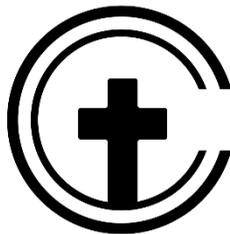




GIFTS

Christmas
PARADOX



CROSS OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
BOISE

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool

(208) 375-3992 + cocidaho.org

Rev. John Steinbrenner, District President: (208) 921-4748, john.steinbrenner@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

Advent 1

November 28-29, 2020

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 are 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.



CROSS OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to Cross of Christ

Opening Song

“The Advent of Our King”

Hymn #1:1-2,4-6

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: We begin this new church year, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

This time of year, as we prepare for Christmas, we see reminders all around us of a child’s birth. This Advent season gives us the opportunity to reflect on the reason God sent his Son, born of a woman. It was our sin that separated us from God. It was our sin that led Jesus to be born as our Savior. So together, let’s confess our sins, trusting in Jesus for forgiveness:

Almighty God, in countless ways I have failed to live as your child. In my thoughts, words, and actions, I have broken your holy standards and done what is offensive to you. I am sorry for my sins. Thank you, Jesus. Without your holy life and your innocent death on the cross, I would be lost forever. Let me always cherish your life and death as my precious, saving Gift!

God so loved the world that he did the unimaginable. He gave up his Son. Jesus’ perfect life, innocent death, and resurrection have removed your guilt forever. Your sins are forgiven. Your punishment has been paid for. You have peace with God, for you are His child. What an incredible gift from heaven –

Amen!

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, the source of all good gifts, you gave your only Son as your finest gift to humanity. Work in our hearts an ever-increasing faith to trust in Jesus and possess the peace and comfort you so freely give us; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

God's Word

Isaiah 9:6

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Statement of Faith

“We Praise You, O God”

We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, Father everlasting. To you all angels, all powers of heaven, cherubim and seraphim sing in endless praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of heavenly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you: Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and only Son, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the King of glory, the eternal Son of the Father. When you became man to set us free, you humbled yourself to be born of a virgin. You overcame the sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father. We believe that you will come to be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people, bought with the price of your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting! Amen.

God's Word

Galatians 4:4-5

⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

Song

“God Love the World So that He Gave”

Hymn #391:1,4-6

Message from God’s Word

John 3:16

¹⁶ 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.

Song

“Who Would Have Dreamed”

Soloist

New Member Welcome

Saturday Evening Service

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

“Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”

Hymn #12

Thank-Offerings

Giving an offering is one of the many ways we worship our Savior-God. You may give an offering in the lobby by dropping it into the offering plates as you leave or online at cocidaho.org/give. You may also drop it off in the office during the week. As always, you are not obligated. We are glad you are with us to hear God's Word.

Boise Campus & Preschool

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

November 29, 2020

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

Nov 29-Dec 6	Boise	Nampa
Sunday	8:30am - Early Worship 9:45am - Family Bible Study 11:00am - Late Worship	8:45am - Family Bible Study (JaK*s Place) 9:30am - Worship (JaK*s Place)
Monday		
Tuesday	6:30pm - Cross Connections Class	
Wednesday		
Thursday		6:30pm - New Member Orientation
Friday		
Saturday	6:30pm - Evening Worship w/Communion	
Next Sunday	8:30am - Early Worship w/Communion 9:45am - Family Bible Study 11:00am - Late Worship w/Communion	8:45am - Family Bible Study (JaK*s Place) 9:30am - Worship w/Communion (JaK*s Place)

New Member Welcome

This Saturday we welcome Tim & Leah Russow and their daughter Norah as new members of the Cross of Christ family. We also rejoice with the Russows at Norah's baptism! May God bless us as we all grow in our faith and share Jesus with our community together. Please try to welcome these new friends in Jesus!

Second Site Building Purchase

The Cross of Christ Voters have approved the plan to move forward on the purchase of a new building for our North Nampa mission! After several months of searching for a venue to lease that would serve worship and all ministry activities, we located a new building on Birch Lane (near Jak*s Place, our current worship venue). Very quickly our attention shifted to a purchase of the building, which appeared to be more cost-effective.

For months, work has been ongoing to validate the financial feasibility for the purchase. Although the numbers are not finalized, the Church Extension Fund (CEF, WELS-affiliated lending organization) provided land and building grants that can be combined with increased subsidy from the WELS Board for Home Missions (BHM), and this financial plan, along with our Church Council's recommendation, was presented to the Voters. Our Purchase-Sell Agreement is contingent upon Voters' Approval (done), loan approval (in progress), and raising the required up-front costs and down payment (in progress). (See next announcement regarding pledges and gifts.)

Once the contingencies are met, we can close on the property (~late January) and begin the interior construction buildout (~March), with a potential occupancy in April-May. What an exciting time for the Cross of Christ's mission and our future brothers and sisters in Christ in Canyon County! We will continue to let God lead our efforts, and now look to the Cross of Christ church family to prayerfully consider sharing in the funding for this opportunity. Let's all rejoice that despite the challenges of 2020, God's people still work in joyful thanksgiving to share the gospel with the lost!

Pledge Drive for North Nampa Building

As of Cross of Christ's building fund and pledges stand at \$141K (\$18K in new gifts in the past week and \$42K in outstanding pledges) toward our total needs of \$210K. The largest portion of this amount is needed for the mid-December down payment. With this in mind, we are asking members to give directly to the building fund (by check or at cocidaho.org/give) or fill out a pledge form to indicate gifts to come.

The down payment timeframe requires that all pledges be submitted by December 6 and all gifts/pledges be fulfilled by December 15.

- In Boise: pledge card available in the lobby near the bulletin boards, place in box in same location.
- In Nampa: pledge card available with the bulletins & connection cards near the door; place in offering plate.
- Online: tinyurl.com/2020BuildingPledge

Daily Devotions & Advent Devotions

Two devotion booklets are available to you for free on the ushers' cart by the lobby mailboxes: the December-February Meditations and "The Jesse Tree," an Advent devotion booklet provided by Martin Luther College (our church body's called worker training school). These daily devotions will provide food for your faith as you prepare to celebrate our Savior's birth! Take one or both home today.

Ladies, you can also sign up for a daily email devotion during the month of December, from WELS Women's Ministry, at tinyurl.com/WomensDecDevotions.

Christmas for Kids At Home

We can't do it at church, but you can still do it safely at home! Reserve your take-home Christmas for Kids kit (project supplies, instructions, & access to video devotions & songs) at cocidaho.org/connect/c4k. Even better: Share the link with friends & neighbor kids! Registration deadline Monday, December 7. Kit pick-up is Saturday, December 12, 12:30-2:30 pm at both Cross of Christ locations; you'll choose your pick-up location when you reserve your kit.

Christmas Flowers

To honor Jesus' birth by beautifying the Boise chapel for Christmas, sign up on the lobby bulletin board to purchase flowering plants (\$6.50-\$14.00 each). Last day to request a plant is Monday, Dec 7. Thank you in advance for making God's house beautiful; after the last service on Christmas Eve or Day, take your plants home to enjoy! Contact Kay Guthmiller with any questions (208-850-8809).

Grocery Outreach in Boise This Month

Saturday, December 19, 10:00 am. Deliver free groceries to members of our community who could use a bit of support and encouragement! We'll meet the Boise campus and go from there.

RSVP to Pastor Wetzel (kurt.wetzel@cocidaho.org) if you would like to *donate* and/or *deliver* groceries. It's safe, everybody goes with a partner, instructions are provided, and you might be surprised by the joy you find in giving.

Christmas Cards

A lot of us haven't seen one another in a while, so let's say hi and share some encouragement like this: Send a Christmas card to your entire church family this season! Simply mail or drop off your card at the Boise campus (11655 W. McMillan Rd, Boise, 83713). We'll take a picture of every card & message and put it into a shared online photo album that everyone can enjoy.

The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a countdown to Jesus, the Light of the World. Each week, we are one week closer to the coming of Christ. The wreath is a circle made of evergreen boughs to symbolize eternal life. The blue of the Advent candles is the color of the sky, to which we look for Christ's return. The symbolism and meaning behind the Advent wreath really is one of beauty in simplicity. The Light of the World has come and will come again. The Advent wreath helps us focus on that as we celebrate our Savior and our eternal life.

You Are Welcome for Christmas Worship!

At Boise:

Christmas Eve, 1:00 & 3:00 pm

Christmas Day, 10:00 am

At Nampa (JaK*s Place):

Christmas Eve, 4:30 pm



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

People in God’s Word this past week	Boise	Nampa	Total
Sunday Family Bible Study	27	25	52
Cross Connections Class	4	<i>no class this week</i>	
Men’s Bible Study			<i>recessed</i>
Growth Groups			<i>recessed</i>
Worship	(Sat) 33 + 56 + 79 = 168	42	210

Serving	November 28-November 29		December 5-December 6	
	Nampa	Boise	Nampa	Boise
Music	S. Wetzel	M. Walters	A. Lange	M. Walters
AV Tech	J. Malnes, S. Tews, G. Light	J. Kennedy, C. Kennedy, A. Becker, M. Hartman	J. Malnes, S. Tews, G. Light	TBA, M. Hartman
Altar Care	K. Guthmiller, C. Harris	McLain, Adams	K. Guthmiller, C. Harris	Guthmiller, Struthers
Set-Up	Guthmiller, Harris, Olsoe	n/a	Guthmiller, Harris, Olsoe	n/a
Ushers	n/a	G. Bafus, B. Adams, B. Turley	n/a	TBA R. Hibbs, B. Turley
Sanitizing	D. Tews, J. Light	Evans, Becker, Manglos	D. Tews, J. Light	O'Mallon, Hibbs, TBA
Flowers	n/a	Seibel	n/a	Banner
Church Cleaners	n/a	Breckon, R&H Burke	n/a	Brown
Tellers	Rule, Turley, Cadwell		TBA	
Bulletin Folders	Bafus, Guthmiller, Ritger		Prigges, Tweedy, Foreman	

<i>General Fund Offerings Planned FY 20-21</i>	\$708,200
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$286,003
5eneral Fund Offerings FYTD	\$247,374
Total Offerings Last Week (All Funds)	TBA