



# 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

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

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



PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN  
**OPEN HOUSE**



**FEBRUARY 1  
1:00 - 3:00PM**

### 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](mailto:crossptl@hiscross.net)





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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](mailto: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

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

Questions? Email Jessica: jdvorak@hiscross.org

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

**CHIPPING IN  
FOR THE  
HIGH SCHOOL  
SUMMER TRIP!**

*Ready for pick-up  
on Feb. 8th*  
**ORDER AT THE  
TABLE IN THE  
FELLOWSHIP HALL  
JAN 25 & FEB 1**

Amazing  
Homemade Salsa  
&  
Tortilla Chips



### 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, Schaelein, Scott, Sibley, Wathen/Wahlgren, Weber, Wyss

### 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).**

### 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



### 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!