



FAMILY

Christmas
PARADOX

CROSS OF **CHRIST**
BOISE

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool

(208) 375-3992 + cocidaho.org

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Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 19-20, 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 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.



CROSS OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Opening Song

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

Hymn 28:1-3, 5

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Family of God, let's come before our heavenly Father with humility, honesty, and thanksgiving. Together we confess our sins and look to Christ for forgiveness.

Holy and loving Father, I confess that I have been sinful from birth. In my thoughts, words, and actions, I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. My sins deserved punishment, and I am sorry. With gratitude, I look to the cross of Christ. Thank you for your mercy which knows no end.

For us and for our salvation, Jesus came down from heaven. The Son of God became the Son of Mary, joining himself to us as our human brother. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection took the punishment for our sin and offers his perfection in our place. By believing in him, no punishment is left. God loves you and welcomes you home as his holy child. Live as his holy child.

Amen!

God's Word

Matthew 1:1-21

¹ This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

² Abraham was the father of Isaac,

Isaac the father of Jacob,

Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

³ Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,

Perez the father of Hezron,

Hezron the father of Ram,

⁴ Ram the father of Amminadab,
Amminadab the father of Nahshon,
Nahshon the father of Salmon,
⁵ Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,
Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,
Obed the father of Jesse,
⁶ and Jesse the father of King David.
David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,
⁷ Solomon the father of Rehoboam,
Rehoboam the father of Abijah,
Abijah the father of Asa,
⁸ Asa the father of Jehoshaphat,
Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram,
Jehoram the father of Uzziah,
⁹ Uzziah the father of Jotham,
Jotham the father of Ahaz,
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,
¹⁰ Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,
Manasseh the father of Amon,
Amon the father of Josiah,
¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to
Babylon.
¹² After the exile to Babylon:
Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,
¹³ Zerubbabel the father of Abihud,
Abihud the father of Eliakim,
Eliakim the father of Azor,
¹⁴ Azor the father of Zadok,

Zadok the father of Akim,

Akim the father of Elihud,

¹⁵ Elihud the father of Eleazar,

Eleazar the father of Matthan,

Matthan the father of Jacob,

¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷ Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

God’s Word

Hebrews 2:9-18

⁹ But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰ In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. ¹¹ Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. ¹² He says,

“I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

¹³ And again, “I will put my trust in him.”

And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Song of Praise

“Thou Who Wast Rich”

On screens

Message from God’s Word

Ruth 2:1-13

¹ Now Naomi had a relative on her husband’s side, a man of standing from the clan of Elimelek, whose name was Boaz.

² And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor.”

Naomi said to her, “Go ahead, my daughter.” ³ So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelek.

⁴ Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, “The LORD be with you!”

“The LORD bless you!” they answered.

⁵ Boaz asked the overseer of his harvesters, “Who does that young woman belong to?”

⁶ The overseer replied, “She is the Moabite who came back from Moab with Naomi. ⁷ She said, ‘Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind

the harvesters.’ She came into the field and has remained here from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter.”

⁸ So Boaz said to Ruth, “My daughter, listen to me. Don’t go and glean in another field and don’t go away from here. Stay here with the women who work for me. ⁹ Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled.”

¹⁰ At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, “Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?”

¹¹ Boaz replied, “I’ve been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before.

¹² May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.”

¹³ “May I continue to find favor in your eyes, my lord,” she said. “You have put me at ease by speaking kindly to your servant—though I do not have the standing of one of your servants.”

Ruth: Refuge Under His Wings

Statement of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in

accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. 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.

The Lord's Supper

God's Word speaks of the spiritual blessings of this Sacrament (Mt. 26:28) and warns against the spiritual dangers of being unprepared for this holy meal (1 Cor. 11:27-29). Because we deeply care about you and don't want to see anyone's faith harmed, we ask that if you have not studied with us or spoken with our pastors first, that you refrain from joining in the Sacrament today. We are not judging your love for Jesus but rather displaying loving caution for all involved. Please feel free to ask one of our pastors if you have questions. We are eager to listen and share over an open Bible.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us, and grant us your peace. Amen.

Communion Distribution

“To Shepherds as They
Watched by Night”

Hymn 53:1-4

Blessing

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen!

Closing Song

“Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”

Hymn 54:1-4

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

Cross of Christ Weekly Newsletter

December 20, 2020

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

Dec 20 - 27	Boise	Nampa
Sunday	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)
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday	1:00pm - Christmas Eve Worship 3:00pm - Christmas Eve Worship	4:30pm - Christmas Eve Worship (JaK*s Place)
Friday	10:00am - Christmas Day Worship	
Saturday	6:30pm - Evening Worship w/ Communion	
Next Sunday	8:30am - Early Worship w/ Communion 11:00am - Late Worship w/ Communion	8:45am - Family Bible Study (JaK*s Place) 9:30am - Worship (JaK*s Place) w/ Communion

New Member Welcome

At Nampa this Sunday we welcome Levi & Jessi Tracy and their children Tienna, Takoma, and Tavien as new members of the Cross of Christ family. 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!

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

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.

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) 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.

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 / 208-375-3992) to schedule an appointment with a pastor to receive private communion. Careful masking, sanitizing, and distancing precautions will be observed.

Sisters in Christ Christmas Exchange

We can't gather for a Christmas party this year -- but that doesn't mean we can't celebrate the season together. Ladies high school & older, you are invited to participate in a gift exchange: Each participant will give their Secret Sister a pair of fun socks, along with a message of encouragement, and will receive one as well! All the details and sign-up here (tinyurl.com/SICSocks2020); **please RSVP by the end of the day this Sunday, December 20.** Direct questions to Kirsten Evans (kristeria@gmail.com).

Church Office Hours This Week

Pastors and office staff will be, as you may be, enjoying some time out of the office and with family in the next two weeks. Pastor Wetzel (208-996-2202) will be on-call Dec 23 to Jan 3 in the case of emergencies. If you need immediate access to the Boise building, please call the office first (208-375-3992), and if no answer, call Office Admin Stefanie DeWall (208-608-2728). God bless you as you celebrate Jesus' birth and the New Year!

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 are taking pictures of each card and message and adding them to this online photo album: tinyurl.com/CoCCards2020. Check it out and send yours in!

Second Site Building Purchase Update

As reported previously, the Church Extension Fund (CEF) loan to acquire the Birch Lane property has been approved. We're awaiting site appraisals for both the Nampa and Boise sites, as well as a property survey of the Nampa site. We do expect CEF loan adjustments once the appraisal and survey are complete and the CEF land/building grants are finalized. Also as previously reported, the addition to our mortgage fits well within the subsidy offered for the Nampa Mission by the WELS Board for Home Missions (BHM). After several meetings and multiple inputs, we have finalized a floor plan and construction drawings are in progress. We look forward to completing the appraisal and survey requirements and receiving construction bids in the next few weeks.

To God's glory, the Cross of Christ Church family has shown strong financial support for our Nampa Mission. As of December 17, we've grown the building fund to \$155K available with an additional \$142K in outstanding pledges, for a total of \$297K! 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.

Over-and-above gifts are still very welcome and encouraged, up until right before we close on the building (late January). Initially we planned to add all gifts above the minimum required to close and equip/furnish the Nampa site to the down payment. However, it has become clear that the larger down payment would not substantially impact our monthly mortgage on the new loan. Rather, your Council has agreed that all gifts above what will be needed at closing will remain in the building fund and be designated specifically for future Nampa Mission development.

You can give to the building fund at any time, by check or at cocidaho.org/give.

Altar Flowers for 2021

To purchase the flowers on our Savior's altar at Boise in 2021, record your name on the flower calendar in the Boise lobby, on your desired Sunday, or email the church office (secretary@cocidaho.org). Cost is \$33 per Sunday; designate your payment by marking it on your offering envelope, check, or online gift. If two families share the Sunday, two arrangements each costing \$33 will be made. After the 11:00 am service you can then take your flowers home to enjoy, returning the vase when the flowers are spent. Direct questions to Kay Guthmiller (208-850-8806).



We Extend Our Thanks!

Throughout each year, so many men, women, and kids use their gifts to glorify God as they serve our Savior and his Church in different ways, and we are blessed by their gifts of love! Despite not being able to do as much this year as we normally would, we extend our thanks particularly to...

- Everyone involved with Sisters in Christ, serving at and coordinating events and ministry work throughout the year;
- Bible study leaders who study and facilitate so we can grow closer to Jesus;

- So many who contribute to hosting events large and small at Cross of Christ all year: setting up, cooking, donating, and serving food, and cleaning up afterward;
- Those who decorate God's house in every season, including all who sponsor our weekly altar flowers;
- Our Preschool Staff who love and teach so many of God's littlest lambs;
- Our parents who take seriously the truth that it's their primary responsibility to teach their children God's Word, and our Sunday School staff who assist in sharing God's saving gospel with our sons and daughters;
- The volunteers and leaders for every single youth event and activity;
- Our musicians and AV techs who help us worship our Savior every week;
- Our Altar Care volunteers, greeters, and ushers who serve on our behalf;
- Our Councilmen who work behind the scenes and stay late to lead us;
- Our cleaners, lawn mowers, snow removers, and maintenance helpers who work in off-hours to make God's house a functional, welcoming home;
- Those with technical know-how who keep our IT infrastructure & digital communication up and running;
- The core & launch teams committed to making outreach & worship happen in Nampa: managing the trailer & equipment; setting up, serving at, & taking down after worship; spreading the word at community events and door-to-door;
- All who regularly tabulate and update, count and contribute, fold, copy and cut, and keep the coffee hot and the refreshments cold...

We deeply appreciate what you do and give God glory for you, his willing servants! We look forward to more opportunities for you, our faithful volunteers, to serve in the coming year.

*“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	n/a	20	20
Cross Connections Class	n/a	2	
Weekend Worship	(Sat) 40 + 50 + 94 = 184	39	223

<i>General Fund Offerings Planned FY 20-21</i>	\$708,200
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$326,862
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$284,015
Total Offerings Last Week (All Funds)	\$25,093

Serving	December 19-December 20		December 26-December 27	
	Nampa	Boise	Nampa	Boise
Music	Koepsell	Lange	S. Wetzel	M. Walters
AV Tech	J. Malnes, S. Tews, G. Light	E. Christianson, C. Voll, A. Becker	J. Malnes, S. Tews, G. Light	TBA
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	J. Harris	T. Stavenau, G. Thompson, J. Breckon, B. Turley, G. Walden	J. Harris	G. Thompson, J. Breckon, A. Broyles
Sanitizing	D. Tews, J. Light	DeWall, Becker	D. Tews, J. Light	TBA
Flowers	n/a	DeWall	n/a	W&D Ehlke
Church Cleaners	n/a	Cadwell, Perna	n/a	n/a
Tellers	Turley, Walden, Morford		Rule, Turley, Morgan	
Bulletin Folders	Ritger, Ford, Ashley		Bafus, Guthmiller, Ritger	

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.
