



e-News

December 27th, 2023
 805 Western Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
 815-727-9259 firstpresjoliet.org

Undecorating

1/6 at 9am

Head to FPJ to enjoy a Free Pancake Breakfast from our Night Deacons (8:30am), and afterwards lend a hand to our Worship Council as they dutifully put away the Christmas decorations around the church.

Church Family

Continued prayers of healing for Mary Caisley's sister Linda.
 Prayers of relief and recovery for Lindsay Gordon as she suffers through an intense prolonged migraine.
 Prayers and sympathies to Dixie Balsley and her family after the passing of her mother Christmas morning.

SUNDAY SERVANTS 12/31/23

USHERS: Mark Fumagalli, Mark Dykema, Reed Mott, Mark Morrison
COFFEE: Sue Fordyce
LITURGIST: Don Caisley
ACOLYTE: Nora Moretti
SOUND: Cliff Stepina
VIDEO: Matt Blaser

SAVE THE DATE:

St. John Lutheran Food Pantry Serve Day—Jan 20th

Speak with one of our Night Deacons if you would like to join them in this crucial ministry project.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMMING NOTES

- * Adult Sunday School will not meet Sunday 12/31, but will resume on Sunday 1/7
- * Life Group will not meet Sunday 12/31, but will resume on Sunday 1/7
- * Midweek Nights will resume 1/10
- * Please check with your leader for any other small group programming changes
- * The church office will be closed 1/1

Children's Church Corner

Faith Word: JOY: A feeling of gratitude or happiness.

Lesson for Sun. 12/31: 'The Magi' - Matthew 2:1-12

Bible Verse: "With all my heart I glorify the Lord! In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior. -Luke 1:46-47

Lesson for Wed. 12/27: Midweek is on break for the holidays and will resume January 10th. Happy New Year!

December 27th, 2023

Stewardship Report

2023-2024 Budget	\$772,600
Year to Date Income	\$452,814
Year to Date Expenses	\$424,393
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.

The PNC Process

Planning	Mission Study	Data Evaluation	Resume Evaluations	Interviews	Pastor Visits	Pastor Selection	Pastor Acceptance
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The PNC has been working diligently for months on the Mission Study Report to develop a clear understanding of who First Pres is today and who we are called to be. The study talks about our church both past and present. Compiling this information has been a huge undertaking, and is vital in helping us find the person best suited as our next called pastor. The PNC is working on some edits to the report and will post the revised version on our website when it is completed.

A letter from Transitional Head Pastor Roy Backus

Grace and peace be with you. Grace and peace.

There are so many people to thank for the wonderful Christmas Eve Services last weekend. The beauty of the Sanctuary, brightened by the Advent decorative flourishes, captured our hearts and imaginations. The varied music inspired our hearts. Pastor Bo and Lindsay's sermons awakened our love of the Savior and others. I'm so thankful for our time with the Lord and his family.

This week is a vacation week for me. Of course there's always interruptions, but overall this week has been a good one for me and our family. (Several of you called and informed me of someone impersonating me and asking for gift cards. It wasn't me.)

Now we head for 2024. Most of us really aren't finished with 2023 yet. What does 2024 hold for us? Another year of opportunities to see God at work through us and this world. I believe the Lord of history, the present and the future will present us with new opportunities to serve and will renew our ministries wherever they may be. This gives me a knowing hope that the Lord's will unfolds through each of us. For FPC Joliet, you will call a new Head of Staff and adjust to their leadership, make difficult and significant ministry changes, and faithfully move towards the Lord's future for you. Finding that pastor and coordinating with them will be an anxious time of building understanding and trust. I'm excited to see what the Lord does through you.

Trusting in God's grace and peace,
Pastor Roy



Thank you all for your prayers! I got to surprise my parents, which was not easy to do since moms know everything!
Wishing you all a Happy New Year!

Blessings,
Bo Mircea

A letter from Director of Children and Youth Ministries, Lindsay Gordon

Hello everyone!

I'm so thankful to have been able to celebrate with you on Christmas Eve. It's hard to believe that Christmas has already come and gone! I've always found this week between Christmas and New Years to be a strange week. The in-between time can be relaxing and a nice break from structure, but any in-between times can also be uncomfortable. What do we do with the time spent waiting for the next thing?

I have to imagine that's how the Israelites felt waiting for the coming Messiah. What thoughts went through their heads during the 400 years of silence from God? But no time spent waiting is wasted in God's plan. Jesus came, just as God promised.

During this in-between time, my challenge to you would be to spend some time in God's presence, praying for this upcoming year. I'm not big on resolutions, but ask God to guide you through the start of this new year. Who can you extend some kindness to? What do you need to surrender? Who do you need to forgive? If we're intentional, this week of in-between time can be a time of preparation.

I'm excited to get back in the rhythms of Midweek and Youth Group in a couple of weeks, starting the week of the 7th. And I look forward to celebrating with all of you again soon.

Blessings,
Lindsay Gordon