

# GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY



Fourth Sunday of Easter  
May 3, 2020



**CROSS OF CHRIST**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Opening Scripture

## Psalm 23

*translation by Pastor Snyder*

- <sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I have what I need.
- <sup>2</sup>He lets me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside quiet waters.
- <sup>3</sup>He renews my life;  
he guides me along the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- <sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.
- <sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- <sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and faithful love will follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

## God's Word

## 1 Peter 2:22-25

<sup>22</sup> “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” <sup>23</sup> When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” <sup>25</sup> For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

*Jesus is both Lamb and Shepherd. The Lamb sacrificed for our sins has become our Good Shepherd. Which of these two images of Jesus do you find more comforting – Lamb of God or Good Shepherd?*

*As you think of Jesus, which one is how you more often picture Jesus – a Lamb by whose wounds you are healed, or your Shepherd, who provides for you, disciplines you, and carries you home?*

## Good Shepherd Message from God's Word

## John 10:1-10

<sup>1</sup> “Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

### **Your Shepherd Is What You Need**

#### Statement of Faith

#### The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### 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

#### Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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### Offerings

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

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# 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

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## 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.*

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# Cross of Christ Weekly Newsletter

## May 3, 2020

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

### **Worship & Holy Communion Update**

Dear Members and Friends of Cross of Christ,

The latest plan for in-person worship will be readdressed in a virtual church council meeting this Monday (5/4). With our governor's guidelines in mind, our council will be considering the safest, wisest, and most God-pleasing path toward quickly resuming corporate worship. Watch your email for an update following discussion. Thank you for your continued patience and for using all of the provided worship and bible study resources provided each week.

Another opportunity to receive the Lord's Supper will be available this Sunday, May 3. Click [HERE](#) for our pastors' explanation and the link to sign up.

In Jesus, always,  
Your Pastors

### **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).

### **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 the previous page 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](http://christianfamilysolutions.org) or "WLCFS" on Facebook.

### **Invite a Friend or Two to Worship This Weekend**

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!

### **Encouraging Devotions**

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](http://cocidaho.org/blog) to read and be encouraged!

## **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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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

## **Save the Date: Summer Camp 2020**

We hope and intend to hold Summer Camp (aka VBS) as planned, so pencil in these dates: *Monday-Thursday, July 6-9, 9am - 12pm*, for kids age 3 through entering 6th grade.

- Participant registration will be available within the next week or two.
- Individuals entering 7th grade and older can volunteer at this point by contacting Kristen Koepsell ([kristen.koepsell@cocidaho.org](mailto:kristen.koepsell@cocidaho.org) or 208-922-8422).

## **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](http://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](mailto: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](http://cocidaho.org/give), click “Give Now.”
2. Make an appointment to drop off your gift at the church office (email [secretary@cocidaho.org](mailto: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 3	May 10
Worship Recordings	E. Christianson	E. Christianson
Altar Care	D. McLain	n/a
Tellers	Turley, Rule	Turley, Walden

General Fund Offerings Planned FY 19-20	\$687,043
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$568,131
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$584,408
Total Offerings Last Week (All Funds)	\$8,102

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](mailto:secretary@cocidaho.org).  
Weekly submission deadline is Wednesday at noon. Thanks!