

St. J Newsletter

November-December 2015

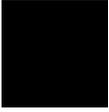
From the Pastor's Desk:

On a recent trip to San Diego, Joyce and I visited the San Diego Zoo. After first recovering from the almost \$90.00 entrance fee for two, we took the double decker bus tour of the 100-acre park, and then hustled over to the Giant Panda exhibit. Only four zoos in the U.S. have giant pandas, all on loan from the Chinese government. For a hefty fee to China, the zoos get to study the critically endangered species up close. (I believe the Washington D.C. zoo once payed ten million dollars for two pandas on a ten-year loan agreement.) At the same time, the pandas make for highly popular attractions.

We were lucky. That day the zoo's young panda, Xiao Liwu, whose name means 'little gift', was alert and active. Early on a cool overcast day, he was sitting near the front of his enclosure, eating his bamboo breakfast. A docent was sitting near the exhibit, providing a running commentary on the panda's history, habits, and life story. The docent mentioned that very soon, Xiao Liwu will be returned to China, even though he was born in the San Diego Zoo, as per the agreement with China. There he will play his part in repopulating his endangered species in their native habitat, where fewer than 1,600 giant pandas may still exist in the wild.

I was thinking about that arrangement long after my zoo visit. As difficult as this parting might be, the loan of the pandas to the zoo was not a thing the zoo could keep only for themselves, not for the zoo's benefit alone. Xiao Liwu was passing through his time in San Diego, on his way to serving a greater purpose, the preservation of his species.

As we enter this great season of giving, when we hear of the needs of our neighbors, our next step is deciding, how do we respond? Do we try and keep all the gifts God has bestowed upon us only for ourselves, or do we allow God's blessings to flow *through us*, so that God's love may be spread to touch and heal and give hope, to our neighbor's in their need? Where in our lives might we discover the 'little gift' that God has given us, intended for sharing, for **God's** greater purpose?



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

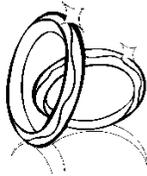
St. John's:
 Worship and Sunday School 8:45 a.m.

St. Jacob:
 Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
 Worship 10:15 a.m.

Holey Week Fellowship 1st Sunday of each month at both churches.

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
 St. Jacob website: www.stjacobucc.org
 Rev. Gary, Home: 644-5703
 Rev. Gary, e-mail: knipkamp@hometel.com
 Kay, Home 644-5578
 Kay, e-mail: khoenig@hometel.com



WEDDINGS

Kendal Krotz and Jordan Bauer
 September 5, 2015

Lindsey Schumacher and Aaron Mersinger
 October 10, 2015

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:

raelynemeyer@gmail.com

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

NOVEMBER

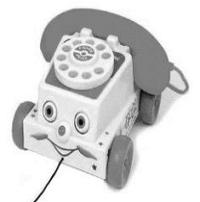
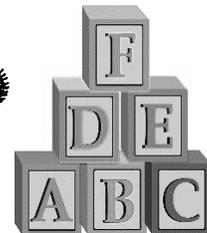
- 1 – Dian Gansmann
- 8 – Ronda Schmidt
- 15 – Andrea Herkenhoff
- 22 – Beth and Bailey Frank
- 29 – Melissa Nehrt

DECEMBER

- 6 – Donna and Micah Lowe
- 13 – Rae Lynne Meyer
- 20 – NO NURSERY – PROGRAM
- 27 – Patti Woods

JANUARY 2016

- 3 – Ann Schmidt
- 10 – Shelly Marti



IN OUR PRAYERS

We offer our heartfelt sympathies to the families of:

Raymond "Goerge" Fix

Imogene Koelz

Hazel Voigt

Connie Ward

on the death of their loved ones.

GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

The 2015 financial books of both churches will close on Thursday, December 31st. Monetary gifts to the Churches, to be included in the 2015 records of giving, should be in the December 27^h offering, or sent to the church office before Wednesday, December 30th.

HOLEY SUNDAY

On the first Sunday each month, both St. Jacob and St. John 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.

ST. JACOB 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 resumed meeting in September and already have activities planned. Any questions, call Dawn Zobrist, 644-4716.

MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Sponsored by St. Jacob Brotherhood

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

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

Adult Donation \$5.00

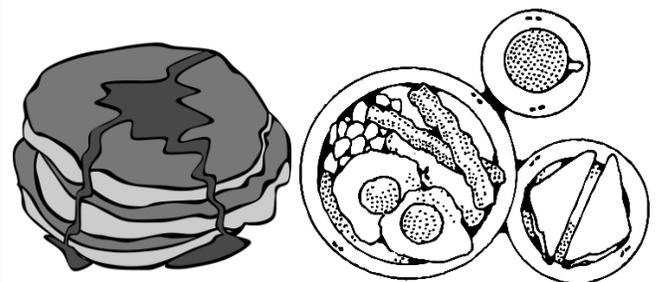
Children are always our guests.

Fellowship Breakfast in November is Saturday, the 28th, followed by Hanging of the Green in St. Jacob.

The Breakfast for December will be held on Saturday, December 19th. We will begin serving at 8:00 a.m., but will keep the buffet open until the 9:00 a.m. start of the Sunday School Christmas Program rehearsal in St. Jacob.

We wish to invite all our Sunday School Teachers, Parents and especially our Sunday School participants to come early for practice and enjoy a special menu breakfast this day. All members of the St. Jacob Sunday School, teachers, accompanists, and students are to consider themselves the guests of the Brotherhood and eat for FREE. The menu is not yet set, but expect lots of good things to enjoy!

January's Fellowship Breakfast will be Saturday, January 30th.



OFFERING ENVELOPES

Anyone who is interested in using Church Envelopes in 2016, who did not have them in 2015,

at St. Jacob,

call Audrey Yann (667-6646).

at St. John,

call June Boggy (808-0364).

ST. JACOB SUNDAY SCHOOL

Upcoming dates:

Sunday, December 6th, pictures will be taken during Sunday School.

Saturday, December 19th, Christmas Program Practice at 9:00 a.m.

It's not too late, the Sunday School could still use volunteers to help out on Sunday mornings. With our new rotation curriculum, you would not have to commit to the full year, only a 3-week session. Please let us know if you can join us! Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 11th at 7:00 p.m.

EVENING LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Our group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Heritage Hall. All the ladies of the church are invited to join us.

SEASONAL LITURGIST

We are soliciting for individuals or families who would like to read during the Christmas Eve Service at St. John U.C.C. 7:00 p.m., St. Jacob U.C.C. 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Those who are interested should contact Pastor Kniepkamp as soon as possible or leave a message at the church office.



WHITE GIFT SUNDAY **Sunday, December 6th**

We will soon have the Christmas List from Hoyleton Children and Family Services. Deadline for receiving gifts will be White Gift Sunday, December 6th.

ST. JACOB BROTHERHOOD **PORK SAUSAGE SALE**

Orders must be turned in by Sunday, December 6th.

Order Form enclosed.

Meat and Sausage available:

Pork Sausage – Link or Bulk

Liver Sausage – Ring

Back Bone

Ribs

Orders may be picked up at the church shed on Thursday, December 10th after 12 noon, and Friday, 11th after 8:00 a.m.

OUR CHURCH WEBSITE

www.stjacobucc.org

Our church website is up and running.

We would like someone to be the church photographer, so we can have current up-to-date photos on the website and Facebook.

We would like both to be current and organized.

Anyone interested, contact Dawn Zobrist at 644-4716 or e-mail at smdz@hometel.com

**ST. JOHN PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE
BREAKFAST**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14th

7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**MENU: Pancakes, Sausage, Eggs,
Biscuits and Gravy, Drinks**



**Totenfest
Sunday, November 1st**

On Sunday, November 1st, the St. John U.C.C., Summerfield and St. Jacob U.C.C. observes the traditional Memorial Sunday known as Totenfest.

During the regular 8:45 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. services of worship, the names of the members and friends of the congregation who have passed away in the previous twelve months were read and remembered with special prayers and acts of memorial.

Those we remember:

St. John

***Raymond Fix
Dallas Hurtsburg
Marc Mikeals***

St. Jacob

***Todd Bacon
Harold Hoenig
Imogene Koelz
Myrle Kuhn
Bessie Kynion
Kenneth Lienemann
Glenda McEwen
Harold Rehg
Hazel Voigt
Connie Ward***

CHRISTMAS FUND

Our joy at Christmas is a response to God's promise of new life through the birth of Jesus. It is a joy we are called to share widely, through our witness and gifts, both to loved ones and to distant neighbors.

"It wasn't easy picking up the telephone to share with you my present situation. In fact it was one of the most humiliating experiences of my life although it reminded me that grace still happens. Sometimes we as clergy persons lose sight of God's grace when the negative stuff comes into our lives."

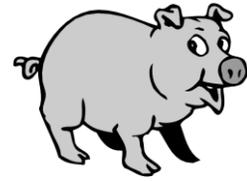
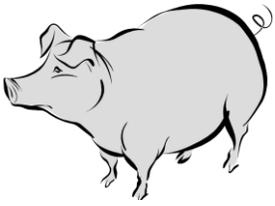
"...thanks so much for sharing your time and ministry with me. Your most gracious gift is appreciated more than words can say as I continue to live in the 'meantime.'"

These eloquent words are from a pastor who is the recipient of the caring and concern of those who contribute to the Christmas Fund Offering.

You have the opportunity to be a part of this ministry that cares for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ through your participation in this year's Christmas Fund Offering.

Your gift to the Christmas Fund will not only assist pastors like the one above, but also provide for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and provide Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks in December to low-income retirees.

Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise to enable this ministry of compassion and care.



ST. JACOB BROTHERHOOD PORK SAUSAGE SALE

Fill out order form below and send to the church office by December 6th

Or

Call Don Yann 667-4626 or Brad Kunz 644-9237 or Church Office 644-2142

Meat and Sausage Order Form

Name _____ **Telephone** _____

Pork Sausage

Liver Sausage

Back Bone

Ribs

Link _____ **Bulk** _____



Poinsettias for Christmas



Order your Poinsettia(s) to decorate your church sanctuary during the Holiday Season **before** Dec 14th.

COST: \$8.00 each

Make checks payable to: **St. Jacob U.C.C.**

Return this form along with payment to the St. Jacob Church Office by mail or drop in the offering plate at your church by:

Tuesday, December 15th

Number of Poinsettia(s): _____

Put an X in the box next to name of your church.

St. Jacob

St. John's

Poinsettias may be taken home after last worship service on Christmas Eve.

Your Name: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

**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**



**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
Thursday, December 24, 2015**

4:00 p.m.	St. Jacob UCC	Family Worship Service including Holy Communion
7:00 p.m.	St. John's UCC	Candlelight Communion Service
10:00 p.m.	St. Jacob UCC	Candlelight Communion Service

**Sunday, December 27, 2014
NO Sunday School at St. Jacob**

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

**Non-Profit Organization
U S Postage
PAID
Permit Number 6
St. Jacob, Illinois 62281**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED