

Divine | Relational | Skillful | Charitable | Hospitable

# How to be Generous

Week 1:

*Divine Generosity*



**CROSS OF CHRIST**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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# Cross of Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool

(208) 375-3992 + cocidaho.org

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**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost September 26-27, 2020**

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## Welcome to Cross of Christ

**Relax.** At Cross of Christ, our worship is designed to praise God and enrich faith. We aim to make the service clear and appropriately reverent. For your convenience, the service is printed as well as projected on the screens.

**Bring the kids.** Our congregation enjoys the worshiping family. In fact, our worship often includes a children's message with little ones in mind (though these are currently on hold for health considerations). That's why children who act up are never viewed as a bother to our worship service. However, parents who want to calm a restless child may do so by walking them in the lobby. Worship screens, speakers and seating areas can be found in the lobby to assist families with their worship.

**Don't feel obligated.** Our members give offerings to the Lord as an expression of our thanks and praise for his amazing love. Visitors, please know that you are our guests. We're happy you came today to hear about Jesus and his Word. You're not expected to give an offering; it's your choice.

**Make yourself at home.** After our services, we join together in the lobby for coffee and conversation. We'd be honored if you would join us!

**Restrooms** are located to the left and right of the water fountain in the lobby.

**Questions?** If you'd like to know more about our church or our beliefs, feel free to speak with one of our pastors after the service. You will also find a summary statement of our beliefs on the lobby counter. More information is available online at [cocidaho.org](http://cocidaho.org).



**CROSS OF CHRIST**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Welcomed into the Family of God

with “Nothing  
But the Blood”

Pastor: Friends in Christ, we worship a God who is supremely generous. Let’s begin today by calling on his name—the name he placed on us when he generously welcomed us into his family through baptism:

**Congregation: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

(♩) **What can wash away my sin?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
What can make me whole again?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
Oh, precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow.  
No other fount I know,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.**

Only Jesus can make us whole again by his sacrifice on the cross. It was a *costly* sacrifice. It was for *our* sins. So, we confess together as we trust in him:

**Dear God, you are holy. I have struggled with sin since birth. In my thoughts, words, and actions, I have done what is evil and failed to live as your child. Thank you for sending Jesus to this earth as my substitute. Forgive me and restore me again today, at the cross of Christ.**

(♩) **Nothing can for sin atone,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
Naught of good that I have done,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
Oh, precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.**

In his divine generosity, God sent his one and only Son. Jesus’ perfect life, innocent death, and resurrection have removed your sin and guilt forever. Whoever believes in Jesus has the riches of eternal life in heaven. Continue to put your hope in Christ. Rest in his peace. Live as God’s forgiven child!

**Amen!**

**(♩) This is all my hope and peace:  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
This is all my righteousness:  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
Oh, precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.**

## **Prayer**

Almighty God, you have lavishly given rich promises and gifts to your people. Help us to know them better, enjoy them more fully, and trust you more and more; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **God's Word**

**John 3:13-17**

<sup>13</sup> “No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

## **God's Word**

**Ephesians 2:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

<sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our

flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. <sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

## **Song**

## **“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”**

### **Message from God’s Word**

### **Genesis 15**

<sup>1</sup> After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram.  
I am your shield,  
your very great reward.”

<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

<sup>4</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” <sup>5</sup> He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

<sup>6</sup> Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> He also said to him, “I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.”

<sup>8</sup> But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?”

<sup>9</sup> So the LORD said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.”

<sup>10</sup> Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. <sup>11</sup> Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there.

<sup>14</sup> But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. <sup>15</sup> You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. <sup>16</sup> In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— <sup>19</sup> the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, <sup>20</sup> Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, <sup>21</sup> Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.”

## **Divine Generosity**

## 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 of the Church & the Lord's Prayer

*The Lord's Prayer follows the prayer spoken by the pastor:*

**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

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**Amen!**

## Closing Song

**"May the Peoples Praise You"**

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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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### **Boise Campus & Preschool**

11655 W McMillan Rd  
Boise, ID 83713

### **Nampa Midweek Ministry Center**

5680 E Franklin Rd, Suite 120  
Nampa, ID 83687

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## **Thank-Offerings**

*Giving an offering is one of the many ways we worship our Savior-God. You may give an offering online at [cocardaho.org/give](http://cocardaho.org/give) or drop it off in the office. As always, you are not obligated. We are glad you are with us to hear God's Word.*

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# Cross of Christ Weekly Newsletter

## September 27, 2020

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

Sep 27-Oct 4	Boise	Nampa
<b>Sunday (today)</b>	8:30am - Early Worship 9:45am - Bible Study 11:00am - Late Worship	8:45 am - Family Bible Study (JaK*s Place) 9:30am - Worship (JaK*s Place)
<b>Monday</b>		
<b>Tuesday</b>	6:30 pm - Cross Connections Class	
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:30am - Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm - CrossTrainers	
<b>Thursday</b>		6:30 pm - Cross Connections Class
<b>Friday</b>		
<b>Saturday</b>	6:30 pm - Evening Worship w/Communion	
<b>Next Sunday</b>	8:30am - Early Worship w/Communion 9:45am - Family Bible Study 11:00am - Late Worship w/Communion	8:45 am - Family Bible Study (JaK*s Place) 9:30am - Worship with Communion (JaK*s Place)

### Call for New Pastor

We have extended a Call to Pastor Greg Hein to serve Cross of Christ as our Christian Life Pastor. He now has two Calls to consider: one to Cross of Christ and one to Peace Lutheran Church in Chandler, AZ, where he is currently serving. Please keep him and his family (wife Julie, children Evelyn & Leo) in your prayers as he considers where best to serve God's kingdom. You may reach out to him with your encouragement and prayers at [heingw@gmail.com](mailto:heingw@gmail.com).

## **Family Bible Study!**

You're invited to Family Bible Study on Sundays, 8:45 am in Nampa and 9:45 am in Boise. We are studying Bible history stories to learn the concepts Jesus teaches in the Lord's Prayer. Circumstances don't allow for separate kids' classes just yet, but that won't stop us from studying God's Word together! ALL are invited to meet as family groups, appropriately distanced, for lessons and discussions for all ages.

## **Serve Those in Hospice Care**

Cross of Christ has the opportunity to partner with St. Alphonsus' Hospice program and serve people in hospice care in Canyon County, and their families, simply by visiting them! If you have a heart for those who are ill or elderly, consider participating. You're invited to a no-obligation information & training session, Saturday, September 26, 10:00 am, at the St. Alphonsus Hospice main office in Boise. Contact Pastor Wetzel ([kurt.wetzel@cocidaho.org](mailto:kurt.wetzel@cocidaho.org)) for more details or to let him know you're interested!

## **North Nampa Ministry Meeting & Lunch**

Saturday, October 10, 10:30 am at the North Nampa Ministry Center (5680 E Franklin Road, Nampa). All are invited, whether you've been involved with second site ministry so far or not. We meet to discuss, evaluate, and plan how to continue reaching our community with the good news of Jesus. And we have lunch simply to be family and hang out! Let Pastor Wetzel know ([kurt.wetzel@cocidaho.org](mailto:kurt.wetzel@cocidaho.org)) if you'll be there for lunch, to help us plan.

## **Grocery Giveaway!**

A community service project that <everyone> can participate in: delivering free groceries to members of our community who could use a bit of help and encouragement! Saturday, October 10, 1:30 pm, starting at the Boise campus. Several ways to participate:

- Donate groceries.
- Help sort donated groceries into Cross of Christ bags.
- Team up with another member to deliver groceries in person. (It's really simple; we'll tell you exactly what to say!)

We do need to know *how many people will participate* and *how many groceries will be donated*. **Please access the donation list and sign up online here: [tinyurl.com/GrocGive](https://tinyurl.com/GrocGive)**. You can also contact Pastor Wetzel to volunteer or ask questions ([kurt.wetzel@cocidaho.org](mailto:kurt.wetzel@cocidaho.org)).

## Worship Options

Online worship resources (sermon video, worship folder, music, and Bible study) continue to be available so you can connect to God and his Word from home.

The latest online worship options are available on our website, in weekly emails, and posted to social media by late Saturday night or early Sunday morning. Resources for previous worship services are always available at [cocidaho.org/worship-resources](http://cocidaho.org/worship-resources).

In-person worship continues:

- Saturday, 6:30 pm, Boise
- Sunday, 8:30 and 11:00 am, Boise; Family Bible Study at 9:45 am
- Sunday, 9:30 am, JaK\*s Place in Nampa; Family Bible study at 8:45 am

Our detailed plan for meeting safely and in compliance with CDC, local, and federal guidelines can be found at [cocidaho.org/resuming-in-person-worship](http://cocidaho.org/resuming-in-person-worship).

Offerings of thanks to Jesus may always be given at [cocidaho.org/give](http://cocidaho.org/give) or may be dropped off at the church office (Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 3:30 pm or by appointment).

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

<b>People in God's Word this past week</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Nampa</b>	<b>Total</b>
Sunday Family Bible Study	25	24	49
Cross Connections Class	10	14	24
Men's Bible Study	7		7
Growth Groups			31+
Worship	51 (Sat) + 63 + 62 + 21 (Ladies' Retreat)	46	243

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

Serving	September 26-27		October 3-4	
	Nampa	Boise	Nampa	Boise
Music	Koepsell, K. Olsoe, J. Olsoe	R. Dodd, J. Lowry, C. Trull	Lange	Koepsell
AV Tech	J. Malnes, S. Tews, G. Light	E. Christianson, J. Kennedy, C. Voll, A. Becker	J. Malnes, S. Tews, G. Light	E. Christianson, A. Becker, J. Kennedy, J. Hofstetter
Altar Care	K. Guthmiller, C. Harris	K. Struthers	K. Guthmiller, C. Harris	Yaka, Tweedy
Set-Up	Guthmiller, Harris, Olsoe	n/a	Guthmiller, Harris, Olsoe	n/a
Ushers	n/a	Thompson, Berrier, Manglos	J. Harris	Bafus, Brown, A. Broyles, KC Broyles, Seely
Post- worship Cleaners	D. Tews, J. Light, T. Light	Evans, Berrier, Manglos	D. Tews, J. Light, T. Light	O'Mallon, Hibbs
Coffee	Guthmiller, O'Doherty	TBA	Guthmiller, Wetzel, O'Doherty	TBA
Flowers	n/a	Dobi	n/a	Healey
Lawn Crew	n/a	E. Uhlenhoff	n/a	M. Johnson, N. Tessmer
Tellers	Harris, Walden, Morford		TBD	
Bulletin Folders	n/a		Bafus, Guthmiller	

<i>General Fund Offerings Planned FY 20-21</i>	\$708,200
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$163,431
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$139,320
Total Offerings Last Week (All Funds)	\$7,471