

What do you want for

CHRISTMAS?

CROSS OF CHRIST

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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December 3-4, 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

“My Soul in Stillness Waits”

On screens, st. 2-4

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!

Peace came to earth that first Christmas when God came down to be our Savior. When Jesus comes again, God’s children will have lasting peace as he makes all things right and takes us home to heaven. Until then, he gives peace for our souls in the forgiveness of sins. As we acknowledge our fault, we also remember how much Jesus overcame so we can be welcomed home in God’s family.

Holy and gracious Father, I acknowledge my sins. Throughout my life, I have failed to live as your child in my thoughts, words, and actions. Though I deserved separation from you, I thank you for coming to rescue me. I trust in Christ for forgiveness.

Because Jesus came, all is well between you and God. His perfect life in your place, his death for your sins, and his resurrection on Easter have accomplished all that is necessary for your sins to be removed forever. God loves you! He accepts you. He delights to call you his child. May God give you strength to live as his child!

Amen!

Song of Thanks

“We Sing, Immanuel, Your Praise”

On screens, st. 1-2

Prayer

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts, shed light on our path, and grant us your peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

God's Word

Luke 1:5-25

⁵In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

⁸Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

¹¹Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. ¹⁴He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. ¹⁶He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

¹⁸Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

¹⁹The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.”

²¹Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. ²²When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

²³When his time of service was completed, he returned home. ²⁴After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion.

²⁵“The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”

God’s Word

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Children’s Message

Song

“Behold a Branch Is Growing”

On screens, st. 1-4

Message from God's Word

Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—

³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.

⁷ The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the
nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

A Better Gift: Lasting Peace

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

"Peace Came to Earth"

On screens, st. 1-4

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

"Arise, O Christian People"

On screens, st, 1, 4

Silent Prayer

Lord of comfort, fill my heart with your powerful peace as you make me whole. Guide me away from the empty things of this world so that I may instead rejoice in my Savior and rest in the contentment of what I already have in you.

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 4, 2022

Dec 4-Dec 11	Boise (11655 W. McMillan Road)	Nampa (6134 Birch Lane)
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 10:45am – Family Bible Study & Kids’ Sunday School 4:00pm – Confirmation Class 5:00pm – CrossTrainers (HS)
Wednesday	6:15pm – Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm – CrossTrainers (HS)	
Thursday	6:30pm – Preschool Christmas Service	6:30pm - GriefShare
Saturday	10:00am – Sunday School Christmas Service Dress Rehearsal 5:00pm – Evening Worship	
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 w/Communion 10:45am – Monthly Ministry Planning Meeting 4:00pm – Confirmation Class

THIS WEEK

Monthly Ministry Discussion This Sunday

Sunday, December 4, 9:45 am. All are encouraged to attend & participate. *Who is our ministry for, and what's our purpose?* Be there to work through how God answers these important questions, explore strategies for connecting with our neighborhood leading up to Christmas, and discuss how we can intentionally show hospitality to first-time guests.

Ladies' Christmas Party: Advent by Candlelight This 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 worship and fellowship. Friends very welcome! Dinner is provided; you may bring a treat or beverage to share, if you'd like. If you're able, **please RSVP today yet**, either on the Boise lobby bulletin board or online at tinyurl.com/LadiesChristmas2022.

CrossTrainers at Nampa

This Sunday, December 4, 5-7 pm

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

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

Grocery Outreach in Boise

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.)

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

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

- Snow pants (pants or bibs), boots, and gloves for 47 3rd-graders!
- 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.

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.

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	41	29	70
Kids' Sunday School/Confirmation	30/5	14/5	44/10
Last Weekend's Worship	77+78	80	235
CrossTrainers	12		12
Livestream Views	9		

<i>General Fund Offerings Planned FY 22-23</i>	\$781,660
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$330,702
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$307,322
Total Offerings Last Weekend (All Funds)	\$15,742

Serving	Dec 3-4		Dec 10-11	
	Nampa	Boise	Nampa	Boise
Music	A. Lange B. Parsons, E. Parsons	K. Koepsell, G. Hein	J. Lowry, R. Dodd, F. Fauchaux	J. Hein, L. Rule, K. Koepsell, M. Studer, Sunday School & Confirmation students
AV Tech	TBD	K. Koepsell, E. Christianson, M. Hartman	TBD	K. Koepsell, G. Light, D. Hibbs
Altar Care	K. Guthmiller, C. Harris	K. Struthers	K. Guthmiller, C. Harris	K. Struthers
Ushers	n/a	B. Adams, R. Seely, B. Turley	n/a	B. Adams, R. Seely
Open & Close	n/a	J. Breckon, M. Brown	n/a	M. Johnson, H. Geary
Coffee	Guthmiller	R. Ritger, K. Struthers	Guthmiller	R. Ritger, K. Struthers
Flowers	n/a	Seibel	n/a	Banner/Ehlke
Kitchen Cleaning	n/a	R&A Lange	n/a	M&J Johnson
Bulletin Folders	n/a	Prigge, Tweedy, Foreman	n/a	Kimmel, Whitlach
Tellers	Turley, Reglin, Hudson		Harris, Walden, Morford	