



The *HOLY CROSS WORD*

Words of news, information, humor and inspiration from Holy Cross

JULY/AUGUST 2015

"Share the Hope"

VOL. LVIII, NO. 11/12

WISMAR'S WISDOM

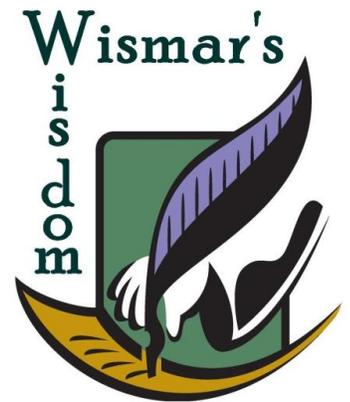
Join our journeys through key teachings of the Catechism and Bible

Dear Members and Friends of Holy Cross,

I'd like to invite you to join me on **two special journeys** taking place here at Holy Cross – one that has just recently begun and will be continuing throughout the summer and a second that will begin in September and continue on till mid-May 2016.

First journey first: From now until the end of August each week during Sunday worship my messages will be focusing in on the basic teachings of the Christian faith as found in Martin Luther's Small Catechism. As Christians, we are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ – to grow more and more each day in the image of our Lord and Savior and become what we have been called to be. As baptized children of God, growing as His child and understanding and living the Christian faith is especially important for us. Thankfully, God makes this kind of growing possible for us. He gives us faith and love for Him so that we want to grow in our knowledge of God and in understanding His will for our life. Thankfully, too, He has given us the means by which growth comes: the Word and the Sacraments, through which the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives. As we use these means, we grow in faith, in knowledge, and in love. The purpose for sharing this summer journey through the Catechism together is to help reacquaint you with some of the basics of your Christian faith and to help you grow as a baptized child of God and a member of His family, the church.

Journey No. 2: An eight-month walk together through the entirety of Scripture. Beginning on Sunday, September 6, and continuing on until Sunday, May 8, 2016, we will be journeying together through the incredible plan God has for the world and its people – His eternal love story. Knowledge of the Bible is often rather fragmentary, and too few people understand the exciting adventure of a complete study of the Bible from cover to cover. One of the things that deters many people from a thorough journey through the Scriptures is, *first*, the sheer size of the Bible. *Second*, people often find it difficult to relate the various parts of Scripture, and to see how this collection of books, written over a long period of time, develops one story, one unified message. *Third*, those who approach the Bible with very little knowledge of ancient history have difficulty in reading sections in their proper setting.



Our journey together through the Scriptures will help overcome these difficulties. Above all, its intention is to help you see that the Bible – this great library of books – is still **one book in which a merciful God has revealed His gracious plan for your salvation**. There are many themes running through the Bible, but the one great feature that stands out is God's control of history as He leads His people to that point where they find their hopes and their identity in **JESUS CHRIST**. **He is the key for God's divine plan for us** – the bridegroom in His eternal love story (and of course, we are the bride!).

I hope you will be able to join us for each of these two journeys in their entirety and I look forward to seeing you each Sunday for worship – the time when God comes to us and lavishes us with His precious gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. **See you in worship!**

In Christ,

Pastor Wismar

P.S. Please stay tuned and keep your ears open – there will be a lot more to come about our journey through the Bible together in the weeks ahead!



Saturday, July 4 – Independence Day
(Please note: The Office and Preschool will be closed on Friday, July 3)

Tuesday, July 7
5:00 p.m. – Holy Cross serves Community Supper
at St. John's Episcopal-Bridgeport

Thursday, July 9
7:00 p.m. – Board of Directors' meeting

Tuesday, August 4
5:00 p.m. – Holy Cross serves Community Supper
at St. John's Episcopal-Bridgeport

Monday-Friday, August 10-14
9:00 a.m. – Vacation Bible School

Thursday, August 13
7:00 p.m. – Board of Directors' meeting

Sunday, September 6
10:30 a.m. – Sunday School Meet & Greet; Parent/Adult Bible Class Orientation

Monday, September 7 – Labor Day
(NO WORSHIP SERVICE; OFFICE AND PRESCHOOL CLOSED)

Sunday, September 13
8:00 and 10:30 a.m. – Two-service Worship schedule begins
9:15 a.m. – Sunday School and Adult Bible classes resume



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

5995 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

Office Phone: 203-268-4555; Pastor's Study Phone: 203-268-7555
Church Office E-mail: holycrss@mindspring.com FAX: 203-268-5499
Website: www.holocrosstrumbull.org

Christian Preschool Phone: 203-268-6471 E-mail: mglennonhccp@mindspring.com

Worship Services – Sunday: 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. (beginning Sept. 13);
First and Third Monday of the month: 7:00 p.m.

SPECIAL WORSHIP NOTE FOR THE SUMMER:
Sundays, from May 24 through Labor Day weekend: 9:00 a.m.

PASTOR: Eric A. Wismar
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Michael J. Gilbertson
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' PRESIDENT: Kerry Geffert
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' VICE-PRESIDENT: Michele Van Wart
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SECRETARY: Jeannie Mones
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' TREASURER: Greg Dowling
NEWSLETTER MANAGING EDITOR: Cliff Schrock
NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION: Mary Schrock



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Holy Cross congregation is to carry out the Great Commission of our Lord (Matthew 28:18-20). We will share the love and forgiveness of Our Lord Jesus Christ with one another, our community and the whole world so that we can take part in the joyous privilege of "making disciples of all nations" through the power of the preaching and teaching the Word of God, administering His Sacraments, and joining together in service fellowship according to the confessional standard of the Lutheran Church (Article III).



For Our Readers:
The Holy Cross Word
is best viewed in its
full-color format
at the church website,
holycrosstrumbull.org

Like
Holy Cross on
Facebook!



After you "Like" us, you'll
see postings of upcoming
events, pictures from events
and other notices.



THE MEANING OF LIFE
Thought-provoking words
from Mark Twain

"The two most important days in
your life are the day you are born
and the day you find out why."

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NEWSLETTER NOTES

Our next deadline is...

The next issue of The Holy Cross
Word is the September edition.
The deadline for articles is
Saturday

August 15.

Please turn

in your article(s)

to the newsletter

mailbox, located outside the church
office, or send them via e-mail to:

holycrss@mindspring.com.



Unless you have a lengthy article,
we encourage you to use the
"Information Form," located in a
box on the narthex table. You may
use this form to submit details for
upcoming events, the "We Are
Family" and "Thank You" columns,
and other short items. After filling
it out (please sign your name), put
it in the newsletter mailbox.

GRADUATION

Best wishes to two Holy Cross members who graduated from college in May

Cheers to Eric Boivie and Nicole Ciccica and the college class of 2015! Listed below is information they provided when we issued requests for graduates to fill out a "Graduate Information" form, detailing their degree information and future plans. Eric and Nicole, your church family is proud of your achievement and we wish good fortune, blessings and happiness with your future plans.



Eric Boivie

Son of Rick and Kathy Boivie, Eric graduated from the University of Connecticut, with a Bachelor of Science degree. He will be employed as a Computer Scientist for the U.S. Government.

Nicole Ciccica

Daughter of Joseph and Cindy Ciccica, Nicole earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Stonehill College in Easton, Mass. Nicole's future plan is to head to grad school at Mass College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences to become a Physician Assistant.

COVENANT TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

Back-to school project kicks off on the second Sunday of July

The annual collection of backpacks and school supplies for Covenant to Care for Children will get underway on July 12. The DCF social worker that Holy Cross supports, Mimose Ulysses-Laurenard, currently has 26 school-aged children in her caseload and we will provide each one with a backpack filled with enough school supplies to get them through the 2015-16 school year.

For the past few years I have noticed that many stores begin their sales for backpack and school supplies within the first two weeks of July, and continuing through August. As you look through the sale circulars for Target, Staples, Walmart,



Walgreens, etc., keep in mind that we are looking for donations of all the typical supplies – backpacks, loose-leaf notebook paper, binders, pocket folders, spiral notebooks, composition journals, 24-count crayons, colored pencils, glue sticks, black ink pens, pencil cases, markers...and this list goes on! The display board with three-by-five "shopping cards" will be in the narthex on July 12. If you wish to make a donation of a backpack and or school supplies, just take the appropriate "shopping cards" from the poster and return your donation by August 9. If you are unable to shop but would like to make a monetary

donation for this project, you may make a check out to Holy Cross Lutheran, and write "Cov to Care" in the memo section. Monetary donations may be put in the Covenant to Care mailbox (*bottom row, far right*).

Thank you in advance for your very loving response to help our church's adopted social worker as she works with children of all ages who are unfortunately removed from their home and placed into the DCF system.

Yours in Christ,
---MARY SCHROCK
Covenant to Care Liaison



**May this time in God's presence strengthen our faith,
that we might leave eager to serve and glorify God.**

WORSHIP REMINDERS

Our 9 a.m. one-service Sunday Worship continues through
the Sunday of Labor Day weekend (Sept. 6).

Monday Evening Worship (7 p.m.) in July: July 6 and July 20

Monday Evening Worship (7 p.m.) in August: August 3 and August 17

At the July 20 and August 3 services we will celebrate Holy Communion

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

New England District Convention: Holy Cross' presence was felt

Last month I had the privilege of attending the LCMS New England District Convention alongside Pastor Wismar. Some quick background – this convention is held every three years in advance of the big triennial LCMS Convention. The purpose of the convention is to hear reports, elect officers and leaders, and decide on financial, strategic and theological matters that have been raised by congregations or other entities within the New England District. And, of course, to give thanks and worship.

It is in the spirit of worship that the convention kicked off with a communion service. We were honored to have as our preacher, LCMS President Matt Harrison, a dynamic speaker. But for me, the most inspiring part was the sound of a sanctuary full of clergy and lay leaders (granted, a mostly male congregation) belting out *A Mighty Fortress*. It gave me chills.

Following the service, President Harrison held a Q&A session. The discussion was at times sobering – declining memberships and giving, and assaults on LCMS stances on right-to-life and same-sex marriage. But there are also positives – fellowship agreements with Lutheran bodies in Africa and Eastern Europe, significant growth in our mission efforts, and the opening of the Wittenberg, Germany, conference center.

The “meat” of the next day-and-a-half was spent on resolutions, elections and reports. Some resolutions were a breeze; others involved amendments and debate leading to some close votes. It was a parliamentarian's dream. Two hot topics – finances (the push-pull between regional and synod-wide efforts) and communion (how to be welcoming while adhering to doctrine).

My biggest “take-away,” though, is how blessed we are in the New England District. Our leadership is exemplary in their vision, humility and compassion. We have ordained and commissioned ministers who believe in their calling. That's not to say I always agree with all of them, but I certainly do not doubt the strength of their conviction. They have been there to guide and support us in the face of traumatic events that few other districts have had to confront, dealing with their own emotions all the while providing the comfort of God's love in the face of great sorrow.

Finally, the convention would not be complete without celebration. In this vein, Holy Cross was well-represented. Our own Pastor Wismar was ratified as one of seven district Circuit Visitors. We commemorated the service anniversaries of Pastor Witschy (ordained, 30-34 years) and JoAnne Meyer (commissioned, 55-59 years!), as well as the call to glory of Judie Froehlich (commissioned). And Holy Cross “alumnus,” the Rev. Steve Bartell, was awarded the prestigious St. Martin of Tours Medal for exceptionally meritorious service in support of LCMS ministry to the Armed Forces. Don't know Rev. Bartell? Ask a “long-timer.” Holy Cross is a strong congregation because of its shepherds and its members – past, present and future. Including you!

In His Service,
---KERRY GEFFERT
Holy Cross President



*And lo,
I am with you
ALWAYS...*
--Matthew 28:20

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL **AT HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN**

Join us for a week of crafts, Bible adventures, stories, music and outdoor fun!

August 10-14, from 9 a.m. to Noon

Grades K-5 (grade entering in Sept. 2015)

Registration is ongoing until filled.

(forms are on the narthex table)

Any questions, please leave a message for Kimberly Atkinson at the church office, 203-268-7555.



COMMUNITY SUPPER

Serve the Lord by serving the needy a welcome meal at one of our next two dates, July 7 and August 4

"Beary" sat on the Community Supper table enjoying a bowl of peaches on June 2. A young boy had entered the church hall with a beanie baby named Beary on his shoulder. Then he arranged Beary to look about to devour the peaches. Earlier, meals were prepared by Lorraine Finch, Helen Harper, Gail Rice and Barbara White. Later, Anna Mae Berger arrived and poured juice, while Mary Schrock and Jim Leslie, who arrived around 4:30, carved four hams. Finally, Cindy and Nicole Ciccio, Kerry Geffert, Saviden Semon and Pastor Wismar arrived to serve the 101 meals.



Holy Cross is responsible for buying the food, preparing and serving the meal on the first Tuesday of the month at St. John's Episcopal. The next two community suppers for which Holy Cross is responsible for cooking and serving are on Tuesdays, July 7 and August 4. Sign-up sheets will be on the narthex table for each month, a few weeks prior to the cooking/serving date. If you can volunteer your time, please put your name on the sheet(s).

---DAVID and MARY ANN SCHILLER



WORDS TO LIVE BY

**Words by Charles M. Schulz,
creator of "Peanuts" comics**

"Life is like a ten-speed bicycle. Most of us have gears we never use."

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Save the date!
**Breakfast
and Artists**
Saturday, November 7



Save the Date!

Holy Cross will be working with Lifetouch to produce a church family album. Mark your calendar for Friday and Saturday, October 2 and 3. Watch for future announcements for signing up to have a family portrait taken. We hope to have 100 percent of our families participating!

IN THE MAILBAG

From Anita Beer

Dear Friends at Holy Cross,

Many thanks for all the prayers, visits, flowers, food, cards, notes, cute cartoons, etc., that I received after my fall in February. I truly appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness. I am well on my way to recovery and will hopefully complete my physical therapy in the near future.

Thank you so much again!!!

Peace,

---ANITA BEER



Share the Hope Fund for Parsonage Renovations

*In memory of George and Mildred Stromp,
Donna DiLalla's parents
Gary and Donna DiLalla*

OUR FLOCK

Christian caring and praying at Holy Cross

This is the Shepherds' Commission's "FYI" column letting our members know for whom we have prayed during our recent worship services. Please continue to remember these people in your prayers.

We remember our members: **Anita Beer**, who broke her hip and is recovering from surgery—prayers for a healthy recovery; **Carol Burns**, going through physical therapy following hip-replacement surgery; **Ron Dietman**, recovering at home from quadruple-bypass surgery, with prayers for a healthy recovery; **JoAnne Meyer**; **Tim Morris**, for continued healing as he recovers from sinus surgery; **Audrey Paray**, prayers for continued healing; **Barbara Schneider**, for a complete recovery from her recent surgery; **Anita Schoch**, recovering from heart-valve replacement surgery; **Bob Solaz**; the homebound: **Kay Dubin**, **Emma Fengler** and **Harvey Pomerenk**.

We prayed for our family and friends: **Amy Alfano**, daughter of a friend of Audrey Paray, who has Stage 3 ovarian cancer; **Robert Butler**, Laura Dowling's father, hospitalized and going through tests after experiencing two seizures; **Linda Desabella**, friend of Patty Peterson, battling cancer; **Dorothy DeVed**, former Holy Cross member, for healing following a fall in which she injured her knee; **Marti Fischer**, cousin of Carol Burns, who is blind and paralyzed; **Kathy Gardner**, Jim Leslie's sister, recovering from cancer surgery; **Kay Geffert**, Kerry's mother, who fell and broke her hip and is recovering from surgery; **Walter Geffert**, brother of Nancy Sabol, recovering from colon surgery; **Abby Haggerty**, 9-year-old student at Christian Heritage School, recovering from successful brain surgery; **Cindy Keegan**, a teacher at Christian Heritage School, going through chemo to treat pancreatic cancer, prayers of thanksgiving that tests have shown that the chemo is working to shrink the tumors; **Mary Koch**, niece of Ron Froehlich, who has finished her chemo treatments; **Ramona Kondracki**, wife of a co-worker of Jim Leslie, who has begun chemotherapy for cancer in her sinus cavity; **Ellen Magnotta**, friend of Otto and Mary Atkinson; **Jean Matthews**, Chris Matthews' mother-in-law, following open-heart surgery; and **Joan Meyer**, friend of the Dietmans, in rehab following knee-replacement surgery.



During the past month, we also prayed for: **Kylie Middlemass**, Anita Beer's granddaughter, responding well to various therapies as she works through the difficulties of autism; **Gertrude Moran**, friend of Anita Schoch, going through treatments for lymphoma; **Patrick Murphy**, Pat Peterson's brother, diagnosed with liver cancer and recovering from surgery; **Chris O'Brien**, friend of Mary and Otto Atkinson, paralyzed as a result of an accident; **Joseph Parker**, Julianne Nyitrai's father, who underwent triple-bypass surgery; **Max Pizzolato**, for healing; **Luis Rivera**, friend of Doris Bernt, who had a lung transplant; **Sharon Robinson**, daughter of Anita Beer, going through treatment for breast cancer; **Dagmar Rosenberg**, Ingrid Leibold's sister, who has had a relapse of pancreatic cancer and is undergoing more chemotherapy; **Lois Sanders**, daughter of Ron Froehlich, who had breast cancer surgery and has completed chemo treatments; **Joey Senft**, cousin of the Senft family, with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease); **David Sochacki**, friend of Nancy and Jerry Sabol, following brain surgery; **Mike Stachura**, friend of the Schrocks, with a relapse of kidney cancer, for effective radiation treatment to eliminate tumors and cancer cells; **Lorraine Tamas**, neighbor of the Leslies, who suffered a stroke; **Andy Turnbull**, Scott's brother, in remission from leukemia; and **Craig Wilson**, son of a friend of John and Pat Deloge, recovering from tongue cancer surgery.

Other prayers between mid-May and early June were for: Protection for all those serving in the military, including **Michael Collins**; and a prayer of thanksgiving upon the birth of **Ella Lu Sabol**, daughter of Tim and Evelyn Sabol and granddaughter of Nancy and Jerry Sabol.

If your friend or family member is on this list, keep us updated on his or her progress. When you have prayer requests, you can phone or e-mail the church office at 203-268-4555 or holycrss@mindspring.com between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. weekdays for prayers to be included in our worship services, and the Shepherds' Commission will include the requests in this monthly report. If you would like to be included in our e-mail Prayer Circle, please provide your name and e-mail address to the church office.

---GARY MESSERSCHMITT
Shepherd's Commission



If you are looking at this July-August edition of the newsletter online, that means you have seen Holy Cross' new and improved website! If you are reading the paper version, go online to www.holycrosstrumbull.org and see the wonderful changes that have been made to our site. Have fun navigating to the different pages and looking at the pictures. Have any church event photos you'd like to see on the website? Please talk to our head Shepherd, Gary Messerschmitt, or Pastor Wismar. Later this summer be on the alert for new e-mail addresses that will be assigned to Pastor Wismar, the church office and our Preschool Director. These new e-dresses will be announced in Sunday bulletins and the September newsletter.

THRIVENT FINANCIAL

Recognizing the benefits of Holy Cross' relationship with supportive company

The relationship of Thrivent Financial for "Lutherans" (now changed to Christians) with congregations such as Holy Cross and its members has changed greatly as of July 1, 2015. The viability and comparative benefit of this change are yet to be determined, but it is appropriate on this occasion to review and acknowledge the benefits our congregation has received from Thrivent over the years.

The exact amount of funding we have received over the past 30 years or so would be difficult to know exactly, but a thoughtful estimate, including the years when Thrivent was known to us as AAL and LB, could approach if not exceed \$150,000. Just to give only two noticeable examples of scores of projects funded or partially funded by Thrivent over the years would be expenses for our Tuesday Suppers in Bridgeport and construction of the quaint little "house" behind the church used by our preschool. Incidentally, construction was done single-handedly by one of our members, Carl Carlson, and materials paid for by LB. And don't forget the many volunteers who worked the Tuesday Night Suppers as well. Such should give you an idea of the value of Thrivent support over the years and how it enabled our members to be in ministry to the Glory of God.

Note it is not just our Thrivent members who have benefited from this support, but the whole congregation. So a statement of gratitude to our Thrivent members is in order, and an acknowledgement of Thrivent Corporation itself is well deserved. So thank you Thrivent for all you have done for all of us at Holy Cross over the years! May our relationship somehow prosper in the future as well.

---DON MEYER

Thrivent Congregational Advocate

THANKS A BUNCH!

This column recognizes the gifts of time and talent our church members provide to do God's work in our church and community. If you have an item to include in this monthly "thank you" column, please jot it down and put it in the "newsletter" mailbox.

To the Holy Cross members who helped with either shopping, cooking or serving at the June 2 Community Supper at St. John's Episcopal-Bridgeport: **Anna Mae Berger, Cindy and Nicole Ciccia, Lorraine Finch, Kerry Geffert, Jim Leslie, Gail Rice, David and Mary Ann Schiller, Mary Schrock, Barbara White and Pastor Wismar**

To **Linda Suhr** for her weekly commitment to serve as the church office volunteer.

To **Jim and Lorraine Finch** for taking the time to deliver donated food and clothing items to the Summerfield Food Pantry.



PRAYER CIRCLE

In need of prayer? Make one of the following contacts to begin the e-mail prayer circle

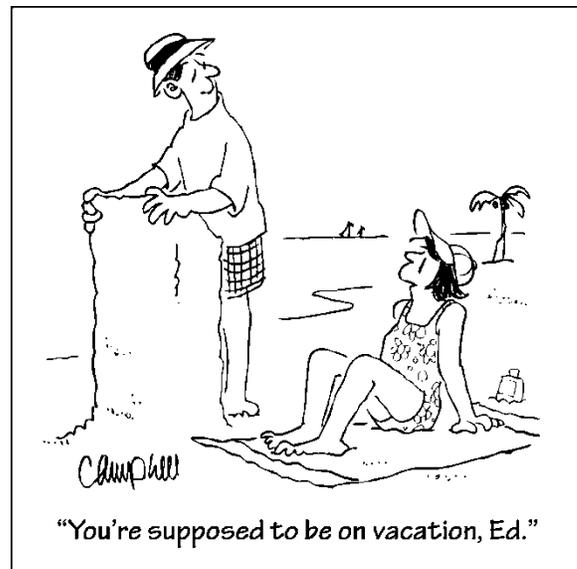
Our Prayer Circle offers an opportunity to unite in prayer with our Holy Cross family beyond our regular worship services. To request a prayer you may make one of the following contacts:



- Between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. weekdays, e-mail or phone the church office: holycrss@mindspring.com or 203-268-4555. Requests received after 2 p.m. (Monday-Friday) will be circulated on the next business day.
- When the office is closed, contact Don Meyer by phone at 203-268-2080 or via e-mail to delsmeyer@sbcglobal.net.

---SHEPHERDS' COMMISSION

CHURCH CHUCKLES



CELEBRATING JULY BIRTHDAYS

JULY 1: KARLI CHIRGWIN
JULY 2: COLIN BURKE
JULY 5: ALLISON MAZABRAS, JUDITH WEBSTER
JULY 6: PENELOPE FERNOUS, ROBERT KRAVECS, JR.
JULY 7: EDITH SKOOG
JULY 8: JUSTIN FANNING
JULY 9: LOGAN DELOGE
JULY 10: KARL DALE
JULY 13: JACOB NYITRAI
JULY 16: MARIE MORRIS
JULY 17: CINDY CICCIA, GUNTHER NAUMANN
JULY 18: GRACE ELY, STEPHANIE LIPTACK,
 AMANDA SJOBLUM
JULY 19: TOM DELOGE
JULY 20: CHARLENE HRON WEIGLE
 LAUREN JANSSEN, JON TESTANI



JULY 21: WILLIAM BECKER
JULY 23: JOELLE SCHROCK
 BILL SKOOG
JULY 27: LORRAINE FINCH
 KEITH JANSSEN
 MICHELE VAN WART
JULY 31: TILLIE JACOBS
 JOHN ROMAN

CELEBRATING AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



Happiest of Days to You!



AUGUST 2: JAMES BELASCO
AUGUST 3: ROBERT SOLAZ
AUGUST 4: ULRICH DANNE
 SPENCER HODGES
AUGUST 5: ASHLEY TESTANI
AUGUST 6: ADELAIDE FERNOUS
 PASTOR WISMAR
AUGUST 8: RACHEL DENNERLEIN
AUGUST 11: JULIA ANTONIOU
 DAISY BENSON
 JACKIE DALE
AUGUST 12: WENDY BOGLE
 KRISTINE LIPTACK
AUGUST 13: PETER HARRIS
AUGUST 15: JUDITH CHIRGWIN
AUGUST 18: DONNA DiLALLA

AUGUST 19: TIM MORRIS
AUGUST 21: TIM BENSON, JR.
 KIMBERLEY FERRO
 DAVID SCHILLER
AUGUST 23: KAREN ROHLEDER
AUGUST 24: NATALIE BENSON
AUGUST 25: PAUL VAITKUS
AUGUST 26: JACK BAILLIE
AUGUST 27: SAMI SEDERQUEST
AUGUST 28: ASHLEY GOMES
 ERIC BOIVIE
AUGUST 30: LIZ ALESEVICH
 CARL MAZABRAS
 GRETCHEN SATHER
AUGUST 31: DEBBIE RICCIO