



**CROSS OF CHRIST**

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# Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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## January 1, 2023

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**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](http://cocidaho.org).



**CROSS OF CHRIST**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Opening Song

## “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

*On screens, st. 1,3,4,5*

## Opening Responses

with Psalm 121

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.**

I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from?

**My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.**

The LORD watches over you – the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

**The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.**

The LORD will keep you from all harm – he will watch over your life;

**The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.**

The light of the star which appeared to the wisemen changed their lives and led them to their Savior. The light of our Savior has appeared to us also and guides us to the truth of our sins in the past year. Yet, it also shines brightly on the truth of God’s grace and gives us confidence in his mercy for our past, present, and future. Let us come before our King and Savior together now.

**Holy and merciful Father, as I look back at this past year I confess that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not always relied on your light to guide me. However, you gave your Son for me. By the power of the Spirit, I trust in him for forgiveness. Receive me and renew me for this coming year because of your boundless love displayed in Jesus at the cross.**

Your holy and merciful Father has taken away your sins and removed your guilt forever. Though the struggle with sin continues, he looks on you every day in love because of the perfect life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. On behalf of God himself, I am privileged to tell you: Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit! Celebrate your place in God’s family this year and always.

**Amen!**

## Prayer

Eternal God, we commit to your mercy and forgiveness the year ended and commend to your blessing and love the times to come. In this new year, abide among us with your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## God's Word

**Isaiah 60:1-6**

"Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

<sup>2</sup> See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the LORD rises upon you  
and his glory appears over you.

<sup>3</sup> Nations will come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup> "Lift up your eyes and look about you:  
All assemble and come to you;  
your sons come from afar,  
and your daughters are carried on the hip.

<sup>5</sup> Then you will look and be radiant,  
your heart will throb and swell with joy;  
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,  
to you the riches of the nations will come.

<sup>6</sup> Herds of camels will cover your land,  
young camels of Midian and Ephah.  
And all from Sheba will come,  
bearing gold and incense  
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

## God's Word

## Ephesians 3:2-12

<sup>2</sup> Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. <sup>4</sup> In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

<sup>7</sup> I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup> His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

## Children's Message

### Song

**"As with Gladness Men of Old"**

*On screens, st. 1,2,4*

## Message from God's Word

## Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

<sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup> "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

### Seeking the King in the New Year

## Song

## “O God Our Help in Ages Past”

*On screens, st. 1-4*

## 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.**

## 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

**"Joy Has Dawned"**

*On screens, st, 1,3,4*

## Silent Prayer

Eternal God, I thank you for your ever-present mercy in my life. Guide me by your light in the times to come. May your truth be what I always seek so that someday I may rest in my eternal home with you. Amen.

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## 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](http://cocidaho.org/give).*

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## 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.*

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### **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).

# Cross of Christ Weekly Newsletter

## January 1, 2023

<b>Jan 1-Jan 8</b>	<b>Boise</b> (11655 W. McMillan Road)	<b>Nampa</b> (6134 Birch Lane)
Sunday	8:30am - Worship w/Communion <i>livestreamed</i> <i>No Bible studies/Sunday School</i> 11:00am - Worship w/Communion	9:30am - Worship w/Communion <i>No Bible studies / Sunday School</i>
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday	<i>Preschool Resumes</i> 7:00pm - CrossTrainers (HS)	
Thursday		
Friday		10:00am - Mommy and Me
Saturday	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 10:45am - Family Bible Study & Kids' Sunday School 4:00pm - Confirmation Class

### **Thank You!**

The Steinbrenners, Heins, Wetzels, Snyders, and Kristen Koepsell offer sincere thanks for your expressions of love and generosity during this Christmas season. Many thanks for your financial gift on Christmas Day! Your pastors, staff minister, and preschool teacher consider it a joy and an honor to serve their Savior as they continue to serve you. Your many prayers, cards, encouragements, and love have been a blessing throughout the past year. May our Lord Jesus continue to bless this church family with his generosity and grace in 2023!

## THIS WEEK

**Pastor Steinbrenner** is taking part in Conference of Presidents meetings this week. We pray for safe travels for Pastor and Carrie, who is accompanying him, and for blessings on the Conference's work.

### **Mommy and Me: January 6**

Please join us on January 6th at our Nampa Campus (6134 Birch Lane) as we learn about the joys of winter: snow, hot chocolate, and more! We will read a book, sing some songs, and learn more about Jesus. If you have never attended Mommy and Me, this is a great time to start as we begin a new year. This is best for ages 6 and under to enjoy with their caregiver. Come and invite a friend! If you are brand new to Mommy and Me please register at [cocidaho.org/connect/mommy-and-me/](https://cocidaho.org/connect/mommy-and-me/).

## THIS MONTH

### **Cross Connections Class Coming Up**

Cross Connections (our Bible Information Class) is designed to help you **connect to God, purpose, and community at the cross of Christ**. In a simple, easy-to-follow format, it lays out the message of Jesus and the Bible to give you certainty about your relationship with God and answer life's biggest questions.

Cross Connections can serve as a great spiritual refresher to grow in your faith or as an introduction to Christianity and what Cross of Christ is all about. The next session will begin the last full week of January:

- **Nampa: Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm, beginning January 24**
- **Boise: Thursdays @ 6:30 pm, beginning January 26**

Get more info or register for this session at [cocidaho.org/connect/cross-connections](https://cocidaho.org/connect/cross-connections), or talk to a pastor!

### **Growth Groups Winter Session**

Spiritual growth in God's Word and more meaningful connections with other Christians – those are the goals of a Growth Group. Make one part of your 2023! Groups will start meeting **the week of January 15**; this session will run for six weeks. Groups meet in members' homes at different days & times, so watch for a sign-up to choose your group!

General Fund Offerings Planned FY 22-23	\$781,660
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$390,830
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$354,261
Total Offerings Last Weekend (All Funds)	\$15,229

People in God's Word this past week	Boise	Nampa	Total
Cross Connections/Teen Bible Study	n/a	n/a	
Kids' Sunday School/Confirmation	n/a	n/a	n/a
Christmas Worship	Dec 24: 309 Dec 25: 107	Dec. 24: 151 Dec 25: 65	632
Livestream Views	13		

Serving	January 1		January 8	
	Nampa	Boise		
Music	K. Koepsell	J. Hein, B. Snyder	A. Lange, Pastor Wetzel	K. Koepsell
AV Tech	TBA	G. Light, B. Berrier	TBA	TBA
Altar Care	A. Fuentes, K. Guthmiller	T. Yaka	A. Fuentes, K, Guthmiller	T. Yaka
Ushers	I. Garza, S. O'Doherty	TBA	I. Garza, S. O'Doherty	TBA
Open & Close	n/a	E. Christianson, M. Brown	n/a	J. Breckon, H. Geary
Coffee	O'Doherty, Guthmiller	B. Robbins, N. Herberger	O'Doherty, Guthmiller	B. Robbins, N. Herberger
Flowers	n/a	available	n/a	available
Kitchen Cleaning	n/a	M. Boltz	n/a	C. Masters, J. Masters
Bulletin Folders	n/a	Prigges, Tweedy, Foreman	n/a	Kimmel, Whitlach
Tellers	TBA		TBA	