

St. J Newsletter

August - September 2015

From the Pastor's Desk:

Men are not flattered by being shown that there has been a difference of purpose between the Almighty and them. Abraham Lincoln

That quote appeared recently in our church bulletin's *Silent Reflection*, relating to the lectionary reading in **2 Samuel**; God's rejection of David's plan to build a temple to house the ark of the covenant.

Lincoln's quote originated in his fear that people had taken offense at his second inaugural speech. In that brief but brilliant address, Lincoln advocated leniency for the nearly defeated Confederacy. He was right to worry. Many people were very offended. There was popular sentiment for severe punishment for the leaders and the states involved in the revolt. In Washington, not all were saddened by Lincoln's assignation, considering his tendency to favor reconciliation, and their desire for retribution.

Today, people are also often offended, but it does not take a cataclysm like the Civil War to rile folks up. People were offended recently, outraged, demanding retribution and compensation, immediately, because they thought the 'minion' toy in their kid's happy meals was cursing. Really? That is something the world's second largest restaurant chain is going to do? Really? (Subway #1 by number of stores.)

Here is the trouble with trivial things getting blown out of proportion. As Christians, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ called his followers to practice forgiveness. He asked his followers to turn the other cheek, and go the second mile. He gave us the example of forgiving even those who crucified him on the cross. .How difficult is it to forgive when the surrounding culture constantly tells us to "sweat the small stuff", to be offended at every perceived slight.

Trivia nights are popular fund raisers in our churches. That's fine. For disciples of Jesus Christ there must, however, be careful discernment between what is trivial, and what are true matters of justice and fairness in the world. What is at risk is our ability to forgive one another and to live in true community together.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

St. John's:

Worship and Sunday School

8:45 a.m.

St. Jacob:

Beginning September 13th:

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:15 a.m.

Holey Week Fellowship 1st Sunday of August at St. Jacob and in September at both churches.

Baptism

Ivy Joy Nehrt – April 12th

NURSERY

Located in Heritage Hall, our nursery is a fresh clean space with age appropriate toys and furnishings for newborns through children in the second grade. It's a wonderful way for your children to begin friendships with kids they'll know for many years.

We are always interested in having more volunteers. The more we have, the fewer times during the year you would be on the schedule. If you would like to volunteer to help in the Nursery, contact Rae Lynne Meyer here at church or e-mail:

raelynnemeyer@gmail.com.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

AUGUST

2 – Rae Lynne Meyer

9 – Ann Schmidt

16 – Beth Hanser

23 – Dian Gansmann

30 – Shannon Goodfield

SEPTEMBER

6 – Ronda Schmidt

13 – Ronda Schmidt

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

St. Jacob Office Hours:

Tuesday and Friday: 8:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

St. Jacob Phone: 644-2142

St. Jacob e-mail: stjucc@hometel.com

Rev. Gary, Home: 644-5703

Rev. Gary, e-mail: knipkamp@hometel.com

Kay, Home 644-5578

Kay, e-mail: khoenig@hometel.com

IN OUR PRAYERS

We offer our heartfelt sympathies to the families of:

Marc Mikeals

Dallas Hurtsburg

Myrle Kuhn

Harold (JR) Rehg

on the death of their loved ones.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS

A Class for everyone interested in Church Membership at St. John or St. Jacob will be held on Wednesday, September 9th at 7:00 p.m. Babysitting will be available. Light refreshments will be served. A date for receiving the new members into the churches will be set at that time.

WEDDING

Karla Atchison and Tyler Barnhart

July 11, 2015

HOLEY SUNDAY

On the first Sunday each month, both St. Jacob and St. John (beginning October 4th) are continuing their coffee hour fellowship times.

From 9:45 a.m. until worship time at 10:15 a.m. in St. Jacob, and immediately following worship at St. John, in the respective fellowship halls, join your friends for coffee and conversation.

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Sponsored by St. Jacob Brotherhood

The Saturday Morning Fellowship Breakfast this year will begin on Saturday, October 31st.

We start this year with a Southwestern themed breakfast including:

Ham and Cheese Breakfast Enchiladas
Native Cornmeal Style Pancakes
Scratch-made Buttermilk Biscuits with
Mike's Hot Honey (Limited Availability)
Pepper Sausage Gravy
Coffee, O.J., Milk included

Breakfast is served at 8:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

Adult Donation \$5.00

Children are always our guests.

YOUTH GROUP

St. Jacob Youth Group continues to collect cans. Marked containers are in the rear of the church between doors to Heritage Hall and Church Basement.

The Youth Group will beginning again after Labor Day with the new leader, Dawn Zobrist. All youth from Confirmation age to 18 are encouraged to attend.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Welcome back to Sunday School on Sunday, September 13th. We are excited to see everyone again and look forward to another great year.

If you know of families that might be interested in Sunday School, please feel free to invite them for a visit.

We will be planning out the 2015-16 Sunday School Year with fun activities.

Consider being a classroom volunteer! We would love to have you as part of our team. We could always use more help. With our new rotation curriculum you do not have to commit to a full year.

The Pre-K Class is full of busy little hands and we could use donations of: glue sticks, Crayola brand washable markers, and construction paper. If you would like to donate, bring any time between now and September 13th, and we would really appreciate it. Put items on either of the two round tables in Heritage Hall.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING

The Illinois South Conference Annual Conference Meeting will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 23rd and 24th, at the Shrine of the Lady of the Snows, Belleville.

Our congregations will be represented by our delegates and Pastor Kniepkamp.

EVENING LADIES FELLOWSHIP

A Luncheon for all the ladies of the church will be held Saturday, August 1st at Josephine's in Alton at 11:15 a.m., hosted by the Evening Ladies Fellowship. We will meet at church at 10:15 a.m.

HOYLETON

Hoyleton presents *An Auction in Oz* on Friday evening October 16th at Regency Conference Center in O'Fallon, IL. Mark your calendars!

Complete information is posted on both church bulletin boards. Donations would be appreciated; items are listed on the poster.



DuBOIS CENTER

DuBois Dash 2015, 5K Trail Run and 1 mile Fun Walk through rolling wooded trails Sunday, October 4th starts at 9:30 a.m.

Complete information is posted on the bulletin boards. If you are interested in participating, contact the church office for the Registration Form.

DuBois Center Fall Festival follows beginning at 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Festival features a variety of craft booths, musical entertainment, delicious food, activities for the children, horseback riding, hayrides, and more.

Workers and donations are needed. See posters on both bulletin boards and call Melissa Nehrt if can help out.



SUPER RALLY DAY

This year, both St. John's and St. Jacob will be hosting a combined, **ALL CHURCH** Rally Day at the St. Jacob Park on Sunday, September 20th. Rally Day Picnics are a tradition at the beginning of the Sunday School year, and we hope to have a great celebration again this year. **Everyone from both churches** is invited to come out and enjoy a nice afternoon of fellowship. Events will include:

- Lots of great food: Hot Dogs and Brats with all the fixin's, all paper goods, and plenty of drinks, all provided free of cost by the Sunday School Departments;
- Games, relays, races, lots of activities and prizes;
- Free bingo for everyone;
- A covered pavilion with access to the two great playgrounds at the park;
- We will eat at 12:00 noon, but be sure and come out early and enjoy the park and the fellowship;
- If the weather is not co-operating, we will move indoors to Heritage Hall in St. Jacob;
- Please bring a covered dish, or a dessert to share.

Mark your calendars – Sunday, September 20th at 12:00 noon – Super Rally Day, St. Jacob Park

**St. Jacob United Church of Christ
207 West Main Street
St. Jacob, Illinois 62281-1531**

**St. John's United Church of Christ
109 West Kavanaugh – P O Box 159
Summerfield, Illinois 62289**

CONFIRMATION CLASS

First Day of Class is Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:30 p.m. For our first day of class we will enjoy a Pizza Dinner. Summer Homework is DUE TONIGHT!

If anyone has not contacted the church regarding participation of 7th and 8th grade students in confirmation, please contact the church office soon. This year promises to be one of the largest, most diverse, and most exciting classes ever. Don't miss out.

Other Wednesday Class Dates:

September 16

October 7 / October 21

November 4 / November 18

December 2 / December 16

January 6 / January 20

February 3 / February 17 – Class will host Lenten Evening Service and Meal

March 2

Final Weeks Days and Dates:

Saturday, March 12 – Confirmation Pictures and Practice

Sunday, March 13 – Presentation Sunday

Sunday, March 20 – Palm Sunday – Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, March 27 – Easter – First Communion

**St. Jacob United Church of Christ
207 West Main Street
St. Jacob, Illinois 62281-1531**

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED