

What do you want for
CHRISTMAS?



CROSS OF CHRIST

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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Christmas Day

December 25, 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

Pre-Service Anthem “Who Shall Come to Worship Him?”

On screens, sung by the Choir

Welcome

Opening Song

“Where Shepherds Lately Kneled”

Hymn #54, st. 1-2, 4

Christmas Gathering

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest!

Congregation: Glory to God in the highest!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. I know that the day you took on flesh and began to suffer was necessary because of my sin. You came among us as a light shining in darkness. I confess that I have not welcomed that light. But I am truly sorry for my sins and sincerely repent of them. I ask you for the sake of Christ, my Savior, to be gracious to me, a sinner.

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace, goodwill to all (Luke 2:14). God has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins and has given his Word so “that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31). Upon your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word made flesh, announce the grace of God unto all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Born for you today in the city of David a Savior, he is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11)! Be of good cheer and certain of your forgiveness, because God has kept his promise and provided you a Savior.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Song of Praise

“Joy to the World”

Hymn #62, st. 1, 3-4

Prayer

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your one and only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

New Member Welcome

God's Word

Isaiah 7:14

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Psalm 98

“All the Ends of the Earth”

On screens, st. 2-3

God's Word

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

God's Word

John 1:1-5, 9-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Children's Message

Choir Anthem

"Come Gladly"

On screens

Message from God's Word

Luke 2:8-15

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

A Better Gift: Good News

Statement of Faith

A Lutheran Christmas Creed

We believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

We believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is our Lord. He has redeemed us, lost and condemned creatures, purchased and won us from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. All this he did that we should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

We 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 for Christmas

Song of Prayer

“Our Father in Heaven”

On screens

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.

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. When the time had fully come, he sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Song

"O Christ, the Lamb of God Adored"

On screens, st. 1-2

Distribution Song

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Hymn #63, st. 1-3

Song of Praise

“Lord, Let Your Servant”

On screens, st. 2

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

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Hymn #57, st. 1-3

Silent Prayer

Almighty God, who has poured upon us the new light of your Incarnate Word; Grant that the same light enkindled in our hearts may shine forth in our lives through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 25, 2022

Dec 25-Jan 1	Boise (11655 W. McMillan Road)	Nampa (6134 Birch Lane)
Sunday	10:30am – Christmas Day Worship w/ Communion <i>(also livestreamed at cocidaho.org/livestream)</i>	9:30am – Christmas Day Worship w/ Communion
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Saturday	<i>no Saturday evening worship</i>	
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>

THIS WEEK

Church Office Hours Between Christmas & New Year's

Pastors and office staff will be enjoying some time away from the office with their families the week between Christmas and New Year's. In case of emergency or to access the building, contact Pastor Wetzel (208-996-2202) or Gina Garza (208-943-1520) in Nampa. Contact Pastor Hein (480-433-3084) or Stefanie DeWall (208-608-2728) in Boise.

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.

NEXT 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, 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!

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.

Worship with us again in the New Year!

Saturdays @ 5:00 PM &
 Sundays @ 8:30 & 11:00 AM
 on the Boise Campus
 11655 W McMillan Rd, Boise
(no Saturday evening worship 12/31)

Sundays @ 9:30 AM
 on the Nampa Campus
 6134 Birch Lane, Nampa

People in God's Word this past week	Boise	Nampa	Total
Cross Connections/Teen Bible Study	37/11	29	67
Kids' Sunday School/Confirmation	25 /7	12	37/7
Last Weekend's Worship	55+104+26	98	283
CrossTrainers (recessed for the holidays)	n/a		
Livestream Views	7		

<i>General Fund Offerings Planned FY 22-23</i>	\$781,660
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$375,798
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$343,275
Total Offerings Last Weekend (All Funds)	\$20,012

Serving	Dec 25		January 1	
	Nampa	Boise		
Music	L. Becker, K. Wetzel	J. Hein, L. Rule, G. Hein, Adult Choir & youth vocalists	K. Koepsell	J. Hein, B. Snyder
AV Tech	S. Tews, TBA	K. Koepsell, C. Kennedy	TBA	B. Berrier, G. Light, TBA
Altar Care	A. Fuentes	K. Struthers	A. Fuentes	T. Yaka
Ushers	TBA	B. Adams, TBA	I. Garza, S. O'Doherty	TBA
Open & Close	n/a	B. Masters, R. Lange	n/a	E. Christianson, M. Brown
Coffee	O'Doherty, Wetzel	R. Ritger, K. Struthers	O'Doherty, Wetzel	B. Robbins, N. Herberger
Flowers	n/a	Christmas	n/a	available
Kitchen Cleaning	n/a	G&L Bafus	n/a	M. Boltz
Bulletin Folders	n/a	Ritger, Ford, Ashley	n/a	Prigge, Tweedy, Foreman
Tellers	Rule, Walden, Harris		Turley, Rule, Hudson	

**From all the Staff at Cross of Christ to you and yours:
God bless you with a very Merry Christmas!**

