



GREAT EXPECTATIONS

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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December 10, 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

A Dialogue of Repentance and Forgiveness with “My Soul in Stillness Waits”

All: (♩) *Refrain*

**For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits,
Truly my hope is in you.**

**O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,
Your radiance shines in all who look to you.**

Come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow. *Refrain*

Pastor: We have done wrong and tarnished so many of the gifts God freely gives. We hide from the world our love for God. We have not followed Christ but ignored his teachings. We have lived lives of apathy, not love. God invites us to come, broken as we are, and be honest, recognizing our need for a Savior.

All: (♩) **O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits.**

Our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word.

Come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts. *Refrain*

Congregation: You who called forth light, forgive our preference for darkness. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Help us wait patiently, trusting all you have promised. Forgive us. Free us from our sin, and free us to live life with joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All: (♩) **O Key of Knowledge, guide us in our pilgrimage;**

We ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain.

Open to us the pathway of your peace. *Refrain*

Good news, good news! God has done all we asked before we even asked. God gave his Son, Jesus Christ, to die as the sacrifice for our sins and to live as our substitute. Christ now comes with his Father to make his home in our hearts, working repentance and faith by his Spirit until he comes again. Therefore, let us praise his name and live showing our love for him. The Lord will come again in glory. The Spirit and the Church cry out: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Amen.

Song of Praise

“O Come, All You Unfaithful”

On screens, stanzas 1-5

God’s Word

2 Peter 3:8-9

⁸But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

God’s Word

Matthew 1:1, 3, 5-6, 16, 17

¹This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

³Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,
Perez the father of Hezron,
Hezron the father of Ram,

⁵Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,
Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,
Obed the father of Jesse,

⁶and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah’s wife,

¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

Song

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hymn #61:1-2

Message from God's Word

Jeremiah 23:1-6

¹“Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD. ²Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: “Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done,” declares the LORD. ³“I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. ⁴I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing,” declares the LORD.

⁵“The days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch,
a King who will reign wisely
and do what is just and right in the land.

⁶In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel will live in safety.

This is the name by which he will be called:
The LORD Our Righteous Savior.

Expecting Perfection

Song

“Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery”

On screens, stanzas 1-4

Statement of Faith

written by the Confirmation Students

I believe in the triune God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

I believe God the Father is the Creator of all things, and continues to protect us and provide for us daily. With grace and love, God the Father sent his Son to save us.

I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, who is truly and completely human, and also truly and completely God. He taught people about God’s truth and lived a perfect life of love without sin. He was crucified to pay for our sins and the sins of all. He descended into hell to proclaim his victory over sin and death, then rose from the dead on the third day. Because he rose from the dead, I believe I am fully saved – that Jesus has done everything necessary for my salvation. I believe Jesus is coming back to judge the living and the dead, and to bring all believers to heaven.

I believe the Holy Spirit works to plant faith in the hearts of sinful people and lead us to live lives of love for God and love for others.

I believe this, because this is what the Bible says. 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.

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

“Joy to the World

Hymn #62:1,3,4

Silent Prayer

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus, and remind us again and again of the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light. Lead us more and more to look only to you for perfection, security, peace, and love. 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

December 10, 2023

Dec 10- 17	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 with Youth Education Students 1:00pm – Preschool Call Meeting 2:00pm – Family Volleyball 5:00pm – Women’s Christmas Party	9:30am – Worship 10:45am – Adult/Teen Bible Study Confirmation Class Kids’ Sunday School
Tuesday	6:30am – Men’s Bible Study	
Wednesday	6:15pm – Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm – CrossTrainers	
Thursday	6:30pm – Preschool Christmas Service	
Saturday	10:00am – Neighborhood Christmas Invitations	
Sunday	8:30am – Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:45am – Adult Bible Study (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 – Adult/ Teen Bible Study Confirmation Class Kids’ Sunday School

THIS WEEK

Advent Worship Series: Great Expectations Now Through December 17

Are you expecting this season's celebrations to remove past disappointments, calm current stress, and lead to a better future? Unfortunately, the trappings of Christmas can't do that. And expecting it leads only to more disappointment. But what if those expectations could be met? Let's reorient our hearts 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 uses videos, discussion, and Scripture in the framework of LOVE/LISTEN/LEAD to help us learn some simple, practical ways to connect with others on spiritual matters.

Christmas Flowers: Order Deadline Today!

To honor Jesus' birth by beautifying the Boise chapel, sign up on the lobby bulletin board to purchase flowering plants (\$7.50-14.50 each, note payment info on the sign-up). **Last day to request a plant is Sunday, December 10, so don't delay!** 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).

Call Meeting Today 1:00 pm

With Mrs. Steinbrenner stepping down after this school year, Cross of Christ will hold a Call Meeting for a new preschool teacher today, December 10, 1:00 pm at the Boise campus. (Virtual access will not be available due to restrictions on sharing candidate information online.) **All members are invited and encouraged to attend and participate in this important ministry meeting!**

Family Volleyball Today, 2:00pm

In the Boise campus gym, all ages & levels of skill/experience welcome. Friends also very welcome!

**Ladies' Christmas Party: Advent by Candlelight
Today, December 10, 5-7 pm, Boise campus**

Ladies, you're invited to gather for this special evening of food, fellowship, Scripture, and song. You are welcome to RSVP yet this morning (lobby bulletin board or tinyurl.com/LadiesChristmas2023) but if you don't have opportunity to do so, please feel free to still attend, and bring a guest or two as well!

Preschool Service & Christmas Cookies Needed: Thursday!

The Cross of Christ Preschool students will present the good news of Jesus' birth next week **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: this coming Saturday

Saturday, December 16, 10:00 am. We want our neighbors to know that real peace can be found in Jesus, and they can learn more about him at our Christmas celebrations! Meet at the Boise campus 10am Sat, Dec 16, to head out into nearby neighborhoods to hang Christmas invitations on doors. All ages can do this – bring the whole family! 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.

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). You can also access these daily devotions online at mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions/.

"Meditations" provides daily devotions year-round.

Winter Weather SERVE Opportunity

This season brings the need to remove snow from our sidewalks and parking lots here at church, and enlarging the team of volunteers will make the task lighter and quicker for all involved! **Contact Gene Whitlach** (gwhitlach@gmail.com or call 208-884-5633) **with questions or to volunteer.** Thank you for considering the opportunity, so that ministry can continue safely this winter!

- Process includes snow-blowing, shoveling, spreading ice melt. We have all the tools, just need the people!
- Willingness to be on-call & available to complete snow removal by 8:00 am Mon-Fri and/or by 7:00 am Sundays.
- You personally don't have to do it every time; with a bigger list of willing & available volunteers we can take turns.

Winter Clothing Drive for Faces of Hope

Cross of Christ is hosting a winter clothing drive now through Sunday, December 17, for Faces of Hope. This Boise organization 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.

Meet the New Office Admins

We welcome our new office admins, Amanda Watkins and Lacey Butterfield, to the Boise campus church staff. As you have reason to communicate with the Boise campus office (admin@cocidaho.org, 208-375-3992), you'll now be connecting with one or both of them. Welcome, ladies!

Guest Worship Leader & Presentation

On Sunday, December 31, we'll have a guest worship leader: Seminary student Calvin Arstein. Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary is our church body's pastor-training school; Calvin is a former member of Cross of Christ in his first year at Seminary. He'll also give a brief presentation between services about the Seminary and his experiences there. (Note that there are no regular Bible classes or Sunday school that morning.)

UPCOMING

Christmas Worship at Cross of Christ



Who will you invite to join you?

	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 starts week of January 7, which is earlier than usual. Sign-ups will be available next week!

Homemade Cookies for Christmas Eve

Do you love baking Christmas cookies? **Would you consider baking some to share on Christmas Eve at Cross of Christ?** We'd love to have an array of homemade cookies available for people to put together in a gift box to take home.

This is one of the tangible ways we want to show Christ's generous love to everyone who comes through our doors, as we proclaim to them the good news of that love!

If you can contribute to this hospitality, please sign up (including how many you can bring) on the lobby bulletin board or at tinyurl.com/ChristmasCookies2023. You can contact the office (admin@cocidaho.org / 208-375-3992) with questions.

People in God's Word this past week	Boise	Nampa	Total
Sunday Morning Adult/Teen Bible Study	35 / 12	46	93
Kids' Sunday School/Confirmation	29 / 7	n/a / 3	39
Last Weekend's Worship	99+110	82	291
Men's Bible Study	8	n/a	8
CrossTrainers	9	n/a	9
Livestream Views	8		
Cross Connections	n/a	5	5

<i>General Fund Offerings Planned FY 23-24</i>	\$808,840
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$351,006
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$311,023
Total Offerings Last Weekend (All Funds)	\$30,998

Serving	Dec 10		Dec 17	
	Nampa	Boise	Nampa	Boise
Altar Care	Guthmiller	K. Struthers	Guthmiller	K. Struthers
AV Tech	J. Malnes, G. Light	E. Christianson, M. Hartman, J. Geary	J. Parsons, TBD	E. Christianson, C. Kennedy J. Geary, N. Trentz
Bulletins	n/a	Whitlach, Ashley	n/a	Ritger, Ford
Cleaning	TBD	Arstein	TBD	n/a
Coffee	Guthmiller	R. Ritger, K. Struthers	Guthmiller	R. Ritger, K. Struthers
Flowers	n/a	Beaston	n/a	Watkins
Music	J. Lowry	K. Koepsell, A. Lange, S. Hibbs, A. Biondi, Sunday School students	K. Koepsell	J. Hein, Pastor Snyder
Open & Close	n/a	M. Johnson, R. Lange	n/a	KC Broyles M. Brown
Tellers	Rule, Walden, Morgan		Turley, Morgan, Butterfield	
Ushers	n/a	J. Breckon, B. Turley, T. Stavenau	TBD	B. Adams