

★ THIS ADVENT... ★

WORSHIP FULLY

It starts with Jesus. It ends with Jesus. It's a season where we are called to put down our burdens and lift a song up to our God.

SPEND LESS

Spending less isn't a call to stop giving gifts; it's a call to stop spending money on gifts we won't remember in less than a year. America spends around \$600 billion dollars during the Christmas season, and much of that it joyless and goes right onto a credit card.

GIVE MORE

The most powerful, memorable gift you can give to someone else is yourself. And nobody modeled this more than Jesus. The main point is simple: When it comes to spending time with those you love, it's all about quality, not quantity.

LOVE ALL

It all boils down to love. Love from a savior. Love to a neighbor in need. By spending just a little less on gifts we free up our resources to love as Jesus loves by giving to those who really need help.

CONNECTION CARD

Each week everyone will be asked to fill out a Connection Card in order to **"MEASURE"** our church in five key areas. There will be a summary report each week in the bulletin that identifies those five key metrics.

Please turn in your card each week. Members, leaders and guests will be asked to turn these in.

SURGERY FOR EMMA

Pray for Emma Grebenick who will be undergoing a "gastric sleeve" procedure on December 12 at St. Alexius Hospital.

Pray that her team would be used by God to bring about wholeness and healing in Emma's life.

UPSIDE DOWN CHRISTMAS

★ Rediscovering the Wonder of Christmas ★



- NOV 30 *Upside Down Birth*
- DEC 07 *Upside Down Traditions*
- DEC 14 *Upside Down Gifts*
- DEC 21 *Upside Down Happiness*

PRAYER REQUESTS

■	Emma Grebenick	▶ Health Issues
■	Lily Metcalf	▶ Dementia
■	Anabelle Galik	▶ Lung Cancer
■	John Schreiber	▶ Healing
■	Andrew Haywood	▶ Health Issues
■	Noe Figueroa	▶ Health Issues
■	Linda Loukota	▶ Breast Cancer
■	Elizabeth Stein	▶ Health Issues
■	David	▶ Heart Transplant
■	Abby London	▶ Mersat
■	Pat Crampton	▶ Healing in Her Back
■	Ashley Fagerson	▶ Mental Health Issues
■	Sharon Dost	▶ Colon Cancer
■	Maria Ashcraft	▶ Complete Healing
■	Robin Loveless	▶ Lung Cancer
■	Art Bush	▶ Post-Surgery Healing
■	Barb Smith	▶ Lower Back Pain
■	Bobbie Nash	▶ Inner Healing
■	Kenny Dutro	▶ Skull Fracture
■	Trevor Walls	▶ Deployed to Afghanistan
■	Jim Walls	▶ Back Surgery
■	Keith Knoepfle	▶ Back Surgery
■	Peggy Knoepfle	▶ Shoulder Sprain
■	Kevin Knoepfle	▶ Back Issues
■	Teresa Jean	▶ Newborn: Heart Defects
■	Paul Sharp III	▶ Health Issues

11/23/14



34

ATTENDANCE

\$928.25

GIVING

6

GUESTS

14

VOLUNTEERS

0

DECISIONS FOR CHRIST



UPSIDE DOWN CHRISTMAS

★ Rediscovering the Wonder of Christmas ★



Upside Down Birth





¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.


² *(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)*

³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

⁵ *He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.* ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,

⁷ *and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.*



Luke 2:1-7

AN UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM

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- Where the first are last
 - Where power is restraint
 - Where weakness wins over power
 - Where joy exists in the midst of suffering
 - Where death is life

¹⁴ *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*

Isaiah 7:14



THE PROMISE OF HIS BIRTH

These are key promises or prophecies about the birth of Christ. They are specific as the nature and method of their unfolding.

² "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Micah 5:2

★ THE BACKGROUND OF HIS BIRTH

Augustus Caesar: the adoptive son of Julius Caesar.
Quirinius: the chief of staff for Julius Caesar.
Joseph/Mary: a carpenter marries a peasant gal.
Census: ordained by the Roman empire for everyone to register.
Bethlehem: the family home of Mary and Joseph.

DIVINE DNA

The birth of Jesus was “upside down”.
It is called the incarnation—“in the flesh”.

- **It was not the entry of an avatar**
- It was not a test-tube baby
- **It was not the implantation of a fertilized egg**
- It was not the birth of a hybrid super-hero
- **It was not the product of a sexual union**



★ IT WAS A VIRGIN BIRTH - REAL HISTORY... NOT A MYTH! ★

GOOD NEWS

¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ *Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.*

Luke 2:10-11

Everything that Augustus claimed about himself (“good news”, “savior”, “Lord”, and “peace”). The angel proclaimed about Jesus, the true Son of God.

RIGHT SIDE UP

Don't let the methodology mess you up!
God does things “upside down” to turn things
right-side-up in our lives! Embrace
his “upside-downness”---it will bring life!