



**CROSS** OF **CHRIST**  
BOISE

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# Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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

Rev. Greg Hein, Christian Life Pastor: (480) 433-3084, [greg.hein@cocidaho.org](mailto:greg.hein@cocidaho.org)

Rev. Brad Snyder, Christian Education Pastor: (208) 996-0862, [brad.snyder@cocidaho.org](mailto:brad.snyder@cocidaho.org)

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

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

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Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 18-19, 2021

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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 includes a children's message with little ones in mind. 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. More information is also available online at [cocidaho.org](http://cocidaho.org).



**CROSS OF CHRIST**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Opening Song

## “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

*Hymn #55:1-3*

## Welcomed into the Family of God

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

### **Congregation: And also with you.**

As we remember Jesus’ first coming on Christmas and look forward to his return in glory, we see the reason he first came in lowliness. He came to save his people from their sins. Together we acknowledge those sins before God, trusting in Jesus alone for our acceptance and forgiveness.

**Holy and just Father, I confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. In what I have done and left undone, I have failed to live as I should. Though my sins deserved your punishment, I thank you for sending Jesus as my Savior. I look to his manger, his cross, and his empty tomb as I ask for your forgiveness.**

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. In great love, Jesus, God’s Son, made himself nothing. He came to suffer and die as he was crushed for our sins. His perfect life is credited to you. Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Settle in with Jesus and his family. God calls you his holy child!

**Amen!**

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, because you lovingly came to this world, we are set free and the gates of heaven are open to us. Work in us by your Spirit that we, too, may live in that selfless love toward others. Graciously rule in our hearts as you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## God's Word

## Isaiah 53:1-3

- <sup>1</sup> Who has believed our message  
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?  
<sup>2</sup> He grew up before him like a tender shoot,  
and like a root out of dry ground.  
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.  
<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.  
Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

## God's Word

## Philippians 2:5-11

- <sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:  
<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own  
advantage;  
<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.  
<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!  
<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## Children's Message

## Song

## “Lord, You Were Rich beyond All Splendor”

*On the screens*

### Message from God’s Word

### Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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.”

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

### **What Real Love Looks Like**

## 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.**

**Distribution Song    "As Angels Joyed with One Accord"**

*Hymn #5:1-4, 5-7*

## Prayer

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this Holy Supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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

**“Joy to the World”**

*Hymn #62:1,4*

## Silent Prayer

Jesus, thank you for coming on Christmas. I look forward to the day when you come again. Fill me with your love, and give us all a blessed Christmas. Amen.

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## Offerings

*If you would like to give an offering to support gospel ministry at Cross of Christ, offering plates are available in the lobby. You can also give online at [cocidaho.org/give](http://cocidaho.org/give) or contact the church office ([secretary@cocidaho.org](mailto:secretary@cocidaho.org) or 208-375-3992) to schedule a time to drop your offering off during the week.*

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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 19, 2021

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

<b>Dec 19-Dec 26</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Nampa</b>
Sunday	8:30am – Worship w/Communion <i>(also livestreamed at <a href="http://cocidaho.org/livestream">cocidaho.org/livestream</a>)</i> 9:45am – Adult Bible Study (Chapel) Teen Class (Conf Rm) Kids’ Sunday School (Gym & Classrooms) Confirmation Class 11:00am – Worship w/Communion	8:45am - Family Bible Study (JaK*s Place) 9:30am – Worship (JaK*s Place) w/Communion
Monday	<i>Preschool Christmas Break, classes resume January 3-4</i>	
Tuesday		
Wednesday	6:30pm – Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm – CrossTrainers	
Thursday		
Friday 	2:00pm – Christmas Eve Worship 4:00pm – Christmas Eve Worship 6:00pm – Christmas Eve Worship <i>(all three services livestreamed)</i>	3:00pm – Christmas Eve Worship
Saturday	10:00am – Christmas Day Worship <i>(also livestreamed)</i> <i>no Evening Worship today</i>	
Sunday	8:30am – Early Worship w/Communion <i>no Education Hour today</i> 11:00am – Late Worship w/Communion	8:45am - Family Bible Study (JaK*s Place) 9:30am - Worship (JaK*s Place) w/Communion

## Daily Devotions & Advent Devotions

The Advent devotional booklet, “We Have Seen His Glory”, is still available to you from Martin Luther College, in PDF format, downloadable [HERE](#). The December-February Meditations are also available on the ushers’ cart by the lobby mailboxes.

## Christmas Worship

The darkness is real in this world. It can surround us even during the season that’s supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year. But there’s a light that can scatter the darkness. We’d love to share the good news of this light with your family, friends, and neighbors this Christmas. Please be sure to grab invite cards from the lobby and use them to help others see the light of Christ this year!

### in Boise

Christmas Eve:

2:00, 4:00, & 6:00 pm

*all services livestreamed*

*at [coidaho.org/livestream](http://coidaho.org/livestream)*

Christmas Day:

10:00 am (+ livestream)

*no Saturday evening service*

Sunday, December 26:

8:30 (+ livestream) & 11:00 am

*no Bible studies or Sunday School*

### in Nampa (at JaK\*s Place)

Christmas Eve:

3:00 pm

Sunday, December 26:

9:30 am

*Family Bible study at 8:45 am*

## The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a countdown to Jesus, the Light of the World. Each week we’re 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 of the Advent wreath is one of beauty in simplicity: The Light of the World has come and will come again. This wreath helps us focus on that as we celebrate our Savior and our eternal life.

### Gratitude...and an Invitation

Throughout each year, so many people 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! **We deeply appreciate what you do, and give God the glory for his willing servants!** Consider being one of the helpful many in the new year, as we work together to connect more and more people to Jesus!

<i>We extend thanks particularly to...</i>	<i>To volunteer for this area of ministry, or get more info, contact...</i>
Everyone involved with Sisters in Christ, serving at and coordinating events and ministry work throughout the year;	Becky Sobolewski (208-963-0474), Kirsten Evans (760-672-2450)
Bible study & Growth Group leaders who study and facilitate so we can grow closer to Jesus;	Pastor Brad Snyder (208-996-0862)
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;	Stewardship Councilman Matt Brown (907-223-7072)
Those who decorate God's house in every season, including all who sponsor our weekly altar flowers;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kay Guthmiller (flowers, 208-850-8806)</li> <li>• Darlene McLain (decorating, 208-914-3912)</li> </ul>
Our Preschool Staff who love and teach so many of God's littlest lambs, particularly for getting 27 three- and four-year-olds to say, "We love you, Baby Jesus," in an organized fashion (and all who provided cookies for close to 130 parents and family members who attended our Preschool Christmas services!), as well as those that so generously helped in donating 87 pairs of pajamas for our community;	Preschool Director Carrie Steinbrenner (208-949-5301)

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;	Pastor Brad Snyder (208-996-0862), Education Councilman Dave Malnes (208-685-9959)
The volunteers and leaders for every single youth event and activity;	Pastor Brad Snyder (208-996-0862), Youth Councilman Hans Geary (208-484-6245)
Our musicians and AV techs who help us worship our Savior every week;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kristen Koepsell (music, 208-922-8422)</li> <li>• Alyssa Becker (AV, 208-375-3992)</li> </ul>
Our Altar Care volunteers, ushers, and coffee crew, who serve on our behalf;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darlene McLain (altar, 208-914-3912)</li> <li>• Ty Stavenau (ushers, 208-938-0886)</li> <li>• Ruby Ritger (coffee, 208-921-2803)</li> </ul>
Our Councilmen who work behind the scenes and stay late to lead us;	Congregational President Brent Masters (208-866-7176)
Our cleaners, lawn mowers, snow removers, and maintenance helpers who work in off-hours to make God's house a functional, welcoming home;	Facilities Councilman Roy Lange (208-484-3836)
All who have generously donated food, funds, time, and friendliness for Grocery Outreach over the last year;	Pastor Kurt Wetzel (208-996-2202), Evangelism Councilman Lucas Shaw (715-299-5530)
Those with technical know-how who keep our IT infrastructure & digital communication up and running;	IT Councilman Greg Light (208-850-1337)

<p>The core &amp; launch teams committed to making outreach &amp; worship happen in Nampa: managing the trailer &amp; equipment; setting up, serving at, &amp; taking down after worship; spreading the word at community events and door-to-door;</p>	<p>Pastor Kurt Wetzel (208-996-2202)</p>
<p>All who regularly tabulate and update, count and contribute, fold, copy and cut, and keep the coffee hot and the refreshments cold!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office Admin Stefanie DeWall (208-375-3992)</li> <li>• Ruby Ritger (bulletin folding, 208-921-2803)</li> </ul>

### Church Office Hours Next Week

Pastors and office staff will be, as you are, enjoying some time away with their families the week between Christmas and New Year's. In case of emergency, contact Pastor Steinbrenner Sunday-Tuesday, December 26-28 (208-921-4748); contact Pastor Snyder Wednesday-Saturday, December 29 - January 1 (208-996-0862).

If you need access to the building at Boise December 27 - January 1, please call the office first (208-375-3992). If no answer, contact Office Admin Stefanie DeWall (208-608-2728). God bless your time with your families and friends as you celebrate Christmas and New Year's!

### Cross Connections Class

Cross Connections (our Bible Information Class) is the perfect course to connect to God, purpose, and community at the cross of Christ. In a simple, easy-to-follow format, we lay out the message of Jesus and the Bible to give you certainty about your relationship with God and answer life's biggest questions.

- **In-person on the Boise campus: Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm (starting Jan 25)**
- **Online via Zoom: Thursdays @ 6:30 pm (starting Jan 27)**

Cross Connections can serve as a great spiritual refresher to grow in your faith or as an introduction to Christianity and what we're all about at Cross of Christ. There's no cost and no obligation. All materials are provided. Try out the first few weeks and embark on a faith-journey you won't regret. Watch for registration opening in the new year!



## **Altar Flowers for 2022**

To purchase the flowers on our Savior's altar at Boise in 2022, record your name on the flower calendar posted on the Service bulletin board in the lobby, on your desired Sunday. Cost is \$33 per Sunday; designate your payment by marking it on your offering envelope. 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. Questions can be directed to Kay Guthmiller (208-850-8806).

## **Welcome New Members**

This Sunday, our family of faith praises our gracious God as we welcome new members Daniel Doshier and Braeden and Hannah Edleman into our midst. May God guide us as we grow in our faith and share Jesus with our community together. Please go out of your way to introduce yourself to these new friends in Jesus.

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

General Fund Offerings Planned FY 21-22	\$739,167
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$341,154
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$311,753
Total Offerings Last Week (All Funds)	\$14,311

<b>People in God's Word this past week</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Nampa</b>	<b>Total</b>
Sunday Morning Adult/Teen Bible Study	42/10	20	72
Kids' Sunday School/Confirmation	28/13		41
CrossTrainers	10		10
Cross Connections (online & individual)		4	4
Last Weekend's Worship	208	78	286

Serving	Dec 18-19		Dec 25-26	
	Nampa	Boise	Nampa	Boise
Music	K. Koepsell	A. Lange	J. Hein	K. Koepsell
AV Tech	J. Malnes, S. Tews, G. Light	E. Christianson, M. Hartman, J. Meier	J. Malnes, S. Tews	E. Christianson, A. Becker, J. Meier
Altar Care	K. Guthmiller, C. Harris	K. Guthmiller, K. Struthers	K. Guthmiller, C. Harris	K. Guthmiller, K. Struthers
Set-Up	Guthmiller, Harris, Olsoe	n/a	Guthmiller, Harris, Olsoe	n/a
Ushers	J. Harris	B. Walters, R. Hibbs, R. Seely, T. Stavenau	n/a	TBD
Open & Close	Malnes	M. Johnson, E. Christianson, KC Broyles	Olsoe	M. Brown, J. Breckon, B. Masters
Coffee	Guthmiller, Wetzel	R. Ritger, K. Struthers	Guthmiller, Wetzel	R. Ritger, K. Struthers
Flowers	n/a	Seely	n/a	W&D Ehlke
Church Cleaners	n/a	Watkins, Struthers	n/a	n/a
Bulletin Folders	Ritger, Ford, Ashley		Bafus, Guthmiller	
Tellers	Turley, Morford, Cadwell		Harris, Morford, Rule	