



CROSS OF CHRIST

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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December 3, 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

“Arise, O Christian People”

On screens, stanzas 1-2, 4

A Dialogue of Repentance and Forgiveness

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

Congregation: Amen!

Our God invites us to come before him as we are. When we are weary, when we are broken, or when we feel so small and our burdens so great, he gladly receives us with open arms to lighten our hearts with his forgiveness. So by his invitation, we pray together:

Holy and gracious Father, I acknowledge my sins. Throughout my life, I have failed to live as your child in my thoughts, words, and actions. Though I deserved separation from you, I thank you for coming to rescue me. I trust in Christ for forgiveness.

Because Jesus came, all is well between you and God. His perfect life in your place, his death for your sins, and his resurrection have accomplished all that is necessary for your sins to be removed forever. God has forgiven you! He accepts you. He delights to call you his child. May God give you strength to live as his child.

Amen!

Prayer

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

God's Word

1 Corinthians 1:18-30

¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

²⁰Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²²Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

²⁸God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

God's Word

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

²³“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Children’s Message

Song

“Sing We the Song of Emmanuel”

On screens, stanzas 1-3

Message from God’s Word

Micah 5:2-5a

²“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”

³Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.
⁵And he will be our peace.

Expecting Greatness

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.

New Member Welcome

11:00 am

Shawn & Valerie Small, & Sam
Kari Spruyt
John & Melinda Welch, & Penny
Sue Young

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 Songs

“From Heaven Above”

Hymn #38:7,8,9,13

“Lord, You Were Rich”

On screens, stanzas 1-3

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

“Once in Royal David’s City”

On screens, stanzas 1-2, 4

Silent Prayer

Faithful God, thank you for leaving your great throne in heaven to humbly walk in this world for my sake. Shape my expectations for this Christmas around you and your promises. Focus my heart on my Savior so that I do not miss the true greatness of your presence and your gifts. 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 3, 2023

| Dec 3-10 | Boise (11655 W. McMillan Road) | Nampa (6134 Birch Lane) |
|-----------------|---|---|
| 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) |
| Tuesday | 6:30am - Men's Bible Study | |
| Wednesday | 6:15pm - Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm - CrossTrainers | 7:00pm - Young Adult Group |
| Thursday | 10:00am - Active Seniors Organizational Meet-up | |
| Saturday | 9:30am - Digging Deeper Class 10:00am - Sunday School Christmas Dress Rehearsal | |
| 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 Sunday School Students 1:00 pm - Call Meeting 2:00 pm - Family Volleyball 5:00 pm - Ladies' Christmas Party | 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Adult/Teen Bible Study Confirmation Class Kids' Sunday School |

THIS WEEK

Advent Worship Series: Great Expectations Now Through December 17

What are you expecting this Christmas season? Expecting the celebrations to remove the year's 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? What if a person existed who wouldn't let you down, and you received gifts that truly satisfy? Let's reorient our hearts to the one who meets (and exceeds) our great expectations: Jesus, our Savior.

Ministry Discussion Today, 9:45 am

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

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 began 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; this volume begins Dec 3.

Winter Weather SERVE Opportunity

Soon we'll experience 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.

Christmas Flowers: Quick Deadline

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).

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!

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.

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

Call Meeting Next Sunday, 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 new preschool teacher next 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 Next 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. Please invite your female 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.) **Please RSVP as soon as you're able** on the Boise lobby bulletin board or online at tinyurl.com/LadiesChristmas2023.

December Volleyball

In the Boise campus gym, friends very welcome!

- Family (all ages & levels of skill/experience welcome): Sunday, December 10, 2:00pm
- Teen+ (some level of experience/basic skills recommended): Thursday, December 21, 6:30pm

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 our Christmas celebrations. Meet at the Boise campus 10am on Saturday, December 16, to head out into nearby neighborhoods to hang Christmas invitations on our neighbors' 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.

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 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 | 53 / 5 | 40 | 98 |
| Kids' Sunday School/Confirmation | 31 / 4 | 14 / 3 | 52 |
| Last Weekend's Worship | 97+75 | 105 | 277 |
| Thanksgiving Worship | 103 | 67 | 170 |
| Women's / Men's Bible Study | n/a / 6 | 6 / n/a | 12 |
| CrossTrainers | 12 | n/a | 12 |
| Livestream Views | 5 | | |
| Cross Connections | n/a | 6 | 6 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| <i>General Fund Offerings Planned FY 23-24</i> | \$808,840 |
| General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD | \$335,745 |
| General Fund Offerings FYTD | \$281,672 |
| Total Offerings Last Weekend (All Funds) | \$12,688 |

| Serving | Dec 3 | | Dec 10 | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|
| | Nampa | Boise | Nampa | Boise |
| Altar Care | Guthmiller | K. Struthers | n/a | K. Struthers |
| AV Tech | G. Light, C. Whitaker | C. Klink, C. Kennedy, D. Wilson | J. Malnes, TBD | E. Christianson, M. Hartman, J. Geary |
| Bulletins | n/a | Prigge, Tweedy | n/a | Whitlach, TBD |
| Cleaning | Olsoe | n/a | TBD | Arstein |
| Coffee | Guthmiller | R. Ritger, K. Struthers | Guthmiller | R. Ritger, K. Struthers |
| Flowers | n/a | Banner, Ehlke | n/a | Beaston |
| Music | R. Dodd | A. Lange, K. Christianson, K. Koepsell, L. Neujahr | J. Lowry, C. Trull | K. Koepsell, A. Lange, S. Hibbs, Sunday School students |
| Open & Close | n/a | J. Breckon, E. Christianson | n/a | M. Johnson, R. Lange |
| Tellers | Turley, Walden, Christianson | | Rule, Walden, Morgan | |
| Ushers | Sullivan, Lobeck | J. Breckon, J. Harris, G. Walden | n/a | J. Breckon, B. Turley, T. Stavenau |