



CROSS OF CHRIST

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool

(208) 375-3992 + cocidaho.org

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First Sunday after Christmas

December 26-27, 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

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Hymn #38: 1, 3, 8

Pastor: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

Amen.

Song of Praise

“Glory to God”

On the screens

God’s Word

Isaiah 45:20-25

²⁰ “Gather together and come;
assemble, you fugitives from the nations.
Ignorant are those who carry about idols of wood,
who pray to gods that cannot save.
²¹ Declare what is to be, present it—
let them take counsel together.
Who foretold this long ago,
who declared it from the distant past?
Was it not I, the Lord?

And there is no God apart from me,
a righteous God and a Savior;
there is none but me.

²² “Turn to me and be saved,
all you ends of the earth;
for I am God, and there is no other.

²³ By myself I have sworn,
my mouth has uttered in all integrity
a word that will not be revoked:
Before me every knee will bow;
by me every tongue will swear.

²⁴ They will say of me, ‘In the Lord alone
are deliverance and strength.’”

All who have raged against him
will come to him and be put to shame.

²⁵ But all the descendants of Israel
will find deliverance in the Lord
and will make their boast in him.”

God’s Word

Colossians 3:12-17

¹² Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Song

“Peace Came to Earth”

On the screens

Message from God’s Word

Luke 2:25-35

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

³³ The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

Christmas Peace

Statement of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

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

We 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.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, that we are the holy Christian Church and the communion of saints, and that we have the forgiveness of sins. We believe in the resurrection of our bodies, 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.

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.

Words of Institution

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

Communion Song

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

Hymn 56

Song of Peace

“Song of Simeon”

Sung by the vocalist

Blessing

The almighty and merciful Lord – the Father, the Son, † and the Holy Spirit – bless us and keep us.

Amen.

Closing Song

“A Great and Mighty Wonder”

On the screens

Cross of Christ Weekly Newsletter

December 27, 2020

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

Dec 27 – Jan 3	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		
Friday		
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

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.

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!

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 23, we've grown the building fund to \$173K available with an additional \$125K in outstanding pledges, for a total of \$298K! 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 directly to the building fund at any time, by check or at cocidah.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 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; reaching out 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 being able to make more use of our faithful volunteers with more opportunities sometime in the coming year.

One Way to Serve: Meal Coordinator

Helping Hands is a branch of Sisters in Christ that (among other things) provides meals for church members in situations like surgery, illness, or welcoming a new baby. We thank outgoing coordinator Sara Manglos for her service, and open the opportunity for your consideration.

The Meal Coordinator participates in the email prayer chain and stays in contact with the pastors to be aware of families who could use meals; contacts families to offer meals; contacts Helping Hands volunteers to provide meals when needed; and coordinates the schedule & delivery of the meals (as needed).

This volunteer position would be ideal for someone who enjoys connecting with individuals, has a heart for providing encouragement & support, and can provide some level of organization of people & schedules.

If that sounds like you, or you'd like a little more detail, contact Andrea Becker (becker_family_3546@msn.com).

***“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	13	13
Cross Connections Class		2	2
Weekend Worship	(Sat) 45 + 47 + 78 = 170	44	214

Serving	December 26-December 27		January 2-January 3	
	Nampa	Boise	Nampa	Boise
Music	S. Wetzal	M. Walters	TBA	K. Koepsell
AV Tech	J. Malnes, S. Tews, G. Light	E. Christianson, A. Becker, J. Kennedy	J. Malnes, S. Tews, G. Light	TBA
Altar Care	K. Guthmiller, C. Harris	Guthmiller, Struthers	K. Guthmiller, C. Harris	Yaka, Tweedy
Set-Up	Guthmiller, Harris, Olsoe	n/a	Guthmiller, Harris, Olsoe	n/a
Ushers	J. Harris	J. Breckon, A. Broyles	J. Harris	TBA
Sanitizing	D. Tews, J. Light	DeWall, Becker	D. Tews, J. Light	TBA
Flowers	n/a	W&D Ehlke	n/a	TBA
Church Cleaners	n/a	n/a	n/a	Carter, Admin
Tellers	Rule, Turley, Morgan		TBA	
Bulletin Folders	Bafus, Guthmiller, Ritger		Prigges, A. Tweedy, M. Foreman	

<i>General Fund Offerings Planned FY 20-21</i>	\$708,200
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$340,481
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$292,162
Total Offerings Last Week (All Funds)	\$34,961