

What do you want for

CHRISTMAS?

CROSS OF CHRIST

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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November 27, 2022

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 worshipping family. In fact, our worship often includes a children's message with little ones in mind. That's why children who act up are never viewed as a bother to the 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.



CROSS OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Opening Song

“O Come, All You Unfaithful”

On screens

Welcomed into the Family of God

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

Congregation: Amen!

Our God invites us to come before him as we are. When we are weary, when we are broken, or when we are carrying heavy burdens, he gladly receives us with open arms to lighten our hearts with his forgiveness. So by his invitation, we pray together:

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.

In his Word, God assures us of his justice and love. At the cross, every sin was paid for. All guilt has been removed. Because of Jesus' perfect life, innocent death, and resurrection, you are forgiven. Settle in with Jesus and his family, equally loved and accepted.

Amen!

Song of Thanks

“We Sing, Immanuel, Your Praise”

On screens, st. 1-2

God's Word

Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the LORD;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

God's Word

Matthew 3:1-11

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea
² and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is he
who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'"

⁴ John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around
his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People went out to him from
Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶ Confessing their
sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

Children’s Message

Song

“Hear the God of Love and Comfort”

On screens, st. 1-3, 5

Message from God’s Word

Acts 3:19-26

¹⁹ “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰ and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. ²¹ Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. ²² For Moses said, ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. ²³ Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from their people.’

²⁴ “Indeed, beginning with Samuel, all the prophets who have spoken have foretold these days. ²⁵ And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, ‘Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.’ ²⁶ When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.”

A Better Gift: Relief from Guilt

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

**“Our Father, Lord
on Heav'n's High Throne”**

On screens

Blessing

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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 “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Hymn #38:3, 14, 15

Silent Prayer

Merciful God, stir in my heart the relief I need from the guilt in my life. Grant me the gift of celebrating you this season free from the burden of expectation and performance. May my celebrations instead be sincere, confident, and full of thankfulness for the perfect gift of your Son, my Savior. Amen.

Offerings

If you would like to give an offering to support gospel ministry at and through Cross of Christ, there are offering plates on the table in the lobby where you may place your gift to the Lord. You can also give online at cocidaho.org/give.

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.

Cross of Christ Weekly Newsletter

November 27, 2022

Nov 27-Dec 4	Boise (11655 W. McMillan Road)	Nampa (6134 Birch Lane)
Sunday	8:30am – Worship 9:45am – Adult Bible Study (Chapel) Teen Bible Study (Conference Room) Confirmation Class (Rm 5) Kids’ Sunday School (Gym & Classrooms) 11:00am – Worship	9:30am – Worship 10:45am – Family Bible Study & Kids’ Sunday School 4:00pm – Confirmation Class
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday	6:15pm – Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm – CrossTrainers (HS)	
Thursday		6:30pm - GriefShare
Friday		10:00am – Mommy & Me
Saturday	5:00pm – Evening Worship w/Communion	
Sunday	8:30am – Worship w/Communion 9:45am – Monthly Ministry Discussion (Chapel) Teen Bible Study (Conference Room) Confirmation Class (Rm 5) Kids’ Sunday School (Gym & Classrooms) 11:00am – Worship w/Communion 5:00pm – Ladies’ Christmas Party	9:30am – Worship w/Communion 10:45am – Family Bible Study & Kids’ Sunday School 4:00pm – Confirmation Class 5:00pm – CrossTrainers (HS)

THIS WEEK

New Worship Series: What do you want for Christmas?

It's a question we ask the kids this time of year: What do you want for Christmas? But what about you? What do YOU want for Christmas? How about peace in your heart? Hope for something better? Acceptance when you fail? How would you like those things for Christmas?

Through the gracious gift of Jesus, God wants to freely give you these gifts and even more. New phones, shoes, or clothes can't provide them. But Jesus was born to purchase them for you with his cross. Let's look to him together this Christmas season, during our new worship series that begins today, November 27, and celebrate the better gifts meant for us through Christ!

Advent Devotions to Take Home

A free Advent devotion booklet is available to you on the tables in the lobby, provided by Martin Luther College (our church body's called worker training school). These daily devotions begin December 1; you can also read them online or register to receive them via email at mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions/.

Preschool Pajama Drive

Cross of Christ Preschool is hosting a pajama drive to help children facing instability. **New pajamas are welcome in any size** (complete sets, top and bottom, or appropriate nightgown), and for each pair of pj's, Scholastic Books will match our gift with a new children's book. Good nights help to provide good days! **Place your donation in the basket in the Boise lobby by this Friday, Dec. 2.**

Mommy & Me: Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Friday, December 2, 10:00 am on the North Nampa campus. We'll learn about the nativity and sing some Christmas songs! This activity is perfect for caregivers and their children under the age of 6. If it's your first time attending, please register at cocidaho.org/connect/mommy-and-me/.

THIS MONTH

CrossTrainers at Nampa

Sunday, December 4, 5-7 pm

High school students invited for food & faith conversations & hanging out.

**Ladies' Christmas Party: Advent by Candlelight
Sunday, December 4, 5-7 pm, Boise campus**

All women middle school (6th grade) and older are invited to gather for this very special evening of fellowship with your Sisters in Christ as we begin the Advent season. Dinner will be provided, but please feel free to bring a sweet or savory treat or beverage to share. To aid in planning dinner, we ask that you give us an estimate on how many guests you plan to bring. Friends very welcome! Please RSVP either on the Boise lobby bulletin board or online at tinyurl.com/LadiesChristmas2022.

Christmas Flowers

To honor Jesus' birth by beautifying the Boise chapel, sign up on the bulletin board to purchase various flowering plants (\$7.00-14.00 each). **Last day to request a plant is Wednesday, December 7.** After the last service on Christmas Eve or Day, take your plants home to enjoy! Contact Dick or Kay Guthmiller with any questions (208-850-8809).

Preschool Service & Christmas Cookies Needed

The Cross of Christ Preschool students will present the good news of Jesus' birth on **Thursday, December 8, at 6:30 pm**, on the Boise campus. All are welcome to attend this special service!

The students, families, and guests enjoy treats and fellowship in the lobby after the service -- would you be willing to provide some Christmas cookies for this evening? If baking is your gift, please deliver your cookies to the Boise kitchen by **noon on Wednesday, December 8.** (Allergy-friendly options are always welcome; please label nut-free, gluten-free, etc.)

Loving our Neighbors at McMillan Elementary

You can make a difference for our Boise neighbors who are struggling this Christmas. Cross of Christ teens will be doing a service project during December to assemble Christmas gifts for students in need at McMillan Elementary. Please consider donating as a way to share God's love! A full list of needed items can be found here: cocidaho.org/connect/loving-our-neighbors-at-mcmillan-elementary/. Place your gifts in the bin in the Boise lobby.

Christmas Worship at Cross of Christ

Who will you invite to come with you?

The Sunday school students will participate in the 11:00 am service at Boise on Sunday, December 11, and in the Christmas Eve services at Nampa.

	Nampa Campus	Boise Campus
Christmas Eve (Saturday)	2:00 & 4:00 pm	3:00 & 5:00 pm
Christmas Day (Sunday) <i>no Bible studies / Sunday school at either campus</i>	9:30 am w/ Holy Communion	10:30 am w/ Holy Communion
New Year's Day (Sunday) <i>no Bible studies / Sunday school at either campus</i>	9:30 am w/ Holy Communion	8:30 & 11:00 am w/ Holy Communion <i>no Saturday evening worship Dec 31</i>

People in God's Word this past week	Boise	Nampa	Total
Cross Connections/Teen Bible Study	39 / 7	29	75
Kids' Sunday School/Confirmation	18 / 8	18 / 3	47
Last Weekend's Worship	22 + 84 + 67	88	261
Thanksgiving Worship	128	37	165
Livestream Views	8		

<i>General Fund Offerings Planned FY 22-23</i>	\$781,660
<i>General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD</i>	\$315,670
<i>General Fund Offerings FYTD</i>	\$291,705
Total Offerings Last Weekend (All Funds)	\$23,012

Serving	Nov 27		Dec 4	
	Nampa	Boise	Nampa	Boise
Music	K. Koepsell	L. Neujahr	A. Lange, B. Parsons, E. Parsons	K. Koepsell
AV Tech	J. Malnes, S. Tews	G. Light, D. Hibbs	J. Malnes, S. Tews	K. Koepsell, E. Christianson, M. Hartman
Altar Care	K. Guthmiller, C. Harris	McLain, Biggs	K. Guthmiller, C. Harris	K. Struthers
Ushers	n/a	J. Berrier, B. Turley	n/a	B. Adams, R. Seely
Open & Close	n/a	E. Christianson, R. Lange	n/a	J. Breckon, M. Brown
Coffee	Guthmiller	C. Berrier, D. McLain	Guthmiller	R. Ritger, K. Struthers
Flowers	n/a	Loring	n/a	Seibel
Kitchen Cleaning	n/a	R&L Ochoa	n/a	R&A Lange
Bulletin Folders	n/a	Office Staff	n/a	Prigge, Tweedy, Foreman
Tellers	Harris, Rule, Hudson		TBD	