



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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Making peace by the blood of his cross — Colossians 1:15-20

Grace, peace, and mercy to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

How much things have changed since I last addressed you in a newsletter! We've kept in touch in new ways since then. We've been on the phone with each other. We've been texting, emailing, and Facebook messaging, even letter writing. We've seen elements of Divine Service recorded on YouTube videos. We have participated in video-conferenced Bible studies. We thank God for all the old and new methods of communication we do have.

But there is something to gathering in person that we miss and will grow to miss as long as social distancing continues. Those who have gone to a sporting event in person, as opposed to watching on TV, will remember part of this. When the crowd cheers, when you are there, you are caught up with them.

It's something we try to approximate on Palm Sunday, the dynamic of the excited crowd. We process in. We wave palms. Children lead the singing of "All Glory, Laud and Honor." Ideally, our spirits would get caught up in the kingliness of our Savior. Worthy is the Name!

But even when we can all gather in one place, we can't catch the full experience of Jerusalem in the first century. Matthew 21 describes how the crowd began to move as one. Imagine how many men were moved to lay their cloaks for each ascending step up the mountain. And when they ran out of cloaks, the idea struck them to remove branches. They clambered up trees, working together to haul the wood. Let no step of His humble donkey be upon plain path!

How can those about other business not take notice? The crowd kept building. They were not quiet. Matthew says they were "shouting." They sang out "Hosanna," which means "help" or "save." Here comes the savior. Here comes help. How do you not gather? "And when He entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up," Matthew reports.

We've been seeing pictures of usually bustling cities unstirred, settled, and quiet. It's what we are doing together to fight a novel virus, one that infects and lays quiet long enough for you, unaware, to keep about your routines, infecting more and more before it grips your breath.

There will come a time when the bustle returns, but then most people will be back to their own routines. Imagine, instead, a city—Jerusalem—all stirred in the same direction, all gathered to ask, swirling towards that singular question, "Who is this Savior?"

He would reveal the answer to that question in the week that followed. He would teach marvelously, as no one else could match. They gathered to hear Him. He is a rabbi and prophet.

He would stop up temple traffic, overturning tables. The economic flow of Jerusalem was dammed before He regathered twelve around a table to give of Himself. He is reformer and restorer.

He would be betrayed and condemned, gathering His opponents in the cover of darkness. He submitted in persisting peace. He is the Lamb of God.

He would suffer and die crucified. Even as many fled, He gathered a new family of believers. He is Messiah, the shoot from the stump of Jesse.

He would rise from the dead, alive forevermore. He promises to gather us all from our graves. He is the new Adam, our light and our life.

Gathering around Him is what we do when we recognize Him aright. Paul celebrates the mystery of our sacramental gathering, "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" (1 Corinthians 10:17).

Brothers and sisters, the Spirit makes us a people together drawn to gather around His gifts. As much as we can do to provide daily bread from the Word, we will feel something missing. We are missing from each other. It's important to recognize that lack up front. Realizing we are missing something should spur us to do what we can to bridge the gap for the weeks that are ahead.

Indeed, the church has a rich history of learning to overcome forced separation. From John still pastoring churches from exile in Revelation to modern days, we have examples to follow. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor who was imprisoned by the Nazis for opposing the Reich, wrote a book about Christian fellowship, *Life Together*. An entire chapter is on "life apart." He teaches, "It is easily forgotten that the fellowship of Christian brethren is a gift of grace, a gift from the Kingdom of God that any day may be taken from us...Therefore, let him who until now has had the privilege of living a common Christian life with other Christians praise God's grace from the bottom of his heart."

We need to work harder today than we did a month ago at maintaining the bonds of fellowship. We need to pass the peace by phone and card and message. I know we are all out of regular routines, all working on other things. But our life together is not inessential. Get those habits of home family devotion going on a daily basis. Sing together in the home.

This is not new advice. "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:15-16).

And when we do gather again in one place, our voices will rise together again, a crescendo of praise and thanksgiving. We will break bread and raise the cup of blessing. As David was once overcome in the procession of God's people, maybe even someone will be led to dancing (2 Samuel 6). I mean, probably not, because we'll still be Lutherans. But maybe someone will feel like it almost.

Brothers and sisters, the Good Shepherd is leading and guiding His flock. Our regathering in Shelbyville, when it comes, will simply be a foretaste of the great congregation He has in store for the Last Day when He returns. We will feast and sing with all the saints. David will be dancing. Abraham and Isaac will ascend the mountain fearless: "The Lamb has been provided!" John will be restored to the seven churches. And we, too, will be in that number.

Until then, I leave you with the reminder of the Catechism: "The kingdom of God certainly comes of itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also." Amen.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Guagenti

MEMBERS OF HOLY CROSS

During these unsettled times as we all deal with the implications of the coronavirus, I ask all of you to reach out to the Lord in prayer. As time moves forward there will be ways to help our congregation and community. Please consider what you might be able to do; simply pray, drop off food, run errands, or complete tasks at our church.

Additionally, consider our financial needs at Holy Cross. I ask all of you to accrue your tithe and either mail or place the funds in the offering plate when you are able. Reach out to the Lord first, asking Him to guide you on your path.

Ephesians 5:20

Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 3:15

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, for to this you were called as members of one body. And be thankful.

Thank you,
John Feole, President

UPCOMING PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Hopefully this letter finds you all in good spirits and good health! We are still planning on carrying out our progressive dinner when we are given clearance to once again meet and be among one another.

A “progressive dinner” is an extended meal in which a different locale is used to host each specific course. We will be starting in one home for hors d’oeuvres, travel to another home for salad, and again for the main course and dessert. The time frame for the entire dinner is approximately 4.5 hours, with travel times included. I would like to encourage every member of the congregation to attempt to come to at least one of the four homes and families who will be opening their doors for us. This dinner is a chance for us to worship, dine, and celebrate with our friends and church family in an element outside of a formal service. These are the special places that our members call “home” and associate with their loved ones. Please, come and be a part of this!! You may join in at any of the locales and progress with us as you are able. You do not have to attend the entire dinner if it is not feasible for you and your family, but please attempt to join us at least once! If you would like to carpool from church to the start of dinner at the Moody’s home, please let me know. We will arrange transportation as requests are made. If you would like to help any of the hosts, please feel free to reach out to them individually at the numbers provided or through church. May the peace that passes all understanding be with us and comforting us in this time. I am looking forward to seeing all of you again soon!!

Shelah

P.S. To all my Holy Cross Lutheran Church family who are able to post to Instagram, Facebook, whatever app... I am making a special request for my birthday, which happens to fall on Easter this year. As I do not expect to be able to spend my day with my church family, my extended family, or friends, I am asking you to upload a photo of your Easter celebration and post it under #hallelujahbirthday, #hclcfamily, and #teamky as a special birthday wish for me!!! Please and thank you! I look forward to seeing smiling faces and celebrations!



Celebrations in April

BIRTHDAYS

- 2- Bill Adams
- 4- Karen Hite
- 9- Monica Yaroma
- 10- Abby Gehrman
- 10- Brady Gehrman
- 10- Caitlin Gehrman
- 11- Kelsey Shreve
- 12- Allen Whitehouse
- 12- Shelah Shreve
- 12- Donna Saltzman
- 18- Charlie Adams
- 18- Emily Crawhorn
- 21- Bill Heeg
- 24- Joshua Lancaster
- 24- Jonathon Lancaster
- 25- Adam Runner
- 25- Alex Shreve

ANNIVERSARIES

- 19- Mark & Marilyn Murray (1985)
- 20- Steve and Lorie Rusch (2002)
- 29- Stan & Terri Frerking (1989)

KFUO.ORG RADIO

Listen to Worldwide KFuo.org, your radio station for practical Lutheran talk, daily Bible and Confession studies, daily worship opportunities, and current issues from a Lutheran worldview. Programs are archived at KFuo.org for 24/7 on-demand listening. You can also find our programming wherever you get your podcasts! Have a question or comment? Find us at @KFUOradio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

Lutheran Hour Ministries is a Christian outreach ministry supporting churches worldwide in its mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nation—and the Nations to Church*. Lutheran Hour Ministries produces Christian radio and TV programming for broadcast, as well as Internet and print communications, dramas, music, and outreach materials, to reach the unchurched in more than 30 countries. LHM's flagship program **The Lutheran Hour**, is the world's longest-running Christian outreach radio program. It airs Sundays at 9am on 102.7FM. For more information, visit www.lhm.org or call 1-800-876-9880.

HELPING HANDS AT WORK

A message from Corrie Brian: Hi, everybody! I hope we are all doing our best to stay safe with clean hands and safe distances. This is a time like no other when countless people may need help to even just get food! We have been asked by the Health Department to potentially help others around us by delivering food or other tasks. I will coordinate what help will be needed. Let me know if you would like to help and what hours and days of the week you are available. Also let me know if you or anyone you know needs help.



YOUTUBE CHANNEL

The link for our YouTube channel is: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyEYS2vyKx1PLc45wHJcJnw/videos>

EASTER LILIES

The Easter lily order at Kroger has been canceled. If you have placed an order your money will be returned. Thank you, Merrie

HOUSE NUMBER PEDESTALS

Charlie Schufer says he will make anyone a house number pedestal if they give an extra \$20 donation to church.



Upcoming Events for Holy Cross

HOLY CROSS RUMMAGE SALE

We are looking at planning a yard sale with the proceeds going towards the much needed storage shed! With so many of us at home this would be a great time to clean out those closets and garages. Hopefully we can set a date soon. Volunteers will be needed. We will need help the week prior for setting up and pricing, working the day of the yard sale, and afterwards with cleaning and boxing up the unsold items. A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board at the back of the church. If we do not get enough volunteers the yard sale will be canceled. We appreciate any donations for the sale! For more information please see Kathy Adams or Merrie Feole.



MEN'S TIME OUT

The men's timeout gathering is being postponed until at least May. As most restaurants are not sure when they be back to normal schedules, we will wait. Plus with social distancing still in place we should not chance causing a problem.

COOKING WITH CORRIE

Cooking with Corrie has not been canceled just delayed. Corrie Brian will be cooking the meal. Any ladies who want to assist Corrie with the preparations need to be here at 4pm. Dinner will be at 5:30pm. Men are also invited to attend. For information please see Corrie.

LADIES NIGHT OUT

There will be no Ladies Night Out in April.

YOU MIGHT BE A LUTHERAN IF...

- They have to rope off the last pews in church so the front isn't empty.
- You tap a church visitor on the shoulder and say, "excuse me, but you're in my seat."
- You hesitate to clap for the church choir or special music because "it just wasn't done that way in the old days."

SENIORS GROUP

On Tuesday April 7th the seniors will meet to assemble & deliver Easter baskets for our shut-ins. There will be 8 of them and I will have the baskets and contents at proper social distancing. They will then be delivered. I have a list of the people we decided to make baskets for and that will be available to pick you recipients. Please consider not attending if you have health concerns. If the baskets do not get delivered until after Easter I feel certain it will still be appreciated and understood. Rita



BOOK CLUB

The book Club has chosen C.S. Lewis's *The Last Battle* as the reading selection for the next book club meeting. This is the last book in the *Chronicles of Narnia* and a fitting book for the Lenten/Easter season. It is available in many formats and is not too long of a read. They will be having a spring/Easter themed luncheon that day. For more information please see Shelah Shreve. Date of next meeting to be determined.

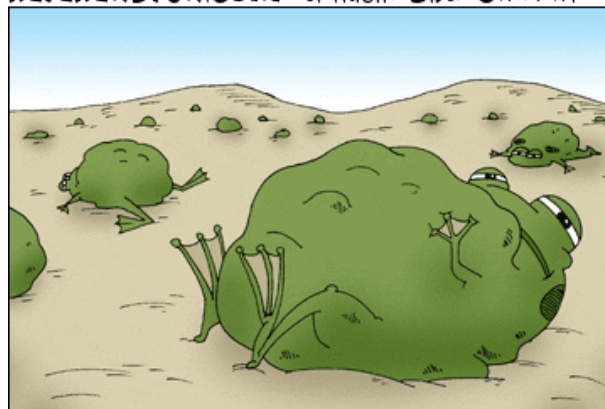
ADULT BIBLE STUDY: SUNDAYS 9:45AM

The Sunday morning Bible class is covering Revelation. Come and join us!

LOUISVILLE BATS

We are trying to get a head count of those interested in going to a Louisville Bats / Pawtucket Red Sox game possibly on June 2. Please let Rita Whitehouse know if you would like to attend.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See Exodus 7-12)

04-15-2004

WHEN FROG PLAGUES FOLLOW FLY PLAGUES

LIFE QUOTES

"For me, Holy Week offers us a glimpse into the holy and vicarious humanity of Jesus. The human Jesus struggling with His own suffering in agony is a portrait for which I am deeply thankful. Jesus struggled as I do. And while I often reluctantly say to God, 'Not my will but yours be done,' I trust that God will generate salvation out of suffering and life from death."

Margaret Manning Shull is a member of the speaking and writing team at Ravi Zacharias International Ministries in Bellingham, Washington – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org A "Life Quote" from Lutherans For Life www.lutheransforlife.org

KNOW YOUR BIBLE

IF THE LORD BE GOD,
FOLLOW HIM:
BUT IF BAAL,
THEN FOLLOW HIM



Mountain Showdown

What fiery Old Testament prophet challenged the prophets of Baal to a showdown on Mt. Carmel?

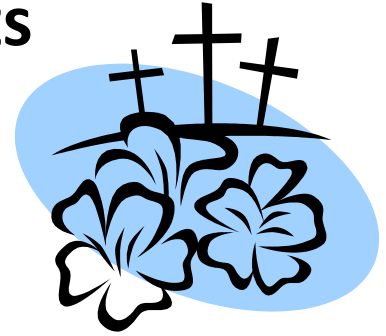
Look for the answer in the May Newsletter
March's Answer: By crows, or ravens (see 1Kin. 17:4-6)

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	ACOLYTE	READER	USHERS	CLEAN	NURSERY	ALTAR GUILD
April 5	Elijah Smith	Nancy Kovach	Charlie Moody R. Whitehouse	Kathy Rice	Alena Guagenti	Jennifer Harrod Jennifer Dillard
April 12	Max Semeniuk	Dave Franke	Don Saltzman Aaron Franke	Sandy Runner	Josh Botkins	R. Whitehouse Jennifer Dillard
April 19	Brenyn Botkins	Jeff Wilson	Don Williams Bob Myers	Bob Myers	Kathy Rice	Brenda Moody Jennifer Dillard
April 26	Isaac Guagenti	Charlie Moody	Alex VanPelt Charlie Adams	Botkins family	Shelah Shreve	No Communion
May 3	Gabriel Guagenti	Dave Themer	Rod Shreve John Feole	Charlie Adams	Jennie Shreve	Brenda Moody Nancy Kovach
May 10	Zoe Shreve	Nancy Kovach	Don Saltzman Joel Franke	Franke family	Alena Guagenti	No Communion
May 17	Eden Guagenti	David Franke	Charlie Moody R. Whitehouse	Kathy Rice	Kathy Rice	Jennifer Harrod Nancy Kovach

If you cannot serve on the appointed day, please call someone to serve in your place.

RESURRECTION COOKIES



To be made the evening before Easter.

You need: 1c. whole pecans, 1 tsp. vinegar, 3 egg whites, pinch salt, 1c. sugar, zipper baggie, wooden spoon, tape, Bible.

Preheat oven to 300 BEFORE BEGINNING.

Place pecans in zipper baggie and let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces.

Explain that after Jesus was arrested He was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read John 19:1-3.

Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp. vinegar into mixing bowl.

Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross he was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19:28-30.

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life.

Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. Read John 10:10-11.

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl.

Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. Read Luke 23:27.

So far the ingredients are not very appetizing.

Add 1 c. sugar.

Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know this and how to belong to Him. Read Ps. 34:8 and John 3:16.

Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12 to 15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed.

Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3.

Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto wax paper covered cookie sheet.

Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read Matt. 27:57-60.

Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven OFF.

Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door.

Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read Matt. 27:65-66.

GO TO BED!

Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20 and 22.

On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie.

Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty! Read Matt. 28:1-9

APRIL 2020

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 18:1-34; Ps. 86; Luke 9:10-20 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 19:1-11; Ps. 87; Luke 9:21-36 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 20:1-23; Ps. 88; Luke 9:37-50 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 20:24-37; Ps. 89; Luke 9:51-10:12
PASSION SUNDAY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 50:4-9; Ps. 31; Phil. 2:5-11; John 12:20-43 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 21:1-20; Ps. 90; Luke 10:13-24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 22:1-12; Ps. 91; Luke 10:25-37 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 23:1-21; Ps. 92; Luke 10:38-11:13 	MAUNDY THURSDAY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ex. 24:3-11; Ps. 116; Heb. 9:11-22; Matt. 26:17-30 	GOOD FRIDAY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 53; Ps. 22; Heb. 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 24:1-19; Ps. 93; Luke 11:14-26
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
EASTER CHRIST IS RISEN! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acts 10:34-43; Ps. 118; Col. 3:1-4; Matt. 28:1-10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 24:20-27; Ps. 94; Luke 11:27-36 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 25:1-13; Ps. 95; Luke 11:37-54 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 25:14-28; Ps. 96; Luke 12:1-12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 26:1-15; Ps. 97; Luke 12:13-34 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 26:16-23; Ps. 98; Luke 12:35-47 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 27:1-28:4; Ps. 99; Luke 12:48-13:5
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 28:5-21; Ps. 100; Luke 13:6-17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 28:22-29:2; Ps. 101; Luke 13:18-30 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 29:3-19; Ps. 102; Luke 31:1-14:11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 29:20-36; Ps. 103; Luke 14:12-35 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 30:1-27; Ps. 104; Luke 15:1-10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 31:1-21; Ps. 105; Luke 15:11-32 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 32:1-19; Ps. 106:1-23; Luke 16:1-13
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 32:20-33; Ps. 106:24-48; Luke 16:14-31 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 33:1-9; Ps. 107; Luke 17:1-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 33:10-34:7; Ps. 108; Luke 17:20-37 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 34:8-33; Ps. 109; Luke 18:1-14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Chron. 35:1-19; Ps. 110; Luke 18:15-30 		
26	27	28	29	30		

< MARCH 2020

MAY 2020 >

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

On the topic of stewardship, one of the most common questions a person might ask is *not* whether a Christian should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Of course, Christians should give to their church.

The most common question: “How much should I give?” But what they really mean is this: “Should Christians give a tithe of their income to their local congregation?” So, let’s look at why you should or should not tithe.

Following are some reasons often offered for why Christians *shouldn’t* give a tithe to their church.

Some say you shouldn’t tithe because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament. Lacking that command, there is no “Thus saith the Lord” and no “should” for giving a tithe to your congregation.

Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these, together with treasures (money), add up to more than a tithe.

Still others say they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church.

And there are those who think Christians shouldn’t tithe because of fear. If they tithe, they are afraid their gift will be misused, and they are afraid they won’t have enough to get the things they use, want, or need.

Following are some reasons for why Christians *should* give a tithe to their church.

Even though the New Testament doesn’t specifically command Christians to give a tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to tithe and did. On top of this, St. Paul often describes the giving Christians are to do in similar terms as a tithe: a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of their income (1 Cor. 6:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here’s another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? The reason for the Old Testament tithe was to support the full ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry.

What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther put in the *Small Catechism’s* Table of Duties to cover what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let’s answer this by asking a different question about something entirely different. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? There, is after all, no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest we have, and it states simply for Christians to not neglect gathering together. Even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments. It is the goal.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? I’d expect that conversation would be something like this: “I’m glad you’re still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God’s promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and to receive His gifts in the Word and the Sacraments. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I’d really like you to try to attain it.”

This same conversation is how we should approach the topic of the tithe. It’s not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, the church is ecstatic that you’re giving when you’re giving in all these ways – time, talents, and treasures.



SHARING THE POWERFUL GOSPEL!

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EVERY SUNDAY
BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL-9:45AM
DIVINE SERVICE-11:00AM

APRIL NEWSLETTER 2020

