

What do you want for

CHRISTMAS?

CROSS OF CHRIST

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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December 17-18, 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

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

Hymn #56, st. 1, 3

Come as a Redeemed Child of God

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

Congregation: Amen.

When God created the world, God made the crown of his creation – the human race – in his image (Genesis 1:26). Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God. But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death (Romans 6:23). We too are guilty, and we confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.

Holy and merciful Father in heaven, I confess that I have been sinful from birth. In countless ways, I have disobeyed you and failed to live as your child. Though I deserved to be rejected by you, you refused to give up on me. Thank you for sending Jesus to be my Savior. Thank you for Christmas. Thank you for the cross and the empty tomb.

God – who is Love – did not want to be separated from us forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death. Throughout the ages, believers have been longing for this Savior to come. When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven (Galatians 4:4-5). As we feel the effects of sin, God hears us when we confess. And God forgives for Jesus’ sake.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Song of Praise

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

Hymn #28, st. 1-2

God's Word

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ “‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

¹⁵ “‘In those days and at that time
I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line;
he will do what is just and right in the land.

¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved
and Jerusalem will live in safety.

This is the name by which it will be called:
The LORD Our Righteous Savior.’”

God's Word

Romans 1:1-4

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— ² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

Children's Message

Song

“One Still Night”

On screens, st. 1, 3

Message from God's Word

Luke 1, selected verses

²⁸ The angel went to [Mary] 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." ...

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

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon 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." ...

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

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors."

A Better Gift: Confidence

Song

“Holy Is Your Name”

On screens, st. 1, 3, 5

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 truly 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

"What Feast of Love"

On screens, st. 1-3

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

“To Shepherds as They Watched by Night”

Hymn #53, st, 3-6

Silent Prayer

Lord, come to us and take away the burden of our sins. Make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy, live in confidence, and serve you wholeheartedly. 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 18, 2022

Dec 18-25	Boise (11655 W. McMillan Road)	Nampa (6134 Birch Lane)
Sunday	8:30am – Worship w/Communion 9:45am – Adult Bible Study (Chapel) Teen Bible Study (Conference Room) Confirmation Class (Room 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
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday	<i>Preschool Christmas Break,</i> <i>classes resume January 3-4</i> 6:15pm – Adult Choir Rehearsal	
Thursday		
Saturday	3:00pm – Christmas Eve Worship <i>(also livestreamed at</i> <i>cocidaho.org/livestream)</i> 5:00pm – Christmas Eve Worship	2:00pm – Christmas Eve Worship 4:00pm – Christmas Eve Worship
Sunday	10:30am – Christmas Day Worship w/ Communion <i>(also livestreamed at</i> <i>cocidaho.org/livestream)</i>	9:30am – Christmas Day Worship w/ Communion

THIS WEEK

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!

Loving our Neighbors at McMillan Elementary

Thank you for your generosity in providing Christmas gifts for **every** student at our neighborhood elementary school, along with hundreds of dollars of grocery & gas gift cards for their families! What a tangible expression of God's love. All the gifts will be delivered to McMillan this Monday.

Christmas Worship at Cross of Christ

Take a card from the lobby and invite someone to join you!

	Nampa Campus	Boise Campus
Christmas Eve (Saturday)	2:00 & 4:00 pm	3:00* & 5:00 pm <i>*livestreamed</i>
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 <i>livestreamed</i>
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>*livestreamed</i> <i>no Saturday evening worship Dec 31</i>

Greeters for Christmas

We love helping people feel like they **belong here** at Cross of Christ. It's often our privilege at Christmastime to receive a greater number of guests than usual for worship. Therefore, we want to especially make an effort to help everyone who walks through our doors know there's a place for them here!

Would you be willing and able to *be a greeter at one of our Christmas Eve services* to help make this happen? You'd be asked to arrive at the service early, warmly welcome those who come through our doors, and to hand out welcome gift bags as people leave. Please contact Pastor Hein right away if you're interested or if you'd like further details (greg.hein@cocidaho.org). Christmas is one week away!

Pastor Wetzel – Calls Received

Pastor Wetzel has received two Calls, to serve as a pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Greenville, WI, and at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Yorktown, VA. Please pray for him and his family as he considers the ministry opportunities God has put before him; he also welcomes your encouragement and thoughts: kurt.wetzel@cocidaho.org.

Thank You!

Dick and Kay Guthmiller wish to thank their church family for all your thoughts and concerns that have been shared with them, and especially for your prayers for them, as they have navigated various health challenges throughout this year.

THIS MONTH

Church Office Hours Between Christmas & New Year's

Pastors and office staff will be, as you are, enjoying some time away with their families the week between Christmas and New Year's. Therefore, there will be limited in-person office hours at both campuses. However, in case of emergency, you can contact Pastor Hein (480-433-3084) or the Boise office administrator, Stefanie DeWall (208-608-2728).

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 Advent wreath's meaning is both beauty and 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 purchase 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. 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).

Offering Envelopes

If you'd like to use offering envelopes to give your regular financial gifts in person, please feel free to take a box of envelopes from one of the wooden carts in the lobby. One box provides an envelope for each Sunday of the coming year as well as other special services, such as Good Friday and Christmas Eve.

People in God's Word this past week	Boise	Nampa	Total
Cross Connections/Teen Bible Study	42/13	42	97
Kids' Sunday School/Confirmation	27/7	4	38
Last Weekend's Worship	61+135+26	91	313
CrossTrainers	14		14
Livestream Views	5		

<i>General Fund Offerings Planned FY 22-23</i>	\$781,660
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$360,766
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$330,710
Total Offerings Last Weekend (All Funds)	\$13,644

SERVING THIS WEEK

	Dec 17-18	
	Nampa	Boise
Music	K. Koepsell, C. Trull	A. Lange, C. Masters, K. Christianson
AV Tech	J. Malnes	K. Koepsell, E. Christianson, M. Hartman, G. Light
Altar Care	A. Fuentes	K. Struthers
Ushers	I. Garza, S. O'Doherty	B. Adams, R. Seely
Open & Close	n/a	KC Broyles, L. Manglos
Coffee	O'Doherty, Wetzel	R. Ritger, K. Struthers
Flowers	n/a	available
Kitchen Cleaning	n/a	J&J Trentz
Bulletin Folders	n/a	Ritger, Ford, Ashley
Tellers	Turley, Rule, Hudson	

Serving	Dec 24		Dec 25	
	Nampa	Boise	Nampa	Boise
Music	J. Lowry, R. Dodd, C. Trull, B. Parsons, E. Parsons, Sunday School students	K. Koepsell, T. Russow, B. Evans, M. Evans, S. DeWall, B. Breckon, S. Caudill, M. Studer	TBA	J. Hein, L. Rule, Adult Choir
AV Tech	TBA	C. Klink, J. Meier, D. Hibbs	TBA	K. Koepsell, C. Kennedy
Altar Care	A. Fuentes	K. Struthers	A. Fuentes	K. Struthers
Ushers	n/a	TBA	TBA	B. Adams, TBA
Open & Close	n/a	Staff	n/a	B. Masters, R. Lange
Coffee	TBA	TBA	O'Doherty, Wetzel	R. Ritger, K. Struthers
Flowers	n/a	Christmas	n/a	Christmas
Kitchen Cleaning	n/a	n/a	n/a	G&L Bafus
Bulletin Folders	n/a	Ritger, Ford, Ashley	n/a	Ritger, Ford, Ashley
Tellers	Rule, Walden, Harris			

