



CROSS OF CHRIST

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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January 7, 2024

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

“Joy Has Dawned”

On screens, stanzas 1,3-4

A Dialogue of Repentance and Forgiveness

with “Shine into Our Night”

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

Congregation: Amen!

The light of the star which appeared to the wisemen changed their lives and led them to their Savior. The light of our Savior has appeared to us also and guides us to the truth of our sins. Yet, it also shines brightly on the truth of God’s grace and gives us confidence in his mercy for our past, present, and future. Let us come before our King and Savior together now.

**(♪) We are not what we should be,
We haven’t sought what we should seek;
We’ve seen your glory, Lord, but looked away.
Our hearts are bent, our eyes are dim,
Our finest works are stained with sin,
And emptiness has shadowed all our ways.**

**Jesus Christ, shine into our night.
Drive our dark away, till your glory fills our eyes.
Jesus Christ, shine into our night.
Bind us to your cross where we find life.**

(spoken)

Holy and merciful Father, as I look back at this past year, I confess that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not always relied on your light to guide me. However, you gave your Son for me! By the power of the Spirit, I trust in him for forgiveness. Receive me and renew me for this coming year, because of your boundless love displayed in Jesus at the cross.

**(♪) Still we often go astray,
We chase the world, forget your grace,
But you have never failed to bring us back.
Reveal the depths of what you've done,
The death you died, the vict'ry won.
You made a way for us to know your love.
Jesus Christ, shine into our night.
Drive our dark away, till your glory fills our eyes.
Jesus Christ, shine into our night.
Bind us to your cross where we find life.**

Your holy and merciful Father has taken away your sins and removed your guilt forever. Though the struggle with sin continues, he looks on you every day in love because of the perfect life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. On behalf of God himself, I am privileged to tell you: Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!

Amen!

**(♪) Jesus Christ, only you give us life,
All our sin removed, clean and holy in your sight.
Jesus Christ, you alone make us right.
Help us honor you with our lives.**

God's Word

Numbers 24:15-17a

¹⁵Then he spoke his message:

“The prophecy of Balaam son of Beor,
the prophecy of one whose eye sees clearly,
¹⁶the prophecy of one who hears the words of God,
who has knowledge from the Most High,
who sees a vision from the Almighty,
who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened:

¹⁷“I see him, but not now;
I behold him, but not near.
A star will come out of Jacob;
a scepter will rise out of Israel.”

God's Word

Romans 11:13-15,28-32

¹³I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry ¹⁴in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. ¹⁵For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

²⁸As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, ²⁹for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, ³¹so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. ³²For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

Children's Message

Song

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

Hymn #83:1-4

Message from God’s Word

Matthew 2:1-12

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The Gentile Christmas: Gifts for a King!

Song of Faith

“Praise Be to Christ”

On screens, stanzas 1-3

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 “As Angels Joyed with One Accord”

On screens, stanzas 1-7

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

Crown Him with Many Crowns

On screens, stanzas 1-4

Silent Prayer

Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide me, also, to seek you always by faith, that I may someday come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory. 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

January 7, 2024

Jan 7-14	Boise (11655 W. McMillan Road)	Nampa (6134 Birch Lane)
Sunday	8:30am – Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:45am – Guest Speaker (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)
Monday	6:30pm – Church Council Meeting	
Tuesday	6:30am – Men’s Bible Study	
Wednesday	7:00pm – CrossTrainers (Gym) 7:00pm – Young Adult Group (Lobby)	10:00am – Active Seniors Meet-up
Saturday	9:30am – Digging Deeper Class	
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 1:00 pm – Preschool Call Meeting 2:30 pm – Family Volleyball	9:30am – Worship 10:45am – Guest Speaker Confirmation Class Kids’ Sunday School

THIS WEEK

Guest Preacher & Presentation Today

Are you excited to grow in your generosity, but you don't necessarily know how? It's our privilege to welcome Pastor Craig Wasser today, as he presents between services about unique opportunities and methods for giving. Pastor Wasser is a Giving Counselor in our church body and travels to different churches throughout the country providing this encouragement and information. We're excited to welcome him and hope you can join us for his presentation!

Growth Groups Begin This Week

The winter session of Growth groups begins this week and runs for five weeks. It's not too late to sign up! 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. Register for a group on the lobby bulletin board or at tinyurl.com/GGWINTER2024.

Other Bible Studies Resuming this Week

Men's Bible Study: Tuesdays, 6:30 am, Boise lobby

CrossTrainers (high school): Wednesdays, 6:30 pm, Boise gym

Active Seniors Meeting

Wednesday, January 10, 10:00 am at the Nampa campus. This meeting will continue the planning for events as we begin the new year as well as discussing 'pop-up' events. All active seniors are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to admin@cocidaho.org / 208-375-3992.

Young Adult Meet-Up Wednesday, Jan 10, 7pm, Boise 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'll work through deconstructing Christianity. How can we honestly confront unhealthy culture in the church while also seeking the good God can do with the church when it's built on him? Let's dive in together! We'll meet this month at the Boise campus (11655 W. McMillan Rd). Friends very welcome!

Preschool Teacher Call Accepted

Mrs. Jill Snyder has accepted the Call from Cross of Christ to serve as part-time lead Preschool teacher next school year. Please keep her and her family in your prayers as she transitions into this new role!

UPCOMING

Preschool Director Call Meeting: January 14

All are invited and encouraged to participate in the next Preschool staffing Call meeting, Sunday, January 14, 1:00 pm at the Boise campus. (Virtual access will not be available due to restrictions on sharing candidate information online.)

January Volleyball

In the Boise campus gym, friends very welcome!

- Family (all ages & levels of skill/experience): Sunday, Jan 14, 2:30pm
- Teen+ (some level of experience/basic skills recommended): Thursday, Jan 18, 6:30pm

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 at tinyurl.com/CoCNewMembers24, or by contacting the Boise office with your name and number attending (admin@cocidaho.org / 208-375-3992).

Women's Bible Study

New 10-week Bible study starts Monday, February 5, 10:00 am, on the Boise campus. More info on the study coming soon!

People in God's Word this past week	Boise	Nampa	Total
Sunday Morning Adult/Teen Bible Study	n/a	36	36
Last Weekend's Worship	97+82	83	262
Livestream Views	9		

General Fund Offerings Planned FY 23-24	\$808,840
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$412,050
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$373,877
Total Offerings Last Weekend (All Funds)	\$15,790

Serving	Jan 7		Jan 14	
	Nampa	Boise	Nampa	Boise
Altar Care	Guthmiller	D. McLain	n/a	D. McLain
AV Tech	G. Light, TBD	C. Klink, M. Hartman	TBD	G. Light, C. Kennedy, T. Butterfield
Bulletins	n/a	Y. Whitlach	n/a	R. Ritger, B. Ford, D. Ashley
Cleaning	TBD	Trentz	TBD	n/a
Coffee	Guthmiller	B. Robbins N. Herberger	Guthmiller	B. Robbins N. Herberger
Flowers	n/a	Butterfield	n/a	K&T Ready
Music	R. Dodd, J. Lowry	K. Koepsell	K. Koepsell	J. Hein, M. Biondi
Open & Close	n/a	J. Breckon, R. Lange	n/a	M. Johnson, M. Brown
Tellers	Turley, Walden, Davidson		Rule, Walden, Butterfield	
Ushers	Sobolewski, Olsoe	J. Harris, TBD	n/a	TBD