus Rolanie Severe. It is a great day for me to mix my voice with the voice of every grade in our school, particularly grade 6, along with the school office to thank the team that has been working since Saturday.

When school opened in October 2013, many students did not have a place to sit. Many of us had to get another chair because writing was so difficult. Today, every child has a chair to sit. Bravo and bravo again.

Bravo not only from us, but Jesus deserves a bigger applause and acknowledgement. Pastor Gergens told us that this is the same church that gave us food. We did have a bad time in January because we had nothing to eat at school. But when you heard the news, you spent no time to send food to us. One thing we can say, if it were not for God's love, you would not have recognized our need in this difficult time.

We know it is not easy for you to come here from so far away. Never discourage this because we are the future of this country. Some of us have big dreams: Doctor, engineer, agriculturist, registered nurse, senator or even president. Today's children are tomorrow's adults. We cannot repay you but God will reward it.

Cap-Haitian April 14, 2014

Hello Pastor Kip, my dear brother in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ !

I am so happy to write you this note in order to send you and all the members of the team : Lora, Vonnie, Tchad, Ken and LaRue a warm greeting on behalf of all the saints of the Evangelical Lutheran Churches of the Northern district. Those from Dondon who for the first time had the privilege to receive a medical team, send you a special greeting and thank you.

The team has made a wonderful job there but unfortunately there were too many people who would like to have access with medical care that it was not possible for us to see all of them. As we see how great are needs there I believe when you come on October at least one or two days will be dedicated to them, will see.

My dearest friend, let me in just few words express my happiness to you all for what the team had accomplished during his time here for that trip. It was one of the most effective among many others because every time you bring a team here something really special is accomplished. Two things made this team a special one : The medical team went to Dondon that was a big event and then you the americans were working side by side with the Haitian workers by building pews for our schools.

It was a very sad and tough situation to deal with having so many children attending our schools and do not have benches for them to sit. We give thanks to God for using each one of you who come to help directly and physically but also we want to thank in general all the saints of Holy Cross who could'nt come but support the team and the project by their prayers and financial supports.

Through your generosity and love my friends, pews for our schools are not anymore a challenge. The Haitian workers continue to work hard to completely finish with the rest of benches and the few small tables for the small sections.

Once again, thank you very so much to all of you who came and to all of you who in different ways support the Lord's ministry in the Northern district of the ELCH ( Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti).

In His name, Rev. Eliona Bernard!

## Youth in Christ Goings On ...

Save the date! **Saturday, May 3** will be our dual “Girls of Grace” and Youth Boys “Dudes of Devotion” **Retreats!** This will be for all youth 8<sup>th</sup> grade and up. (A good initiation into Sr. Youth, don'tcha think?)

The boys will meet at Holy Cross at noon to go paintballing with Hunter & posse and be back at the vicarage afterwards. Please bring a snack and drink to share along with money for food at the paintball facility. Please let us know if you can help drive, dads!

Girls will meet at the Target Plaza on Dressler Road at 4 PM and be on the move to SkyMaxx, dinner at Ci-Ci's and my house! Please bring money for food and a snack/drink to share for later. Drivers are more than needed for this as well, moms! Please RSVP ASAP for these retreats. You will not want to miss them and friends are more than welcome as long as we have enough transportation!

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation** will be **Saturday, May 17 at 7 PM — Sunday, May 18 at the 11:00 AM service!** Please pray for our Confirmands and their families as they publically confess their faith in Christ! God's richest blessings as they continue on into Holy Cross Senior Youth in their walk with our Lord!

Ethan Burns, Kevin Connors, Sarah Crowder, Shawn Dinger, Matthew Elsfelder, Grace Earles,  
Zach Garver-Geller, Cord Haubert, Robert Jamison, Kaleb Ludwig, Adam Pirie, David Watson,  
Andrew Wharmby, Kevin Zuppe

## Ladies Book Discussion

This month, we will be discussing, “*The Light Between Oceans*,” by M. L. Stedman. We will meet at the Youth House at 7:00 PM on May 12. Vonnie LaRue and Michelle Rivard will lead the discussion.

Here is a short synopsis of the book:



This novel takes place in Australia, 1926. After four harrowing years fighting on the Western Front, Tom Sherbourne returns home to take a job as the lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock, nearly half a day's journey from the coast. To this isolated island, where the supply boat comes once a season and shore leaves are granted every other year at best, Tom brings a young, bold, and loving wife, Isabel. Years later, after two miscarriages and one stillbirth, the grieving Isabel hears a baby's cries on the wind. A boat has washed up onshore carrying a dead man and a living baby.

Tom, whose records as a lighthouse keeper are meticulous and whose moral principles have withstood a horrific war, wants to report the man and infant immediately. But Isabel has taken the tiny baby to her breast. Against Tom's judgment, they claim her as their own and name her Lucy. When she is two, Tom and Isabel return to the mainland and are reminded that there are other people in the world. Their choice has devastated one of them.

M. L. Stedman's mesmerizing, beautifully written debut novel seduces us into accommodating Isabel's decision to keep this "gift from God." And we are swept into a story about extraordinarily compelling characters seeking to find their North Star in a world where there is no right answer, where justice for one person is another's tragic loss.

## Holy Cross Confirmation



Whew! What a fast two years since the 2014 Confirmation class began Living Discipleship with a Bible survey to start in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The classes get better and better each year with much thanks to the Sunday and Midweek school teachers who work very hard (and with much joy) to equip our young folk in their Christian walk. Big kudos goes to Lorin Zuppe who, with much prayer, keeps the Jr. Youth going and growing in their faith. This year's Confirmation Family Night is on Saturday, May 17 with the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, May 18. You are welcome to hear the Confirmands' testimonies on Saturday night at 7 PM and share in the reception afterwards. This year we will be confirming 14 youth who will move up into the Senior Youth ranks. Give God thanks for these, the future of our Lord's church!

## Holy Cross Crafters

May 20 at 7:00 PM

The Holy Cross crafters have been making some fun and beautiful cards for our shut-ins as well as for their own personal use. The leaders so appreciate those who faithfully help in this ministry as it truly does minister to those who receive them. The number of people to whom we send the cards has grown and additional help would be appreciated.

No experience is necessary. Please bring a pair of scissors and \$2 to defray the cost.

Sherrie Lemke will be leading us this month.

## Saturday Men's Bible Study

We begin a new series looking at **What is the Difference Between Lutherans and Church Bodies.** How do our views differ from theirs and from where do we get our doctrine and how do we understand the Bible? This is intended to show our common beliefs and where Christians differ in faith and in practice. All are welcome ... 7:30 may be too early, but rejoice — by 9 AM you have the rest of the day with your family! Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday we have a breakfast!

We take a collection for the purchase and distribution of Thanksgiving turkeys for Urban Ark.



## Trip to Greece, 2015

11-Day Walk in the Footsteps of Paul

Including 7-Night Greek Isles Cruise

Including special visits to: Athens, Corinth, Thessaloniki, Veria, Philippi, Istanbul, Pergamum, Ephesus, Patmos, Mars Hill and more ... (with an optional Rome, Italy Extension based on 15+ travelers)

**Hosted by: Pastor Kip and Lora Smith**

**Travel Dates: October 28 — November 7, 2015**

**\$4,345.00 from Cleveland, OH**

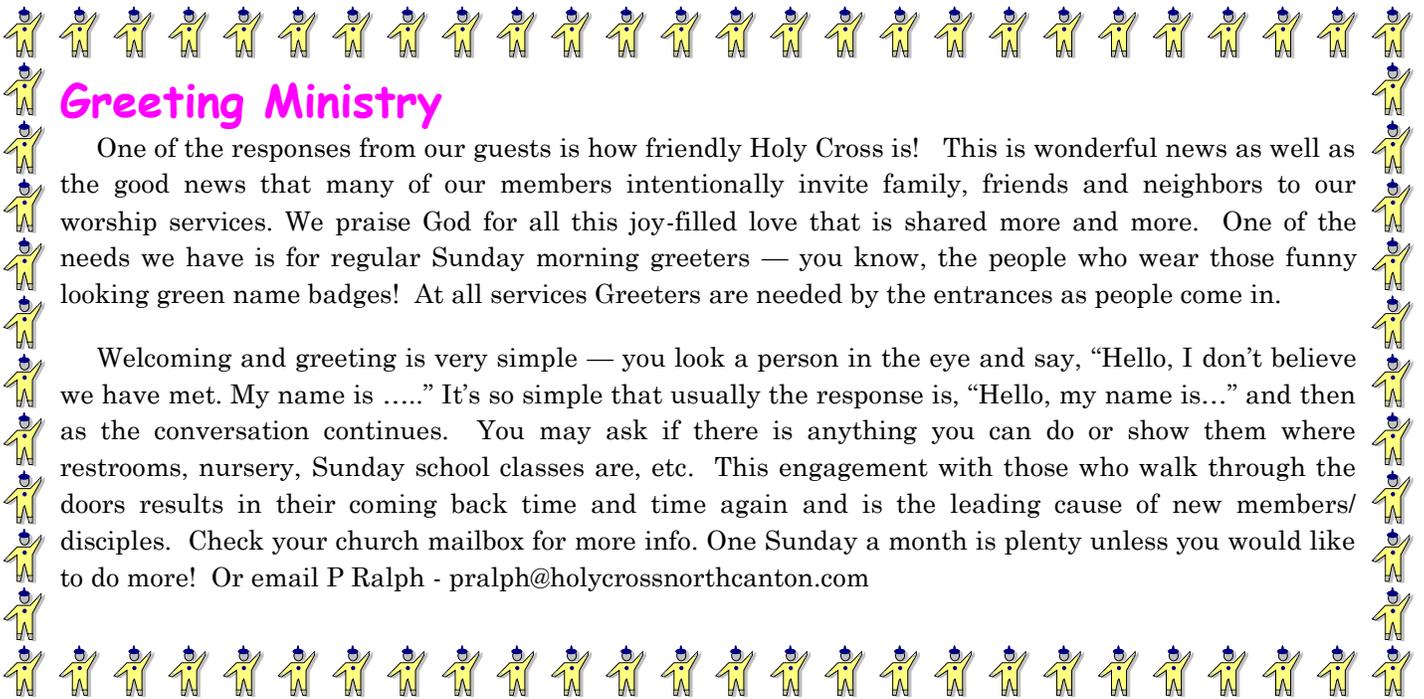
*(Price includes \$697 US & International departure taxes/fuel & \$120 gratuities.)*

## Wednesday Men's Bible Study

We continue to go through 1 Corinthians, Paul's letter to the church that has everything! Much has been gleaned for our good as we begin to finish this book and move on to another book of the Bible. All are welcome. We meet from 9:30 to 11 AM in room M-4!

## Have You Noticed?

The Friendship Pads in the north and south Sanctuary are always stocked with paper, envelopes, and prayer request cards. [THANK YOU Jinny Powell, Marty Myers, and Harry & Harriett Miller](#) for your dedicated behind-the-scenes work to keep things running smoothly.



## Greeting Ministry

One of the responses from our guests is how friendly Holy Cross is! This is wonderful news as well as the good news that many of our members intentionally invite family, friends and neighbors to our worship services. We praise God for all this joy-filled love that is shared more and more. One of the needs we have is for regular Sunday morning greeters — you know, the people who wear those funny looking green name badges! At all services Greeters are needed by the entrances as people come in.

Welcoming and greeting is very simple — you look a person in the eye and say, “Hello, I don’t believe we have met. My name is ….” It’s so simple that usually the response is, “Hello, my name is…” and then as the conversation continues. You may ask if there is anything you can do or show them where restrooms, nursery, Sunday school classes are, etc. This engagement with those who walk through the doors results in their coming back time and time again and is the leading cause of new members/disciples. Check your church mailbox for more info. One Sunday a month is plenty unless you would like to do more! Or email P Ralph - pralph@holycrossnorthcanton.com

## Outreach News

**Outreach News** - While there has not been much discussion, there are plans being made for the annual Classic Car Show on September 13.

Sponsor packets are ready for distribution so we can go ahead and get our sponsors on board. Any business that you do business with can be approached to donate either “goody bag” promo items for the drivers or door prizes for our guests. Last year we had 84 door prizes and close to 140 drivers/cars.

Email Pastor Ralph to receive sponsor packets and get your favorite business to support this free community event.

More will be forthcoming in August about signing up! Much thanks!

[pralph@holycrossnorthcanton.com](mailto:pralph@holycrossnorthcanton.com)



## Graduating in 2014?

**People graduating from high school college, or from a higher education program ... please let the church office know by note, e-mail, or phone call to 499-3307 so your Holy Cross family can praise God and rejoice with you.**

## Psalms for Life

As we study the Psalms on Sunday morning we are learning much about God’s interaction with us and how we, in faith, respond to God. The Psalter is considered the songbook of the Old Testament in which God’s provision past, present and future are clearly laid out for His children. You are welcome to come check it out. There is usually lively discussion as we recognize God’s saving work in our lives and give Him thanks for all He does. We meet in room A-1 at 10AM.

## Tidbits of Information —

24% of the people who attended church on Easter were not members!!! So far this year, 137 people are first-time guests to Holy Cross. Keep those church invitations coming!

## School Mission and Ministry News



Enrollment is progressing very well for next year. If you know of anyone looking for preschool or child care, please have them call.

Once again, we will be giving children's Bibles to our preschool and kindergarten "graduates." Thank you in advance for those Bibles. We see these Bibles as a way of extending the good work God has begun in the lives of His children. God has promised that His Word does not go forth in vain. God's Word is powerful and will work salvation as the Holy Spirit continues to nurture the seeds we have planted.

The two and three year old class spent the month of April celebrating King Jesus and His triumphant entry into Jerusalem. They enjoyed shouting and singing "Hosanna" to our King. They learned that some people wanted to hurt Jesus and put Him on a cross to kill him. That made many people sad. But we are not sad any longer. The children traded their palm branches for musical instruments during Holy week and celebrated "Jesus is Alive". He rose and lives in Heaven, and because He loves them He has a special place for them there too. They ended the month learning about God's 5<sup>th</sup> day of Creation. (Mrs. Anne Hankins, Ms. Kelli Picot & Mrs. Deanna Maze)

The three & four-year-old class is learning about Spring and Easter. They talked about the things we see every day that can remind them of Easter. Eggs remind them of the tomb.

Bunnies and chicks remind them of new life. White Easter lilies remind them of being washed clean from our sins. They had fun sharing pictures of their pets during pet week and played "pet vet" while taking great care of all the stuffed animals. The children continued to work on their number books and focused on letters U, V, W, & X. During Bible time, and learning about Easter, they had a parade and shouted "Hosanna" while waving palm branches. They thanked God for sending Jesus to save them from their sins. (Mrs. Janet Eagon & Mrs. Patty Wallace)

April was full of exciting lessons in the four-year-old/Pre-Kindergarten class. The children decorated their classroom with colorful rainbows for the letter "R," made Robbie the Robot, and a book full of "R" words. Then for the letter "S," they made beautiful Suns, a Sunflower book, and planted pumpkin seeds. The most important lesson this month centered on the true Easter story and how Jesus loves them so much He willingly went to the cross, died, was put into a tomb, and then rose again on Easter morning. The children also learned that they are to share the love of Jesus with everyone! Next came Transportation week for the letter T. (Mrs. Teri Hockman, & Mrs. Tiffany Clay)

Pre-Kindergarteners started the month by embarking on their "imaginary" trip around the world. After "packing" their suitcases, they "flew" to Alaska

where they "dropped in" on Vicar Hunter who told the children about his home state. Hawaii, Canada, and Australia followed. During Holy Week, the class learned how Jesus saved us by giving up His life and rising again so that we might have eternal life. The children are learning that God is everywhere and people in every nation need to learn about Him. (Ms. Leslie Martin & Mrs. Cristina Davis)

April saw the end of the Kindergarten travels to all 50 states. They have been studying how things grow. A guest speaker visited to educate them on the three R's: of recycling: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. In Math they discovered different ways to measure objects, but learned that inches or feet are measurements people have agreed to use. The children are reading more and more and their teacher is so proud of these little "super readers"!! Quail eggs have arrived and are in the classroom incubator. The class hopes to hatch 7 eggs and are praying that the chicks will be healthy. April has included lots of talk about what Jesus did for us. Our incredible God came down to earth to die for us. The good news is that He didn't stay dead. HE IS RISEN!!! (Mrs. Angie Linsky)

As you go about your spring cleaning, please keep the school in mind. We are always in need of good new and used toys.

In Christ,

Marjorie James, Administrator

**Upcoming Events:**

**May 17 at 7:00 PM  
Confirmation Night**

**September 13  
Classic Car Show**



**Thankful and happy Haitien children.**

**Thank You Holy Cross.**

***Stephen Ministers are trained to be:***

*Compassionate and confidential at all times*

*Helpful in allowing you to resolve your own situation.*

*Respectful for who you are.*

*Interested in all aspects of your life.*

*Sharing, caring, and loving listeners.*

*Trustful in God to sustain and guide you through it all.*



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.

**Stephen Ministry: Jesus Christ caring for people through people.**



During the Summer months, our regular Sunday School teachers take a break from teaching. Please prayerfully consider signing up to help during Summer Sunday School. It is a 2-week commitment with easy-to-follow lesson plans provided.

You can also pick the age group you feel most comfortable teaching.

Please contact Christi Ludwig at 330-704-4084.



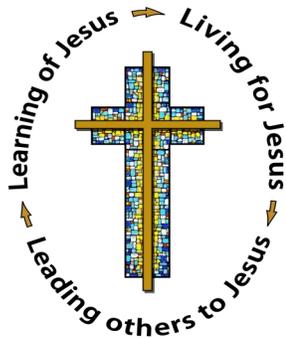
**REMEMBER ALL WHO SERVE(D)  
THEIR COUNTRY. THANK YOU.**



Holy Cross Lutheran  
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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

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  
 Mr. Joel Maze, Technical Coordinator  
 Mrs. Rose Ann Crowder, Visitation Coordinator  
 Mrs. Diane Diehl, Stephen Ministry  
 Mr. Richard Reed, Property Manager

Mrs. Marjorie James  
 Holy Cross School Administrator



**June Newsletter  
 Deadline  
 Sunday, May 18**

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