



THE
COMPASS

Next Sunday: Christmas Eve



December 18, 2016



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 it in the offering box or at the Welcome Area 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: January 8, 10:15 am in Room 212.
- Northgate Campus: TODAY, 11:30 am in lobby.

No pre-registration required.



Explore II

Explore II is a workshop for those ready to make The Ascent Church their church home and to be involved in God's mission and vision in our region. Explore II includes why and how to become a member, our trail map for each family member, ministry values, doctrine, and connecting with a Base Camp. Held quarterly 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.



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 at: www.theascentchurch.com/equipping.



Serving Opportunities

How is God calling you to help create a welcoming and inviting Sunday experience for our guests and regular attenders? Serving opportunities are available in many areas from Hosting and Greeting, Service Prep Teams, or Technical and General Set-Up Teams. Training is available for each role.

If you have any questions about hosting or serving roles, please email info@theascentchurch.com.

Community Life



Christmas Eve Services:

Woodmoor Campus
3:00pm, 5:00pm, 6:30pm

Woodmoor Campus
1750 Deer Creek Rd.
Monument, CO 80132

Northgate Campus
4:00pm

Northgate Campus
975 Stout Rd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

www.TheAscentChurch.com

No services at either campus on Christmas Day

A scenic photograph of a mountain range with snow-capped peaks, surrounded by dense evergreen forests. A rocky riverbed flows in the foreground. The image is used as a background for the Women's Retreat announcement.

Women
ON THE
Ascent

Women's Retreat

APRIL 7-9, 2017

SPRING CANYON RETREAT CENTER

www.theascentchurch.com/women

The logo for Women's Retreat, featuring the text "Women ON THE Ascent" in a mix of cursive and sans-serif fonts, with a mountain range silhouette behind the text.

Women
ON THE
Ascent

WOTA Gather

January 4, 6:30-8pm in the Event Center at the Woodmoor Campus. Please bring a dessert or appetizer to share; hot chocolate bar provided. Our own Judi Hayes will be sharing.

Family Worship Service Today

Today is a Family Worship Service for grades K-6th. Children will sit with their families and experience the service together. We have new activity packs for kids to use during the service. You can pick up a yellow bag and a current activity page as you enter. Please return the yellow pack after 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.



End of Year Giving:

All end-of-year giving will need to be completed by December 31 in order to qualify for the 2016 tax year. If you have any questions, please contact: tara@theascentchurch.com.



Giving at The Ascent

- Offering boxes during worship
- Online www.theascentchurch.com/give1
- Kiosk
- The Ascent Church App

Financial information can be obtained by contacting Tara at tara@theascentchurch.com.

Connection Opportunities *This Week*



Ascent Student Ministry

ASM Tuesday Dates: December 20 for MS and HS.

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

ASM Upcoming Events:

www.theascentchurch.com/students

ASM Deep

ASM DEEP Dates: December 18. No ASM on December 25.

- Northgate: 10:15am, upstairs.
- Woodmoor: 11am, upstairs.

Children's Ministry

(Birth - 6th grade)

Tiny Town: Birth - PreK

Adventure Quest: K - 4th grade

Elevate: 5th - 6th grade

- Woodmoor Campus: 9am, 11am
- Northgate Campus: 10am

Family Worship Sundays:

December 18 is a family worship day for K-6th grade. Tiny Town will have child care available.

More information at:

www.theascentchurch.com/kids

Missions

Visit: www.theascentchurch.com/missions.



Equipping Ministry

Connections Class:

Sundays, 10:45am, Woodmoor Campus Room 213. The Connection Class is studying the prophecies of Zechariah until the end of the year, and starting a new study in January.

Parents of Teens Class: Sundays, 10:45am, Woodmoor Campus Room 210.

Women's and Men's Ministries

Men on the Ascent Bible Study:

1 & 2 Corinthians, 6:00am coffee; 6:15am start.

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

Women on the Ascent Studies:

- Tuesdays, 9am, Woodmoor Campus, childcare available.
- Wednesday evening study, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Woodmoor Campus, 6:30pm, childcare available.

Women on the Ascent Gather:

January 4, 6:30-8pm in the Event Center at the Woodmoor Campus. Please bring a dessert or appetizer to share; hot chocolate bar provided. Our own Judi Hayes will be sharing.

Women on the Ascent Retreat:

April 7-9, Spring Canyon Ranch in Buena Vista. Sign up now for the early bird special and payment plan. Register before February 1, the cost is only \$190 for an amazing weekend!



This Sunday's Message

The Light Foretold

_____ is the Light of the World.

John 1:4-5, 9

The Light of Christmas is _____.

Micah 5:2

The Light of Christmas is _____.

Micah 5:4-5; Ezekiel 43:2; Matthew 2:1-6



Shared Engagement and Preparation

The Compass is a daily devotional and study guide for individuals, families, and Base Camps. The Compass has Biblical reflections for each day, beginning on Monday and leading up to Sunday, which will help us all meditate 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. 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 reflection. Instead, use The Compass as a resource for individual and community growth. If you miss a few days, move on, pick it up from the next day, and seek maturity—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 Passage for December 19 – December 24, 2016:

Luke 2:8-14

Monday, December 19, 2016

Read: This week we will look at Luke 2:8-14. In preparation for deeper reflection on Luke 2:8-14, read Luke 1:1-7.

Reflect: Now read Luke 2:1-7 one more time, paying attention to the sequence of events. Close your Bible and record this sequence. For example, *Caesar Augustus issued a decree, Quirinius was governor when this decree was issued, Joseph started a journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, etc.*

Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem was difficult, dangerous, and no doubt filled with the anxiety of many expectations with unknown consequences. Journal what you think some of the "unknowns" and "expectations" might have been for them.

Imagine Mary and Joseph have asked you to pray for them before they begin their journey to Bethlehem. Compose your prayer for them.

Now record a prayer for yourself and your journey through this year's Christmas season.

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Read: Luke 2:1-14.

Reflect: Now read Luke 2:8-9 in at least two other translations of the Bible.

Imagine the serene beauty of the shepherds out in the fields watching their flocks by night. Make a list of some Christmas carols and key verses that depict this setting.

The shepherds were about to have an amazing experience that would bring them great joy. Think about Christmases in your past when you experienced great joy. Comment about what you remember of those Christmases, and why they brought you such joy.

Offer a prayer of thanks to God for the times He has brought joy into your life.

Wednesday, December 21, 2016

Read: Luke 2:1-14.

Reflect: Read Luke 2:10-11 in at least two translations.

The angel declared “good news of great joy.” The “good news” is the announcement of the birth of “a Savior,” who is “the Christ (Messiah),” and who is also “The Lord.”

Why is the announcement of “a Savior” good news?

Why is it important Jesus is the Savior and the Christ (Messiah)?

Why is it important Jesus is not only the Savior, and the Christ (Messiah), but also the Lord?

Report when, where, and how you see the “Good News” of Jesus the Savior, Christ, and Lord being declared today.

Offer a prayer of thanks for Jesus: the Savior, the Christ (Messiah), and the Lord.

Thursday, December 22, 2016

Read: Luke 2:1-14.

Reflect: Read Luke 2:12-14 in at least two translations.

Reflect upon Luke 2:12. Address some of your thoughts as to why you think God chose such a humble setting for the birth of Jesus.

Read Luke 2:13-14 again. Notice the fact the Heavenly Hosts appeared with the angel, and they all praised God. Transcribe what they specified in their praise.

What does this declaration of praise mean to you? Record your thoughts.

What helps you desire to praise God?

Offer a prayer of praise to the Lord right now.

Friday, December 23, 2016

Read: Luke 2:1-14.

Reflect: Read Matthew 1:18-25. What spiritual thoughts consume you after reading these two accounts of Jesus' birth?

List ways you have shown attention to Jesus during this Christmas season:

Create a prayer of gratitude for God's gift of Jesus who is "good news of great joy...a Savior, the Christ (Messiah), the Lord."

Saturday, December 24, 2016

Read: Luke 2:1-14.

Reflect: Look back over your notes this week in The Compass. Journal the three most important thoughts or insights you had during your study.

Write a Christmas Love Letter to Jesus.

Celebrate the birth of Jesus tonight in one of our Ascent Church's special Christmas Eve services!

Building Our Base Camp Family

As your group gathers, have each person think about a Christmas in which great joy was experienced. Journal what you remember about that Christmas, and why it brought you such great joy.

Read Luke 2:1-20 together, with special attention to verses 8-14.

Although this is a familiar story for many of us, what stood out to you?

The angel's announcement in verse 10 is the first public announcement of the good news of Jesus' birth. *Of all the people the angels could have visited, why do you suppose God sent them to the shepherds? How would you have felt if you were in the shepherds' shoes (actually sandals)?*

The angel declared "good news of great joy." *For whom is this good news announced? Do you recall the "angel" who first told you about Jesus?*

What titles were given to Jesus in verse 11? *What is significant about each of them?*

The "good news" is the announcement of the birth of "a Savior," who is "the Christ (Messiah)," and who is also "The Lord." *How is this good news for you today? How are you choosing to share this news with others (see what the shepherds did in verse 17)?*

Describe in your own words what you see in verses 13 and 14. *How might you offer similar praise to God?*

Close your time in prayer for each other. Include the effect the news of Christ's birth has had on you, ending in praise by saying verse 14 together as a group.

Resource utilized: Serendipity Bible: For Personal and Small Group Study. 1996. Edited by L. Coleman. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Contact Us

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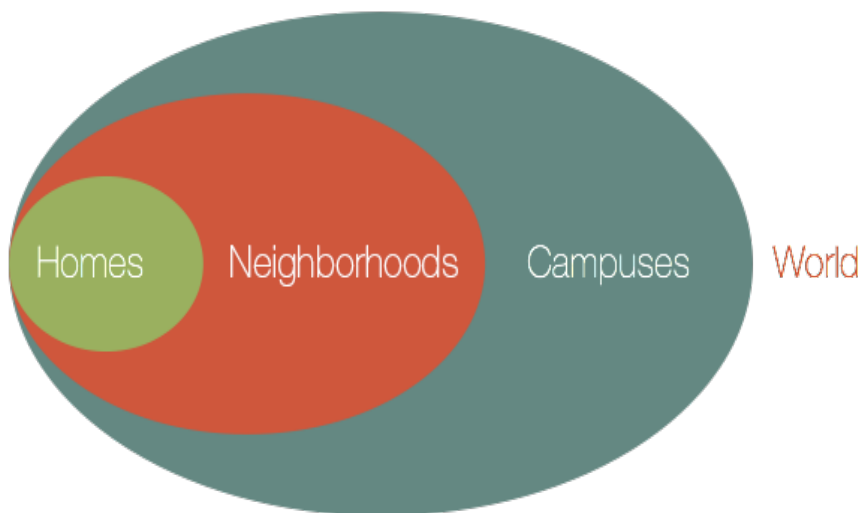
Visit us online at www.theascentchurch.com

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.



1750 Deer Creek Road - Monument, CO 80132

719-481-3600 - TheAscentChurch.com

Special thanks to all who contributed to The Compass

If you have questions or comments, email:

Info@TheAscentChurch.com



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