



identity

CROSS OF CHRIST

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

(208) 375-3992 + cocidaho.org

Rev. Greg Hein, Christian Life Pastor: (480) 433-3084, greg.hein@cocidaho.org

Rev. Brad Snyder, Christian Education Pastor: (208) 996-0862, brad.snyder@cocidaho.org

Rev. Kurt Wetzel, Mission Pastor: (208) 996-2202, kurt.wetzel@cocidaho.org

Rev. John Steinbrenner, District President: (208) 921-4748, john.steinbrenner@cocidaho.org

September 17, 2023

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 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. Video & audio of the worship service are available in the lobby to assist families with their worship. A private parents' room is located in the alcove to your left as you exit the chapel.

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 Responses

with “Lord, to You I Make Confession”

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

Congregation: Amen.

**All: (♩) We have come into God’s presence:
Maker of the heav’ns and earth.
He created us to love him,
To serve him as his precious child;
We have disobeyed and erred,
Thus deserving wrath and anger.**

Our God invites us to come into his presence openly and honestly. There is no need to hide any part of us because all of who we are is seen by him. Therefore, let us come as we are, acknowledging our sinfulness and trusting in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**All: (♩) Lord to you I make confession:
I have sinned and gone astray;
I have multiplied transgression,
Chosen for myself my way.
Led by you to see my errors,
Lord, I tremble at your terrors.**

My God, I was born spiritually dead, a lost and condemned creature. My arrogant and ignorant sin gratified the cravings of my flesh, but entirely destroyed my relationship with you. I was by nature a slave to sin and hostile to you. My sinful nature continues to produce evil thoughts, words, and actions that defile me. I was dead in my sin, unable to help myself, and deserved to be separated from you in the punishment of hell. But your undeserved love has given me new life in Christ!

**All: (♩) Lord on you I cast my burden –
Sink it in the depths below!
Let me know your gracious pardon;
Wash me, make me white as snow.
Let your Spirit leave me never;
Make me only yours forever.**

Even when we were dead in our sins, God made us alive with Christ Jesus. His perfect life, innocent death, and resurrection have removed your sins and given you his perfect life record. All by grace, God has rescued you and made you his child. By believing in Jesus, you are forgiven and you will live forever! May God give you his strength to live as his child.

Amen!

**All: (♫) For your Son has suffered for me,
Giv'n himself to rescue me,
Died to save me and restore me,
Reconciled and set me free,
Jesus' cross alone can vanquish
These dark fears and soothe this anguish.**

God's Word

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know."

⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! ⁵This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath[a] enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'"

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four

winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.”¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

¹¹ Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’

¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴ I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.’”

God’s Word

Matthew 9:1-8

Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. ² Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.”

³ At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, “This fellow is blaspheming!”

⁴ Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, “Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? ⁵ Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? ⁶ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “Get up, take your mat and go home.” ⁷ Then the man got up and went home. ⁸ When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man.

Children’s Message

Song

“By Grace I’m Saved”

Hymn #384:1-3,5

Message from God’s Word

Ephesians 2:1-10

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh[a] and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Grace, Grace, Grace

Song

“I Am Not My Own”

On screens, stanzas 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 & 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

The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians, united around a common confession of faith. Therefore, we ask only those who have made that public confession of faith by being a member of our congregation or another WELS or ELS congregation come forward to receive Communion. Guests, please ask one of our pastors if you have questions. We are eager to listen and visit with you about the blessings of this Supper and of that unity at a convenient time.

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
Rejoice"**

"Dear Christians, One and All

Hymn #377:2-5

Blessing

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

“Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly”

Hymn 484:1-3

Silent Prayer

Lord God, your love accomplishes the impossible. In amazing grace, you have rescued me from death and hell, and you open the path to heaven. Through all the changes and challenges of life, let my hearts rest securely in what you have done for me so I can live with you forever. Amen.

**Our Mission:
Impacting Lives for Eternity**

Offerings

*If you would like to give an offering to support gospel ministry
at and through Cross of Christ, offering plates are available in the lobby.
You can also give your gift online at cocidaho.org/give.*

Cross of Christ Weekly Newsletter

September 17, 2023

Sept 17-24	Boise (11655 W. McMillan Road)	Nampa (6134 Birch Lane)
Sunday	8:30am – Worship w/Communion 9:45am – Adult/Teen Bible Study (Chapel) Confirmation Class (Rm 5) Kids’ Sunday School (Gym & Classrooms) 11:00am – Worship w/Communion	9:30am – Worship w/Communion 10:45am – Monthly Ministry Planning Meeting Confirmation Class <i>(no Sunday School)</i>
Monday		
Tuesday	6:30am – Men’s Bible Study 7:00pm – GriefShare	6:30pm – Cross Connections
Wednesday	6:15pm – Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm – CrossTrainers (High School youth group)	
Thursday	6:30pm – Cross Connections	
Fri-Sat		
Sunday	8:30am – Worship 9:45am – Adult/Teen Bible Study (Chapel) Confirmation Class (Rm 5) Kids’ Sunday School (Gym & Classrooms) 11:00am – Worship 2:00pm – Worship service for new pastor at Peace in Jesus (1253 N Cole Rd)	9:30am – Worship 10:45am – Adult/Teen Bible Study Confirmation Class Kids’ Sunday School

THIS WEEK

Fall Worship Series: IDENTITY

Today we continue our exploration of the big question: “Who am I?” We try to answer it in all sorts of ways, but they generally fall short and leave us still searching, still a bit uncertain. Let’s see how God answers it for us, specifically in the Bible book of Ephesians. Let’s see what it means and what it looks like – and how it satisfies – to find our identity first in Jesus Christ. We’re glad you’re here! We hope you’ll come back next week for the next message in the series.

Sunday Morning Spiritual Growth for All Ages

9:45-10:45am

Adult/Teen Bible Study

Today, we continue our End Times Bible study (meets in the chapel), which provides a thorough examination of what Scripture teaches about the topic of eschatology, which means "the end times". Upcoming topics:

- **Millennialism and Dispensationalism** (Sept 17)
- The Present Life in Light of Jesus' Future Coming

Youth Confirmation Class

7th grade & older, Room 5 (down the hall to the right)

Sunday School

Age 2 – 6th grade (gym & classrooms, down the hall)

Men’s Morning Bible Study Begins This Week

Tuesdays, 6:30-7:15am, Boise campus lobby, starting the Bible book of 1 Samuel.

Cross Connections Class: new session begins This Tuesday

Tuesdays at 6:30 pm, on the Nampa campus

This 10-week class can serve as a spiritual refresher to grow in faith or as an introduction to Christianity and what we're all about at Cross of Christ. In a simple, easy-to-follow format, we lay out the message of Jesus and the Bible to give you certainty about your relationship with God and answer life's biggest questions. This presents an especially great opportunity for you to participate and invite a friend!

Register at cocardaho.org/connect/cross-connections.

SEPTEMBER

Connecting with Guests

When folks from our communities visit Cross of Christ for worship or an event, we want to get to know them better and stay connected with them, so they know they're important to us – and most of all – important to God!

To do that better, we're creating an intentional plan for following up with visitors that involves our members as well as our pastors. If you enjoy getting to know new people and offering connection & hospitality, if you like to think about how to make people feel welcome, if you can send friendly emails/texts or make friendly phone calls...this is for you! **Contact Evangelism Councilman Justin Malnes** (jdmalnes110@gmail.com) to get more info and express your interest.

Volleyball at Cross of Christ

Teen+ Volleyball:

- 6:30-8:00 pm, every third Thursday of the month, Boise campus gym
- ***Beginning this Thursday, September 21!***
- Signup encouraged for email reminders, but okay to just show up!
- Prior volleyball experience encouraged for more competitive play.
- Teens and adults only, friends very welcome!

To participate in Teen+, please sign up on the lobby bulletin board or RSVP to Ray Dodd (raymondjaydodd@gmail.com / 208-949-8787).

Family Volleyball:

- 2:00-3:30 pm, every second Sunday of the month, Boise campus gym
- Beginning Sunday, October 8
- No signup needed, just show up!
- All skill levels welcome
- Bring the whole family and invite some friends!

Worship Service for New Pastor at Sister Church: Sept 24

Peace in Jesus Lutheran Church in Boise (1253 N Cole Rd) is pleased to announce the Ordination/Installation service for Tào Nguyễn, their new pastor. All are invited and welcome to a lunch on Sunday, September 24, any time 12:00-1:30 pm. The bi-lingual Ordination/Installation service will be held at 2:00pm. We thank God for the opportunity to celebrate this event and hope you are able to join us!

Sisters in Christ Ladies' Retreat: Registration Deadline Sept 25

Oct 13-15, in Donnelly, ID – a peaceful and joyful opportunity for fellowship, relaxation (both physical and spiritual), and study of God's Word. Cost is \$100, for two nights' lodging, four meals, activities & materials. Further info & registration at cocardaho.org/retreat. Direct questions to Mandy Watkins (210-425-3270, amanda.watkins99@yahoo.com).

Parenting Workshop: Sept 30, Nampa Campus

To call parenting challenging would be a tremendous understatement. And so we want to offer support as parents and caregivers carry out this important role! You're invited to a free parenting workshop, Saturday, September 30, 9am-12pm, at our Nampa Campus (6134 Birch Lane) (also offered October 7 on the Boise campus). We'll work through practical ways to manage difficult behavior and strengthen relationships. We'll also see how the power of grace heals and transforms the heart of both child and parent. Please register at tinyurl.com/cocparentingworkshop, and invite your friends, family, and neighbors. All are welcome! Childcare is available for ages 2 & up; details on the registration page.

OCTOBER

Worship Service for Anniversary at Sister Church: Oct 1

Messiah Lutheran Church in Nampa (534 W Iowa Ave) invites our sister churches to a special worship service on Sunday, October 1, at 1:00 pm, to celebrate 50 years of gospel ministry. Food will be served following the service. We hope you can come and worship with us and visit us for this special occasion!

Women's Bible Study: Oct 2 or 9

All women are invited to come and connect with other Christian women as together we "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18) in a friendly, discussion-filled environment. This will be an 8-week session.

- Boise campus: Mondays, 10:00am, begins Oct 2
- Nampa Campus: Mondays, 6:30pm, begins Oct 9

Young Adult Group: Oct 4, 6:30 pm

We're pleased to announce the start of a young adult gathering at Cross of Christ (roughly ages 18 to early 30s)! We'll usually meet the first Wednesday of each month (alternating between our Boise and Nampa campus). The first group will meet on Wednesday, October 4 (6:30 pm) at our Nampa campus. We'll have a topic to dive into, time for discussion, and food & fun after. Friends are welcome!

Parenting Workshop: Oct 7, Boise Campus

The same workshop listed on the previous page; choose the day that works for your schedule! Held on the Boise campus Saturday, October 7, 9am-12pm.

Fall Festival: Oct 29

Save the date for this fun family event!

Nampa Campus: 3:00-5:30 pm

Boise Campus: 3:00-6:00 pm

General Fund Offerings Planned FY 23-24	\$808,840
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$167,872
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$123,038
Total Offerings Last Weekend (All Funds)	\$15,367

People in God's Word this past week	Boise	Nampa	Total
Sunday Morning Adult/Teen Bible Study	59	32	91
Kids' Sunday School/Confirmation	31/9	14/3	57
Last Weekend's Worship	105+88	93	286
CrossTrainers	9	n/a	9
Livestream Views	4		
Cross Connections	8	3	11

Serving	Sept 17		Sept 24	
	Nampa	Boise	Nampa	Boise
Music	R. Dodd	L. Becker, K. Koepsell, small group choir	J. Lowry	K. Koepsell, A. Scott
AV Tech	G. Light, C. Spackman	E. Christianson, C. Kennedy, J. Meier	J. Malnes	G. Light, M. Hartman, J. Geary
Altar Care	Guthmiller	K. Struthers	n/a	K. Struthers
Ushers	Sullivan, Merklinger	B. Walters, Team Geary	n/a	B. Walters, Team Manglos
Greeters	n/a	M&T Jones, Arstein	n/a	K. Sigler, B. Ford, C. Hagedorn- Reilly, J. Hein
Open & Close	n/a	B. Masters, H. Geary	n/a	J. Breckon, M. Brown
Coffee	Hopkins	Ritger, Struthers	TBA	Ritger, Struthers
Flowers	n/a	Loring	n/a	T&C Masters
Lawn Crew	n/a	B. Turley, B. Zimmerman	n/a	N. Tessmer, P. Becker
Cleaning	K. Fuller	B&N Turley	TBA	n/a
Bulletin Folders	n/a	Kimmel, Whitlach	n/a	Ritger, Ford, Ashley
Tellers	Turley, Butterfield, Hudson		Rule, Christianson, Hudson	

