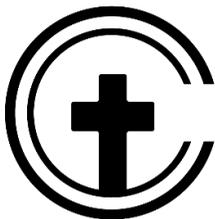




# HOME

*Christmas*  
PARADOX



**CROSS OF CHRIST**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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# Cross of Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool

(208) 375-3992 + [cocidaho.org](http://cocidaho.org)

Rev. John Steinbrenner, District President: (208) 921-4748, [john.steinbrenner@cocidaho.org](mailto:john.steinbrenner@cocidaho.org)

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Rev. Kurt Wetzel, Mission Pastor: (208) 996-2202, [kurt.wetzel@cocidaho.org](mailto:kurt.wetzel@cocidaho.org)

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**Advent 3**

**December 12 & 13, 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 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 fellowship 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

## Welcome to Cross of Christ

### Opening Song

### **“Away in a Manger”**

*Hymn #68:1, 3*

### Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: I rejoiced with those who said to me,

**Congregation: “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”** (Psalm 122:1)

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. (Psalm 90:1)

**One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.** (Psalm 27:4)

Dear Father, the time is near for us to commemorate the birth of your Son, our Savior. We wish to receive him again into our hearts for the strengthening of our faith. But, Father, my heart is stained with sin. It is not a fit home for one so pure and holy. It holds pride, doubt, insincerity, false humility, and fleshly desire for my will over yours.

**Forgive me these and all my sins, for the sake of Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem and King of kings.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, once left his home in heaven and came to this world to live with us and for us. And while here he had no fixed earthly home. Out of the riches of his grace, he became homeless, so that you through his poverty might be brought home. Your sin is forgiven. Your heart is clean. Your Father is preparing a celebration because you have come home.

**Surely his goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.** (Psalm 23:6)

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. (Psalm 91:1)

**Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.** (Psalm 84:4) **Amen.**

## **God's Word**

**Joshua 5:6-12**

<sup>6</sup>The Israelites had moved about in the wilderness forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the LORD. For the LORD had sworn to them that they would not see the land he had solemnly promised their ancestors to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>7</sup> So he raised up their sons in their place, and these were the ones Joshua circumcised. They were still uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the way. <sup>8</sup> And after the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained where they were in camp until they were healed.

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." So the place has been called Gilgal to this day.

<sup>10</sup> On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. <sup>11</sup> The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. <sup>12</sup> The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan.

## **Song**

**"Heaven Has Come for Us"**

*Vocalists*

## **Message from God's Word**

**John 1:14**

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## **Song**

**"Angels We Have Heard on High"**

*Hymn #63:1, 3*

## 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.**

## God's Word

## Revelation 21:1-7

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup>I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup>'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

<sup>5</sup> He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

<sup>6</sup> He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. <sup>7</sup> Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

## **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**

## **“Go Tell It on the Mountain”**

*Hymn #57:1, 3*

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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 in the lobby by dropping it into the offering plates as you leave or online at [cocidaho.org/give](http://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.*

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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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## **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

## December 13, 2020

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool (WELS)

Church & Preschool Office - 208.375.3992 - cocidaho.org

Dec 13-Dec 20	Boise	Nampa
<b>Sunday</b>	8:30am - Early Worship 11:00am - Late Worship	8:45am - Family Bible Study (JaK*s Place) 9:30am - Worship (JaK*s Place)
<b>Monday</b>	6:00pm - Council Meeting	
<b>Tuesday</b>		
<b>Wednesday</b>		
<b>Thursday</b>		
<b>Friday</b>		
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00am - Grocery Outreach 6:30pm - Evening Worship w/Communion	
<b>Next Sunday</b>	8:30am - Early Worship w/Communion 11:00am - Late Worship w/Communion	8:45am - Family Bible Study (JaK*s Place) 9:30am - Worship w/Communion (JaK*s Place)

### Private Communion Available

We want to serve and spiritually nurture our members as best as possible. Part of this effort is making sure you have access to the Means of Grace. Offering virtual worship is easy enough, but virtual sacraments is more challenging. **If you have been worshipping from home for months and would like to receive Holy Communion, please contact the church office** ([secretary@cocidaho.org](mailto:secretary@cocidaho.org) / 208-375-3992) to schedule an appointment with a pastor to receive private communion. Careful masking, sanitizing, and distancing precautions will be observed.

## **A Simple Way to Share Hope This Christmas**

To reach more people with the good news of Christmas, and acknowledge what a different holiday season this year brings, Cross of Christ's Evangelism team has developed a digital outreach campaign called "Hope This Christmas."

One of its core pieces is a new page on our website, hosting four short videos about finding hope in different difficult situations: [cocidaho.org/hope](http://cocidaho.org/hope).

The team is utilizing social media and other online ads to reach all sorts of people we don't know yet. **Would YOU be part of the effort and share these resources with people YOU know?**

Check out this tutorial video ([tinyurl.com/DigitalChristmas2020](http://tinyurl.com/DigitalChristmas2020)) for ideas, tips, and encouragement for using the videos. (You will need to enter your email address to access the video; the information only goes to our Evangelism Councilman Dave Malnes.)

Isn't it a comfort to know where you can find true, solid, lasting hope -- in Jesus our Savior? You can help others find him this Christmas, too.

## **Grocery Outreach in Boise This Coming Saturday**

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 at the Boise campus and go from there.

**Contact Pastor Wetzel ([kurt.wetzel@cocidaho.org](mailto:kurt.wetzel@cocidaho.org)) to volunteer to *donate* and/or *deliver* groceries.**

One set of groceries includes:

- Loaf of bread
- Small jar of peanut butter & jelly, or few cans of tuna
- Fresh fruit or veggies (bananas or baby carrots)
- Granola bars or other snack
- Small dessert/treat (like a bag of candy)

All ages can participate in the delivery! It's safe, everybody goes with a partner, instructions are provided, and you might be surprised by the joy you find in giving.

## **You Are Welcome for Christmas Worship**

### **Christmas Eve**

The Greatest Gift: HOPE Has Arrived  
1:00 & 3:00 pm at Boise  
4:30 pm at JaK\*s Place in Nampa  
*online by early evening*

### **Christmas Day**

Broken Christmas  
10:00 am at Boise  
*online by early afternoon*

### **Second Site Building Purchase**

We have received loan approval from Church Extension Fund (CEF) for the Birch Lane building in Nampa. The numbers are not yet finalized but the increase in mortgage payment is expected to fit within the subsidy offered us by the Board for Home Missions (BHM). Based on the loan approval, we have authorized the expense to develop the construction drawings needed to obtain finish construction bids (targeting at least two construction firms). We've now had several meetings with the architectural firm and have made good progress to finalize a floorplan.

The Cross of Christ Church family has shown strong financial support for the project to date. As of December 10, we've grown the building fund to \$140K available with an additional \$150K in outstanding pledges, for a total of \$290K! As you may recall, our minimum goal was to raise \$210K to accommodate both the minimum down payment and the costs to furnish and equip the new Nampa campus. Thanks be to God for the response of his people!

Over-and-above gifts are still very welcome and encouraged, up until right before we close on the building (likely January). *All additional gifts above our initial goal will be added to the down payment to reduce the overall loan amount.* You can give directly to the building fund at any time, by check or at [cocardaho.org/give](http://cocardaho.org/give).

## 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.

***"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	35	21	56
Cross Connections Class	<i>session finished</i>	<i>session finished</i>	
Weekend Worship	(Sat) 53 + 59 + 57 = 169	37	206

<i>General Fund Offerings Planned FY 20-21</i>	\$708,200
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$313,242
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$271,244
Total Offerings Last Week (All Funds)	\$30,013

Serving	December 12-December 13		December 19-December 20	
	Nampa	Boise	Nampa	Boise
Music	S. Wetzel	Koepsell, Lange, Dodd, Lowry	Koepsell	Lange
AV Tech	J. Malnes, S. Tews, G. Light	E. Christianson, A. Becker, C. Voll, J. Kennedy	J. Malnes, S. Tews, G. Light	TBA, C. Voll, A. Becker
Altar Care	K. Guthmiller, C. Harris	Guthmiller, Struthers	K. Guthmiller, C. Harris	Guthmiller, Struthers
Set-Up	Guthmiller, Harris, Olsoe	n/a	Guthmiller, Harris, Olsoe	n/a
Ushers	n/a	G. Bafus, R. Hibbs, J. Breckon	J. Harris	T. Stavenau, Breckon, Turley
Sanitizing	D. Tews, J. Light	DeWall, Hibbs	D. Tews, J. Light	DeWall, Becker, TBA
Flowers	n/a	DeWall	n/a	DeWall
Church Cleaners	n/a	Broyles, Carlovsky	n/a	Cadwell, Perna
Tellers	Turley, Cadwell, Morgan		Turley, Walden, Morford	
Bulletin Folders	Kimmel, Patrick, Whitlach		Ritger, Ford, Ashley	