

# MEDITATION



Josh Tucker  
Pastor  
St. Matthew's  
Lutheran Church

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All

went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there,

the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. **Luke 2:1-7**

Grace to you and peace from the long-expected Christ child, Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

It is usually the case that no matter how carefully planned out or how methodical one is in their preparation, travel plans always seem to not go as planned. We forget to pack items we need; the airline overlooks flights and Mother Nature gets in the way of travel schedules. This time of year, and especially with the current state of the oil industry, travel increases. People are traveling to spend time

with their family and friends for the holidays. Young people are going home for Christmas break. And even some take family vacations to spend the holidays in a new setting. But, no matter how hard we try our travel plans often get messed up; we must be patient and remain flexible as we travel.

In the story of Jesus' birth, we see that Mary and Joseph's travel plans go amuck as well. Can you imagine the scene? The young couple is forced to leave their homes and return to their family hometown to be registered - all of this under the authority of Emperor Augustus so that a tax could be collected from the people. And so they must have been tired from all the travel. They must have been frustrated from all the changes

to their travel plans. And low and behold while they are there, jumping through all the hoops for the Roman government, it is time for Mary to give birth. But their plans are further disordered because they cannot find a proper place in which to give birth that is not already occupied. The only available place that someone is willing to provide for them is a stable where livestock were kept. But no matter how unorganized their plans became, Mary and Joseph continued to find their way. Jesus is born and he is laid to sleep in a feedbox for animals.

Sometimes our plans change; sometimes our best organizing is overshadowed by the will of God. It is God who provides our path, who leads us to the coming of the Christ child! Amen.

## Children's Choir to present program

First Wesleyan Church children's choir will present "David's Dynasty" at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Dec 21. The church is located at 505 N. Piedmont Ave in King Mountain.

## Christmas play at Galilee Church

"Christmas Faith," an original Christmas play, will be presented at Galilee United Methodist Church, 117 Galilee Church Road, on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 6 p.m. The Christian Education Department of the church is sponsoring the play. Everyone is welcome.

## Fellowship & Faith

# Church Service Directory



## Featured Church of the Week: Family Worship Center

- KINGS MOUNTAIN**
- Long Creek Presbyterian Church**  
701 Long Creek Road  
704-629-4406
  - Love Valley Baptist Church**  
2032 Bethlehem Road  
704-730-0075
  - Macedonia Baptist Church**  
1101 S. Battleground Avenue  
704-739-6811
  - Midview Baptist Church**  
703 Margrace Road  
704-739-6711
  - Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church**  
220 N. Watterson Street  
704-739-8354
  - Mountain View Agape Church**  
506 Sparrow Springs Road  
704-739-0160
  - Mt. Olive Baptist Church**  
Compact School Road  
704-739-4516
  - Mt. Zion Baptist Church**  
220 N. Watterson Street  
704-739-8354
  - New Beginnings Church of Jesus Christ**  
541 Crocker Road  
704-730-9507
  - New Bynum Chapel AME Zion Church**  
N. Cansler Street  
704-739-2606
  - New Camp Creek Baptist Church**  
863 New Camp Creek Ch. Road  
704-487-7128

- New Life Family Worship Center**  
428 Oak Grove Road  
704-739-9371
- New Way Missionary Baptist Church**  
105 Waco Road  
704-724-0414
- Oak Grove Baptist Church**  
1022 Oak Grove Road  
704-739-4833
- Oak View Baptist Church**  
1517 York Road  
704-739-7831
- Pathway Baptist Church**  
3100 Parkdale Circle  
704-734-0852
- Patterson Grove Baptist Church**  
301 Oak Grove Road  
704-739-5826
- Peoples Baptist Church**  
1010 Groves Street  
704-739-0398
- Proclaiming the Word Ministries**  
7011 Cleveland Avenue
- Progressive Church of Our Lord**  
1001 Cleveland Avenue  
704-734-1070
- Resurrection Lutheran Church**  
600 Crescent Circle  
704-739-5580
- Royal Praise Ministries**  
2055 Shelby Rd.
- Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church**  
201 N. Piedmont Avenue  
704-739-7466

- Second Baptist Church**  
120 Linwood Road  
704-739-4216
- Shady Grove Baptist Church**  
339 Shady Grove Road  
704-739-8920
- St. Paul United Methodist Church**  
N. Cansler Street  
704-739-1256
- Sunrise Baptist Church**  
208 Mail Road  
704-692-3007
- Temple Baptist Church**  
612 N. Cansler Street  
704-739-4716
- The Favor Center Church**  
602 Slater Street

- True Gospel Holiness Church**  
1608 Shelby Road  
704-739-6764
- Unity AME Zion Church**  
948 Unity Church Road  
704-228-0328
- Vestibule AME Zion Church**  
2175 Vestibule Church Road  
704-739-7961
- Westover Baptist Church**  
114 Westover Drive
- GASTONIA**
- Bethesda United Methodist Church**  
3714 S. New Hope Rd
- Grace Community Advent Christian Church**  
206 West 3rd Avenue  
704-739-9230

- GROVER**
- Bethany Baptist Church**  
423 Cleveland Avenue  
704-937-3010
- Carolina Praise and Worship Center**  
201 N. Main Street  
704-937-7541
- First Apostolic Church of Blacksburg**  
205 E. Cherokee St.  
Blacksburg, SC704-937-7390864-839-1873
- WACO**
- New Testament Missionary Baptist Church**

Notice: In order to accommodate the number of churches in our communities, we will print two alternating lists of churches each week. If you don't see the church you're looking for, be sure to check next week.

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