



THE CRUSADER

DECEMBER 16, 2025

Ephesians 4:32 ESV - "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

Calendar of Events

- Wed. 12/17** K-8 Hot Lunch - Southern Belle's
6:00 PM Potato Bar & Chicken Nuggets Dinner Served
6:30 PM Children's/Youth/Adult Ministry
- Thurs. 12/18** K-8 Hot Lunch - Southern Belle's
2:00 PM 1st-4th Christmas Program
7:00 PM 1st-4th Christmas Program
- Fri. 12/19** PS - 8th NOON DISMISSAL
NO PM CROSS CARES
- Sun. 12/21** 8:00 AM Traditional Service
9:30 AM/11:00 AM Contemporary Service
9:30 AM Children's/Youth/Adult Ministry
- Mon. 12/22 - Mon. 1/5 NO SCHOOL**
- Wed. 12/24** 2:00 PM/4:00 PM Contemporary
Christmas Eve Service
7:00 PM/11:00 PM Traditional
Christmas Eve Service
- Thurs. 12/25** 10:00 AM Traditional Christmas Day Service
- Sun. 12/28** 8:00 AM/9:30 AM Traditional Service
NO Children's/Youth/Adult Ministry
- Sun. 1/4** 8:00 AM Traditional Service
9:30 AM/11:00 AM Contemporary Service
NO Children's/Youth/Adult Ministry

Looking Ahead

Friday, December 19th - NOON DISMISSAL
NO PM CROSS CARES
Monday, December 22nd through Monday, January 5th
NO SCHOOL, SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED

LOST & FOUND

Please check the table and coat rack by the office as it is overflowing and full of winter gear!

**PLEASE NOTE: All items not picked up by
Christmas break will be donated.**

STAFF FAVORITES

If you are looking for gift ideas for your child's teacher or other staff members, here is the link to view the document:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1u9cm-8SzgANojttwLHmFc8tiLBksDjpbglnfKbhj1g4/edit?usp=sharing>

1st-4th Grade Christmas Program

Thursday, December 18th @ 2PM & 7PM



School Christmas Programs

1st-4th Grade - 7:00 PM - Return in the evening

Dress: Nicer clothing, Christmas outfits are fine - No sweatshirts or graphic T-shirts please! Please stay away from HEAVY and thick sweaters that may cause students to overheat.

CHURCH DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 -

The school entrance doors will NOT be open.

An adult or older sibling needs to walk a student to their classroom to wait there.

Students should report to their classrooms between 6:30-6:45. No later than 6:45 please!!



All School Christmas Collection For Called to Care

Brand New Books and Toys for All Ages

Ages birth - 18 years old

All toys accepted, except please
no nerf guns or toy guns.

Items will be accepted till Friday, 12/19.

Thank you for blessing foster kids during this holiday season!

K-8 Hot Lunch Information

K-8 Hot Lunch Ordering is now available online for January through **Thursday, December 18th until 3PM** for each student in Kindergarten through 8th grade. Please login to the FACTS Family Portal to complete the ordering process.

Lunch Program and Absence

If your child is absent on a day that you have purchased a lunch for them at school, you are welcome to come pick it up after 12:30pm. This gives our volunteers time to organize the multiple deliveries received. Please note: You must call the office by 10:30AM to say that you will be getting it.

THERE ARE NO REFUNDS.

Walk with God

Love our Neighbor

Grow in Faith Together



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8th Grade Hot Lunch Fundraiser - January

The 8th graders will provide pizza on Fridays in January as a part of their class trip fundraiser. This is available for all extended/full day preschoolers, as well as K-8th students.

Parents can order and pay through the link: [January Hot Lunch Pizza](#)

Orders must be placed by **Friday, December 19th at 11:45pm.**

SCHOOL CHAPEL OFFERINGS

Thank you for your generosity for a total of **\$1,689.84!**
We are excited to support Called to Care, a local Christian organization, helping to support children and their foster families in the name of Jesus!

6TH GRADE NEWS - MRS. GALLOWAY

As we near Christmas break and the end of the first half of the school year, our 6th graders have much to be proud of. These students have officially settled into life as middle schoolers, from navigating the "big kid hallway" to transitioning between several teachers each day. What once felt new and intimidating now feels routine.

In English class, our 6th graders recently wrapped up a fun and meaningful project: peer biographies. Each student interviewed a classmate and crafted a written biography to share with the class. This project helped students sharpen their writing skills and strengthened our classroom community. Along with biographies, students recently wrote descriptive writing pieces. Each student chose a Christmas-themed object, and used vivid language and sensory details to bring their object to life.

As Christmas approaches, we have been discussing the season of Advent in religion class. We are focusing on remembering the true meaning of Christmas and keeping Jesus at the center.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

Bitty Basketball is Back – Bigger and Better!

We are excited to announce that Bitty Basketball is returning this winter/spring! This program is open to 4 year olds through 4th grade.

Important Dates:

Registration opens: Friday, January 16th (online registration link will be emailed and posted on the school website)

Registration closes: Thursday, February 12th (we need this deadline to order shirts and form teams in time)

First practice: Tuesday, February 24th

Practices: Tuesdays & Thursdays

Games: Saturdays

Price: \$35

Exact time slots and gym locations will be shared once teams are formed.

This year, we have an exciting goal: to run 3 vs. 3 games for at least our Preschool and Kindergarten players, and possibly extend 3v3 play to 1st and 2nd grade if we have enough volunteer coaches.

Why 3v3? Playing 3-on-3 is perfect for our youngest athletes! Every child gets way more touches on the ball, makes quicker decisions, and stays actively involved the entire game. With fewer players on the court, kids learn spacing, dribbling, passing, and basic defense in a fun, low-pressure setting. The result? Rapid skill growth, big confidence boosts, and a lot more smiles!

We Need YOUR Help – Volunteer Coaches Needed! To make 3v3 (or expanded 3v3) a reality, we urgently need more parent/coach volunteers. No prior basketball experience is required — just enthusiasm and a desire to help our kids learn and have fun.

We will host a Coaches Clinic to give all volunteers everything they need to be successful (training, curriculum, drills, and more). More details will follow, but please save the date: **tentatively Wednesday, January 28th.**

If you can help coach (even if only one night a week), please indicate your interest on the registration form or email

michaelbrzoska87@gmail.com. The more coaches we have, the smaller the teams and the better the experience for every child! Let's make this our best Bitty Basketball season yet. Go Cross!

Thank you,

Michael Brzoska

Bitty Basketball Coordinator

michaelbrzoska87@gmail.com | 630-947-4072



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CALLING ALL COOKS!

Share Your Favorite Recipe for
Our School Cookbook Fundraiser!

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

- Family favorites
- Quick weeknight meals
- Healthy snacks
- Desserts to impress

HOW TO SUBMIT:

1. Fill out the Google Doc by using the link below or scan the QR code
<https://shorturl.at/PC8oi>



2. Email Google Doc to PTLvoluteer@hiscross.net by December 19th, 2025

WHY PARTICIPATE?

All proceeds from the cookbook will support
Cross PTL Sports Fund



All recipes are due by Friday, December 19th.



RAISE RIGHT GIFT CARDS

A table with gift cards available for purchase will be set up in the preschool hallway at drop off on Wednesdays: ,

12/17

Please bring cash or check.

Available on Sundays after church: 12/21

If you will be purchasing any gift cards this holiday season, please consider ordering them through the School's RaiseRight (formerly known as Scrip) Gift Card Fundraising program. The school receives a rebate from the retailers for any gift cards that are purchased through the Raise Right program.

Cash and Carry will be available after 8:00 and 9:30 services starting soon in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for supporting our school in this way!

You can download the RaiseRight Fundraising App on your smartphone or go to: www.raiseright.com to get started and see complete list of participating retailers. You will need to "Join a Program" (Cross Lutheran School) with Enrollment Code: 45LAEC3E7123 to earn for your family and school.

Questions? Email: scrip@hiscross.net
Your coordinator: Jenelle Heller

Reading Challenge PS-8th

Learn more. Winners are picked at the end of each quarter.

Click [HERE](#) for the reading calendar log sheet.

PRAYER CORNER

"Pray without ceasing," 1 Thessalonians 5:17

The following families were lifted up in prayer last week by the school faculty:

Boughton, Bowen, Cervantes/Rodriguez, Chipman, Grossart, Hazlett, Holzer, Massey, Johansen/Peterson, Johnson, Kerley, Peterson, Ratos, Reinboldt, Russell, Santos, Saxe, Scott, Weis, Winkler/Crum

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Christmas and Post-Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Services

2PM & 4PM Contemporary
7PM & 11PM Traditional Candlelight

Christmas Day Service

10AM Traditional

Christmas B-Sides
Sunday, December 28
8AM & 9:30AM Traditional

On Sunday, January 4, we will resume
our 3 service schedule
(8AM Traditional, 9:30 & 11AM Contemporary)

Children and Youth Ministry will meet on Sunday,
December 21, then will take a break over the holidays.
They will resume on Wednesday, January 7

Church and School Office* Notice Hours and Closings for Winter Break

Due to Winter Break, the School Office
will be CLOSED from December 22 - January 5

The School Office will resume regular business hours on Tuesday, January 6

Due to Christmas Eve/Day & New Years Day, the Church Office
will be CLOSED on December 24 - 25 AND January 1

The Church Office will be available by appointment only:

December 22 - 23 & 26: 9AM - 4PM
December 29 - 30 & January 2: 9AM - 4PM
December 31 (half day): 9AM - 12PM

*Can leave voicemail messages any time or day

School Absence Procedures

We would greatly appreciate your help in contacting the office
when your child will be absent for illness, appointments, or
vacations as soon as possible. Please either call the office at
630-553-7861 or email the office secretaries at

attendance@hiscross.net

This also helps us to be on the same page as a staff when
finalizing our daily attendance.

TRIPLE MATCH CHALLENGE

IM IN \$150,000 Match Campaign Total raised: **\$118,342.03**

79%

LEAD DONORS WILL MATCH EVERY \$1 RECEIVED WITH \$2
\$150,000 NEW GIFTS WILL TOTAL \$450,000 AFTER THE MATCH!

WILL YOU JOIN US IN THIS EXCITING CHALLENGE?

TO GIVE: SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO OUR PUSHPAY GIVING LINK
AND SELECT "I'M IN \$150,000 MATCH CAMPAIGN"

QUESTIONS? CONTACT PAM HAHN AT PHAHN@HISCROSS.ORG
OR THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (630-553-7335) | CHURCHINFO@HISCROSS.ORG

Home FOR THE Holidays

Advent & Christmas
Sermon Series

Practices and Resources for time with Jesus

Kids, teens, and adults, "Visual Faith" is for you!
The black cubbies are full of resources for you to
engage in service! These will be rotated monthly,
and have a short explanation how to use them.
Grab one or multiple!

Check the newsletter or talk with Jessica Dvorak
or Caley Thanepohn for more information!

**VISUAL
FAITH[®]
MINISTRY**

Walk with God

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