



Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 10, 2020



CROSS OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

God's Word

Hebrews 12:7-11

⁷ What children are not disciplined by their father? ⁸ If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.

⁹ Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! ¹⁰ They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

God's Word

Proverbs 29:15, 17

¹⁵ A rod and a reprimand impart wisdom, but a child left undisciplined disgraces its mother...

¹⁷ Discipline your children, and they will give you peace; they will bring you the delights you desire.

Share two benefits you can identify from having received loving discipline in YOUR life.

What is one thing you learned from a wise, Christian, parent-type, that you will never forget?

God's Word

2 Timothy 1, selected verses

² Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord... ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also... ⁸ Do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. ⁹ He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Prayer

Message from God's Word

1 Kings 18:16-40

¹⁶ So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him, and Ahab went to meet Elijah. ¹⁷ When he saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?"

¹⁸ "I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the Lord's commands and have followed the Baals. ¹⁹ Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four

hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

²⁰ So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. ²¹ Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."

But the people said nothing.

²² Then Elijah said to them, "I am the only one of the Lord's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. ²³ Get two bulls for us. Let Baal's prophets choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. ²⁴ Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by fire—he is God."

Then all the people said, "What you say is good."

²⁵ Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire." ²⁶ So they took the bull given them and prepared it.

Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

²⁷ At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened." ²⁸ So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. ²⁹ Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me." They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the Lord, which had been torn down. ³¹ Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, "Your name shall be Israel." ³² With the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed. ³³ He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, "Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood."

³⁴ "Do it again," he said, and they did it again.

"Do it a third time," he ordered, and they did it the third time. ³⁵ The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.

³⁶ At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. ³⁷ Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again."

³⁸ Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

³⁹ When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!”

⁴⁰ Then Elijah commanded them, “Seize the prophets of Baal. Don’t let anyone get away!” They seized them, and Elijah had them brought down to the Kishon Valley and slaughtered there.

Our Big God Gives Big Blessings

Our Confession and God’s Forgiveness

P: Lord God, we confess to you that we have failed to be the perfect *children* you want us to be. We have also failed to be the perfect *parents* you ask us to be. We do not deserve to be called your children or to carry the responsibility of parents. And yet, in your undeserved love, Jesus lived a perfect life in the place of our sinful ones. With his death, he paid for our sins in full.

All: Might and Merciful God, cleanse us and we will be clean. Wash us, and we will be whiter than snow!

P: Dear ones, God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. Jesus’ resurrection from the dead was your Father’s seal of approval that your sins are paid for and that He has declared you innocent. May God give you the strength, desire and power to live according to his will! Amen!

Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Now, may God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. And may your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Offerings

If you would like to give an offering to support our ministry, you may do so online at cocidaho.org/give. You can also contact the church office (secretary@cocidaho.org or 208-922-8422) to schedule a time to bring your offering to church.

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

(208) 375-3992 + cocidaho.org

Rev. John Steinbrenner, District President: (208) 921-4748, john.steinbrenner@cocidaho.org
Rev. Matt Zimpelmann, Christian Life Pastor: (208) 861-3623, matt.zimpelmann@cocidaho.org
Rev. Brad Snyder, Christian Education Pastor: (208) 996-0862, brad.snyder@cocidaho.org
Rev. Kurt Wetzel, Mission Pastor: (208) 996-2202, kurt.wetzel@cocidaho.org

Boise Campus
11655 W McMillan Rd
Boise, ID 83713

Nampa Midweek Ministry Center
5680 E Franklin Rd, Suite 120
Nampa, ID 83687

Our Mission

Cross of Christ congregation exists to joyously proclaim the gospel of free salvation locally and worldwide. Through God's Word and Sacraments, we strive to win lost souls for Christ and nurture believers for lives of Christian service.

Cross of Christ Weekly Newsletter

May 10, 2020

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool (WELS)
Church & Preschool Office - 208.375.3992 - cocidaho.org

Worship to Return Soon; New Holy Communion Opportunity

Dear Members and Friends of Cross of Christ,

Our church Council met last Monday (May 4) and determined that, with our health and safety officials okay, “in-person” worship at Cross of Christ will most likely resume on **May 24**. The intervening weeks allow for enough time that:

- the church building can be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized;
- a feasible “Return to Worship” plan can be created and shared with you; and
- all of our efforts meet with CDC and local officials’ approval.

The church Council will be meeting one more time before the 24th. Should any unforeseen delays occur to this worship plan, an update will be communicated promptly.

Also: What is likely our final opportunity to receive the Lord’s Supper privately will be available NEXT Sunday, **May 17**. Click [HERE](#) for our pastors’ explanation and the link to sign up.

In the name of our Savior,
Your Pastors

CrossTrainers Bonfire!

- Wednesday, May 13
- 7:30-9:00 pm
- Outside at Cross of Christ - Boise, plenty of room for distancing
- By the pavilion: come through the gate from the east parking lot (Preschool playground side)

DivorceCare - GriefShare

Both DivorceCare and GriefShare support groups are *now meeting online*. If you or anyone you know would benefit from Christ-centered, practical encouragement after the loss of a loved one to death or the loss of a spouse to separation or divorce, please consider using this tremendous resource. You will be given videos to watch on your own, a workbook to use at home, and have the opportunity to meet online for 30 minutes with your group. Follow these links for more information ([GriefShare](#) // [DivorceCare](#)) or call/email/text Pastor Zimpelmann (208-861-3623 / matt.zimpelmann@cocidaho.org).

Welcome New Member!

Our family of faith praises our gracious God as we welcome our new church family member Heather Miller into our midst. May God guide us as we grow in our faith and share Jesus with our community together. Welcome, Heather!



Pastors and Professional Christian Counselors Available

While continuing to practice physical distancing, your pastors are still available to you at any time for counseling or encouragement! Their phone numbers and email addresses are on page 5 of this document.

Christian Family Solutions, the mental health services organization associated with our church body, also offers professional Christian counseling via video appointments, as well as other online resources. **Due to the pandemic, telehealth now has increased coverage by health insurance, lowered rates, and waived copays.** Find them online at christianfamilysolutions.org or “WLCFS” on Facebook.

Have You Tried the Easiest Evangelism Ever?

It’s pretty easy... Share the web link to the worship resources and simply say, “Join me for church this weekend!” Think of one or two specific people you’d like to invite and personalize the invitation! Tell them why you think they’d appreciate this particular message, or why staying connected to God’s Word has been important to you when you can’t go to church in person. Forward the email directly, copy the link and send it via text, share the social media post on their wall or in a message. They’ll love to hear from you!

Soccer Camp Cancelled

Dear friends of Cross of Christ Soccer Camp,

Our Almighty God looks us in the eye and speaks to us in love: “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10). Regardless of our current situations, we can trust that he holds us in his hands, directing all things with his power, wisdom, and love.

Last week, Governor Brad Little released the Stages of Reopening under Idaho Rebounds: Our Path to Prosperity. In a best-case scenario, our 10th Annual Soccer Camp falls during Stage 4, which allows for gatherings of more than 50 people *with* appropriate social distancing. Our Soccer Camp Team met and discussed possible ways of accomplishing the requirements of social distancing but was unable to develop a method to adhere to the necessary conditions to keep kids and coaches safe.

It is with a heavy heart, therefore, that we announce the cancellation of Soccer Camp 2020. We are deeply disappointed, as we know many of you will be as well. For those families who have paid the registration fee, we will be working over the next 10 days to refund your original form of payment.

At this time, we *are* planning to host our annual Summer Bible Camp July 6 – 9. Look for updates, details, and registration information on our website (cocidaho.org) in the coming week.

And we will be back in June 2021, God willing, with another year of Soccer Camp!

Until then may our gracious God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – give you peace, strength, and confidence in his presence and his promises.

Cross of Christ Soccer Camp Committee

Did You Miss It?

Have you seen them? Several times a week, our pastors are writing brief devotions which are posted on our website (and shared on our social media). Go to cocidaho.org/blog. Read them for a short devotion, let them guide the subject of your prayers, and share them so they can encourage someone else!

Summer Camp (VBS) 2020

We absolutely want to be able to hold Summer Camp (aka VBS) as planned (Monday-Thursday, July 6-9, 9am - 12pm). Realistically, however, we are unsure of the feasibility of doing so. Because of that, we're holding off on registration for a bit longer, with the hope that in a couple more weeks we'll have a clearer picture of what July may bring. Thank you for your patience and prayers for everyone involved in making these tough decisions!

Cross of Christ Preschool: Enrolling for 2020-2021

Need a little something to look forward to? How about a super-duper preschool for your 3, 4, or 5-year-old? Preschool enrollment can happen any time you need, since the information and forms are all easily accessible at cocidaho.org/preschool.

AND... Receive a tuition discount of \$100 if you register by June 1. Registering sooner rather than later also assures you a spot in your preferred class... Direct questions to Jan Perna (208-949-0851 / janperna@cableone.net).

Offerings of Thanks

Thank you for continuing to worship God with your generous, love-filled gifts to our Savior. The three options for thankful giving are:

1. Give online: cocidaho.org/give, click "Give Now."
2. Make an appointment to drop off your gift at the church office (email secretary@cocidaho.org or call Kristen Koepsell at 208-922-8422).
3. Hold on to your gifts for now. We trust we will be worshipping together again at some point soon and you can make your gift in person then!

*“I am the Vine, you are the branches.
If you remain in me and I in you,
you will bear much fruit!”*

Serving	May 10	May 17
Worship Recordings	E. Christianson	E. Christianson
Altar Care	n/a	D. McLain
Tellers	Harris, Rule	Turley, Walden

General Fund Offerings Planned FY 19-20	\$687,043
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$581,344
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$597,233
Total Offerings Last Week (All Funds)	\$12,911

Currently, we are not able to give accurate numbers for worship and Bible study attendance. We are encouraged, though, to see the number of views for our materials online and pray they are a continued blessing while we stay connected to Jesus, even as we cannot all meet in person.

To place an announcement in *CrossWords/CrossLinks*, please email secretary@cocidaho.org.
Weekly submission deadline is Wednesday at noon. Thanks!