



THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2019 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 10 at 10 am.**

SNOW TUBING - A ST. MARK CONGREGATION EVENT

A snow tubing event has been planned for **Saturday, February 9.** We will assemble at, and leave from, St. Mark at **3 pm** to be there for the **5 pm to 8 pm** session at Blue Mountain Resort. The cost is \$25 per person for three hours of tubing. Everyone is invited to participate. Speak to Stephanie Bruskin or Pastor Tim for more details. Sign up in the Narthex. Please indicate, when signing up, if you need, or would like, transportation assistance.

FROM PASTOR TIM

The Great and Terrible Power of Relationships

"But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, they shall be my people." (Jeremiah 30:33).

The witness of the Bible has always pointed to relationships. In the mythic beginnings of Genesis God creates Adam and nearly immediately realizes that "it is not good that the man should be alone" (Genesis 2:18). Through the Hebrew bible God repeatedly enters into covenants with the people of Israel. Covenants, biblically, are deeply powerful relationships. Powerful enough in fact, that many times in the bible they are compared to the relationship of a married couple. This quote from Jeremiah speaks to God's desire to reenter this relationship as the people of Israel prepare to return to the promised land from exile in Babylon. God desires relationship with people so much that the divine becomes human in Jesus Christ, to draw as near to humanity as possible.

The month of February at St. Mark will include our annual renewal of marriage vows, on Sunday the 10th. A few days later, many people celebrate Valentine's Day. At its best, beneath the candy and cards and kitsch, this is another day for acknowledging the power of relationships. So, as you've probably guessed, I have relationships on my mind.

I have seen and experienced so many times, as your pastor, as friend, as a husband, a brother, a son, and so on, how wonderful relationships can be. But it is also worth saying that with the great joy of relationships also comes the possibility of great hurt. Our relationships can cause hurt far deeper than any physical injury could go. They leave invisible scars that stay with us.

So, while I do not wish to diminish joy for anyone, it is also important, I think, that we consider the great, yet terrible power of our capacity for relationship. Revel in the gift God has given us, but treat it with the care it deserves.

May the peace of our God of relationships be with you always.

Pastor Tim