



GREAT EXPECTATIONS

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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November 26, 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 Dialogue with “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**All: (♩) O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**O come, O Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

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

Congregation: Amen.

We are gathered in the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him. But we have not loved God above all else. We all deserved only wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to God and plead for mercy.

**All: (♩) O come, O Root of Jesse, free
Your own from Satan’s tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save,
And give them vict’ry o’er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.**

Lord, I confess to you that in countless ways I have sinned against you. In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved others as you command. But led by you to see my errors, I am humbled and sorry for my sins. And trusting in Jesus as my Savior, I ask you to cleanse me of my sins and release me from my guilt.

**All: (♩) O come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

God, our heavenly Father, who is rich in mercy, loved us when we were dead in our sin, has forgiven all your sin by the perfect life and innocent death of Jesus Christ, and has removed your guilt forever. God grant you the Holy Spirit to amend your sinful life and give you strength of faith to live as his child.

Amen!

Song of Praise

“Glory to God in the Highest”

On screens

God's Word

Mark 1:1-8

¹The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God,
²as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way”—

³“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”

⁴And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

God's Word

1 Corinthians 1:4-9

⁴ I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— ⁶ God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Children's Message

Song

“Hark the Glad Sound!”

On screens, stanzas 1-4

Message from God's Word

Genesis 3:1-15

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹ And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.

¹⁵ And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

Have It All

Song

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

On screens, stanzas 1-2,4-5

Statement of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I 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 & the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer is sung following the prayer spoken by the pastor:

**Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same
By mortals and angels; come, Lord, reign alone;
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, lead us to be near;
From evil deliver your children most dear.**

**For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign.
And yours is the power; all things you maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever – Amen!**

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

“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

On screens, stanzas 1-3

Silent Prayer

Gracious God, thank you for sending your Son into the world to destroy the power of Satan and restore human beings as your children and heirs. Work in my heart this Advent season to protect me from everything that distracts from you and to keep me focused on the joy and beauty of Jesus my Savior. 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

November 26, 2023

| Nov 26-Dec 3 | Boise (11655 W. McMillan Road) | Nampa (6134 Birch Lane) |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Sunday | 8:30am – Worship 9:45am – Adult Bible Study (Chapel) Teen Class (Conference Rm) Confirmation Class (Rm 5) Kids’ Sunday School (Gym & Classrooms) 11:00am – Worship | 9:30am – Worship 10:45am – Adult/Teen Bible Study Confirmation Class Kids’ Sunday School |
| Monday | 6:00pm – Church Council Meeting | 6:30pm – Women’s Bible Study (last session) |
| Tuesday | 6:30am – Men’s Bible Study 7:00pm – GriefShare | |
| Wednesday | 6:15 pm – Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm – CrossTrainers | |
| Thursday | | |
| Friday | | 10:00am – Mommy & Me |
| Saturday | | |
| Sunday | 8:30am – Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:45am – Ministry Discussion (Chapel) Teen Class (Conference Rm) Confirmation Class (Rm 5) Kids’ Sunday School (Gym & Classrooms) 11:00am – Worship w/ Holy Communion | 9:30am – Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:45am – Monthly Ministry Meeting Confirmation Class (no Sunday School) |

THIS WEEK

Advent Worship Series: Great Expectations

November 26 – December 17

What are you expecting this Christmas season? Are you expecting the celebrations to take away the disappointments of the past year, calm the stress of the present, and show a future that will turn out all right? Unfortunately, nothing we do at Christmas can do that. And expecting it leads only to more disappointment.

But what if your great expectations could be met? What if there was someone perfect who wouldn't let you down, and you were given gifts that perfectly satisfy? What would you do to prepare for *those* celebrations? Worship at Cross of Christ this Advent season and reorient your heart to the one who meets (and exceeds) our great expectations: Jesus, our Savior.

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Let's Go

9:45 am, now through December 17

"I WANT to talk to my friends about my faith and about Jesus, but sometimes I just don't know HOW to do it." Let's work on that together! This study will use videos, discussion, and Scripture (of course!) in the framework of LOVE/LISTEN/LEAD to help us learn some simple, practical ways to connect with others on spiritual matters.

Advent Devotions to Take Home

Two free Advent devotion booklets are available to you on the tables in the lobby:

"The Mysteries of Christmas" is provided by Martin Luther College (our church body's called worker training school). These daily devotions begin December 1; you can also read them online or register to receive them via email at mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions/.

"Meditations" provides daily devotions year-round and this volume begins on December 3.

Mommy & Me: Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Friday, December 1, 10:00 am at our Nampa campus. We'll learn about the nativity and sing some Christmas songs! This activity is perfect for kids five and under with a caregiver, and a great way to meet other moms and kids! If it's your first time attending, please register at cocidaho.org/connect/mommy-and-me/.

Diapers & Wipes Drive for the Wetzel Family

Pastor and Stephanie Wetzel recently became foster parents for two baby brothers, and we'd like to support them with a diaper & wipes drive! If you'd like to contribute, bring a pack of diapers (any size *except* newborn) or wipes or a gift card (preferably Walmart or Costco, for convenience) to church **by Sunday, December 3**. Place diapers in the basket by the lobby bulletin boards; place gift cards in mailbox #214. Questions can be directed to Andrea Becker (208-830-7763).

Winter Clothing Drive for Faces of Hope

Cross of Christ is hosting a winter clothing drive during the first three weeks of December (through Sunday the 17th) for Faces of Hope. This is a Boise organization that serves victims of abuse of all kinds. You can learn more about them at facesofhopevictimcenter.org.

They are short on **new winter coats, sweats, hats, gloves, and boots**. They serve mainly adult women, but kids' and men's items are welcome, too. They require all donations to be *new with tags* to ensure that the gifts are high quality and add to the dignity of those receiving them. All items can be dropped off at the Boise campus. Thank you in advance for sharing your generosity in this way, and we look forward to working with Faces of Hope more in the future.

UPCOMING

Ministry Discussion: December 3, 9:45 am

All are encouraged to participate! Together, we'll walk through the last month of ministry here in Boise and plans for the end of the year and the start of 2024.

Young Adult Meet-Up Wednesday, Dec 6, 7pm, Nampa Campus

For folks roughly 18 (post-high-school) to early 30s – come hang out, make some connections, consider a discussion topic pertinent to your life. This month we're meeting at the Nampa campus (6134 Birch Lane). Friends very welcome!

Active Seniors Organizing Meeting

Thursday, December 7, 10:00 am at the Boise campus. All active seniors interested in bringing ideas to the table and helping this fellowship group get off the ground are invited! We'll simply talk about what we want it to look like and how we can make that happen. Please RSVP to admin@cocidaho.org / 208-375-3992.

Call Meeting December 10

Mrs. Carrie Steinbrenner has announced that this school year will be her last as Cross of Christ's Preschool teacher. Cross of Christ will therefore hold a Call Meeting for a Preschool Director/Lead Teacher on Sunday, December 10, 1:00 pm at the Boise campus. (Virtual access will not be available due to restrictions on sharing candidate information online.)

Ladies' Christmas Party: Advent by Candlelight

Sunday, December 10, 5-7 pm, Boise campus

All women middle school (6th grade) and older are invited to gather for this special evening of food, fellowship, Word, and song, to prepare our hearts for Christmas. Please invite family members, friends, and neighbors for a Christ-centered evening!

Dinner's main course will be provided; feel free to bring a sweet or savory treat or beverage to share. (Gluten-free & other allergy-friendly options will be available if noted on your RSVP.) To aid in planning dinner, we ask that you RSVP as soon as possible, even if it's tentative, including guests you may bring. You can do so on the Boise lobby bulletin board or online at tinyurl.com/LadiesChristmas2023.

Preschool Service & Christmas Cookies Needed

The Cross of Christ Preschool students will present the good news of Jesus' birth on **Thursday, December 14, 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 14**. (Allergy-friendly options are always welcome; please label nut-free, gluten-free, etc.)

Neighborhood Christmas Invitations

Saturday, December 16, 10:00 am. We want our neighbors to know that real peace does exist, in Jesus, and that they can find out more about it at Cross of Christ's Christmas celebrations. Meet at the Boise campus at 10am, Saturday, December 16, to head out into nearby neighborhoods to hang Christmas invitations on our neighbors' doors. All ages can do this - bring the kids! We won't be out later than noon. Please RSVP to Pastor Hein (greg.hein@cocidaho.org) so we can plan how many neighborhoods we can cover; you can also contact him with any questions.

Christmas Worship at Cross of Christ

Never too early to think about who you'd like to invite to come with you!

The Sunday school students will participate in the 11:00 am service at Boise on Sunday, December 10, and possibly in the Christmas Eve services at Nampa.

| | Nampa Campus | Boise Campus |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Christmas Eve (Sunday) <i>no Bible studies / Sunday school at either campus</i> | 9:30 am & 3:00 pm | 11:00 am & 4:00 pm |
| Christmas Day (Monday) <i>Holy Communion at both campuses</i> | 9:30 am | 10:30 am |
| New Year's Eve (Sunday) <i>no Bible studies / Sunday school at either campus</i> | 9:30 am | 8:30 & 11:00 am |

New Year Growth Groups

The winter session of Growth groups will start the week of January 7, which is earlier than usual, so keep an eye out for sign-ups coming before Christmas!

| People in God's Word this past week | Boise | Nampa | Total |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Sunday Morning Adult/Teen Bible Study | 37 / 6 | 30 | 73 |
| Kids' Sunday School/Confirmation | 22 / 5 | 10 / 3 | 40 |
| Last Weekend's Worship | 103+80 | 85 | 268 |
| Men's Bible Study/Women's Bible Study | 6 / 7 | n/a | 13 |
| CrossTrainers | <i>recessed for Thanksgiving week</i> | | |
| Livestream Views | 7 | | |
| Cross Connections | 9 | 6 | 15 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| <i>General Fund Offerings Planned FY 23-24</i> | \$808,840 |
| General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD | \$320,484 |
| General Fund Offerings FYTD | \$269,574 |
| Total Offerings Last Weekend (All Funds) | \$36,169 |

| Serving | Nov 26 | | Dec 3 | |
|--------------|----------------------------|--|------------|---|
| | Nampa | Boise | Nampa | Boise |
| Altar Care | Guthmiller | D. McLain, C. Biggs | Guthmiller | K. Struthers |
| AV Tech | J. Parsons, C. Whitaker | G. Light, T. Butterfield, J. Meier | TBD | C. Klink, D. Wilson, TBD |
| Bulletins | n/a | Bafus, Guthmiller | n/a | Prigge, Tweedy |
| Cleaning | TBD | Boltz | Olsoe | n/a |
| Coffee | TBD | C. Berrier, D. McLain | TBD | R. Ritger, K. Struthers |
| Flowers | n/a | Loring | n/a | Banner, Ehlke |
| Music | L. Becker, K. Wetzel | K. Koepsell | R. Dodd | A. Lange, K. Christianson, K. Koepsell, L. Neujahr |
| Open & Close | n/a | B. Masters, H. Geary | n/a | J. Breckon, E. Christianson |
| Tellers | Harris, Rule Butterfield | | TBD | |
| Ushers | n/a | J. Berrier, R. Seely, T. Stavenau | TBD | J. Breckon, TBD |