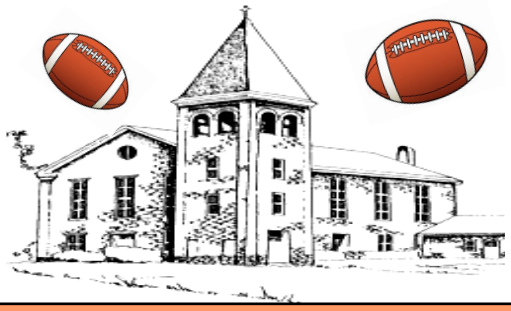
New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Our Mission: Responding to God's grace, we are a a welcoming congregation growing in Christian faith through worship, learning, serving and fellowship.
Our Vision: New Jerusalem Lutheran Church is a compassionate community of disciples that values everyone and expresses faith by connecting with God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and all creation.

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany - February 4, 2018 - Worship at 10 a.m.

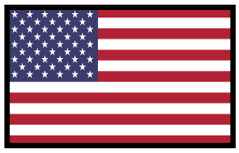
TEXTS FOR THIS SUNDAY 02/4/2018
1st Reading: Isa 40:21-31 — 2nd Reading:1 Cor 9:16-23
Psalm: 147:1-11,20c — Gospel Reading: Mark 1:29-39

God Heals Persons and Communities

When Jesus heals us, we are empowered to serve others. While at first glance it might seem that Jesus' healing of Peter's mother-in-law was self-serving, on further reflection we see the same result in nearly all of his signs and miracles. The object of Jesus' compassion now has new responsibilities. In the very next chapter a paralytic lowered through the ceiling is raised, only to become the center of a religious controversy (Mark 2:3-12), as was the man who lay by the pool of Beth-zatha for thirty-eight years (John 5:2-15). When Jesus calms the storm (Mark 4:35-41) the disciples have to row the rest of the way! Any meaningful encounter with Jesus will result in our being changed, which in turn alters the way we see our relationship to the needs of others and the world.

Hard economic times, natural disasters, and divisive, party strife can make us feel helpless and hopeless, as if we have been abandoned by God. Even the church—local congregations as well as denominations—may feel fear and panic in the face of declining numbers and revenues, loss of loyalty from members, indifference or hostility from the surrounding culture, and internal sniping among factions. The exiled people of Israel in Babylon experienced all of this and more, so our condition is neither unique nor beyond the reach of our God. Isaiah 40:21-31 in the NRSV begins "Have you not known? Have you not heard?" Eugene Peterson, in *The Message*, translates this idea as "Have you not been paying attention? Have you not been listening?" There is some irony indeed that God's church, entrusted with God's salvation history and the gospel, still panics, still doubts and worries, still feels like it is up to us to save the church. We indeed are "clay jars" (2 Cor. 4:7)—carrying the message but not understanding, preaching salvation but not believing that God cares or will act to save. We live Isaiah 40 every day.

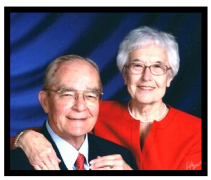
WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO SERVE OUR NATION:



Lori Magnusson, Bob Godec, Lt. Kawika Chang, Major Andrew Zapf, Major Mack Brownell, Capt. Timothy Donelson, Capt. Raven Donelson, Capt. Gretchen Day, Capt. Christopher Day, Christopher Lentz and Ryan Lemp.

PRAYERS OF HEALING AND OTHER NEEDS:
Stacey Zimmerlee (Rick Norgaard's cousin); Cady Family (Lisa Schleipfer); Gary Lowry, Larry Bowman & Shirley Debow (*members of NJLC*); Rob Freeman (AIM @ NJLC 1999-2006); *Joyce (Miller) Goodson, Mike Strite,* Cathy (Smith) Bolinger and Pat Mascaro *(friends of Judy Fox)*; Peggy Steadman (Richard Sullivan's daughter); Gary Edwards *(friend of David Whipple);* Emily & family *(friends of Chatfield family)*; Cheyenne Whipple *(Warren & Sherry Whipple's daughter-in-law)*; Bob Frye *(Brother of Helen Keister and Joyce Hoopengardner);* Travis Rook *(Clarice Dieter's nephew)*; John Lamm (*Son of Barbara Lamm)*; Joyce Norris Miller *(Cousin of Barbara Tritapoe)*; *Bob &* Keith Keister *(Brothers of Mack Keister);* Patricia Freeman *(Mother of Jim Freeman*); Mildred Kulak, (*Mother of Gary Kulak*); Darla Dodle *(Clarice Dieter's neighbor)*; Kim Lassiter *(Linda Guyton).* Names in brackets indicate the person requesting the prayers. Please keep Eva at the church office informed of those for whom we pray and who can be removed from the list.*

PASTOR SUPPLY THIS SUNDAY: February 4, 2018



We welcome back Rev. Richard Reichard from Supply Ministry for this Sunday's service. We were blessed to have Rev. Reichard and his wife Melba with us numerous times before, and are so thankful they will be joining us again this Sunday.
Welcome back Rev. & Mrs. Reichard!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING: SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2018

New Jerusalem Youth
would like to invite you to the
Souper Bowl of Caring Luncheon, this Sunday, February 4th, 11:15am to raise money for Rise Against Hunger.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

The Souper Bowl of Caring Luncheon empowers youth and unites communities around the time of the Big Game to help those in need. This year we will be collecting a "Good Will Offering" to support the Rise Against Hunger where it supports safety net programs that provide nourishment, as well as additional skills training or services that support the difficult journey out of poverty. Every year the Lovettsville Church Community gathers together to do a food packaging event and with these fundraisers we can help provide about 30,000 meals around the world. Come have some home made soups and support our cause to reduce hunger. Any questions, please contact Kim Chatfield at Chatfield_Family@verizon.net.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS: February 4. 2018.
Why do we say the Apostles' or Nicene Creed during wor-

Sermon on the Amount Attendance 92

Received 1/28/2018	$ 3,041	Received 2018 YTD	$ 12,509
Needed Weekly	$ 3,458	Budgeted for 2018	$ 193,000
Over/(Under) Budget	$ (417)	Projected Year End	$ 162,617

ship? How are the creeds related to the Scripture readings, the Gospel acclamation, and the Hymn of the Day? Join the discussion! The class meets at 9:00 AM in the adult classroom. All adults and youth are invited.

TAKING FAITH HOME: February 4, 2018.
What do you pray to God about? Perhaps prayers of praise or thanksgiving or asking for God's guidance. Have you considered talking to God about your disappointments (a lament prayer) or about the need people have to receive the gospel? Read the Rituals and Traditions section of the bulletin insert and discuss your prayer habits with your family.

FEBRUARY 6 COUNCIL MEETING: ALL ARE INVITED

The Council invites committee chairs, as well as all church members, to attend the February 6 Council meeting from 7-9 pm. The purpose of this important joint meeting is to brainstorm how NJLC should move forward to implement the list of goals (top priorities) identified in the 2017 Planning and follow -up Council meetings.

It is important for all to attend this meeting.

ASH WEDNESDAY - TWO JOINT SERVICES FEBRUARY 14TH, at 12:00 NOON & 7:30 PM

NJLC will hold **TWO JOINT SERVICES** with New Jerusalem, Bethel & Zion Lutheran Churches here at New Jerusalem, on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. Ash Wednesday begins our journey through the forty days of Lent – that season in our church year during which we are invited to keep a holy Lent by self-examination and repentance, by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Word. Both services will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.
Biblically, the imposition of ashes is a sign of penance and of mourning, a reminder that we are mortal and imperfect beings. Ashes are imposed by a mark on one's forehead in the shape of a cross – the shape of the instrument by which God's Son, Jesus, took the judgment of death imposed on humanity upon himself in order to redeem us from it. This sign is a reminder that though we stand under the sentence of death and will surely die, we also stand under the redemption of Jesus' self-giving act on the cross. The ashes are a sign that God continues to reach out and embrace us in love.

COLLECTING FOR PERSONAL CARE KITS for LWR:
The need: Lutheran World Relief (LWR) sends these kits (formerly called Health Kits) to disaster areas as needed here and abroad. The Lovettsville community will be invited to join NJLC in participating in this project.
Contents of each kit:
(LWR has specific requirements)
1 Towel of a dark color and light weight, size between 20"x40" (min) & 52"x 27" (max). (Walmart brand "Mainstay" works well)
2 Four-ounce bars of soap
1 Toothbrush
1 Comb
1 Nail Clipper
Deadline for collections at NJLC: February 28, 2018.
Monetary donations for purchasing items or shipping will also be appreciated. Cost to ship each kit is $2.65. Checks may be made payable to NJ WELCA.
Assembly of the Personal Care Kits: March 13, 2018.
Assembly will take place as part of a Mid-Lenten Service Program (See separate article).
Sponsors: NJLC's Women of the ELCA (WELCA) and Worship Committee.

NJLC'S 2018 LENTEN PROGRAM (in 2 parts)
1. The mid-week component of the Lenten program this year will consist of a one-time Lenten Service Program on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at 6:30 P.M, which will be the culmination of the collection of items for Personal Care Kits for LWR (see separate article.) The evening will begin with a simple potluck meal and end with a short worship component. A speaker from LWR will give us information on the distribution and use of the kits. Participants may then assemble Personal Care Kits from the collected items.
2. Another component of the Lenten program, based on the book *Six Spiritual Needs in America Today*, will take place within worship services during Lent. Look for more details on both components as we get closer to Lent.

NJLC's Lenten Program: Six Spiritual Needs in America
One possible component for this upcoming season of Lent will occur during the Sundays of Lent (beginning February 18). The six spiritual needs in America, "as identified by a 1997 Gallup poll, are obviously rooted deeply in the human psyche and call for renewed attention." Each Lenten Sunday sermon will be preceded by a 5-7 minute chancel drama (skit) and the drama is set up for preaching the theme of the sermon. Identified spiritual needs will be a continuation of Pastor Cindy's January 7 sermon theme on the need everyone has for identity, belonging, and purpose.
Congregational participation is required for performing the chancel drama (skit) in order for this to be a success. The skits will be approached as a "reader's theater" so the "actors" can use scripts (no memorization). We aren't looking for professional actors! The skits will be thought provoking and a fun-to-do exercise.
If you are willing to help by taking part in one or more of the Sunday morning Lenten skits, contact Pastor Cindy or Sherry Whipple no later than February 7.

REVISED ENEWS INFORMATION DEADLINE:
Please provide information for inclusion in the weekly eNews to Eva Alexander (njlc@loudounwireless.com) **no later than Monday of the current week.** Receiving new or updated information early in the week will assist Eva in meeting her Thursday deadline for completing the weekly bulletin and distributing the eNews electronically.

ALTAR FLOWERS:
The flower arrangement you see on the altar each Sunday morning is a beautiful & meaningful addition to the worship service.

If you are interested in contributing altar flowers for a Sunday service, sign up on the 2018 flower chart posted on the bulletin board in the downstairs hallway of the main church building (near the elevator). You may order flowers from the Purcellville Florist (540-338-4161) or C.M. Bloomers (800-352-8833) for delivery directly to the church. You also may purchase flowers at a supplier of your choice and deliver the flowers yourself prior to the worship service. Let the church administrative assistant (540-822-5576) or the monthly flower chairperson (list of names posted on the same bulletin board) know by the Monday preceding your Sunday the text for the dedication you want printed in the worship bulletin. Please take a moment to sign up and dedicate flowers on a special Sunday.

LIFTER SCHEDULE:
February 2018

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:
February 2018

TEXTS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 02/11/2018
1st Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12 — 2nd Reading: 2 Cor 4:3-6
Psalm: 50:1-6 — Gospel Reading: Mark 9:2-9