



CROSS OF CHRIST

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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December 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 worshipping 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 Song

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

On screens, stanzas 1-3

A Dialogue of Repentance and Forgiveness

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

Congregation: Amen!

Few things in life last forever. In the end, much of what we see and know will be gone. But God wants us to have hope—to have certainty in what truly lasts.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

His love endures forever!

When we come before God, we can be honest about our failures and sins. We can come with confidence and hope because God’s love will never fail. In unending love, he receives us and forgives us because of Jesus.

Holy God, gracious Father, I confess my sins. Throughout my life, and in numerous ways, I have not lived as I should. In my thoughts, words, and actions, I have failed to live as your child. My sins deserved your just punishment forever. Thank you for saving me when I was lost. Thank you for Jesus!

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus, to rescue us. Your sins are forgiven. By believing in Jesus, all is well between you and God. You have a place in God’s family, and you will live forever—because of God’s unfailing love.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

His love endures forever!

Song of Praise

“Glory to God in the Highest”

On screens

Prayer

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins, and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

God's Word

Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.



God's Word

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.

³⁷For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Children's Message

Song

"All Glory to Jesus"

On screens, stanzas 1-4 (tune: Away in a Manger)

Message from God's Word

2 Samuel 7:8-16

⁸“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“ ‘The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹²When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. ¹⁵But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.’ ”

Expecting Forever

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 is sung following the prayer spoken by the pastor:

**Our Father, Lord on heav'n's high throne, most holy be your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, in heav'n the same.
Give us this day the food we need. Forgiven may we be;
Into temptation do not lead; from evil set us free.**

**Yours is the kingdom, unto you in grateful love we bow.
And yours the power, Lord, let us view your mighty presence now.
The glory yours, your praise be sung by angel hosts and men,
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue forevermore, 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

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

On screens, stanzas 1-5

Blessing

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

Amen!

Closing Song

"Behold, a Branch Is Growing"

On screens, stanzas 1,3,4

Silent Prayer

Faithful God, we give thanks for your mercy, love, and goodness which last forever. Focus our hearts and minds on you so that we build our lives on the solid foundation of your promises and gifts. In this way, we know we'll get to enjoy the kind of peace, hope, and joy which last forever too. For this we praise your name, O Lord, now and always! 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 17, 2023

Dec 17-25	Boise (11655 W. McMillan Road)	Nampa (6134 Birch Lane)
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
Tuesday	6:30am – Men’s Bible Study	
Wednesday	6:15pm – Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm – CrossTrainers	
Saturday		10:30am – Grocery Outreach
Sunday	11:00am – Christmas Eve Worship 4:00pm – Christmas Eve Worship	9:30am – Christmas Eve Worship 3:00pm – Christmas Eve Worship
Monday	10:30am – Christmas Day Worship	9:30am – Christmas Day Worship

THIS WEEK



Christmas Worship at Cross of Christ

Take some cards from the lobby and invite someone 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 <i>*livestreamed at cocidaho.org/livestream</i>
Christmas Day (Monday) <i>Holy Communion at both campuses</i>	9:30 am	10:30 am <i>livestreamed at cocidaho.org/livestream</i>
New Year's Eve (Sunday)	9:30 am <i>All-ages singalong & study of well-loved hymns after worship.</i>	8:30* & 11:00 am <i>*livestreamed at cocidaho.org/livestream Brief presentation on Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary between services; no Bible studies / Sunday school.</i>

Homemade Cookies for Christmas Eve

Would you consider baking some Christmas cookies to share on Christmas Eve at Cross of Christ? We'd love to have an array of homemade goodies available for people to put together in a gift box to take home. **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. Contact the office (admin@cocidaho.org / 208-375-3992) with questions.

Winter Clothing Drive for Faces of Hope

Thank you for your generosity in providing winter wear for those served by Faces of Hope! All items will be delivered to their center this week. We look forward to working with Faces of Hope more in the future.; you can learn about their work at facesofhopevictimcenter.org.

Preschool Teacher Call Issued

Cross of Christ has called Mrs. Jill Snyder to be our part-time lead Preschool teacher for next school year. Please keep her in your prayers as she considers this opportunity to serve! You may reach out to her with encouragement or input at snyderjnb@gmail.com.

We Extend Our Thanks

Throughout each year, so many men, women, and kids use their gifts to glorify God as they serve our Savior and his Church in different ways, and we are blessed by their gifts of love! It is overwhelming to think of all the ways you contribute to our ministry and this church family. **We deeply appreciate what you do and give God the glory for his willing servants!**

UPCOMING

New Year Growth Groups: Sign-ups available

The winter session of Growth groups starts the week of January 7 – don't let it sneak up on you! These small group Bible studies meet at church and in members' homes to apply God's Word to our lives and get to know each other better. What better way to start your new year! Sign up for a group today, on the lobby bulletin board or at tinyurl.com/GGWINTER2024.

Church Office Hours Between Christmas & New Year's

Pastors and office staff will be, as you are, enjoying some time away with their families the week between Christmas and New Year's. Therefore, there will be limited in-person office hours at both campuses. In case of emergency, contact Pastor Wetzel (208-996-2202).

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. (No regular Bible classes or Sunday school that morning.)

Altar Flowers for 2024

To purchase flowers for our Savior's altar in 2024, 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, check, or online gift. 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).

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.

Active Seniors Meet-Up: January 10

All active seniors are invited to the next meet-up: Wednesday, January 20, 10am at the Nampa campus (6134 Birch Lane). Plans will be made for events into spring of 2024 as well as further discussion of 'pop-up' events. For more information, contact Larry Dold (208-703-8080 / ladhomeacct@outlook.com).

People in God's Word this past week	Boise	Nampa	Total
Sunday Morning Adult/Teen Bible Study	55 / 7	39	101
Kids' Sunday School/Confirmation	34 / 6	18 / 3	61
Last Weekend's Worship	69/136	98	303
Men's Bible Study	9	n/a	9
CrossTrainers	12	n/a	12
Livestream Views	8		
Cross Connections	n/a	4	4

<i>General Fund Offerings Planned FY 23-24</i>	\$808,840
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$366,267
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$324,105
Total Offerings Last Weekend (All Funds)	\$18,840

Serving	Dec 17	Dec 24	Dec 25
Altar Care	K. Struthers	K. Struthers	K. Struthers
AV Tech	E. Christianson, C. Kennedy J. Geary, N. Trentz	C. Klink, J. Meier, G. Light, T. Butterfield	G. Light, T. Russow
Bulletins	Ritger, Ford	Ritger, Ford, Ashley	Ritger, Ford, Ashley
Cleaning	n/a	M&J Johnson	n/a
Coffee	R. Ritger, K. Struthers	R. Ritger, K. Struthers	R. Ritger, K. Struthers
Flowers	Watkins	Christmas	Christmas
Music	J. Hein, Pastor Snyder	K. Koepsell, T. Russow, L. Neujahr, B. Breckon, S. Caudill, C. Klink, M. Studer	K. Koepsell, B. Breckon, Pastor Hein, Adult choir
Open & Close	KC Broyles, M. Brown	TBD	TBD
Tellers	Turley, Morgan, Butterfield	Harris, Turley, Butterfield	n/a
Ushers	B. Adams, B. Turley	B. Adams, B. Turley	B. Adams, TBD