



**CROSS OF CHRIST**

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# Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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## January 21, 2024

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**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](http://cocidaho.org).



**CROSS OF CHRIST**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Opening Dialogue

## with “Beautiful Savior”

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

**Congregation: Amen!**

**(♪) Beautiful Savior, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I’d love thee, Truly I’d serve thee,  
Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.**

God is holy and mighty, and we are his creatures who have rebelled against him. Our sins deserved that we should be cut off from God and all goodness. But God still invites us to come, and God still loves us. As we acknowledge our sins, we place our trust in Jesus alone for forgiveness.

**(♪) Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,  
Bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer,  
Than all the angels in the sky.**

*(spoken)*

**Holy and merciful God, I confess my sins. Throughout my life, in what I have done and left undone, I have so often disobeyed you and failed to live as your child. Though I deserved your punishment, you never gave up on me. Thank you for Jesus and his cross. I praise you for still loving me and making me your child!**

Vocalist: Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,  
Lord, have mercy on us.  
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,  
Lord, have mercy on us.

**All: (♪) Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy,  
Lord, have mercy on us.  
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,  
Lord, have mercy on us.**

Jesus is the great Savior who took our sins away! By his perfect life, death on the cross, and resurrection, he took your place, so you are forgiven. By believing in him, all is well with you and God. You are loved, part of his holy family, and an heir of heaven, welcomed into the feast! May God give you his strength to live as his child.

**Amen!**

**(♪) Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,  
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer;  
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.**

**Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,  
Now and forever more be thine!**

## God's Word

## Exodus 7:14-24

<sup>14</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go. <sup>15</sup>Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes out to the river. Confront him on the bank of the Nile, and take in your hand the staff that was changed into a snake. <sup>16</sup>Then say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the wilderness. But until now you have not listened. <sup>17</sup>This is what the LORD says: By this you will know that I am the LORD: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. <sup>18</sup>The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.' "

<sup>19</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt—over the streams and canals, over the ponds and all the reservoirs—and they will turn to blood.' Blood will be everywhere in Egypt, even in vessels of wood and stone."

<sup>20</sup>Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD had commanded. He raised his staff in the presence of Pharaoh and his officials and struck the water of the Nile, and all the water was changed into blood. <sup>21</sup>The fish in the Nile died, and the river smelled so bad that the Egyptians could not drink its water. Blood was everywhere in Egypt.

<sup>22</sup>But the Egyptian magicians did the same things by their secret arts, and Pharaoh's heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said. <sup>23</sup>Instead, he turned and went into his palace, and did not take even this to heart. <sup>24</sup>And all the Egyptians dug along the Nile to get drinking water, because they could not drink the water of the river.

## God's Word

## Ephesians 3:14-21

<sup>14</sup>For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup>I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup>so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup>may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup>and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup>Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

## Children's Message

### Song

### “Christ Begins”

*On screens, stanzas 1-3*

## Message from God's Word

John 2:1-11

<sup>1</sup>On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, <sup>2</sup>and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

<sup>3</sup>When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

<sup>4</sup>"Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

<sup>5</sup>His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

<sup>6</sup>Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

<sup>8</sup>Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside <sup>10</sup>and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

<sup>11</sup>What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

### **Water into Wine**

## 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

**"Here, O My Lord,  
I See You Face to Face"**  
*Hymn #315: 1, 3-6*

## 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

**"Jesus, Thank You"**  
*On screens, stanzas 1-2*



## **Silent Prayer**

Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the light of the world. Help us to be illumined by your Word, that we may shine our light and show the radiance of Christ's glory, that Christ may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth. Amen.

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**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](http://cocidaho.org/give).*

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# Cross of Christ Weekly Newsletter

## January 21, 2024

| <b>Jan 21-28</b> | <b>Boise</b> (11655 W. McMillan Road)   | <b>Nampa</b> (6134 Birch Lane)  |
|------------------|---|---|
| Sunday           | 8:30am – Worship w/ Holy Communion<br>9:45am –<br>Adult Bible Study (Chapel)<br>Teen Class (Conference Rm)<br>Confirmation Class (Rm 5)<br>Kids’ Sunday School (Gym & Classrooms)<br>11:00am – Worship w/ Holy Communion<br>1:00 pm – Preschool Call Meeting        | 9:30am – Worship w/ Holy Communion<br>10:45am –<br>Adult Bible Study<br>Confirmation Class<br>Kids’ Sunday School |
| Tuesday          | 6:30am – Men’s Bible Study<br>6:30pm – Cross Connections Class  |   |
| Wednesday        | 6:00pm – Treasure Valley Youth Night  |   |
| Thursday         |   | 6:30pm – Cross Connections<br>6:30pm – Women’s Bible Study<br>6:30pm – Men’s Bible Study                          |
| Sunday           | 8:30am – Worship<br>9:45am –<br>Adult Bible Study (Chapel)<br>Teen Class (Conference Rm)<br>Confirmation Class (Rm 5)<br>Kids’ Sunday School (Gym & Classrooms)<br>11:00am – Worship<br>12:10pm – Youth Rally Info Meeting<br>12:30pm – New Member Welcome Luncheon | 9:30am – Worship<br>10:45am –<br>Adult Bible Study<br>Confirmation Class<br>Kids’ Sunday School                   |

# THIS WEEK

## **Change in Sunday Bible Study**

Due to the cancellation of Bible study last Sunday, on account of the weather, our study of Jude will be postponed to later this spring. Today our study will walk us through another type of false Christ, what leads people to believe in it, and why the real Jesus is better.

Next Sunday's study (January 28) will be based on your questions! Questions of faith, life, theology, the Bible, etc. Submit a question anonymously here ([tinyurl.com/QAJan2024](https://tinyurl.com/QAJan2024)) or at this QR code (last day to add one is Fri, Jan 26). You can also "upvote" other questions; those with the most votes will be prioritized. And then plan to attend next week, to delve into what is sure to be some good learning!



## **Preschool Director Call Meeting: Today**

All are invited and encouraged to participate in the next Preschool staffing Call meeting, Today, January 21, 1:00 pm here on the Boise campus. (Virtual access will not be available due to restrictions on sharing candidate information online.)

## **Cross Connections Class Begins this Week**

Cross Connections lays out the core message of Jesus and the Bible to give you certainty about your relationship with God and answers for life's biggest questions. This class can serve as a great spiritual refresher to grow in your faith or as an introduction to Christianity and what we're about at Cross of Christ, *which presents an excellent opportunity for you to participate and to bring a friend!* The next session begins this week: Register online [cocidaho.org/connect/cross-connections](https://cocidaho.org/connect/cross-connections) or talk to Pastor Hein with questions ([greg.hein@cocidaho.org](mailto:greg.hein@cocidaho.org) / 480-433-3084)

- Boise Campus: Tuesdays @ 6:30pm, begins January 23
- Nampa Campus: Thursdays @ 6:30pm, begins January 25

## **Active Seniors Outing This Tuesday**

For a January outing, we'll tour the Yanke Motor Museum this Tuesday, January 23 (1090 Boeing St. Boise, Idaho), meeting there at 10:30 am. Touring this private collection of vintage automobiles will take roughly 30-60 minutes.

### **Youth Night: This Wednesday, January 24, 6-9pm, Boise campus**

A WELS Youth Night provides a teen-focused event for high school students (9th-12th grade) from different congregations to get together. Cross of Christ is hosting our Treasure Valley congregations, and you are invited! We'll connect with Christians our own age, learn from others older than us, and encourage each other in following Jesus. It's an evening of music, God's Word, small group discussion, and fun!

### **Evening Men's & Women's Bible Studies, Nampa Campus**

Evening men's & women's Bible studies will start on the Nampa campus this week: Both men & women will meet Thursdays at 6:30 pm, *beginning January 25*. The women will study "Calm My Anxious Heart" by Linda Dillow; participants will need to purchase the book for themselves. If you have any questions, talk to Pastor Wetzel ([kurt.wetzel@cocidaho.org](mailto:kurt.wetzel@cocidaho.org)).

### **All-Church Gathering: January 28**

You're invited to a New Member Welcome Luncheon on Sunday, January 28, 12:30 pm at the Boise campus. "I'm not a new member," you say? Right! *This is for ALL Cross of Christ members to welcome and connect with those who've joined our church family during the past year!* **Please RSVP by Thursday 1/25** at [tinyurl.com/CoCNewMembers24](https://tinyurl.com/CoCNewMembers24), using the QR code, or by contacting the Boise office with your name and number attending ([admin@cocidaho.org](mailto:admin@cocidaho.org) / 208-375-3992).



### **Youth Rally Info Meeting**

The WELS International Youth Rally is a unique opportunity for spiritual growth! Teens finishing 8th-12th grades (entering high school through graduating high school) will get to hang out with over 2,000 peers who share their faith, listen to speakers from around the world, worship with thousands, and attend a variety of timely, biblical workshops. The 2024 Rally is June 25-28, at Colorado State University, in Fort Collins, CO. Check it out at [welsyouthrally.net](https://welsyouthrally.net).

Teens and parents are invited to a Youth Rally info and planning meeting **Sunday, January 28, 12:10 pm on the Boise campus**. This is a no-commitment info session with Pastor Brad. We'll talk about what the rally is like, why it's awesome, costs, travel options, and more. (If you can't make it, contact Pastor Brad for the info: [brad.snyder@cocidaho.org](mailto:brad.snyder@cocidaho.org).)

# UPCOMING

## **Congregational Open Forum: February 4**

Sunday, February 4, 1pm at the Boise campus. Cross of Christ leadership will present the plan for reworking our multi-site ministry structure and the final changes to our bylaws for voter approval. All members are encouraged to attend, ask questions, and offer input. Virtual access will be made available to members. Please note that the new bylaws will be sent to all members one week ahead of the meeting for review.

## **Morning Women's Bible Study**

### **Boise Campus, Mondays 10am, beginning February 5**

We'll be reading & discussing "Soul Care" by Amber Albee Swenson. The book is provided; please sign up for this study, so we can order the right number! Online at [tinyurl.com/2024WBS](https://tinyurl.com/2024WBS) or on the lobby bulletin board.

The world is telling us to seek happiness in doing what makes us feel good...fulfill your dreams, wants, and desires! Do you look like you want? Are you meeting your fitness goals? Seeing the world? Decluttering? Are YOU taking care of yourself? With this study we'll look at "the best kind of self-care...soul care." (Amber Albee Swenson, Soul Care, 2023)

## **Valentine Event for Couples**

Cross of Christ is hosting a free, fun couples' dinner and entertainment, Friday, February 9, 6:30 pm, at our Nampa campus (6134 Birch Ln). Come enjoy a homemade Italian meal – and invite some friends to join you! This event is for those 18 and older, so be sure to secure childcare and make plans for this fun-filled evening. Seats are limited so do register early! **Registration deadline is February 1.** Please text or call Becky Sobolewski to reserve your spot: 208-963-0474.

## Midweek Worship for Lent

Very soon we'll set aside Wednesday evenings for reflection and worship during the season of Lent, the six weeks leading up to Easter Sunday. The modern world often insists on putting God on trial – let's go back to the time when God was literally on trial in the person of Jesus Christ, and rejoice in the depth of his love for us and his commitment to save us!

### Wednesdays on the Boise Campus

**February 14 – March 20**

**Worship at 6:30 pm**

(Soup supper in the gym 5:00-6:15 pm)

## Soup Suppers During the Season of Lent

During Lent, dinner is provided at church, Wednesdays 5:00-6:15 pm, to make it easier for everyone to worship our Savior during this special season.

*Please consider providing a soup, salad, dessert, or serving/clean-up assistance!* Sign up online at [tinyurl.com/LentSoupSuppers2024](https://tinyurl.com/LentSoupSuppers2024) or see the lobby bulletin board. This is a valuable service to our church family, so that worshiping our Savior can be our top priority! Contact the Boise office ([admin@cocidah.org](mailto:admin@cocidah.org) / 208-375-3992) with any questions.

| <b>People in God's Word this past week</b> | <b>Boise</b> | <b>Nampa</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Sunday Morning Adult/Teen Bible Study      | n/a          | 28           | 28           |
| Kids' Sunday School/Confirmation           | n/a          | 9/5          | 9/5          |
| Men's Bible Study/Women's Bible Study      | 6 / n/a      | n/a          | 6            |
| CrossTrainers                              | n/a          | n/a          | n/a          |
| Last Weekend's Worship                     | 55           | 57           | 112          |
| Livestream Views                           | 32           |              |              |
| Growth Groups                              | 7+3          |              |              |

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| General Fund Offerings Planned FY 23-24  | \$808,840 |
| General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD      | \$442,573 |
| General Fund Offerings FYTD              | \$396,104 |
| Total Offerings Last Weekend (All Funds) | \$8,705   |

| Serving         | Jan 21                    |   | Jan 28                 |  |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---|------------------------|--|
|                 | Nampa                     | Boise                                       | Nampa                  | Boise                                    |
| Altar Care      | Guthmiller                | D. McLain                                   | n/a                    | D. McLain                                |
| AV Tech         | C. Whitaker,<br>J. Malnes | E. Christianson,<br>C. Kennedy,<br>J. Meier | J. Parsons,<br>TBD     | C. Klink,<br>R. Jorgensen,<br>M. Hartman |
| Bulletins       | n/a                       | L. Bafus,<br>K. Guthmiller                  | n/a                    | Prigge,<br>Tweedy                        |
| Cleaning        | TBD                       | McLain                                      | TBD                    | n/a                                      |
| Coffee          | Guthmiller                | B. Robbins                                  | Guthmiller             | B. Robbins                               |
| Flowers         | n/a                       | Loring                                      | n/a                    | Loring                                   |
| Music           | K. Koepsell,<br>K. Wetzel | A. Lange, C.<br>Harris, N. Turley           | R. Dodd                | K. Koepsell,<br>A. Scott                 |
| Open &<br>Close | n/a                       | K. Broyles,<br>J. Breckon                   | n/a                    | G. Whitlach,<br>E. Christianson          |
| Tellers         | Harris, Hudson, Turley    |   | Rule, Hudson, Davidson |  |
| Ushers          | Sullivan,<br>Merklinger   | J. Breckon,<br>B. Turley                    | n/a                    | J. Breckon,<br>TBD                       |

