



THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2018 AT ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH



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WORSHIP - TWO OPPORTUNITIES EVERY SUNDAY:
Sunday morning at 8:30 am - Contemporary Service with Communion
Sunday morning at 11 am - Festival Service with Communion

RENEWAL OF MARRIAGE VOWS

It has been a long-standing tradition at St. Mark to have a marriage vow renewal service around Valentine's Day. All married couples are invited to renew their wedding vows on **Sunday, February 11 at 10 am.**

LENTEN WORSHIP

Lent begins on **Wednesday, February 14** (with Easter occurring on **Sunday, April 1**). We will have our Ash Wednesday worship on that evening at 7 pm. During the following weeks of Lent, beginning **Wednesday, February 21 through Wednesday, March 21**, we will worship jointly with our Brothers and Sisters in Christ from Incarnation, Holy Sacrament Episcopal Church on Garrett Road in Drexel Hill. The actual schedule will be announced in church, put on our website and listed in Pastor Tim's weekly e-mail.

TAKING SOMETHING ON FOR LENT

During Lent, we will again collect items for our Brothers and Sisters in Christ at the Life Center:

Sunday, February 18	Warm socks	Sunday, March 11	Jelly beans
Sunday, February 25	Cookies	Sunday, March 18	Wash Cloths
Sunday, March 4	Jelly beans	Sunday, March 25	New or clean used towels

FROM PASTOR TIM

At the time you will be reading this, we will be a short time away from the start of the season of Lent (which is hard to imagine as I write this in early January). Interestingly the start of Lent, Ash Wednesday, falls this year on February 14th, which is Valentine's Day. In another coincidence of time, Easter will fall on April 1st, which is April Fool's Day. I must confess that I am finding these clashes between church festivals and secular holidays very fascinating and I wanted to share my thoughts on them, because I think they create the opportunity for good reflection on our lives as Christians.

First, it is almost startling, in a way, that on a day where so many people will be buying heart shaped things and candy and flowers, that our church festival would call us to wear ashes on our foreheads and proclaim to one another the words "remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Imagine being out to dinner with your spouse or significant other while wearing those ashes. Or seeing a couple act affectionately while bearing the ashes on their heads. Of course it would be a strange sight, or other people would find you strange perhaps, but contained in that scene is a powerful message: our relationships even with those we love most, are only possible through the incredible love of God, who makes all other love possible, who created and formed us from dust. Furthermore, though our bodies may return to the dust, the love we might share in those moments will remain, living on through the love of God that remains eternal.

Keep on the lookout for why April Fool's and Easter on the same day actually makes perfect sense! God's peace be with you always.

Pastor Tim