

**CENTER
CHURCH**
Annual Report
2016

How Our Values Connect

Gospel

The good news of what Christ accomplished through His life, death and resurrection is the foundation on which everything we do as a church stands. Because of Christ, we are now completely accepted by God, never to be rejected. We are now adopted by the Father, loved and delighted in by Him because of the gospel. That is our identity we must always keep before us.

Gospel-Centered

Prayer

Because of Christ's work, we have access to God the Father. We are invited to come before His throne room. As we draw near to Him, the promise is that He will draw near to us. We're making an intentional effort to instill prayer as part of our church culture. This next year, I'll be meeting with each Community Group once a month to teach about prayer, but also to pray together.

Prayer-Saturated

Mission

The gospel is the foundation for prayer and prayer is the foundation for mission (evangelism). As we draw near to God and experience Him in ways we never thought possible, it will become natural to talk about the supernatural God of the gospel. Thus, our first two values pave the way for fulfilling our mission as a church, which is to introduce people to the risen Christ.

Mission-Minded



Letter from Pastor Thor

There is no greater privilege than being called to lead a local church. Our church was birthed from a verse in 1 Peter 5:2, which says, "Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you." Scripture makes it clear that pastors are accountable to God for the way we fulfill this calling. Now, that's some serious motivation to bring our best. But it is my conviction that even our best is not enough for it is "not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts." Our best rings hollow without His presence.

Putting together this annual report has been encouraging and motivating for me personally. I hope you'll find it the same. Looking back, I see the hand of God moving us forward, slowly but steadily. Today, I am more convinced than ever that together we can draw near to God and experience Him in ways we have never before thought possible. Drawing near to God that He might draw near to us is fast becoming our church motto.

Hopefully, in this report you will glimpse the movement of the Spirit among us and also see why the work we do here at Center Church is the best investment you can be part of anywhere. My prayer is that it will inspire you toward our goal, which is nothing less than seeing God use us to reach those far from Him.

The Center Church Annual Report is an opportunity to keep our eye on the metrics that matter. Because behind every statistic is a story. Every number represents a soul dear to God. Every small step is evidence of His gracious hand.

I think you'll be informed and inspired by our first edition. And I hope you will rejoice in what God has done through us together so far. "Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin." (Zechariah 4:10)

To God be the glory for the great things He has done!
And we believe — the best is yet to come!

Thank you for partnering with us.

Let us keep drawing near, so that people far from God will be raised to life in Christ.

For His Glory,

AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE 2016



Sunday School Average Weekly Attendance:



100% INCREASE FROM 2015



Sunday Morning

YOU WILL SEE GREATER THINGS THAN THESE

Easter @ Indian Beach Yearly Attendance



2016 230 men, women and children



2017 340 men, women and children

Our very first public service was on Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016. We had approximately 160 adults and 70 children in attendance.

One year later, we had a total of 340 children and adults.

In 2017, we had 11 people respond to the invitation for salvation at Easter service.

April 10, 2016

We began meeting Sunday evenings in the facilities of Impact Church in Menifee. They were ever so gracious to us and we will always be thankful for kingdom-minded people.

June 26, 2016

We began meeting Sunday mornings in Lake Elsinore at Cottonwood Canyon Elementary School in the multi-purpose room.

LAUNCH DAY

**MAR
27
2016**

May 6, 2017

Our elder candidates were unanimously confirmed by congregational vote:

- Steve Adler
- Daniel Cleary
- Michael Curcie

Dec. 4, 2016

Our first official baptism service, which included:

- Christian Weng
- Jack Gray
- Leslie-Ann Geer
- Bryan Geer

GO INTO ALL THE WORLD & PREACH THE GOSPEL



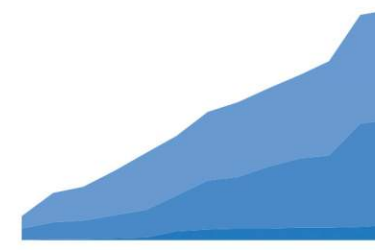
The Center Church App

STATS



HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE DOWNLOADED THE APP?

259



HOW MANY TIMES HAS IT BEEN OPENED?

2,915



HOW MANY APP PAGES HAVE BEEN VISITED?

9,762



OTHER CHURCH STATS

58%

volunteer for a Center Team

57%

involved in a Community Group

6 in 15

Center Kids' Sunday school teachers are men

NUMBER OF SERMON SERIES 2016

FOUR

TOPICS
2016



"HE KNOWS THE WORST ABOUT US, BUT DOESN'T THINK THE WORST ABOUT US BECAUSE HE ALSO KNOWS WHAT HE HAS PLANNED FOR US."



"CHANGED LIVES FUEL THE JOY OF THE CHURCH."

8 WEEKS

8 WEEKS

5 WEEKS

15 WEEKS

2 WEEKS

"YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND HOW SPECIAL YOU ARE TO GOD IN ORDER TO PROCLAIM HIS GREATNESS."



"IF YOU WANT TO LIVE A CONVENTIONAL LIFE — DON'T BECOME A CHRISTIAN."



GUEST
SPEAKERS

In 2016, Center Church covered the doctrine of the church, examined eight types of psalms in an overview of God's song book to humanity, focused on the theme of bravery in the book of Esther and ended the year studying the supernatural joy induced by the gospel in Paul's letter to the Philippians.

We were blessed by two guest speakers throughout the year. Stephen Baldwin surprised everyone with the sincerity of faith in Hollywood. Then Becket Cook shared his story that dealt with one of society's watershed issues.

The rest of the sermons were themed around the various holidays.



The Mission

to engage people with the Jesus of the Bible

The Goal

to win 32 people to Christ and plant one church in the next five years

Professions of faith (2016) = 6

Baptisms (2016) = 3

FINANCIALS 2016

OPERATIONS

\$37,332

Worship Arts	\$1378
Children's Ministry	\$5777
Audio Visual	\$8028
First Impressions	\$2845
Events & Programs	\$3435
Service Supplies	\$2365
Facility Rental	\$11,490
Compassion Fund	\$2014

CHURCH PLANTING

\$1590

Emmaus Church Plant San Bernadino	\$1035
Future Church Plant	\$435
Donations	\$120

MARKETING

\$5916

Signage	\$2324
Social media	\$3592

PERSONNEL

\$84,827

Staff	\$48,012
Administrative	\$4297
Printing	\$1714
Sermon Prep	\$192
Housing	\$30,612

Tithes & Offerings \$155,856

ACTIVE ACCOUNT BALANCE \$26,191

How We Get There

This might sound simplistic to some, but our values are how we accomplish our goals (on the following page). Staying gospel-centered will keep us growing in our understanding of how accepted we are by the Father because of the Son. The deeper this conviction grows the more we'll feel welcomed into God's throne room to pour out our hearts in prayer before Him. A deeper understanding of the gospel will lead to deeper prayer lives. Deeper prayer lives (both individually and corporately) will allow us to draw near to God who then promises to draw near to us. And that's how evangelism happens. We cannot bring people near to God if we are not near to God.

When God works among us, we can't help but talk about Him. The deeper that work among us, the deeper the work will be in the lives of people far from God.

That's how we get there.



Small is the New Big

Our immediate goals are to win 32 people to Christ and plant our first church within our first five years. Why 32 people? And in five years? The simple answer is that we have to have goals to measure our progress and those are statistically realistic goals. Studies show that our soil as a smaller church is actually more fertile for planting another church.

SMALL GOALS

What's most encouraging is what the studies say about our potential for reaching people for Christ. "Churches in the smallest size category (under 100 in attendance) had won an average of 32 new people over the past five years; churches with 100-200 in worship also won 32; churches between 200-300 average 39 new individuals; churches between 300-400 won 25. So a 'small' church wins just as many people for Christ as a 'large' one." The goal of winning 32 to Christ in the next five years gives us a measurable focus and keeps us on mission. This averages out to 6 people each year coming to Christ. In our first year, we saw 6 individuals come to Christ. That's good news and we are thankful to God.

SMALL CHURCH

Ultimately, God will determine how large we grow. The point is that we don't have to wait until we're a large church to be an effective church. We can be an effective church now. We don't have to dream about the glory days of the future because we are in the midst of our glory days right now.

Christian Schwarz did a study that "found that the average growth rate in smaller churches was 13% (over five years), whereas in larger churches it was a mere 3%." God is using smaller churches right now as much as He is using larger churches. This should be our mindset -- that God will use us. If we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us.

BIG IMPACT

It's not that the Lord doesn't use large churches, but He uses small churches just as mightily. That should increase our faith. God Himself tells us that "by the power that is working within us" He is "able to do far beyond all that we ask or think." Far beyond all that we ask or think.

All that to say, this leads me to feel content with our small church right now. This doesn't mean I don't feel an urgency in reaching people with the gospel or that I don't long for a deeper sense of God's presence during our services. It just means that I believe we matter this Sunday. We are a significant church right now because the gospel is always significant. This means that our small church can have a big impact in people's lives.





Who brings our chaos back into
order
Who makes the orphan a son and
daughter
The King of Glory, the King of Glory









Here we are as in olden days
Happy Golden days of yore
Faithful friends who are dear to us
Gather near to us once



