

# CHURCH *Matters*



Glory Lutheran Church Newsletter - 12.19 Edition



Glory Lutheran Church  
*Advent Dinner*  
November 23, 2019







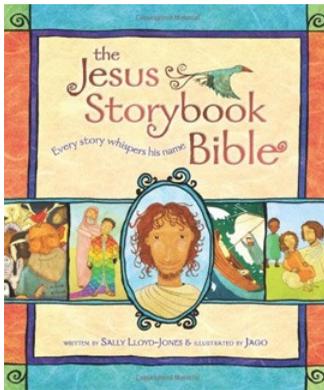
***A Very Big Thank You** goes to all who planned and prepared for the Advent Dinner, all who brought food for the dinner, and all who shared their talent by performing.*





## KIDS' CHURCH ☺

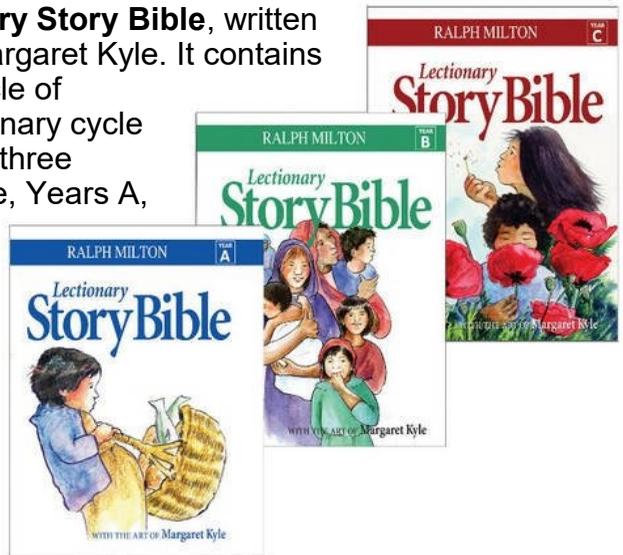
There will be **no** Kid's Church on December 29th and January 5. Classes will resume January 12.



## The Bible for Children:

Our congregation has purchased two Bibles specifically for children. One is called the **Jesus Storybook Bible**, written by Sally Lloyd-Jones and illustrated by Jago. It can be read by children alone, or by adults for a child, or by adults alone. It is delightful to read and look at and can be used for Sunday School lessons. One copy is in the baby room at the back of our sanctuary, another in the shelf in the Sunday School.

The other one is called the **Lectionary Story Bible**, written by Ralph Milton and illustrated by Margaret Kyle. It contains stories from our Sunday morning cycle of readings. Our Sunday morning lectionary cycle is three years in length, so there are three volumes to the Lectionary Story Bible, Years A, B and C. (Right now we are in cycle A.) This Bible can be used by those preparing Children's message for Sunday worship, during the lessons afterwards, or on any other occasion. All three volumes are kept on the shelf in the Sunday School area.



We hope these materials will help our children learn the Big Story of God. So happy reading! Just remember to return the book where you found it (don't take it home), so others can enjoy them too.

Thank you!  
Pr. Markus

# Message from Pastor Markus

Advent 2019

## Children at Christmas

As we celebrate the birth of the savior child, it is good for us to think about the children in our church, in our lives. The savior child once said that we all need to become like children, if we want to belong to him. What does a child know that we don't? What can it do, that we can't? The child knows how to ask and how to receive. The baby is not ashamed of yesterday or worried about tomorrow. The child is here now and either happy or not, and that can change in an instant. The child is open to the future. The baby changes every day. The child grows in body and in mind. The child experiences new things and adapts, the child expects change and creates change. The child trains those around it to respond with love, with care, with yawns, with prayers, with worry, with thanks, with delight. The child turns the parents' world up-side-down. Or perhaps right-side-up? Because with God what is up is down with us. Children are our teachers. The savior child Jesus is the teacher of all who want to learn to live as children of God. What lesson is there for me this year? What did the experiences of 2019 teach me? Am I walking more closely hand in hand with God, or am I behaving like toddler, playing with my toys, or throwing tantrums? Have I become more patient, more thankful, more caring? Or have I grown more angry and bitter? Whatever lesson I take away from this year gone by, may we all be reminded at Christmas that the heavenly parent is coming to us in the baby on Mary's lap. The child is beckoning us to become like him. May our relationship to God be restored, and may we learn to restore our relationships with each other.

~Pastor Markus

## Isaiah - Advent Prophecies

I-say-what? I-say-ja, yes, I agree!

Four Sundays, four words:

Plow, Branch, Crocus, Child

A metal contraption to break the earth.

The growing part of a tree.

The first flower in spring.

A tiny earthling.

This is the way it works:

The plow turns the soil - deliberately.

The tree grows - slowly.

The garden flowers - suddenly.

A woman gives birth - expectantly.

Her child, my child, your child, God's child.

Im-ma-nu-el. God-with-us.

I-say-ja!!!

(Based on the Old Testament readings for Advent: Isaiah 2:1-5; 11:1-10; 35:1-10; 7:10-16)



**November 27 Service - Trumpets and Children's Story**



Thank you



Many thanks to **Don, Lucille, Darrell and Faye Brooks and their family** for their many years of service in ensuring that the candles used for the Christmas Eve services were in working order.

**We are looking for a new family to continue in this role.** Battery-operated candles are used at the 4:00 p.m. service and need to be checked prior to December 24 to ensure that they are in working order. They need to be distributed before the service and collected again at the end of the service. Candles for the 7:00 p.m. service are wax candles and need to be checked and placed in holders prior to that service. If you are able to help with this task please call the church office to let Heidi know.

## Community Outreach

Please remember the needy this Christmas and donate a Walmart Gift certificate (\$15, \$20, or \$35) to the ICPM.



The following list of items are also needed :

- Waterproof ski gloves (M for women, L or XL for men)
- Toques • Cotton socks • Hoodies • Bus Tickets
- Long underwear for Men and Women (M, L, or XL)
- Underwear for Men and Women

Please put donated gift cards in the Emmanuel Christmas Gift 2019 box in the Narthex.

# **GLORY MEMBERS**

*in the Spotlight*

*... a place to celebrate the lives and good works of Glory People.*

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## **Brian and Shirley Fischer**

Brian and Shirley were both born and raised in Edmonton (Beverly) - Brian, an only child, Shirley, the eldest of four children. They attended the same schools and church, but didn't meet until at a mutual friend's party. Sparks flew, they began dating, and have been together since. This past July, they celebrated 38 years of marriage.

After high school graduation, Shirley, undecided about what to study, went to work at Alberta Blue Cross. Then she followed her heart to become a teacher. She received her B.Ed. at the U of A, with a major in Early Childhood Education. Brian went to the U of A, earning his B.Comm. degree and his CPA professional accounting designation.

Shirley began teaching Grade one in Stony Plain, a very small community in the 80's. Initially, Shirley taught in a cramped church basement space while the school, with spacious classrooms, a library and gym, was being built. After 6 years in Stony Plain and the birth of a daughter and son, they moved to Sherwood Park in '89 to be closer to family and friends and where they could see their parents in less than 15 minutes. While at home raising their children, she volunteered at their schools, and took courses in Floral Arrangement and Interior Design at the U of A. Brian and Shirley enjoyed vacationing with their family in Mexico, California, Florida, Hawaii, Saskatchewan, B.C and Alberta. They loved cross country skiing, swimming, and camping.

After 9 years as a fulltime mom, Shirley resumed work as a substitute teacher, which led to part and fulltime work at Pine Street School. She taught many elementary grades, but was most passionate about teaching kindergarten - loving their innocence and curiosity. Today she enjoys retirement which allows time for volunteering, visiting and caring for her mother and two granddaughters, sewing, gardening, exercising, and recently, taking up pottery.

Brian worked for seven departments in the Government of AB for 38 years. Memorable experiences included overseeing the government's aircraft fleet, running the province's 38,000 employee payroll system, and managing the delivery of high speed internet to rural/ remote areas in AB. Now semi-retired, he works part-time at Alberta Safety Codes Council and Legal Aid Alberta. He enjoys pickleball, reading and playing with the grand girls.

Today, they love to travel to take in the history, culture, and local cuisine of different countries. Travels included USA, Southeast Asia (China, Indonesia, Thailand) and Europe. Holland is a favorite where Shirley's father was born (still with aunts and cousins to visit.) They look forward to a cruise from Singapore, to India, Dubai, and London England. Future plans include their granddaughters and a trip Disneyland or a Disney Cruise.

Brian, Shirley and their son Cory are very pleased to have discovered Glory Lutheran Church, witness Pastor Markus' inspirational sermons, to have met so many wonderful people, and enjoy greeting, making coffee, and serving on the Outreach Committee, and on the Prayer Works group that serves hot breakfast to Edmonton disadvantaged people.

## Orleen Pearson and Doug Sime

Orleen, born less than 3 lbs., was wrapped in cotton batting/olive oil and laid in a shoe box that was placed on the oven door. She stayed there for 17 days/nights under the care of her great aunt. Her twin sister weighed over 8 lbs. Orleen's three sisters and one brother grew up on a farm near Bashaw. After attending Mecca Glen School and completing High School in Wetaskiwin she moved to Edmonton to attend McTavish Business College. She married Jack Pearson in 1963, had three children and made time to attend the U of A graduating with a B.Ed. degree. During this time she did some modelling for Vogue along with some photo shoots. She taught ESL (English as a Second Language) at Sacred Heart Catholic and at Grant MacEwan from which she retired in 1999. Separated in 1980, Orleen was on her own for nine years raising her children.



Doug, born in Edmonton, was raised on a farm near Alcomdale, Alberta where his family lived in a milk house until moving to a new farm. He attended school in Alcomdale. Leaving the farm, Doug's father completed his B.Ed. Degree and taught at the Clover Bar Village School in 1957 (near his Father's homestead). Doug attended that school (his father as teacher) and the new Sherwood Heights School in Sherwood Park before moving to Edmonton for Jr/Sr. high and university graduating with a B.Ed. Degree. While in Clover Bar Village, Doug's Scout Troop met on occasion at Bremner United Church located on Glory's church property.

Doug's teaching assignments were at Lamont Jr/Sr., Sherwood Heights, Brentwood Elementary (Vice-Principal), and Win Ferguson Community School (Principal) with Pat Becker as a colleague. During those years, he was married to Myrna Pederson and helped raise their three children. While teaching, he returned to university attaining a Master's Degree in Educational Administration. In 1985 Doug transferred to Elk Island Central Office becoming Director and later Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, retiring in 2002.

Following his divorce in 1988, Doug met Orleen at a Singles' Dance where Orleen's opening comments were, "I haven't seen you at church for quite a while". Both attended Mount Olivet. They married in 1995 on their acreage –with white tents, a Latin American Band and a Bagpiper. In 1999 Orleen commenced a Master's Degree in Theological Studies, taking two Clinical Pastoral Education courses and an internship at the Good Samaritan. She is a diaconal minister. As a volunteer Orleen served on church council at Mount Olivet, Glory Committees (Kitchen, Funeral and Creation Care), at the Food Bank, SPCA, and the Board of Directors for AB Mineral Rights owners. Orleen has sponsored a total of five foster children two of which are currently in India. She is employed part time at Glenwood Funeral Home. Her favorite pastime is gardening and spending time with friends and family.

Doug's volunteer work has included Church Council at Mount Olivet and Glory, Financial Secretary and various committees. He also volunteered at the Food Bank and has enjoyed fishing, sailing, photography, dancing, genealogy, and wood work over the years. Doug and Orleen each have three children, 12 grandchildren, two great grandchildren. Their travels have taken them to Nordegg (favorite camping area), Hawaii, Mexico, Turkey, Greece, Cayman Islands, Florida, Newfoundland, California, and road trips across Canada/U.S.

*~ written by Marjorie Zelent*



# 2019-2020 Gift Catalogue

[www.clwr.org](http://www.clwr.org)

A few copies of the Gift Catalogue are in the Narthex for those interested in browsing a paper copy.

(CLWR) has launched its annual *Gifts from the Heart* fundraiser, and Lutheran Church–Canada members are invited to give.

“Your *Gifts from the Heart* share God’s love with the world and make a meaningful difference in people’s lives,” writes CLWR Executive Director Karin Achtelstetter in this year’s *Gifts from the Heart* catalogue. “Thank you for giving *Gifts from the Heart*—by doing so, you are creating a world where all people can live in justice, peace, and dignity.”

Gifts this year are categorized under a series of themes, including: sharing hope in crisis, sharing the gift of food, sharing clean water, sharing opportunity, sharing the gift of health, giving women the opportunity to thrive, and sharing the gift of education. Children are also invited to participate through the “Tiny Hearts” section of the catalogue, which allows children the opportunity to help a family gain things they might need to grow their own food, including chicken, bees, seeds, goats, garden tools, and more.

For more information, or to make a donation through *Gifts from the Heart*, visit CLWR’s website at [www.clwr.org](http://www.clwr.org). You can also make a donation over the phone at 1-800-661-2597 or via mail by printing off the order form from CLWR’s website.

Motivated by Christ’s love, CLWR and LCC work in effective partnership to improve day-to-day life and provide opportunity for long-term sustainability in communities around the globe. Within Canada, CLWR assists Lutheran communities engaged in refugee resettlement.

## Here’s how it works!

1. You choose just the right gift for that person on your list, like a pair of goats or a flock of chickens!
2. We’ll send you a beautiful card you can share with your loved one to tell them about the special gift made in their honour.
3. Your gift changes lives — thank you!

## 3 ways you can give *Gifts from the Heart* today:

1. Fill in and return the enclosed order form in the envelope provided.
2. Give safely and securely online at [www.clwr.org/GFTH](http://www.clwr.org/GFTH)
3. Call toll-free: 1.800.661.2597

We’re working with people around the world to determine what they need to be self-sufficient, and your gifts are a critical part of empowering them to live in justice, peace and dignity. All gifts featured in *Gifts from the Heart* represent real items from our work around the world, and the symbolic gift you choose from *Gifts from the Heart* will help support communities with the items they need most. Charitable donation receipts are issued to the donor for all gifts.



# Christmas Bells



**December 7, 2019 @ 2pm**  
**Glory Lutheran Church**  
**22577 Hwy 16, Sherwood Park AB**

**Esther Madsen** Conductor  
**Dr. Joy Berg** Co-conductor  
**Linda Steinbring** Accompanist

With guests:  
***Bells in Harmony***  
**Brent Orchard** Conductor

Tickets available on **Eventbrite** via  
our Facebook page, from choir  
members, and at the door

**\$20** Adults  
**\$15** Seniors/Children 12 and under  
**Free** Children 2 and under

 **Website:** [www.festivalsingers.ca](http://www.festivalsingers.ca)

 **Email:** [festivalsingers08@gmail.com](mailto:festivalsingers08@gmail.com)

 **Facebook:** Festival Singers



## Bishop's Message

Dear Beloved of God—

May grace and peace be yours in abundance (I Peter 1:2a).

Hanging in my office is the beautiful image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, also known as the Virgin of Guadalupe. The image is a reproduction of an original painting by a Roman Catholic Priest, Father Salvador, who my wife, Cathy, and I, and several other adults visited in 2001 in the

community he served in the Parish of the Holy Spirit and St. Mary of Guadalupe in Ecatepec, Mexico.

According to tradition, an indigenous peasant, Juan Diego, had a vision of the Virgin in 1531. As he was walking among the hills, he heard a song which sounded like birds singing - a song soft and beautiful. He wondered if he was dreaming but he followed the sound and was met by the Virgin Mary who appeared to Juan Diego as she does in the painting - as an indigenous woman dressed in royal garments. She spoke to him in his native tongue calling his name and asking him to go to the bishop and tell him to have a shrine built in her honor on the place where she had appeared to Juan Diego. He went to the bishop and with great difficulty was finally able to see the bishop who responded with great skepticism to Juan Diego's request.

The Virgin appeared a second time and Juan Diego begged the Virgin to send someone more important. "I am insignificant," he said, "a piece of rope, the last rung of a ladder." She responded, "My child, the smallest, the least, I send you. I have many messengers, but I have chosen you." She said that she wanted a building to be erected where she could show and give love, compassion, help and defense to the inhabitants of the land; a place where people could listen and find solutions to their miseries, pain and sufferings. The bishop responded to Juan Diego insisting that he needed a sign.

A third time the Virgin appeared to Juan Diego this time asking him to collect roses which were nearby (very rare flowers not grown in the area) and to take them to the bishop as a sign. Juan Diego gathered the roses in his cloak and when he opened his cloak to show the bishop, out fell the flowers and imprinted on his cloak was the image of the Virgin. The bishop immediately fell to his knees and asked Juan Diego for forgiveness at not having listened to him. A church was built on the site where the Virgin had appeared and today, on this site, hangs the cloak and its image of the Virgin in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe - a worship site visited by more people each year than the Vatican in Rome.

One of the things that intrigued me about this story is that from the margins - the fringe - of his world, Juan Diego, an indigenous Mexican, was prodded awake by God's presence in the world through the appearances of Mary. Like many before him, Juan Diego was a reluctant prophet begging the Virgin



to entrust the mission to someone of importance. But she would not take no for an answer, and Juan Diego's awakening to his mission would precipitate the awakening of all of Mexico to God's love through Christ.

As we journey this Advent and Christmas season, listen carefully - listen closely to how often God will choose someone on the margins to carry an important word: Mary - who gave birth to the Savior of the world; Zechariah - who, serving in the temple, is unable to speak until his son John the Baptist was born; Elizabeth - who gave birth to the one who would prepare the way for the Messiah - John the Baptist; and shepherds in the field - who were chosen to welcome and announce the birth of Jesus.

This Advent - this Christmas - listen carefully - listen closely - for God at work through the poor, the lowly, those on the outside, those on the edge and then ask the very Lutheran question: "what does this mean?"

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13). In Christ Jesus – Shalom, +Larry

The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop Synod of Alberta and the Territories ELCIC



*As Advent approaches each year, members are invited to participate in the prayer partner ministry.*

*This year commencing **Sunday, December 1**, and continuing **Sunday, December 8** - collection of participant names takes place.*

*Sunday, **December 15**, and **December 22** - participants choose their prayer partner for the coming year.*

*Here is how the **secret** prayer partner ministry works:*

*You are invited to pray for the person you have selected as your prayer partner and remember him/her with a card on their birthday and anniversary.*

*During the month of December 2020, you may choose to remember them with a small gift close to Christmas time and reveal yourself to your partner.*

*Questions/concerns please contact Minna Peever (780-473-5592)*



# Mutual Ministry Committee

Pastor Markus has initiated a mutual ministry team made up of Faith Nostbakken, Lynn Spain and Marie Berg that would serve to offer support for him in his ministry. The synod office recommends that its ministers have this parish support team and provides guidelines for its role. This would also include functioning as a liaison for concerns between the pastor and the congregation when it may not be comfortable for an individual to go directly to the pastor. In general, however, direct contact with Pastor Markus is the preferred first option.

In our first communication with the congregation we would like to identify a way to support Pastor Markus with his worship responsibilities and preparation on Sunday morning. What best helps him to prepare is to have the half hour before worship as quiet, undisturbed prayer time in his office. Anything that needs attention and can be communicated in advance can be emailed or phoned ahead prior to Sunday. If that is not possible, then providing the information in written form would make it easier for Pastor Markus to remember the request and act on it on Sunday morning. Similarly, when worship is concluded, Pastor Markus would like the opportunity to spend as much time as possible in fellowship with the congregation at coffee hour. So, once again, if someone has information or concerns please consider contacting him during the week, or, if it's urgent, provide the details to him in written form. Pastor Markus takes all concerns and needs seriously, and it can be challenging to remember them all in the busyness of Sunday morning while trying to maintain a heart and mind focused on worship and fellowship.

Lynn, Faith and Marie look forward to serving the congregation in this way.

## Welcome to all Newcomers!

Please call or email the office for a name tag; offering envelopes; and a mail folder for newsletters, notices, etc.

Our church has a congregational database to better serve you.

This database is also used to generate our directory.

**If you are new, or have been part of the Glory family for awhile and have personal information that needs to be added or updated,**

please complete a "*Personal Information Form for the Congregational Database*", it can be found on the table in the Narthex.

Please leave the completed form in the church office or Heidi Jones' mail folder. Alternately, you may send via email to the [glorylc@telus.net](mailto:glorylc@telus.net)

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

<b>December 1</b>	New Members Welcome During Worship Service
<b>December 4</b>	Cloverbar Lodge Service 6:30pm
<b>December 5 &amp; 19</b>	Confirmation Class 6:30pm
<b>December 7</b>	Festival Singers Concert 2:00pm
<b>December 8</b>	Glory 50 Plus Christmas Dinner 12:30pm
<b>December 11</b>	Council Meeting 6:30 pm
<b>December 24</b>	Christmas Eve Family Service 4:00pm Christmas Eve Service with Communion 7:00pm
<b>December 25</b>	Christmas Day Service with Communion 10:30am

### **Volunteer Invitation to Help With Church Decorating**

If you are available to assist with the Christmas church decorating, in early to mid-December, please contact Marjorie Zelent at 780-467-5363 or [marjoriezelent@gmail.com](mailto:marjoriezelent@gmail.com).

Once we know the availability of volunteers, we will schedule time to work together with Myrna, Alan, and Marjorie.





## *Glory 50 Plus Christmas Dinner*

*Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 12:30 pm*

*Headquarters Restaurant, Private Room*



### **Turkey Dinner includes**

- Salad
- Turkey
- Dressing
- Potatoes
- Vegetables
- Dessert
- Tea/Coffee

**Price – including tax and gratuity - \$25 in advance**  
**Please sign up on list in Narthex by Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**

Persons not regularly attending Glory 50 Plus are welcome to attend.  
(Room capacity: 40 – 45)

For more information contact Eula Regehr or Marjorie Zelent

**This Newsletter is available IN FULL COLOUR online!**



22577 Hwy 16,  
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