



**CROSS OF CHRIST**

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# Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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

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First Sunday of Christmas

December 26, 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

## “To Shepherds as They Watched”

*Hymn #53:3-4, 6*

### Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest!

**Congregation: Glory to God in the highest!**

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

**And also with you.**

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. I know that the day you took on flesh and began to suffer was necessary because of my sin. You came among us as a light shining in darkness. I confess that I have not welcomed that light. But I am truly sorry for my sins and sincerely repent of them. I ask you for the sake of Christ, my Savior, to be gracious to me, a sinner.**

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests. (Luke 2:14) God has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins and has given his Word so “that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:31) Upon your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word-made-flesh, announce the grace of God unto all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. There is born for you today in the city of David a Savior; he is Christ the Lord! (Luke 2:11) Be of good cheer and certain of your forgiveness, because God has kept his promise and provided you a Savior.

**Amen!**

## Song of Praise

## “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

*Hymn #34:1-2*

### God’s Word

### 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

<sup>18</sup> But Samuel was ministering before the LORD—a boy wearing a linen ephod.

<sup>19</sup> Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. <sup>20</sup> Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, “May the LORD give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the LORD.” Then they would go home. ... <sup>26</sup> And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with people.

### God’s Word

### Galatians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. <sup>6</sup> Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

## Song

## “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

*Hymn #38:3-4, 8*

## Message from God's Word

Luke 2:41-52

<sup>41</sup> Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. <sup>43</sup> After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. <sup>44</sup> Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

<sup>49</sup> "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>51</sup> Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

### Ponder Jesus

Song

"See in Yonder Manger Low"

*Hymn #58:3-4*

## Statement of Faith

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

**We believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is our Lord. He has redeemed us, lost and condemned creatures, purchased and won us from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. All this he did that we should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.**

**We 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.**

## 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.

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! When the time had fully come, he sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. He took on flesh so he could give it up to forgive our sins. He continues to assure us of that forgiveness with his true body and blood in this sacrament. To him be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

**Distribution Song**

**"Come Behold the  
Wondrous Mystery"**

*On screens*

## Prayer

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ, grant that as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, so also we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life.

And the blessing of God Almighty – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – be upon you and remain with you forever.

**Amen.**

## Closing Song

## “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

*Hymn #57*

## Silent Prayer

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming, deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory. You have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do. Amen.

# Cross of Christ Weekly Newsletter

## December 26, 2021

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

<b>Dec 26-Jan 2</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Nampa</b>
Sunday	8:30am – Worship w/Communion (also livestreamed at <a href="http://cocidaho.org/livestream">cocidaho.org/livestream</a> ) <i>No Education Hour today</i> 11:00am – Worship w/Communion	8:45am - Family Bible Study (JaK*s Place) 9:30am – Worship w/Communion (JaK*s Place)
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday	7:00pm – CrossTrainers	
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday	<i>No Evening Worship today</i>	
Sunday	8:30am – Worship w/Communion (also livestreamed at <a href="http://cocidaho.org/livestream">cocidaho.org/livestream</a> ) 9:45am – Adult Bible Study (Chapel) Teen Class (Conf Rm) Kids’ Sunday School (Gym & Classrooms) Confirmation Class (Rm 5) 11:00am – Worship w/Communion	8:45am - Family Bible Study (JaK*s Place) 9:30am - Worship w/Communion (JaK*s Place)

## 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.

Register online at [cocidaho.org/cross-connections](http://cocidaho.org/cross-connections) and invite a friend to join you!

## GriefShare Support Group



GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. Built around a 13-week video curriculum, GriefShare is Christian support group for anyone recovering from the loss of a loved one to death.

This group meets weekly to help you face the challenges of grief and move from mourning to joy. Cross of Christ's winter/spring session will meet **Thursdays @ 7:00 pm, starting January 20, in-person on the Boise campus.** Watch for registration available after the New Year; there is a \$20 registration fee to cover the cost of class materials. Find more info about the program at [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org).

### **Church Office Hours This 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!

### **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!

<b><i>We extend thanks particularly to...</i></b>	<b><i>To volunteer for this area of ministry, or get more info, contact...</i></b>
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)

<p>Those who decorate God’s house in every season, including all who sponsor our weekly altar flowers;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kay Guthmiller (flowers, 208-850-8806)</li> <li>• Darlene McLain (decorating, 208-914-3912)</li> </ul>
<p>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;</p>	<p>Preschool Director Carrie Steinbrenner (208-949-5301)</p>
<p>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;</p>	<p>Pastor Brad Snyder (208-996-0862), Education Councilman Dave Malnes (208-685-9959)</p>
<p>The volunteers and leaders for every single youth event and activity;</p>	<p>Pastor Brad Snyder (208-996-0862), Youth Councilman Hans Geary (208-484-6245)</p>
<p>Our musicians and AV techs who help us worship our Savior every week;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kristen Koepsell (music, 208-922-8422)</li> <li>• Alyssa Becker (AV, 208-375-3992)</li> </ul>

<p>Our Altar Care volunteers, ushers, and coffee crew, who serve on our behalf;</p>	<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>
<p>Our Councilmen who work behind the scenes and stay late to lead us;</p>	<p>Congregational President Brent Masters (208-866-7176)</p>
<p>Our cleaners, lawn mowers, snow removers, and maintenance helpers who work in off-hours to make God’s house a functional, welcoming home;</p>	<p>Facilities Councilman Roy Lange (208-484-3836)</p>
<p>All who have generously donated food, funds, time, and friendliness for Grocery Outreach over the last year;</p>	<p>Pastor Kurt Wetzel (208-996-2202), Evangelism Councilman Lucas Shaw (715-299-5530)</p>
<p>Those with technical know-how who keep our IT infrastructure &amp; digital communication up and running;</p>	<p>IT Councilman Greg Light (208-850-1337)</p>
<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>

## 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).

*"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	\$355,368
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$320,973
Total Offerings Last Weekend (All Funds)	\$9,472

People in God's Word this past week	Boise	Nampa	Total
Sunday Morning Adult/Teen Bible Study	34/5	23	62
Kids' Sunday School/Confirmation	19/5		24
Cross Connections (online & individual)			6
Last Weekend's Worship	207	71	278

Serving	Dec 26		Jan 2	
	Nampa	Boise	Nampa	Boise
Music	J. Hein	K. Koepsell	S. Wetzel	A. Lange
AV Tech	J. Malnes, S. Tews	E. Christianson, J. Meier, A. Becker, TBD	J. Malnes, S. Tews, G. Light	K. Koepsell, TBD
Altar Care	K. Guthmiller, C. Harris	K. Guthmiller, K. Struthers	K. Guthmiller, C. Harris	TBD
Set-Up	Guthmiller, Harris, Olsoe	n/a	Guthmiller, Harris, Olsoe	n/a
Ushers	n/a	K. Benedick, TBD	n/a	TBD
Open & Close	Olsoe	M. Brown, J. Breckon, B. Masters	Olsoe	M. Johnson, R. Lange, D. Malnes
Coffee	Guthmiller, Wetzel	R. Ritger, K. Struthers	Guthmiller, Wetzel	R. Ritger, K. Struthers
Flowers	n/a	W&D Ehlke	n/a	TBD
Church Cleaners	n/a	Whitaker, Sobolewski	n/a	Wudarcki, Biggs
Bulletin Folders	Bafus, Guthmiller		Kimmel, Whitlach	
Tellers	Harris, Morford, Rule		Rule, Morgan, Turley	