

What do you want for

CHRISTMAS?

CROSS OF CHRIST

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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December 10-11, 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 worshiping 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, O Come, Emmanuel”

Hymn #23:1,3-4

A Prayer of Confession

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

Congregation: Amen.

Our hearts long for joy and our souls were made for rejoicing. Yet in a weary, broken world, joy is often hard to find. But when we have Jesus, we have reason for joy – joy that lasts. As we confess our sins together, it gives us opportunity to reflect on the darkness Jesus overcame, the love he has for us that we never deserved, and the joy that comes from the forgiveness and salvation he has given to us.

Perfect and loving Father, I acknowledge my brokenness and sin. In countless ways, I have wandered from your goodness and failed to live as your child. My sins are grievous and deserved your punishment. I thank you for sending your Son to be my Savior. I trust in Jesus for pardon and forgiveness.

Your Father in heaven is the God of undeserved love and eternal promises, the God who fills us with joy. This is the good news of Christ: Jesus has accomplished everything for you to live in the joys of God’s kingdom now and forever. Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection have set you free. By trusting in Christ, you are God’s forgiven child—holy and blameless in his sight. May God’s joy fill your heart as you live trusting in him.

Amen!

Song of Thanks

“We Sing, Immanuel, Your Praise”

On screens, st. 1-2

God's Word

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the Lord,
the splendor of our God.

³Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way;

⁴say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come, he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution he will come to save you."

⁵Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

⁶Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.

⁷The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.
In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

⁸And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.

The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.

⁹No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.

But only the redeemed will walk there,
¹⁰ and those the Lord has rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.

Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

God's Word

Romans 15:13

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

God's Word

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.

³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Children's Message

Song

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

On screens, st. 1-3

Message from God's Word

Psalm 146

¹ Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, my soul.

² I will praise the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

³ Do not put your trust in princes,
in human beings, who cannot save.

⁴ When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.

⁵ Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God.

⁶ He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—
he remains faithful forever.

⁷ He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets prisoners free,

⁸ the Lord gives sight to the blind,
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,
the Lord loves the righteous.

⁹ The Lord watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

¹⁰ The Lord reigns forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord.

A Better Gift: Eternal Joy

Song

“Create in Me”

On screens

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

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.

Blessing

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another and 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

“Joy to the World”

Hymn #62:1-3

Silent Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, come to us with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light. 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

December 11, 2022

Dec 11-18	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 with Sunday School & Confirmation Students	9:30am – Worship 10:45am – Monthly Ministry Planning Meeting 4:00pm – Confirmation Class
Monday	6:00pm – Grocery Outreach	
Wednesday	6:15pm – Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm – CrossTrainers (HS)	
Thursday		6:30pm - GriefShare
Saturday	5:00pm – Evening Worship w/Communion	
Sunday	8:30am – Worship w/Communion 9:45am – Adult Bible Study (Chapel) Teen Bible Study (Conference Room) Confirmation Class (Rm 5) Kids’ Sunday School (Gym & Classrooms) 11:00am – Worship w/Communion	9:30am – Worship w/Communion 10:45am – Family Bible Study & Kids’ Sunday School 4:00pm – Confirmation Class

THIS WEEK

Grocery Outreach in Boise

This Monday, December 12, 6:00pm

Grocery outreach supports families in our community who could benefit from some fresh groceries. This month we'll connect with folks in Boise as we hand out both groceries and Christmas worship invitations!

If you'd like to donate groceries and/or participate in distribution, please contact Boise admin Stefanie DeWall (admin@cocidaho.org).

One set of groceries includes the following (bread is already provided):

- Small jars of peanut butter and jelly, or a few cans of tuna
- Fresh veggies or fruit (bananas, apples, & baby carrots work well)
- Snack item (granola bars, crackers, etc.)
- Dessert/treat (small bag of candy, cookies, etc.)

Advent Devotion Resources

Two free devotional resources are available to you:

- The December-February Meditations booklet, on the tables in the lobby.
- Advent devotions (Dec 1-25) provided by Martin Luther College (our church body's called worker training school). You can access them online, download the PDF, or register to receive them via email at mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions/.

Current Worship Series: 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 and celebrate the better gifts meant for us through Christ!

THIS MONTH

Loving our Neighbors at McMillan Elementary

Thank you for the gifts you've provided so far! We've received quite a few gifts as well as updated info from the school regarding students' & families' needs; if you're planning to provide a gift, please consider the following:

- Toys/small games (ball, toy truck or boat, stuffed animal, puzzle, playdough, doll, stickers, etc. \$10-15 value)
- Winco & gas gift cards

Please consider donating as a way to share God's love! Place your gifts in the bin in the Boise lobby no later than Sunday, December 18.

Christmas Worship at Cross of Christ

Take a card from the lobby and invite someone to join 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>

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.

We Extend Our Thanks

It takes a lot of time and energy to make our ministry happen here at Cross of Christ. Throughout each year, so many men, women, and children 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! It is overwhelming to think of all the ways you contribute to our ministry and this church family. We deeply appreciate what you do and give God the glory for his willing servants!

NEXT MONTH

Altar Flowers for 2023

To sponsor the flowers on our Savior's altar at Boise in 2023, 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 or check, or choose "Flower Fund" via online giving. If two families share the Sunday, two arrangements each costing \$33 will be made. After the 11:00 am service you can take your flowers home to enjoy, returning the vase when the flowers are spent. Direct questions to Kay Guthmiller (208-850-8806).

People in God's Word this past week	Boise	Nampa	Total
Cross Connections/Teen Bible Study	33 /8	21	54/8
Kids' Sunday School/Confirmation	26/8	10/4	36/12
Last Weekend's Worship	10+89+70	73	242
CrossTrainers	11		11
Livestream Views	10		

<i>General Fund Offerings Planned FY 22-23</i>	\$781,660
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$345,734
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$317,615
Total Offerings Last Weekend (All Funds)	\$10,466

Serving	Dec 10-11		Dec 17-18	
	Nampa	Boise	Nampa	Boise
Music	J. Lowry, R. Dodd, F. Fauchaux	J. Hein, L. Rule, K. Koepsell, M. Studer, Sunday School & Confirmation students	K. Koepsell, C. Trull	A. Lange, C. Masters, K. Christianson
AV Tech	J. Malnes, S. Tews	K. Koepsell, G. Light, D. Hibbs	J. Malnes	E. Christianson, M. Hartman, G. Light
Altar Care	n/a	K. Struthers	A. Fuentes	K. Struthers
Ushers	n/a	B. Adams, R. Seely	n/a	B. Adams, R. Seely
Open & Close	n/a	M. Johnson, H. Geary	n/a	KC Broyles, L. Manglos
Coffee	O'Doherty, Wetzel	R. Ritger, K. Struthers	O'Doherty, Wetzel	R. Ritger, K. Struthers
Flowers	n/a	Banner/Ehlke	n/a	available
Kitchen Cleaning	n/a	M&J Johnson	n/a	J&J Trentz
Bulletin Folders	n/a	Kimmel, Whitlach	n/a	Ritger, Ford, Ashley
Tellers	Harris, Walden, Morford		Turley, Rule, Hudson	