

NorthLife Weekly Schedule

Sunday

9:30am
10:30am

Sunday School
Weekly Celebration Service & Children's Church.

Monday

7:30pm

Celebrate Recovery A Christ centered recovery program for men, for any Hurt, Hang up, or Habit.

Home Bible Study Karel & Ayu DeJong at 319-100 Richard Street. Contact 780-799-2874.

Tuesday

6:00pm

Ladies Bible Study Check out the NorthLife Women Facebook Group for updates and events.

Wednesday

6:00 pm
7:00pm
7:00pm

Corporate prayer NorthLife library.
Bible Study NorthLife library.
Young Adults meet in room 307.

Thursday

9:00am

Moms N' Tots A drop-in for play and socializing time for moms and their young children. Check out their Facebook page for weekly updates.

7:00pm

Worship practice - Check with Andre Cassell to see what weeks this will take place.

Friday

6:00pm

Youth Bible Study meet for fun, food, fellowship.

Saturday

7:00pm

Mancave Drop in time for men to socialize at NLFBC.

Looking for a
Discipleship Opportunity?
Contact Pastor Mark
780-792-6888

Soup Kitchen
<https://www.facebook.com/NLSoupKitchen>

For More Info

www.northlifechurch.ca

info@northlifechurch.ca

141 Alberta Drive
Fort McMurray AB, T9H 1R2

NORTHLIFE

UNISON

The Christmas express

FINDING JOY IN THE JOURNEY



CREATED BY

CELESTE CLYDESDALE

ARRANGED BY

DAVID T. CLYDESDALE

SCRIPT BY

**CELESTE CLYDESDALE
& SUSIE WILLIAMS**

FINDING JOY IN THE JOURNEY



Nativity Word Search

NATIVITY NIGHT
CHRISTMAS SHEEP
MANGER MOTHER
DONKEY GIFT
STABLE
DECEMBER
ANGEL
SHEPHERD
BABY
STAR



I O I D O N K E Y S
M N A T I V I T Y H
V V N I G H T D T E
D E C E M B E R A P
U M A N G E R Y R H
G I F T S T A B L E
C H R I S T M A S R
G T A A N G E L S D
S T A R S H E E P D
B A B Y M O T H E R

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

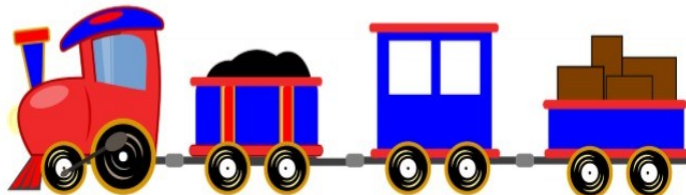
TRAIN STATION



E L P O E P R T I N C
 E A R O T C U D N O C
 V E T U O R O N N I S
 I E R S T O W C A T D
 R G A E F A O T T A E
 R A C A I U I E S M P
 A G K T R H K P I R A
 L G S S C C O T N O R
 I U E N I H C A M F T
 A L E T S S K C A N S
 M B U I L D I N G I O

The words appear UP, DOWN,
 BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY.
 Find and circle each word.

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|--------|--------|
| ARRIVE | DEPART | MAIL | SNACKS |
| BENCH | FOOD | PEOPLE | TICKET |
| BUILDING | INFORMATION | ROUTE | TIME |
| CONCOURSE | LUGGAGE | SEATS | TRACKS |
| CONDUCTOR | MACHINE | SHOPS | WAIT |



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The Christmas Express

All aboard! Every Christmas Eve the passengers on The Christmas Express make the journey to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania to celebrate the birth of Christ with a grand pageant. The question is, who will God choose to ride the train on this special night, and what kind of adventure will unfold? Come along as the jolly, joyful train conductor welcomes Mrs. Davis and her students, along with a hard working waitress named Jenny. The mood is high until Mr. Theodore Higginsworth, III - a businessman who doesn't believe in "fairy tales" - boards the train. Only when the Christmas Express comes to a sudden stop and an unexpected stranger comes on board does Mr. Higginsworth realize that the story of Christmas isn't only a story.

The Christmas Express invites you to join in on a joyful journey as God orchestrates a night of miracles to help us all remember the true meaning of Christmas...Jesus!



The Cast



Joseph - Co-Director

Joseph misses the stage but has thoroughly enjoyed teaching the kids what he's learned about acting and doing your best unto the Lord. It brings him great joy and new life to see how God transforms them and uses them to be his mouthpiece. They are his proud reward and crown.

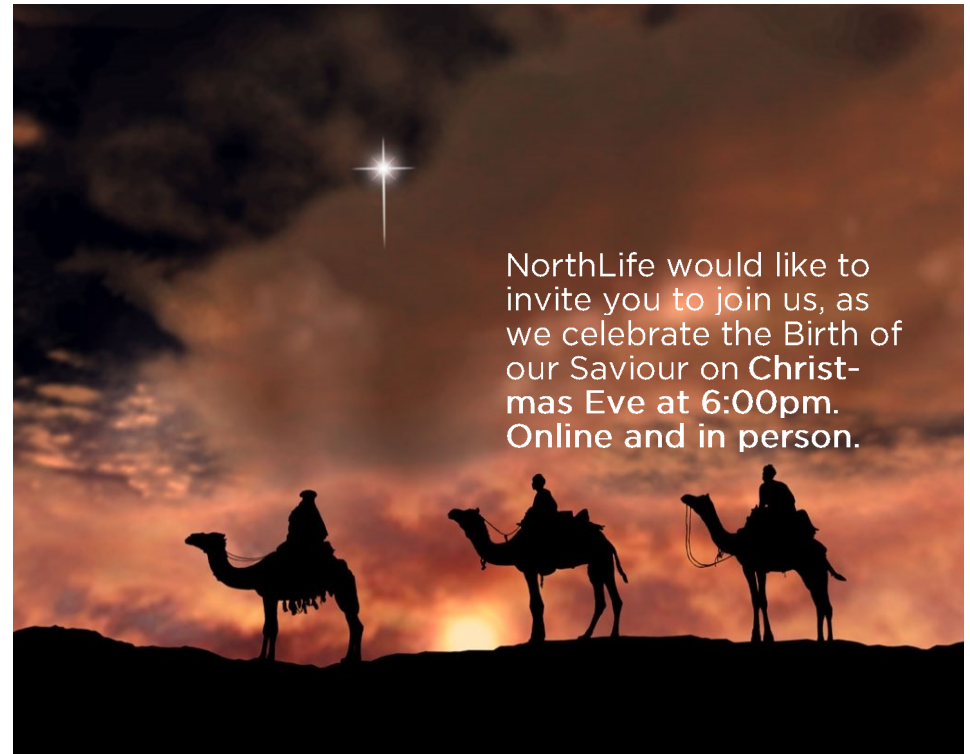


Kate - Tech/Sound - LIT Teen

Over the years we have watched Kate act in the Christmas productions here at NorthLife. She shined as the Statue of Liberty in Christmas Hang-Ups, her 1st production. From there we watched her grow in Chris-Mythbusters and Felix Finds Christmas. Kate has always loved the Christmas plays. This year she is running the sound booth. Kate also teaches Sunday School for 2 and 3 year olds and is an L.I.T. Teen. Kate truly loves to serve the Lord. She hopes you enjoy this years production. Merry Christmas.!

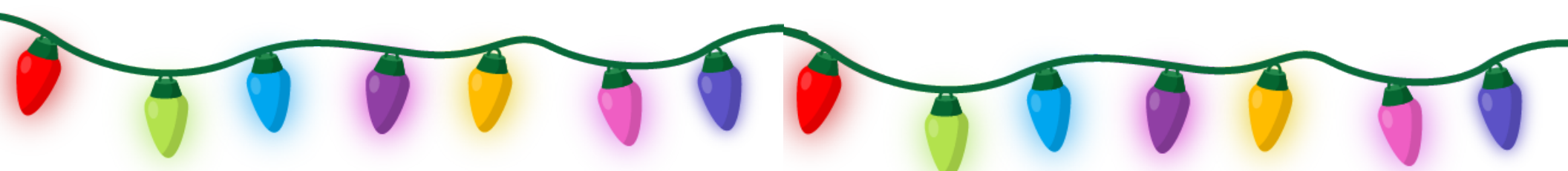
Acknowledgement

Our Church Family - Thank you for praying and being there for the children. Ask any of them what is one of the most important things about putting on this play each year, and they will tell you, it is performing it for all of you. I would also like to thank everyone who baked and donated to our cookie buffet. The children in the play will tell you that is the best thing about doing the play, the goodies.



NorthLife would like to invite you to join us, as we celebrate the Birth of our Saviour on Christmas Eve at 6:00pm. Online and in person.

Join us for a cookie buffet after the program in the foyer.



Acknowledgement

Angela & Anna - for volunteering their time to be our backstage crew and dressing room coordinators. They made sure the kids were put into the correct costumes, were lined up and were ready to go when it was their time to shine. We appreciate all that you do, and the kids really love you. Thank you so very much.

Nina and Hope - from putting together the Cookie Buffet for everyone to enjoy. Setting it all up to cleaning up. I want to thank you for being there to give this gift to all the children in this year's play. This is one thing they truly look forward to and because of you it was all able to be put together. Your time is greatly appreciated.

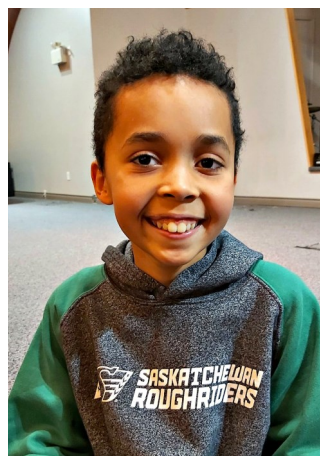
Stage Crew - Joseph and I would like to thank Stephen Sturgis and all those that volunteered to help build the set for our production. Your time is greatly appreciated. With your work schedules we know how important your time is and we want you to know that we appreciate the time you gave us to accomplish this. I also would like to thank everyone who came in throughout the week to help us put the set together and decorate it.

Hope, Lisa and Natasha - For being there every Wednesday for the children. I know at times you think you are not doing anything, but I want you to know you are doing so much. From giving Joseph and I guidance to helping with snacks, lines, movements for the songs, and being just those extra pair of hands to get things done, you are so appreciated. Especially letting the kids know that they needed to be LOUDER.

Missy - Thank you for sewing, hemming, and making sure all the costumes fit our children. We also appreciate the days you came in to run music. Your time and help is greatly appreciated.

Kate - Thank you for being with us each week at practice running the music for the children. Kate is one of our LIT teens, and her leadership and past experience in the plays was what we needed to make sure this year was a success.

The Cast



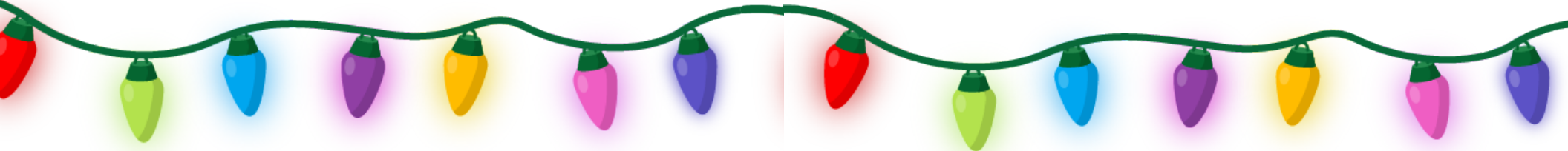
Ian - Mr. Higginsworth - *Sunday*

This is Ian's fifth time in the play and he loves spreading the word of God to others. Ian enjoys basketball, anime, reading, video games, eating samosas, and, lately sleeping. This year Ian is excited to go through this all again so he can share the Gospel with others in the hope they will fall in love with God like he has. Ian is super passionate about this cause, and hopes to be part of the plays for years to come.



Joshua - Mr. Higginsworth - *Saturday*

Joshua is in grade seven and is twelve years old. Josh has been performing in the Christmas play at NorthLife for three years. He is the big brother to sister Alexis. He loves to play the piano, hockey and golf. His interests also include History, geography, politics, and drama. Josh also loves hanging out with his buddies. Thank you to Mrs. Karen and Mr. Joseph for being such tremendous role models, teaching and encouraging all the performers. They are truly a blessing. Josh also thanks his Mom and Dad for their love and support in everything he does.



The Cast



Emma - Jenny - Waitress

Emma is eleven, and in grade six. She has a very animated personality and jumps at the opportunity to put it to use through acting for the NorthLife Kids S.T.A.R.S. Christmas play! She loves to play each character to the best of her abilities and is happy to be given the opportunity to be a part of the play for the 3rd time. Emma loves spending time playing the piano, hanging out with family and friends, working in the garden and spending time with her pets. She loves to entertain and can't wait to tell others the true meaning of Christmas. Enjoy the show!



Devlin - Conductor

Being the youngest of four children isn't easy, but Devlin is quite the character and knows how to stand out. He loves to goof around and can often be seen with a Cheshire grin of his face. He enjoys being active—dirt biking, bicycling, snowboarding, running, swimming, or playing various sports. He is a great team player. This is his 6th year in the NorthLife Christmas play and he is excited to have a major part. Devlin would like to thank Mrs. Karen and Mr. Joseph for all their hard work and dedication to this project. It wouldn't be possible without them! Devlin invites you to

relax, sit back, and enjoy the show!

Acknowledgement

Northland Lumber - We are so grateful to them. They donated all the materials needed to build the extras for the set. From the crèche to the stair steps - we are so thankful to them for helping us keep this production going with this very generous donation.

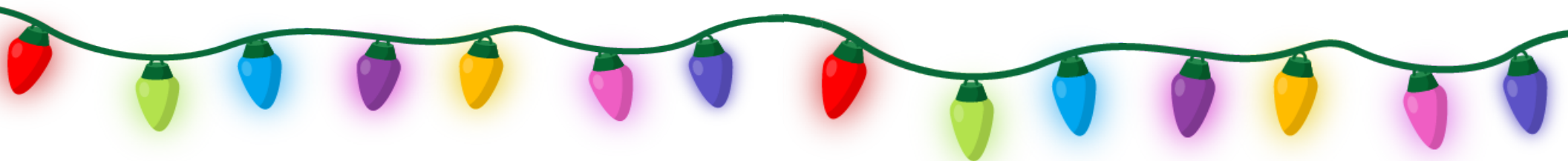
Aluma Systems - for donating all the materials that you don't see behind the set. They donate all we need to make the structure that holds it all together. Thank you so very much for being there for us another year. We couldn't do it without you.

Kentucky Fried Chicken in Timberlea - for sponsoring this year's play by giving each child in attendance a coupon to KFC. Each year Max comes through and helps out with our Party for the children in the play. This year was no different and we love Max, and we love KFC. So we would truly like to thank him and KFC for being there for us again this year.

Tim Horton's - We would really like to thank you for supplying all the coffee and doughnuts for our guests to enjoy along with their cookies from our buffet. Your generosity is truly appreciated. We thank you for making sure that all of our guests were taken care of on Saturday and Sunday.

Pastor Mark - Thank you for always showing your support and for lifting us up in prayer. Thank you for being so encouraging, for your involvement and commitment to this part of the Children's Ministry. The kids would especially like to thank you for understanding that the Christmas play is really important to them and that they truly do love being a part of it. We all appreciate you checking in on us each Wednesday, giving us a helping hand when we need it, and for that extra pat on the back to keep us going. We truly do appreciate all you have done for us.

Laura - A production like this cannot be done without Laura. She is not only my friend, but someone who is truly an outstanding office manager here at NorthLife. Each and every year, Laura takes the time to put together the whole program for the children. Not only does she put together the whole program, but she is also a huge help in the advertising for the play. From running off flyers and posters to be distributed, to making sure it is up and running on Facebook, Laura is a true partner to me in Children's Ministry, and we are so thankful that God gave us such a tremendous gift in Laura. Thank you for all your hard work and support.



Soloist

FINDING JOY IN THE JOURNEY

Good News! Great Joy!
Annie & Melanie

Jesus Is the Reason for the Season
Noah

Before the Rocks Cry Out!
Declan & Lily

J is for Jesus!
Jackson

A Miracle Working God

Joy to the World!
Ethan

Finale (All Aboard the Christmas Express!/Joy in the Journey)

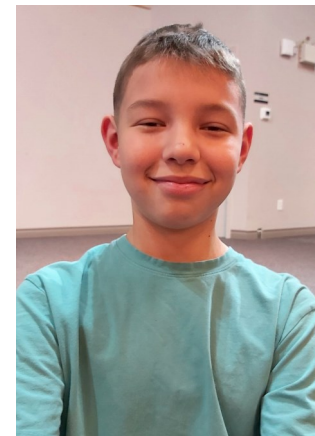


The Cast



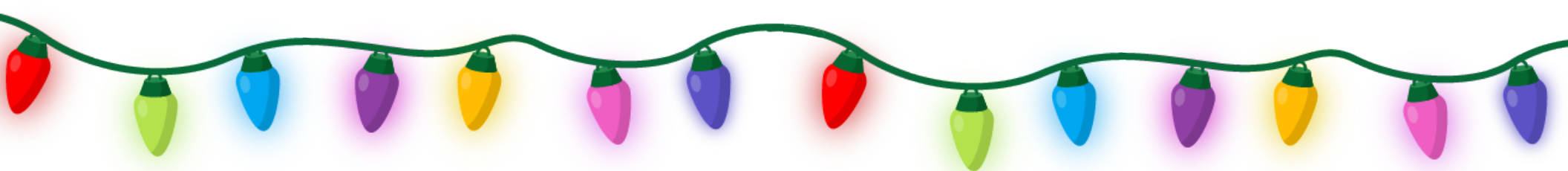
Leila - Abby

Leila is nine years old and is in the fourth grade. She is a very energetic young girl and can't wait to perform in the play for the NorthLife Kids S.T.A.R.S. This is her third year in a row being in the play. Leila looks for any opportunity to be in the kitchen with her mom and sisters, loves playing all sorts of board games and puzzles, and enjoys spending time with her family, friends and animals. She can't wait to spread the true meaning of Christmas to everyone this year and hopes you enjoy the show!



Ethan - Max

This is Ethan's sixth play at NorthLife. He enjoys acting and singing. Ethan is twelve and is in grade seven. Ethan has come a long way from a shy introverted kid to one who sings and acts with confidence. Ethan enjoys sports of all kinds, his favourite being soccer. He volunteers his time at NorthLife and in his community. He is always willing to help out. He was excited to join the Leaders in Training program at NorthLife. He spends a lot of time outside, hiking and helping his dad with work around the house. He likes to draw and play around on the piano. He also likes gaming with his friends. Ethan wishes everyone a Merry Christmas!



The Cast



Sierra - Mrs. Davis

This is Sierra's first year in the Christmas play. She is ten years old, and in grade five. Sierra is loving the experience, the fun, and all the friends at practice each week. She loves dirt biking, and spending time with horses. Sierra is very thankful for the opportunity to be in the play this year and hopes that everyone has a very Merry Christmas!



Alexis - little girl/Saturday
Ava/Sunday

Alexis is in grade three student and is eight years old. This is Alexis' second performance in the NorthLife Christmas play. Alexis is the little sister to brother, Joshua. Alexis enjoys playing hockey, golf and sometimes piano. She likes to read, build Lego, board games and play dates with her friends. Special thanks to Mrs. Karen, Mr. Joseph and her parents for their support.

A note from Karen...

Melanie and Declan being so happy when you tell them you notice how hard they have been working and you are so proud of them. They tell you with a big smile, "All week Grammy had the music on, and we practiced over and over." That is **JOY**.

When you ask **Josh** and **Ian** to play a grumpy grown adult and they growl like their dads or grandfather. That is **JOY**.

You see Joseph sitting in the train car on stage and all the kids are surrounding him, watching a video he made of them walking like their character and saying a line from the play. They are laughing so loud at each other. That is **JOY**.

The greatest moment of **JOY**, that we will all witness together, is when the children tell the world the Good News about Jesus Christ. That God came to Earth as a baby, and His name is JESUS. That he just didn't come here for us to ooh and ahh over Him. That he came to be our Saviour. That He came because He loves us all so very much, that he took the punishment for our sins so that we could live with Him forever. That is **JOY**.

Now back to the original question that Emma asked me, "How do you handle all of this?" This is how I would answer her now. It is because of **JOY**.

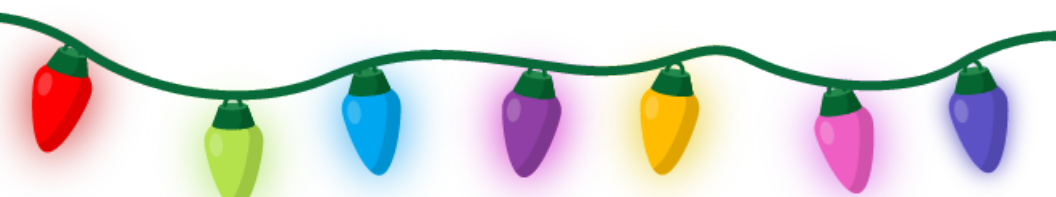
May each and every one of you find the true **JOY** in Christmas. He is Christ the Lord!!

Merry Christmas and a **JOYous** New Year to all of you!!

Psalm 16:11, Matthew 2:10, Jeremiah 32:27, Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 18:24, Luke 2:10-11

Karen Sturgis

Children's Ministry Director



A note from Karen...

Christmas Express Note

I was asked by Emma McCandless, "How do you handle all of this?" I said, "Handle what?" She said "You know, all of this!!" It was pretty noisy when she asked me that question. The kids were all running around, being loud like children are. Joseph and I were trying to get them settled to start another practice, and without thinking I said, "You are kids; this is what you do." Now that I have had time to think about that question, I know I would have answered her differently.

The Christmas Production is something that Joseph and I enjoy doing each and every year. I am amazed at the children that God chooses to be a part of it. That is **Joy**.

JOY is a big word. Yes, it is only 3 letters long, but it is a big word. It has been the theme of this play. The Bible verses they have had each week have had God explain to them what that word **JOY** means. That one word is very significant.

I love how Joseph put it to the kids a few years ago, "You were all chosen by God to be here." That is what he said, and now he makes sure they know that each and every year when we start the play practices. Imagine their faces when you tell them that **YOU ARE CHOSEN BY GOD TO DO THIS**. Some may not understand at that moment what they are about to do, but by the end they have an idea of how big this moment is. That is **JOY**.

The gift God gives you when he lets you witness what a child can do. You give a group of shy 5, 6 or 7 years olds who are in the play for the first time a solo. A few get really scared singing in front of the other kids, then they do it. That is **JOY**.

Annie comes to you and says, "I am not telling my dad. It is going to be a surprise when he sees the play." That is **JOY**.

Jackson is so excited over the movements in the song, "Look Mrs. Karen, is this right? I love this song, I am saying God by doing it this way, and doing this I am saying Jesus!" Then he is so excited about doing his solo. He runs to his spot so he can sing it. That is **JOY**.

Noah comes in and you pull him aside to practice his solo for the first time without anyone singing it with him. He knows the timing and tells you, "I have been practicing!" He has a huge smile on his face. That is **JOY**.

The Cast



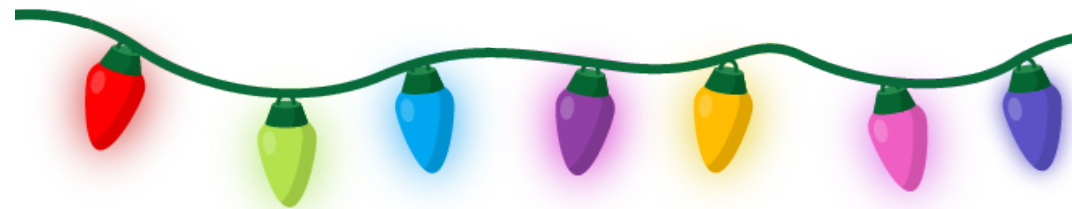
**Stephania - Ava/Saturday
little girl/Sunday**

Stephania is an eight year old Ukrainian Canadian and has three older sisters. She loves pastel colours. Her favourite dog is the golden retriever and she dreams to one day have one. For now she has two cats. Stephania loves Ukrainian dancing and is learning to play piano. Her favourite holiday is Christmas and she loves perogies.



Emma - Homeless Traveler

Emma is nine years old and in grade four. This is her first year in the Christmas play. Emma loves acting, being silly, making people laugh and smile. Emma loves to dirt bike, sing and she is learning to play the piano. She would like to thank everyone involved in making this play so much fun and thank everyone for all the hard work put into it. Please enjoy the show!



The Cast



Alexander - Luke 2 Narrator/Passenger

Alexander is eleven years old. Alexander likes to play video games, play outside, and he also has a YouTube channel with 125 subscribers. This is his first year in the play, and he knows he was chosen for this day to share the birth of Christ. He hopes everyone will understand how important Jesus Christ is in their lives, and hopes everyone will come to know Him more and more.



Melanie - Soloist *Good News! Great Joy!*/ Passenger

Melanie is an outgoing six year-old in grade one. Melanie loves spending time with her family and friends, and always has room in her heart for new friends. Melanie has a big imagination and loves making up games for her and her two brothers to play. She finds joy in being active through skating and gymnastics. This is Melanie's first year in the Christmas play and she was excited to finally be old enough to join, but most importantly to tell others about the true Christmas story. Merry Christmas everyone!



Lev - Passenger

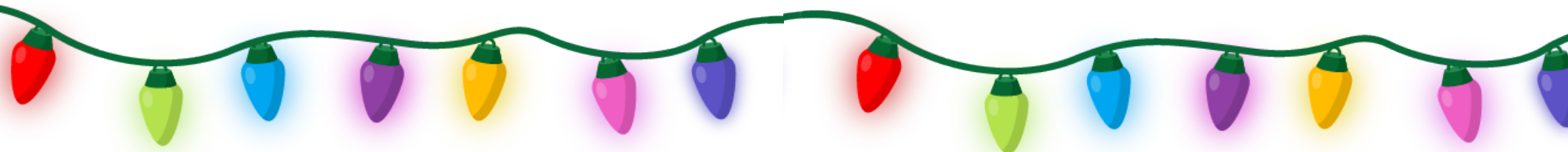
Lev was born in Kyiv, Ukraine. He is in grade 2. His favourite subjects at school are math and gym. He and his mom moved to Fort McMurray recently because of war in Ukraine. He stays here with his Aunt's family. He is a very busy boy with a good heart. Lev loves to travel with his Mom and see new places and explore. He loves to cuddle with his cat Basya and teach him how to play computer games. He loves to visit Grandma in the village and help her around. He loves to dance, sing, and play with friends. He really enjoys participating in the play production.



Karen - Children's Ministry Director/Co-Director

Karen is married, loves creating things, and loves doing projects with her husband. She has a new dog named Molly. Karen loves her grandchildren very much. Hayden and Hayley mean the world to her, and they have brought her and Stephen so much joy. Family trips with her grandchildren are amazing blessings. It is such a thrill to see things through the eyes of a child. Just so you know, Karen claims all the children of the church as her own. She knows how extremely blessed she is to be able to spend time with each of them. There is nothing like experiencing a child's faith,

and their expressions of love for Jesus Christ. They are all Masterpieces, gifts from God.



The Cast



Jaxon - Passenger

This is Jaxon's first year in the Christmas play. Jaxon is in the first grade. He loves to play Lego, and rollerblade. He really hopes people will get to know Jesus. He wants to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas!



Ivan - Passenger

Ivan is seven years old. The main reason Ivan joined the play is because he wanted to spread the word of God to others. This is Ivan's second play performance and he is passionate about it. He enjoys being with his brother. Ivan loves cookies, soccer, basketball, and playing video games with his brother. He also loves wrestling and playing in the snow. He is very competitive in everything and tries hard to win. We hope you enjoy the show as Ivan tries to shine.

The Cast



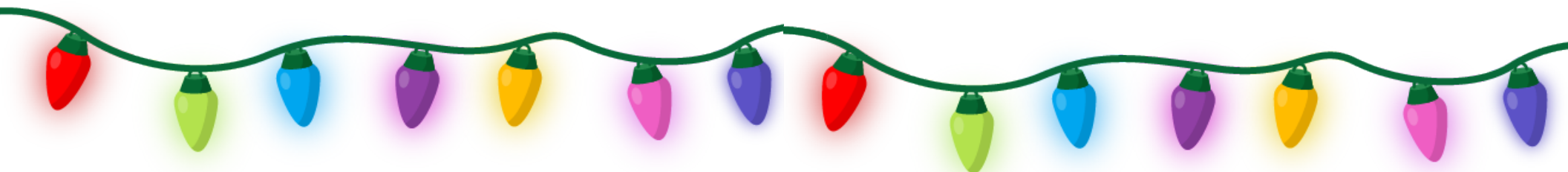
Annie - Soloist *Good News! Great Joy!*/ Passenger

Annie is six years old and loves her baby sister Hannah. This is her first year in the NorthLife Christmas play. Annie's cat's name is Cosmo and she really likes horses and penguins. Macaroni and cheese is her favourite food. Annie enjoys going to Sunday School and Children's Church to learn all about God's love that He has for everyone. Annie wants Mrs. Karen and Mr. Joseph to know how much she appreciates the time that they have put into all the practices.



Noah - Soloist - *Jesus Is The Reason For The Season*/Passenger

Noah is eight years old and is in grade three. This is his first time being in the Christmas production. He really loves all the songs and challenges himself to memorize them. He was overjoyed to get a solo. Noah enjoys biking, scootering and playing basketball. Some of his other hobbies are collecting Pokémon cards, building Lego and reading books. Noah hopes that people would share the true meaning of Christmas; that Jesus is the light of the world, our Saviour and King!





Declan - Soloist - *Before the Rocks Cry Out!* / Passenger

Declan is a gentle hearted seven- year - old in grade two. If you can't find Declan at home, school or church, he will probably be on a rink playing hockey. He finds joy in playing goalie for his team when he has the opportunity. Declan has a boldness for Christ and the salvation of his loved ones, friends and teammates is always foremost on his mind and prayers. He isn't afraid to tell people about Jesus. This is Declan's first year in the Christmas play. Declan loves to share his love for Christ through song and dance. Declan wishes everyone a Merry Christmas!



Lily - Soloist - *Before the Rocks Cry Out!* / Passenger

Lily is a vibrant eight year old, who loves life and Jesus. She is in grade three. Lily loves to draw and has filled up her mom's bible with drawings. She loves her family, friends, swimming, Minecraft. She also loves to sing and is learning to play piano. Lily loves Christmas and being a part of the Christmas play. This is Lily's third year in the Christmas production. She prays for all of her friends and family to be happy and healthy and that God will bless them. Lily loves to visit her family in Newfoundland. She is proud to be half Newfoundlander! Lily loves to have a chat!

Merry Christmas !



Jackson - Soloist - *J Is For Jesus* / Passenger

This is Jackson's first year in the Christmas play. Jackson grew up watching his siblings participate in previous plays. He is ecstatic to be old enough to participate and have a part in this years play. He is always excited for play practice. His favourite songs are the ones that mention Jesus by name. Jackson is seven and is in grade two. He is friendly and loves to play with his friends. He enjoys sports, especially volleyball! He likes going for hikes through the bush with Dad. He is looking forward to helping Mom plant a garden in the spring. He enjoys helping Mom weed and watching the plants grow. He loves going to church and learning about Jesus. Jackson wishes everyone a Merry Christmas!



Ethan - Soloist - *Joy To The World* / Passenger

Ethan is almost nine years old and in grade three. This is his first play, and he really wants people to know God. He also wants everyone to have a very Merry Christmas!

