



THE CRUSADER

JANUARY 13, 2026

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

Calendar of Events

Wed. 1/14	K-8 Hot Lunch - Southern Belle's ALL IN 6:00 PM Pizza Dinner Served 6:30 PM Children's/Youth/Adult Ministry 7:30 PM Intergenerational Devotional
Thurs. 1/15	K-8 Hot Lunch - Southern Belle's
Fri. 1/16	PS-8th NOON DISMISSAL Cross Cares until 4:30PM
Sun. 1/18	8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:30 /11:00 AM Contemporary Service 9:30 AM Children's/Youth/Adult Ministry
Mon. 1/19	NO SCHOOL
Tues. 1/20	K-8 Hot Lunch - Subway
Wed. 1/21	6:00 PM Chicken Dinner Served 6:30 PM Children's/Youth/Adult Ministry

Looking Ahead

**Friday, January 16th - NOON DISMISSAL,
PM CROSS CARES UNTIL 4:30PM**

Monday, January 19th - NO SCHOOL, School Office Closed

2nd Quarter Report Cards going home - Tuesday, Jan. 20

RE-ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Emailed out last week. If you would like to break up your enrollment payments, please reach out to the office.

PLEASE NOTE:

PS/K public enrollment will open on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST.

1ST-8TH public enrollment will open on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH.

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.



JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

Cross School Kindergarten-8th graders will participate in Cross' 48th annual Jump Rope for Heart on **Thursday, February 12th**. Information and materials have been sent home with students. Check out the online tool at <https://www.heart.org/khc>

You can make a difference by asking friends and relatives to sponsor your child through a donation to the American Heart Association. Donation envelopes will be due by **Thursday, February 12th**.

Thank you for being a Heart Hero.



Hot Lunch Volunteers Needed!!

We are still in need of some volunteers for this month! Please look at the spreadsheet below and contact the office to sign up.

HOT LUNCH VOLUNTEERS

Thank you for your support and involvement!

Questions? Email crossptl@hiscross.net

YOU'RE INVITED TO

All In Game Night! on Wednesday, January 14

6:00 FREE DINNER
6:30 FAMILY GAME TIME
7:30 EVENING DEVOTIONAL



QUESTIONS? CALEY AT
CTHANEP@HISCROSS.ORG

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FAMILY BOARD GAMES AND FUN! WE HAVE LOTS OF GAMES, BUT FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR FAMILY FAVORITE!

Walk with God

Love our Neighbor

Grow in Faith Together



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Winterim Friday, March 20th

Save The Date AND Volunteers Needed
If you have a special talent or skill and are willing to share it
with our kids, please keep this date in mind!

K-8 Hot Lunch Information

K-8 Hot Lunch Ordering is now available online for February through **Friday, January 16th 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.**

PRESCHOOL NEWS - MRS. SCHMECKPEPER

Happy New Year! Since returning from break, we have enjoyed reconnecting with our friends and getting back into our school routine. It's always an exciting time for preschoolers to share what activities they did during Christmas break!

Winter is a wonderful season for us as well in preschool! When weather allows, we head outside to move our bodies, explore nature, and enjoy fresh air. The snow hills are one of our favorite places to play! Putting on winter gear also helps us practice independence and self-help skills.

In the classroom, we experimented with ice, salt and sugar, predicting which would make the ice melt quicker. We enjoyed using droppers to squirt water onto the ice blocks as we observed the melting process. We also continue to work on letter recognition while we practice writing and naming the letters in our names.

Wishing your family a joyous, healthy and happy winter from all of us in preschool!

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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BOARD GAME NIGHT MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

January 14

6pm - 8pm

6:00: Free Dinner

6:30: Games

7:30: Evening Devotion

Questions? Email Jessica: jdvorak@hiscross.org

We'll have games, but feel
free to bring your own too!

26-27 School Year Open Positions:



- Full Time 5th Grade Teacher
- Full Time 3rd Grade Teacher
- Part Time PE Teacher (3 full days a week)
- Part Time Reading Specialist

Anyone interested OR who would like to submit names
of potential candidates for these positions

**Reach out to Mrs. Ulrich (Principal) as soon as possible
by contacting the school office (630-553-7861).**

Looking for your next step, or how to get more connected?
Want to meet our leadership?

Join us for Pasta with the Pastors January 25

12:00pm in the Food Court

RSVP with QR code,
Preferred, not required



Questions?
630-553-7335
churchinfo@hiscross.org

Ready for pick-up
on Feb. 8th

ORDER AT THE
TABLE IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL
JAN 25 & FEB 1

Amazing
Homemade Salsa
&
Tortilla Chips



Sanctity of Life Sunday January 18th

This year as we celebrate the gift of life,
we want to support the work of
Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries
through a baby bottle drive!

Pick up a bottle, fill with change,
then bring back by Sunday, February 15
(can be brought to the Kiosk OR the Church Office)

Come at 9:30AM to the Fellowship Hall
for a Presentation with video testimonial
from a mother supported by Redeeming Life

Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod


Redeeming Life
Outreach Ministries Inc.
Christ-Centered
Maternity Homes
for single pregnant
women in crisis



CHIPPING IN FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER TRIP!

PRAYER CORNER

"Pray without ceasing," 1 Thessalonians 5:17

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

Borneman, Braun, Brzoska, Chaloka, Crawford, Doshi/Yankle,
Duey, Franceschini, G'Fellers, Hall, Hopkins, Johnson, Karales,
Kicher/Weaver, Laesch, Martinez, Schaefflein, Scott, Sibley,
Wathen/Wahlgren, Weber, Wyss

Youth Cookie Walk Thank You!

Your generosity for our youth
through the Cookie Walk was amazing!
For the second year in a row, we SOLD OUT!

Our youth are really excited about this summer's trip,
and digging into their faith more!

Check out our weekly E-Newsletter for
more details on the trip and future fundraisers!

SCHOOL CHAPEL OFFERINGS

Thank you for your generosity for a total of **\$1,798.58!**
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!

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Grow in Faith Together