UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER—PART 1
"THE SURPRISE OF CHRISTMAS!"
Pastor Andy Shaffer—November 29, 2026

Luke 1:26—"In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee."

Luke 1:26-28—"…God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth…to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendent of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.'"

Luke 2:1-7—"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world…And everyone went to their own town to register. 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. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 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."

The Truth About The Surprises of Christmas:

1) **Jesus Understands More Than I Think**

Hebrews 4:15-16—"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

2) **Jesus Cares More Than I Know**

Philippians 2:5-8 (NLT)—"You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form, He humbled Himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross."

3) Jesus Can Do More Than I Realize

Luke 1:38—"I am the Lord's servant...May your word to me be fulfilled…"

Luke 1:46-48—"…My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant..."

The Big Idea:

The Very Thing You Think Is Too Difficult or Disqualifies You…Might Be The Very Thing That Invites God's Power Most Dramatically

Finish The Sentence:

By The Power of God…_____

How Will You Respond?