



# PARABLES

LIFE - CHANGING STORIES  
FROM JESUS

**CROSS OF CHRIST**

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# Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

(208) 375-3992 + [cocidaho.org](http://cocidaho.org)

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## September 8, 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).

## Opening Dialogue with “Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your Word we are gath - ered



all to hear you. Let our hearts and souls be stirred



now to seek and love and fear you, by your teach - ings,



sweet and ho - ly, drawn from earth to love you sole - ly.

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

**Congregation: Amen.**

Oh, how I love your law!

**I meditate on it all day long.**

Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,

**For they are ever with me.**

I have more insight than all my teachers,

**For I meditate on your statutes.**

How sweet are your words to my taste,

**Sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

*(Psalm 119:97-99,103)*

2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est  
 dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks our night  
 with the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to  
 God can win us; you must work all good with - in us.

All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

**So that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.** *(2 Timothy 3:16-17)*

Yet so often we have despised God's Word and failed to gladly hear and learn it. For this and all our sins, we bow before God and humbly ask his forgiveness.

**Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserved your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me.**

**(♪) Gracious Savior, good and kind,  
Light from Light, from God proceeding,  
Open now our heart and mind;  
Help us by your Spirit's pleading.  
Hear the cry your Church now raises;  
Hear and bless our prayers and praises.**

God gave his Word so "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). The Scriptures testify about Jesus, who lived a perfect life for you, died on the cross to pay for all your sins, and rose again to assure you of your salvation. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen!**

**(♪) Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Praise to you and adoration!  
Grant that we your Word may trust,  
Confident of our salvation,  
While we here below must wander,  
Till we sing your praises yonder.**

In the peace of this forgiveness, let us pray.

O God, you reveal your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. Grant us the full measure of your grace that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly glory; 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

## Isaiah 55:10-13

<sup>10</sup>As the rain and the snow  
come down from heaven,  
and do not return to it  
without watering the earth  
and making it bud and flourish,  
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

<sup>11</sup>so is my word that goes out from my mouth:  
It will not return to me empty,  
but will accomplish what I desire  
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>You will go out in joy  
and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and hills  
will burst into song before you,  
and all the trees of the field  
will clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup>Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper,  
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.  
This will be for the LORD's renown,  
for an everlasting sign,  
that will endure forever."

## God's Word

## Acts 18:1-11

<sup>1</sup>After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. <sup>2</sup>There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, <sup>3</sup>and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. <sup>4</sup>Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

<sup>5</sup>When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah.

<sup>6</sup>But when they opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

<sup>7</sup>Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. <sup>8</sup>Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized.

<sup>9</sup>One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. <sup>10</sup>For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city." <sup>11</sup>So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

## Children's Message

# Song

# “Speak, O Lord”



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food  
2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence,  
3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds, help us grasp the heights



of your ho - ly Word; take your truth, plant it  
true hu - mil - i - ty; test our thoughts and our  
of your plans for us, truths un - changed from the



deep in us, shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness,  
at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance of your pu - ri - ty.  
dawn of time, that will ech - o down thro' e - ter - ni - ty.



that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our acts of  
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your ma - jes - tic  
And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by faith we'll



love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -  
love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can  
walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your



fill in us all your pur - pos - es for your glo - ry.  
nev - er fail, let their truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.  
Church is built, and the earth is filled with your glo - ry.



## Message from God's Word

## Matthew 13:3-8, 18-23

<sup>3</sup>Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup>As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup>Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup>Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

<sup>18</sup>"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. <sup>20</sup>The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. <sup>21</sup>But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. <sup>22</sup>The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. <sup>23</sup>But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

# Song of Faith

# “All Praise to Him”



1 All praise to him, the God of light who formed the  
2 All praise to him whose love is seen in Christ the  
3 All praise to him whose pow'r im - parts the love of



moun - tains by his might. All praise to him who names the  
Son, the ser - vant King, who left be - hind his glo - rious  
God with - in our hearts, the Spir - it of all truth and



stars that sing his fame in skies a - far.  
throne to pay the ran - som for his own.  
peace, the fount of joy and ho - li - ness.



All praise to him who reigns in love, who guides the  
All praise to him who hum - bly came to bear our  
To Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it now our souls we



gal - ax - ies a - bove, yet bends to hear our ev - 'ry  
sor - row, sin, and shame, who lived to die, who died to  
lift, our wills we bow; to you, the tri - une God, we



prayer with sov - 'reign pow'r and ten - der care.  
rise, the all - suf - fi - cient sac - ri - fice.  
raise with lov - ing hearts our song of praise.

# Installation of Sunday School & Youth Confirmation Staff

## Sunday School

Little Lambs Teacher: Hannah Burke, Dani Miller

Little Lambs Aide: Meagan Beaston, Jessica Knight

PreK-1st Grade Teacher: Kim Christianson, Amanda Watkins

PreK-1st Grade Aide: MARRISA JONES

2nd-4th Grade Teacher: Jessica Lund

2nd-4th Grade Aide: Elizabeth Berrier

5th-6th Grade Teacher: Janet Lund, Joel Lund, John Meier

Music Leader: Mandy Biondi, Janet Lund, Jessica Lund

Hall Monitor: Nicole Banner, Kelli Broyles, Brenda Klink, Lori Ochoa

Substitute Teacher/Aide: Kristin Caudill, Rylie Jorgensen, Casey Masters, Lee Neujahr

Youth Confirmation Teacher: Casey Masters, Gene Whitlach

## 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

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

## “By Faith”



1 By faith we see the hand of God  
2 By faith our fa - thers roamed the earth  
3 By faith the proph - ets saw a day



in the light of cre - a - tion's grand de - sign,  
with the pow'r of his prom - ise in their hearts,  
when the longed - for Mes - si - ah would ap - pear



in the lives of those who prove his faith - ful - ness,  
of a ho - ly cit - y built by God's own hand,  
with the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death



who walk by faith and not by sight. v. 2  
a place where peace and jus - tice reign. *Refrain*  
and rise tri - um - phant from the grave. v. 4

*Refrain*

We will stand as chil-dren of the prom-ise; we will fix our  
 eyes on him, our soul's re - ward. Till the race is fin-ished and the  
 work is done, we'll walk by faith and not by sight.

- 4 By faith the church was called to go  
 in the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost  
 to deliver captives and to preach good news  
 in ev'ry corner of the earth. *Refrain*
- 5 By faith this mountain shall be moved  
 and the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail,  
 for we know in Christ all things are possible  
 for all who call upon his name. *Refrain*

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## Silent Prayer

Gracious Lord, thank you for planting the gospel in my heart. Work powerfully in my life so that my faith may continue to grow in your grace no matter what challenges I face. Provide me also the privilege to be used by you to sow the gospel in the lives of the people you place around me. All to your glory! 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, in gratitude to our gracious God, 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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### Acknowledgments

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# Calendar & Announcements

<b>Sept 8-15</b>	<b>Boise (11655 W. McMillan Road)</b>	<b>Nampa (6134 Birch Lane)</b>
Sunday	8:30am – Worship 9:45am – Adult/Teen Bible Study (Chapel) Confirmation Class (Room 5) Kids’ Sunday School (age 2 – 6th grade, Gym & Classrooms) 11:00am – Worship	9:30am – Worship 10:45am – Adult/Teen Bible Study (Chapel) Confirmation Class Kids’ Sunday School (age 2 – 6th grade)
Monday	6:00pm – Council of Ministry Meeting	
Tuesday		7:00pm – Cross Connections
Wednesday	7:00pm – CrossTrainers (high school students)	10:00am – Donuts with students at Breaking Chains
Thursday	<i>no Cross Connections class today</i>	6:30pm - Men’s & Women’s Bible Study
Saturday		Cross of Christ booth at Harvest Classic Fun Run
Sunday	8:30am – Worship (communion) 9:45am – Adult/Teen Bible Study (Chapel) Confirmation Class (Rm 5) Kids’ Sunday School (age 2 – 6th grade, Gym & Classrooms) 11:00am – Worship (communion)	9:30am – Worship (communion) 10:45am – Adult/Teen Bible Study (Chapel) Confirmation Class Kids’ Sunday School (age 2 – 6th grade)

# THIS WEEK

## **Fall Worship Series starts today!**

### **Parables: Life-Changing Stories from Jesus**

Does life feel complicated? Do you wish you could just sit at Jesus' feet and have him explain it all to you? Jesus did a lot of teaching during his earthly ministry and some of his most impactful truths he shared through stories. We call those stories parables. Starting at both campuses on today, *let's spend seven weeks with Jesus as he unravels through these stories the nature of the gospel* — the good news of God's grace for all of us — *and the impact it has on our lives*. Invite a friend!

## **Sunday Morning Spiritual Growth for All Ages**

**9:45-10:45am**

### **New Teen/Adult Bible Study** "Marriage and Singlehood" (in the chapel)

Today we start a new Bible study series that explores God's good design for both married and single people. We will see the *purpose* of marriage and singlehood, *unique blessings and challenges* for both callings, and how God calls us to *support* married and single people in our church family. Regardless of your "relationship status," you'll walk away with plenty of practical guidance and life-application!

### **Youth Confirmation Class** (9:45am)

7th grade & older, Room 5 (down the hall to the right)

### **Sunday School** (9:45am)

Age 2 - 6th grade, all meet in the gym! (all the way down the hall)

## **Giving Thanks for Youth GROW Volunteers**

As we officially install the volunteers who will be serving in our youth education ministries this year, we thank God for each of them, and for each of those who served over the last year! Their commitment to the spiritual growth of our kids, from toddlers to high school students, is a gift beyond measure.



## **Fall Growth Groups Begin this Week – pick one today!**

These small groups meet weekly at church and in members' homes to apply God's Word to our lives and get to know each other better. The fall session begins this week and runs seven weeks (final week is October 20).

- The starting point for weekly discussions is Sunday's message! Wish you could ask questions or talk through something you heard? A growth group is the place to do that!
- There are groups available in Meridian, west Boise, south Boise, and Nampa.

Register for a group on the lobby bulletin board or at [tinyurl.com/GGfall2024](https://tinyurl.com/GGfall2024) and take advantage of this great opportunity to grow in your connection with God and with others in your life!

## **CrossTrainers: September 11**

High school teens are invited to the next CrossTrainers this Wednesday, September 11, 7pm. We'll meet like normal for food, fun, and growth in the Word. We'll also discuss plans for the Fall as we look ahead to how often we can commit to meeting for CrossTrainers and the next quarterly Youth Night. Please contact Pastor Hein with any questions (480-433-3084; [greg.hein@cocidaho.org](mailto:greg.hein@cocidaho.org)).

## **Pastor Call Issued**

Cross of Christ has called Pastor Jesse Stern to serve as the Boise Campus Pastor. He currently serves as the pastor at Bay Pines Lutheran Church in Seminole, Florida. He and his wife Erica have six young children.

## **Preschool Thank You**

Thank you for helping us fulfill many classroom needs through our Amazon wish list! We give thanks for the generosity shown to the preschool by our church family. Your gifts brought many smiles throughout our first week of school and will continue to be utilized and enjoyed in the months and years to come!

## **Cross Connections Class, Thursdays, 6:30 pm**

This session is underway but *now* is always a good time to jump in!

Cross Connections can serve as a great *spiritual refresher* to grow in your faith or as an *introduction to Christianity* and what we're all about at Cross of Christ, which presents an especially great opportunity for you to participate and to bring a friend!



Register online at the QR code or [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).

## **UPCOMING**

### **Mommy & Me Sept 20: Zoo Boise**

Mommy & Me is a free school-year program for kids age 5 and under with a caregiver. The first Friday of each month is a themed playdate at our Nampa campus; the third Friday of each month is a field trip to a fun Treasure Valley location.



We'll visit Zoo Boise on September 20 at 10:00 am – come along! Cost is \$5 per person, age 2 & under are free. If it's your first time coming, would you let us know? Register at [cocidaho.org/connect/mommy-and-me](https://cocidaho.org/connect/mommy-and-me) or the QR code.

### **Women's Bible Study Begins September 23**

The fall session of Boise campus women's Bible study will begin Monday September 23. More information and sign up coming soon! For more information contact the Boise admin. ([admin@cocboise.org](mailto:admin@cocboise.org))

### **Sisters in Christ 2024 Ladies Retreat Registration Open**

This year's ladies retreat is October 4-6 in beautiful Donnelly, ID. All ladies in 6th grade and older are invited to gather for a weekend of being refreshed in God's Word and Christian connection! Cost is \$125, for two nights' lodging, four meals, activities & materials. For further details and to register, visit [cocidaho.org/retreat](https://cocidaho.org/retreat). Registration deadline is September 22. Direct questions to Mandy Watkins (210-425-3270, [amanda.watkins99@yahoo.com](mailto:amanda.watkins99@yahoo.com)).

## Fall Festival: October 27

Save the date for this fun family event at both campuses!

- Nampa campus: 3:00-5:00 pm
- Boise campus: 3:00-5:00 pm

Boise campus questions, or to help with planning (food, activities, hospitality, trunk-or-treat, etc), please contact Mandy Watkins (210-425-3270, [amanda.watkins99@yahoo.com](mailto:amanda.watkins99@yahoo.com)).

<b>People in God's Word this past week</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Nampa</b>	<b>Total</b>
Last Weekend's Worship	81/65	101	247
Livestream Views	12		
Sunday Morning Adult/Teen Bible Study	36	57	93
Kids' Sunday School	18	n/a	18
Men's Bible Study/Women's Bible Study	n/a	5/8	5/8
Cross Connections	8	6	14

<i>General Fund Offerings Planned FY 24-25</i>	\$816,957
General Fund Offerings Planned FYTD	\$141,396
General Fund Offerings FYTD	\$116,921
Total Offerings Last Weekend (All Funds)	\$13,638

Serving	September 8		September 15	
	Nampa	Boise	Nampa	Boise
Altar Care	n/a	K. Struthers	TBD	K. Struthers
AV Tech	G. Light, D. Jones	Butterfield	J. Parsons, S. Tews	E. Christianson, M. Hartman
Bulletins	n/a	Prigge, A. Tweedy	n/a	L. Kimmel, Y. Whitlach
Cleaning	TBD	n/a	TBD	Turley
Coffee	TBD	K. Struthers, Welch	TBD	K. Struthers, Welch
Flowers	n/a	Turley	n/a	Loring
Mowing	n/a	R. Dodd, M. Boltz	n/a	J. Malnes, T. Masters
Music	J. Lowry	A. Lange, K. Koepsell	L. Becker, K. Wetzell	K. Koepsell, A. Manglos, E. Berrier, S. Caudill
Close	n/a	J. Breckon	n/a	E. Christianson
Tellers	Turley, Butterfield, Walden		Rule, Christianson, Walden	
Ushers	n/a	Turley	TBD	Broyles, Geary