



e-News

June 30, 2021

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
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Sunday, July 4th: Freedom From So We Have
Freedom To Romans 6:12-23

There's some good advice in Romans 6:12-23. Not EASY advice. GOOD advice. IMPORTANT advice. Paul says we need to let God know we're available to do the right thing according to his Word. He also makes it clear that eternal life is comped. Free. Available through Christ. Only sinners need apply. Not how we like to think of ourselves, I know. We are many things. Sinner is one of them. It's part of the human condition.

Paul wrote, in verse 13:

Offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.

Paul is utterly sure and convinced that Jesus has broken the power of sin in people's lives. Therefore, evil should not be in control any more. Not a word we use much. Evil. God trounces evil. Paul invites us to truly recognize the grace and mercy of God present ourselves to him. Because of the resurrection of Jesus we have been brought from death to life. That means we are FREE to trust in him and do God's work in the world. I can't think of anything more liberating than that. We are free to do God's work in the world as we are gifted and able.

My friends, true freedom is life in Christ. May we feel peace as we remember that.

We have **1 worship service** with traditional and contemporary songs in the service. Look for it online, (YouTube (firstpresjoliet), facebook, our website).

There is one service at 9 a.m. Sunday morning.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Sympathies and Prayers to the family and friends of Allan Somers who recently passed. 7/6 at Carlson. Visitation will be from 9am to 11, with the Service at 11.

Prayers for a successful surgery and recovery for Cindy Wharf.

Family and Friends of the Westphal & Krause families are respectfully invited to attend the memorial service for Carol S. Westphal, who passed away on December 30, 2020. The service will be held here in the sanctuary at 1:30 pm on July 11, 2021.

THIS WEEK'S BLOG, GENESIS—7/5-7/7

7/5 Ch.1:1-31—Creation of Heaven & Earth

7/6 Ch.2:1-14—God's 7th Day Rest

7/7 Ch.2:15-25—Test of Obedience

The Office will be closed Monday 7/5 for the holiday.

Vacation Bible School!

Registration closes today! The videos will still be available but today is the last day to sign up and get a pack of supplies!

June 28, 2021

Stewardship Report

2021-2022 Budget	\$734,307
Year to Date Income	\$201,262
Year to Date Expenses	\$137,279

Income includes \$34,681 of Employee Retention Credit
Per Capita: \$38.47

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THE PASTOR'S CORNER... Bo Mircea, Pastor

Last week I had the chance to participate in the dedication of the **Habitat for Humanity house** on Raynor Ave. What a beautiful build! A great house that will become a home for a family in need. The people from Habitat really put in a lot of work and you could see the love they put in it. I personally am looking forward to hearing from them really soon, as they are getting ready to start a new project and they will want us to partner again. If you are interested in this project please let us know, and we will help you connect with them.

Please do not forget next Wednesday we are back in the Parking lot for our **Tailgate dinner** at 6 pm. We would love to see your smiling faces there.

This week we are starting a **sermon mini-series** focusing on Freedom. Freedom as it relates to who we are as people of faith, and also when it comes to personal freedoms. Pastor Carrie is preaching this Sunday on **"Freedom From So We Can Have Freedom To"**. We are also celebrating Communion this Sunday. It has been the tradition of many people before us to take time to prepare their hearts for Communion. For some it meant to fast and pray, for other it was a time of solitude and dedication on to God. I think it is good for us to remember the importance of the Lord's Supper and to celebrate the grace we find at the table, but it is also good for us to take time to understand the depth of the profound love we find when we come to the table.

One last note: I would like to ask for prayer for your Interim Pastor Search Committee as they are in need to start the process again, as the potential candidate they were working with decided to go on a different direction. At this time we need to continue to stay faithful and find ways to encourage them in their work. We will update you when we have something new coming up.

Happy 4th of July to you all,

See you in church on Sunday,

Pastor Bo

Need some new reading materials?

Pastor Craig's library is open to all who are interested! Come in during Office Hours (closed 7/5) and expand your own library!

TAILGATE DINNERS ARE BACK!

The next Tailgate Dinner is next week 7/7. Grab a good dinner and join us at 6pm in the lot!

Last Sundays Sermon

Sunday, June 27th

Guest Preacher Mark Morrison!

Check out this past week's sermon on our YouTube or the audio-only version on our website.

All of our virtual Worship Services are available on our YouTube page and website.

PROJECT LINUS

Project Linus is back! The next meeting is July 26th. Come join us!



The pre-school has reopened!

We are starting with a limit of 8 children per service. As always the preschool is for children age 3 through 5th grade. The nursery is remaining closed for the time being. Safety protocols are being followed within the preschool rooms. Kids will be dismissed after the Children's Worship portion of the service.