

THE COMPASS

Current Series:



November 29, 2015



THE
ASCENT
CHURCH

Get Connected

If this is your first visit, thank you for joining us. We hope your visit is meaningful! Please fill out a Connection Card and drop in the offering or at the Welcome Areas so we will know you were here. For all guests and attenders, below are steps you can take to engage in our community.



Explore I

Learn more about our church, meet our Campus Pastors and others on our leadership team. Woodmoor Campus: every 2nd Sunday at 11:00 am, Room 214. Northgate Campus: every 3rd Sunday at 10:45 am in the lobby. *No pre-registration required.*



Explore II

Go deeper into the vision and mission of our church. Become an active part of our church community, learn our trail map for each person, ministry values, doctrine, and connecting with a Base Camp. Held quarterly at 10:45am at both campuses.



Base Camps

Base Camps are neighborhood-based groups that meet regularly around our community. To build deeper relationships with your neighbors, visit our website at theascentchurch.com/basecamps.



Serving

Use your talents and interests to serve with others in your church, accomplishing common ministry goals. There are always teams you can join! Contact Joel Witzel at joel@theascentchurch.com.



Equipping

Our Equipping Classes are designed to help further your walk with Christ. There are many short-term classes offered at both campuses, as well as ongoing women's and men's bible studies. For more information, visit our website or contact Joel Witzel at joel@theascentchurch.com.



Worship Team & Technical Arts

Join our Tech Team or Worship Team. For more info, contact carson@theascentchurch.com.



Sunday Morning Team

Serve as an usher or host with the welcome team. Meet new people, serve together and grow in Christ as you serve our community. Contact joel@theascentchurch.com

Community Life

The Ascent Church Christmas Tea



*Purchase tickets in the lobby
today after each service.*

Saturday, December 5, 2015
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.



Christmas Eve

service times

at THE ASCENT CHURCH

Woodmoor Campus: 2:00, 3:30, and 5:00pm

Northgate Campus: 4:00pm

Children's Christmas Program December 13

- Woodmoor Campus: "A Christmas Treasure" Program
All three Woodmoor Campus services.
- Northgate Campus: Children will sing and lead worship at the
9:30am service.

Response Time

Each Sunday service, after the message, we have a time of response to God. We invite you to engage in worship through some tangible ways throughout our worship space.

- Communion: Available to all who profess Jesus Christ
- Prayer: Pastors or Prayer Partners available in the room
- Song: Engage in singing and expression to God
- Offering: Offering boxes and kiosks are available for giving
- Other: At times we will offer artistic/tactile worship stations

We invite you to move around the room at your own pace and in freedom to worship and respond to God as you feel led. You may engage these areas of worship in any order and at your own pace.

Financial Update

Last Week's Offering: \$25,834.28

As of 10/31/2015:

YTD Giving:	\$217,564
YTD Actual Expenses:	\$261,161
YTD Budget:	\$295,964

Fiscal Year 2015-16:

Avg. Weekly Giving:	\$28,111
Avg. Weekly Budget:	\$36,995
Min. Weekly Need:	\$34,000



**Giving @
The Ascent**

- (1) Offering Boxes: cash/check (in our worship service)
- (2) Online from our website
- (3) Kiosk: In the lobby
- (4) Mobile/Text: The Ascent Church App (download from your App Store)

Connection Opportunities *This Week*



Ascent Student Ministry (ASM)

(Middle & High School)

ASM meets this Tuesday night for a combined Worship Night at 6:00pm. Upcoming dates: ASM regular meeting on Dec.8 and ASM Christmas Party on Dec.15.

ASM does *not* meet this Sunday!

Future dates: Dec.13 and 20.

- Northgate Campus: 9:30am, rooms 3433 and 3435
- Woodmoor Campus: 11:00am, rooms 213 and 216

Email Micah, Rob & Taylor at asm@theascentchurch.com for any questions.

Children's Ministry (Birth—6th grade)

The Children's Christmas Program will be Dec.13 at each campus, with family services on Dec.20 and 27.

Tiny Town is available for birth - PreK:

Adventure Quest is available for K - 4th grade:

Elevate is available for 5th & 6th grade:

- Woodmoor Campus: 9:30 & 11:00am
- Northgate Campus: 9:30am

For more info, go to www.theascentchurch.com.



Ascent Missions

The Guatemala Missions Trip is scheduled for July 2016.

For more information, email asm@theascentchurch.com

Equipping, Women's and Men's Ministries

Equipping Classes: Sunday 9:30am at Woodmoor, *Book of Revelation* study. All are welcome!

Catalyst Equipping Class: Catalyst is for those seeking to get connected with others and be equipped for Biblical community. Catalyst meets Sunday mornings, 11:00am following the 9:30am service at the Woodmoor Campus in room 212.

Parents of Teens Equipping Class: The Parents of Teens Class meets Sunday mornings, 11:00am at the Woodmoor Campus in room 210. Join other parents for support and to help one another with raising our teens.

Men on the Ascent Bible Study: *Gospel of Mark* study, Tuesdays at 6:15am.

- Woodmoor Campus: room 213
- Northgate: Cafe Communitas at Marcos Pizza

Women on The Ascent: Bible Studies offered on Tuesday mornings at the Woodmoor Campus. Neighborhood studies are also available.





Message Notes

Sermon Passage: Luke 2:10-11.



Shared Engagement and Preparation

The Compass is a daily devotional and study guide for individuals, families, and Base Camps. The Compass begins devotions on Monday and leads up to the Sunday which will focus on the week's passage. In this way, the whole of the church engages in God's Word and prepares for our time of worship and preaching.

Deep Engagement and Doable Application

In order to allow for deep impact by God through His Word, The Compass centers on one passage in three ways — as individuals, with others, in our corporate gatherings — and focuses on applying what God is showing us, not biblical information itself. Life transformation happens when God's people depend upon and live out what He has revealed to us in His Word.

Consistency Over Time

With a tool such as The Compass, we can mistakenly measure personal spiritual success or failure based on whether we've completed a given day's devotion. Rather, use The Compass as a resource for individual and community growth. If you miss a few days, move on and seek growth; God will honor this.

Our prayer is that God will bless you as you seek to connect intimately with Him, intentionally with His people, and influentially in His world.

The Compass Passages for 11/30/15–12/5/15: Luke 2:10-11.

Monday, November 30, 2015

Read: Luke 2:10-11.

Reflect:

When the angels announced to the shepherds that a Savior would be born, who do you think the shepherds understood the *Savior*—or Messiah—to be?

We may understand Jesus as the One who saves us from sin and brings eternal life. Do you think the shepherds understood this? Why or why not?

Consider the phrase “for all people.” How was this significant in the angel’s announcement?

What might this announcement have meant to shepherds tending flocks in Palestine at that time?

What does this mean for you and me today?

What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?

Was Jesus as Savior momentous good news for you at some point in your life? If so, consider how you could share or show that this week as an expression of renewed joy in Christ’s coming.

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Read: Luke 2:10-11; John 3:15-16, 36; 1 John 5:11-13.

Reflect:

The angels announced Jesus as Savior. John wrote about the eternal life we have through faith in Christ.

Is this “good news of great joy” merely about living forever in heaven after you die? What other good news did Christ bring? (Consider John 10:10 and 2 Corinthians 5:17.)

Why do you think people sometimes focus solely on heaven/hell or saved/not saved in regards to their relationship with Jesus?

What “abundant life” do you miss if you focus only on heaven/hell or saved/unsaved?

What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?

Jesus, our Savior, is wonderful and offers us hope in many ways. List the things about Christ that bless you and give you hope.

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Read: Luke 2:8, 16-18.

Reflect:

Why do you think God announced Jesus's birth to the shepherds and not to the political or social leaders of that time?

How are you similar to the shepherds? Consider your place in society and how you proclaim the message of good news.

What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?

The shepherds had an amazing story to tell about angels in the night sky and a visit to a promised Messiah. This perhaps helped them spread the word of Jesus! Without a fantastic story of angels in the night sky and a personal visit to a baby in a manger, how can you spread the word? How can you share the good news with your neighbors?

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Read: Luke 2:10-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Reflect:

When the angels announced to the shepherds the arrival of Christ, history, politics, religion, and society changed dramatically for the nation of Israel and for the whole world. How is Christ's arrival *dramatic* for you, too?

What is different in your life because you follow Christ?

What are the "old" and "new" aspects of your life? (See 2 Corinthians 5:17.)

Do you draw people to Christ, or do you direct them to Him?
What's the difference?

What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?

List some new things you'd like to adopt in response to Christ.

If you were to *tell* others about how God enables us and works in us to be that "new creation," what would you say? How could you *show* it?

With whom could you share that life is a "new creation" this week?

Friday, December 4, 2015

Read: Luke 2:10-11; 2 Corinthians 4:17.

Reflect:

The gospel message of the angels was truly good news of great joy. However, focusing only on Christ as a *ticket to heaven* is an incomplete gospel. Likewise, “good news” about a Savior who merely brings worldly comfort may also be an incomplete or inaccurate picture of our Savior. How would you express the real truth and “great joy” of Christ as Savior?

How would you explain that life doesn’t become trouble-free when we follow Christ? How is following Christ then still a joy?

Elizabeth Barrett Browning said, “God’s gifts put man’s best dreams to shame.” How would you explain this to others?

What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?

Share in your base camp how Christ changed your life.

OR

Consider how you can share Christ with others by demonstrating what “great joy” He truly brings.

Saturday, December 5, 2015

Read: Luke 2:10-11, 16-20; Isaiah 55:6; 2 Timothy 4:2.

Reflect:

Consider where Christ may be found. Is Jesus found in likely or unlikely places?

How are *you* a dwelling place for Christ?

What does that mean for your witness and testimony about Christ? (Isaiah 55:6 and 2 Timothy 4:2a)

Given the above, reconsider some of the questions from this week: When you tell people the “good news of great joy” about your Savior, what is the “good news”? Why is it “great joy”?

What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?

How can you show others Christ’s dwelling place? Who could you take to a worship service or invite to base camp?

Prepare for the second week of Advent worship tomorrow. During the service, meditate on why Jesus is “good news of great joy.” Ask the Lord for one person with whom you can share that in word and deed.

Building Our Base Camp Family

This is week one of our suggested four-week pattern for Base Camps: intergenerational, adult study, mixed, invitation/service.

Prepare: Read through the ideas below. *Items needed:* housing examples (use toys or pictures), manger, cards for song, baby doll, and candy canes.

Intergenerational: “Good News—A Savior” is our emphasis for this week. To keep the children and teens engaged, please choose from the following ideas:

Place your housing examples (igloo, castle, barn, etc.) and your manger on a table. Spend time talking to the children about each home. Now ask: *What kind of home did Jesus have when he was born? Was it a fancy home? Was Jesus safe in the manger? Who protected Jesus? Is Jesus the Savior of the world? Why do we celebrate Christmas?* (Look up your favorite Christmas verse, and share that.)

Make individual cards with the words from “Away In A Manger.” Have a baby doll available. Shuffle the cards and place them on a table. Allow the children, teens, and adults to place the words of the song in the correct order. Ask one of the children to lead your group in singing. The children can pass around the baby as the song is sung.

Use the candy cane object lesson to tell the story of Christmas. Show the group a candy cane. Talk about the meaning of the candy cane. *What is the meaning of the white color on the candy cane?* (Jesus is pure—He has never sinned (He brought only truth, love, and kindness). *What is the meaning of the red color on the candy cane?* (Jesus loved us so much He died so our sins could be forgiven.) *The candy cane is in the shape of a J, which stands for Jesus, our Savior. When you see a candy cane, who will you think about?* (Pass out candy canes to everyone.)

Contact Us

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(WM-Woodmoor, NG-Northgate, CS-Central Support)

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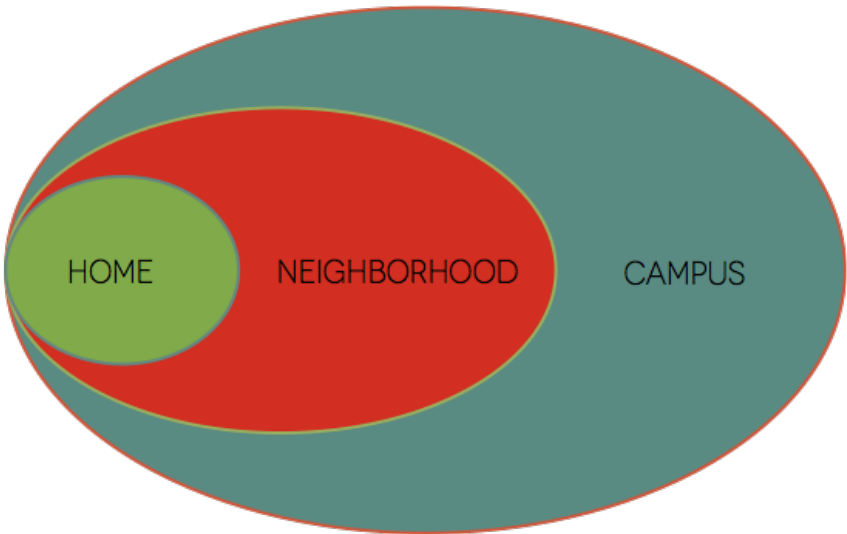
Visit us online at www.theascentchurch.com

Mission and Vision

The mission of THE ASCENT CHURCH is to help people connect: *Intimately* with God, *Intentionally* with God's family, and *Influentially* with God's world. Our vision is to develop genuine Biblical communities on every street in our region.

Our community lives out its vision and mission within three environments:

- Home - The best place for formation and nurture.
- Neighborhood - The best place for application and outreach.
- Campus - The best place for equipping, inspiration and celebration.



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Special thanks to all who contributed to The Compass.
If you have questions or comments, email:
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