

THE COMPASS

Current Series:



December 6, 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

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.

Christmas Eve

service times

at THE ASCENT CHURCH

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

Northgate Campus: 4:00pm

**NIGHT OF
WORSHIP**

December 13

Light snacks at 3:30

Transition Update Meeting:
4:00-5:00pm

Night of Worship:
5:00-6:00pm

End of Year Giving

The church office will be closed December 24 - January 4.

In order for your year-end gifts to be credited in 2015, please make sure your checks are dated and postmarked no later than December 31. Online transactions need to be completed by midnight December 31. Questions, please contact Tara Kuntzsch at 955-2509 or tara@theascentchurch.com.

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: \$21,374.64

As of 11/30/2015:

YTD Giving:	\$358,716
YTD Actual Expenses:	\$381,239
YTD Budget:	\$480,942

Fiscal Year 2015-16:

Avg. Weekly Giving:	\$27,593
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 Tuesday, Dec. 8. The ASM Christmas Party will be Dec. 15 at regular meeting times.

- Middle School: 5:30-6:45pm
- High School: 7:00-8:30pm

ASM does *not* meet this Sunday! Future dates: Dec. 13 and 20. Please note: ASM will not meeting from Dec. 21-Jan. 4. See you all in the New Year on Jan. 5, 2016! 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 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: The winter session of Bible Studies will start on Jan. 12. Please visit the website for an updated list of Bible Studies. Neighborhood studies are also available. For more information, contact joel@theascentchurch.com.





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 12/7/15–12/12/15: Luke 2:10-11.

Monday, December 7, 2015

Read: Luke 2:10-11.

Reflect:

1. Read the passage, and then spend time in reflection. Who were the Jewish people of Jesus' time waiting for?

2. What do you think they would ask the Messiah to release them from?

3. What troubles do you want to be released from?

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

1. How did the Jewish people of Jesus' time misunderstand the mission of the Messiah?

2. How might you—like the Jewish people of Jesus' time—be looking in the wrong places as you wait for Jesus' return? How might you resolve your expectations?

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Read: Luke 2:1-11.

Reflect:

1. Given what the angel said, how do you think the shepherds reacted when the angel appeared to them?

2. What events in our world frighten you?

3. How do the angel's words apply to you today?

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

What wisdom do you obtain from this passage as you wait for the return of Jesus?

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Read: Luke 2:10-11.

Reflect:

1. What new ideas do you discover in these words?

2. Think about the phrase “great joy . . . for all the people.”

How can you apply this to—

- yourself:

- community:

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

1. How do the words of the angel help you view believers and nonbelievers through a different lens?

2. What application or change in your actions will you make because of these verses?

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Read: Luke 2:10-11.

Reflect:

1. How would a lowly shepherd comprehend the reality that the Savior had been born to him?

2. From a personal point of view, how do you comprehend a Savior born for you?

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

Spend time in prayerful reflection about a Savior born for you, living for you, dying for you, being resurrected for you, and now sitting at the right hand of the Father.

Journal your thoughts below:

Friday, December 11, 2015

Read: Luke 2:1-21.

Reflect:

1. Imagine how the lives of the shepherds changed after the angels appeared.

2. Think back to a time before you trusted Jesus for your salvation. How is your outlook for the future different now that you know Jesus is your Savior?

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

What will you share with another person about what you have learned this week?

Saturday, December 12, 2015

Read: Luke 2:10-11.

Reflect:

1. Review your answers from this week. What have you learned from your study of Luke 2:10-11?

2. How could applying this knowledge to your life change you and those around you?

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

Spend time making preparations for worship tomorrow.

In prayer, ask God to fully prepare your heart for the message and its application in your life.

Building Our Base Camp Family

We're in a series focused on Advent. The word *advent* means "coming" or "arrival." This is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ, or His first coming/arrival.

Include all ages in your time together. Ask: *What is something you're expecting or anticipating this Christmas season?*

Share about a time when you were positively surprised by something that happened contrary to your expectations.

Read Luke 2:1-20 together, focusing on the birth of Jesus and the angels appearing to the shepherds. Ask the group: *What stands out to you?*

Shepherds were poor, lower-class people who were even despised by religious Jews, because they were not involved with many religious activities. Ask: *Why do you think God chose the shepherds to be the first to hear the news of the birth of Jesus?*

Ask: *What three titles are given to Jesus in verse 11? What might each have meant to the Jewish shepherds who heard them? How are they significant for you today?*

One of the titles is *Christ* or *Messiah*, which means "the Anointed One." Israel was looking for a King—one who would return Israel to her former glory. Instead, they received Jesus. Ask: *What impact might this have had on the Jewish people? How is this significant for you today?*

Reflect on your prior answers to this question: *What is something you are expecting or anticipating this Christmas season? Given your group discussion, how might your answer be different now?*

Contact Us

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

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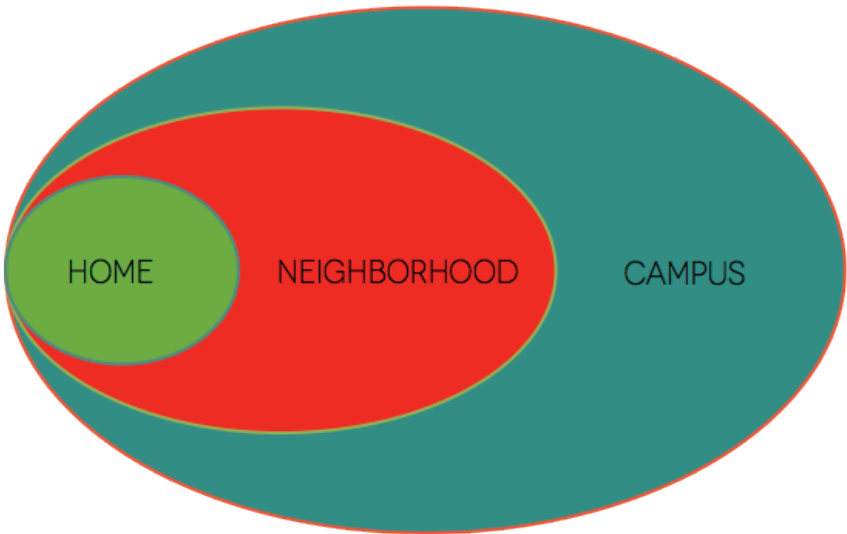
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Mission and Vision

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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