

welcome

At Gateway it is our mission to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Our doctrine is simple; we just want to follow Jesus like Christians did in the New Testament. We have a variety of spiritual, relational, and inspirational activities throughout the St. Louis metro area. For more information visit us at gatewaycitychurch.com or scan the QR code for our church app.

upcoming events

Thank you! For those of you who dropped off bags today for Bumper Bag Sunday, thank you for helping us make this event a success.

The 2019 calendar will be available soon, and with it all events for the coming year.

For all upcoming events visit our website:

www.gatewaycitychurch.com

I'm new: what to expect

We're glad you're here! Worship begins at 10am. If the sanctuary is full, additional seating with live video streaming has been set up in our Fellowship Hall.

Church service typically lasts 75-90 minutes. At Gateway we take communion every Sunday; you are also welcome to take communion if you'd like to do so. Like other churches we also take up a weekly offering, however most of our members prefer to give their contribution online through our app, or via "Text 2 Give".

Gateway Kids offers free childcare upstairs each Sunday during the church service. We feature age-appropriate, action-based Bible lessons for children ages 3 months through 5th grade.

If you enjoy the service and would like to go deeper, we would love for you to join one of our weekly small group Bible studies. Talk to one of our ushers or staff members after service for more information.

resources

All phone numbers also accept text messages.

9300 Stansberry Avenue (63134)
314.653.1615

Elders:

Lu Garcia: 314.952.7308
Tink Sullivan: 573.528.7568

Text 2 Give

Text "Give \$1" to 314.384.9099

Marrieds

Jeff & Julie Hovey 314.698.3036

College

Jeff Hughes 314.660.5418

Singles

Alex Hanna: 314.302.5065
Rebecca Schneider: 314-691-4037

Youth & Family/High School Ministry

Jeremy Fain 217.454.4651
Jeff & Shelly Ryan 469.417.9054

Middle School

Karanja & Denise Kiburi 314.249.6682

Gateway Kids

John Rosario 314.732.8687

 facebook.com/gatewaycitychurch



Wifi: Gateway

Pass: gateway.church



Was Jesus born in a stable? a cave? a barn?

We know the Christmas story so well. Mary and Joseph traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem and were turned away from the village inn by the innkeeper. They took refuge in a barn, where baby Jesus was born and laid in a manger. A very early church tradition says the site of the nativity was a cave near Bethlehem.

The Biblical story of the birth of Jesus is found primarily in Luke 2. Dr. Luke neither quotes nor mentions an innkeeper. We suggest the story does not refer to an inn, a cave or even a barn, but rather a house!

The text of Luke 2 notes there was no room for Mary and Joseph in the “inn.” Unfortunately, the Greek term translated inn (kataluma) had multiple meanings, among them inn or caravan-sary. Used only one other time in the New Testament (Luke 22:11 and the parallel passage, Mark 14:14), it was the place where Jesus observed the Last Supper with His disciples. Here, Dr. Luke gave additional information about the kataluma. He said it was a furnished large upper story room within a private Jerusalem house. The kataluma of the last night of Jesus’ Earthly ministry was the “upper room.”

We suggest the kataluma of Jesus’ first night was a similar room in Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph came into town with Mary ready to deliver. Arriving at Joseph’s ancestral home, they found it already full of other family members who had arrived earlier. While the exact reason space was not made for a pregnant woman is unknown, it probably indicates the house was full of elder members of Joseph’s family, who had priority.

So that is when Mary and Joseph went to the barn, right? Not exactly. The Biblical account mentions neither barn nor cave—it is assumed because of the manger. Mangers

are animal feeding troughs, and barns are where one would expect to find them. But in the ancient world, as well as in primitive modern cultures, mangers are also found within the house itself. Animals are regularly kept in homes at night.

A small number of flock animals were housed, not in attached exterior sheds, but inside the house in one of the ground floor rooms. Here, animals, tools and agricultural produce were stored. Here, too, food was prepared and possibly consumed. Family sleeping quarters were on the second floor (an upper room). By being inside, the animals were protected from the elements and theft. In addition, their presence provided body heat for cool nights, access to milk for the daily meal and dung as a critical fuel source.

Excavations in Israel have uncovered numerous installations within domestic structures which probably represent ancient mangers. Some are carved, but most are stone built. Wooden mangers, of course, have not survived in the archaeological record.

Consequently, Mary and Joseph did not find space in the living quarters of the ancestral family home. Instead, they stayed downstairs in the domestic stable, still within the ancestral home, where a manger or two was located. Here they were visited by the shepherds, and maybe the wise men some time later.

