



# e-News

February 1st, 2023

805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435  
815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

## Micro Pantry

There is an opening for the 1st Friday of each month. If you're interested in volunteering or if you donate food please take a look at the volunteer and donor information available on our website homepage.

## Free Pancake Breakfast

**February 4th at 8:30 am**

Stop in to help out or share in our Free Pancake Breakfast hosted by our Night Deacons! All are invited!

## OASIS EVENT: SKIT GUYS

**February 17th at 7:30pm**

At Trinity Lutheran Church in Tinley Park

**This duo performs faith-based family comedy skits.**

*Tickets are \$25 and can be bought on our website.*

*Click the link in Pastor Carrie's letter for more about The Skit Guys and what they are all about.*

**February 1st, 2023**

### Stewardship Report

<b>2022-2023 Budget</b>	\$772,600
<b>Year to Date Income</b>	\$484,673
<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	\$561,741

Per Capita: \$42.00

You may text your gift to FPJ at (815)205-3044 or go online to use a credit card. You can give by mail, by online giving through our website using the "Give" tab, and through electronic giving.

**Thank you** for your generosity.

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Prayers for health and comfort for Dorothy Sprinkle in her battle with cancer.

Prayers for Linda and Al Haegar and their family as Al is in hospice care.

Prayers of comfort for the family of former longtime member Lois Ann Dahlquist, who passed away on January 20 in Peoria, IL.

We pray for continued healing for Susan Pemble's mom Carolyn McBurney.

We continue to pray for Keith Farr during his healing journey.

Prayers of healing and timely help for Patty Delk, sister of Mary Lou Delk.

*The February Birthday Calendar is available on the homepage of our website.*

## Confirmation starts on the 12th

**Confirmation is open to all 8th and 9th graders.**

If you are interested in your youth(s) participating please reach out to the church office.

## The PNC Process

Planning	Mission Study	Data Evaluation	Resume' Evaluations	Interviews	Pastor Visits	Pastor Selection	Pastor Acceptance
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The Pastor Nominating Committee has been working hard getting a Mission Study ready for the congregation. This all-church survey will give us important information about who First Pres is and who we are called to be so that we can be sure our next pastor is a very good fit for our church. Keep watching for communications from the PNC in the next month or so to see when the survey will be available for you to take. Your voice is important and your responses are needed to make this process work well!

**THE PASTOR'S CORNER Roy Backus, Transitional Pastor**

This Sunday we will consider Jesus' statements in the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5:13-20. He speaks to his disciples concerning salt, light and the law (Torah). We western civilization folks of the 21st Century and our post modern society, often miss the long held traditions of our Jewish, covenant fore parents in faith. Jesus lived those faithful traditions and brought them to life in deeper and richer levels. This is true with his conversations concerning salt, light and the Torah (law).

**Salt:** I can not count the number of times I've heard sermons, devotions, thoughts, etc., about salt. We know that it functions in cooking, healing, monetary trade, in all kinds of settings. But what about its use in Hebrew worship? Why did Jesus use this parable about salt and us?

**Light:** One of our clearest aspects of life is that of light. After salt, why would Jesus talk about light as a central metaphor for his followers? How are we light?

**The Law, Torah:** It's always amazing how Christians are confused by the gracious gift of God's law to us through Moses, the prophets, and affirmation by our Savior. Too often we quote our personal, favorite, limited opinions concerning Paul's seemingly convoluted understanding of the Law, or we misuse our Savior's debates with the religious leaders of his day. (A couple of points: Jesus never encouraged anyone to ignore the Law. The Apostle Paul never said that the Law was bad. Romans 7:12. "... the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and just and good.")

I do not claim to have all the details on these eternal topics, but the Scriptures themselves can give us additional insights into our Lord's first teachings to the disciples of the past and to us, his disciples in the present.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Roy

PS The texts for this week: Isaiah 58:3, 6-9, 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16), and Matthew 5:13-20.  
Corinthians 1:18-31 and/or Matthew 5:1-12.

**SUNDAY SERVANTS 2/5/23**

**Liturgist:** Bev Adelman

**Acolyte:** Joseph Adler

**Video:** Matt Blaser

**Sound:** Cliff Stepina

**Ushers:** Al Brooks, Mark Dykema, Jeff Lundeen

**Coffee:** Sue Fordyce

**A Note from Carrie Kapral, Lay Pastor**

Happy February! It's so nice to see the sun shining outside - especially from my very warm, very comfy, inside location!

Sometimes winter can make us feel very isolated as we dash from home to car to errand to car to home again. One of the things I love about church in the winter is the warmth of tradition and fellowship. It warms my heart to walk into the sanctuary on a cold Sunday morning and hear the sound of many voices catching up with friends. I love the connections that are made in the fellowship hall over coffee. Even on the coldest of days, God beckons us. God made us to be in community with each other. There can be such comfort and such warmth when we are with other Christians.

Speaking of friends - the ladies who joined Oasis at Bunco night had such a GREAT TIME! It was fun to get to know one another either for the first time or in a deeper way. Oasis is going strong - we've had some really fun events and are planning many more! Please consider joining us to go see the Skit Guys in Tinley Park on February 17. You can find more information and buy tickets on the church website. If you do not know who they are, you can go to [The Skit Guys - YouTube](#) and check them out. I think they are HILARIOUS!

We also have CONFIRMATION NEWS! A new confirmation class will be starting on Sunday, February 12, at 9:00 am in room 210. Please let me or the church office know if you have an 8th or 9th grader that would like to join us. While we will meet in person as much as possible, we will also have a Zoom link available for anyone who cannot be with us in person on a Sunday.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in church.

Peace,  
Pastor Carrie

**Water Within Concert and Worship**

**February 26th**

10 am *Worship*

4:30 pm *Fellowship*

5 pm *Concert*

We will also showcase our Mission sponsorship of 3 young women at Angel House in Tanzania.

**Youth Group**

Our First Pres Youth Group is meeting once again! Meetings run from 6-8pm with dinner, games, & fellowship. It's not too late to join in, bring a friend!

**Mark your calendar for:**

Feb 12th    March 12th    April 16th    May 21st