



St. Matthew Messenger

St. Matthew Lutheran Church & School
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Post-Pandemic Baby Steps

I remember last year about this time, when Covid numbers were getting high and things were being shut down, I came across an article called, *The New Normal: Will Covid-19 Mark the Death of the Handshake?*

The article began with, *“The handshake has endured for millennia. It has ended wars, sealed deals that have built economies, and forged alliances that have changed the course of history. Shaking hands is standard in almost all areas of human endeavour in western culture, including business, sports, politics, and religion.*

We shake hands to say hello, goodbye and congratulations, to demonstrate respect, loyalty, trust, co-operation, and to signal our confidence and character to strangers, acquaintances, friends and even foes. But could the handshake be a thing of the past thanks to COVID-19?”

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/new-normal-will-covid-19-mark-the-death-of-the-handshake-1.4895157>

At the time I thought, - No way. That’s because in those early months, I would catch myself instinctively putting my hand out every time I was introduced to someone new. (It’s tough to teach a 52-year-old dog new tricks.) I was certain that the handshake is so ingrained in us that even a pandemic couldn’t kill it. Now, a year later, I’m not so sure.



Our natural behaviours and the way we think are changing. Our brains are gradually being rewired. I’ll give you an example. Take a look at this picture. This was a Government of Canada Covid 19 press conference from just over a year ago on March 11, but if you are like me you look at this and say, “What are you guys thinking? Spread out! And put your masks on!”

Our brains have been rewired to be wary of things that even a year ago were thought of

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as safe and common place. Now, we suddenly become alert and get a little shot of adrenaline over these things, our body reacting to circumstances that it once didn't.

For example, if I would have worn a mask to go shopping two years ago I would have felt so self-conscious about it, always thinking that people are looking at me. Now, if I go without one (even if I am walking outside down the street) and I come across a person who is wearing a mask, I feel a twinge of guilt that I am not wearing mine. Even outside! It is amazing how our brains have adapted in the last year.

So much ink has been printed about the big things we have lost or may lose; our freedom to go where we please and our right to assemble, especially in places of worship, but not a lot of time has been spent thinking about the little things. The everyday actions that have disappeared from our culture (like the iconic handshake) and I think it is important that we spend some time thinking and planning about them as we begin to emerge from this pandemic.

I know, this is not as exciting as the big plans you have. I can't count how many people have said, "When this is all over I'm planning a trip to Europe (or some other international destination). People have also talked about throwing a big party, with more people than they could possibly imagine.

Those are all fine, but what about the little things? How about we take some post-pandemic baby steps here in Stony before we fly across the ocean? It is important we address the real needs we have as opposed to the perceived needs.

We often see Jesus doing this in his miracles. A man is brought to Jesus on a stretcher. Everyone knows his need: this man needs to walk. Jesus fulfills that perceived need, but Jesus takes care of an even deeper need first: He says, "*Son, your sins are forgiven.*" (Mark 2:5) Many people were surprised by this, but Jesus knew that this man's soul needed healing just as much (if not more) than his body.

The gospels are filled with Jesus meeting a deeper need before filling a perceived need, but maybe the one that applies the most to our pandemic situation is this miracle: "*And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.'*" And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "*I will; be clean.*" And immediately his leprosy was cleansed." (Matthew 8:2-3)

**When
this
is
all
over...**



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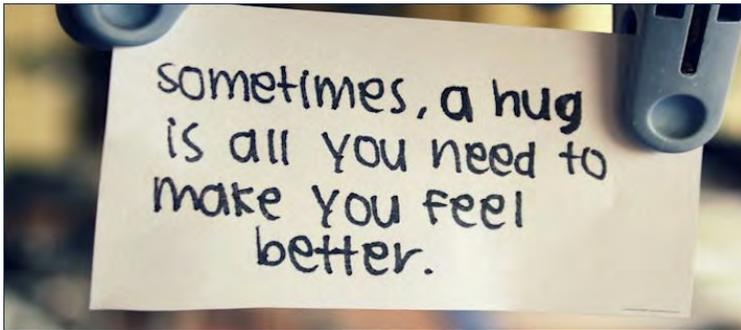
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There is no doubt that Jesus healed the man, but what did He do first? *He touched him.* A small gesture with huge implications. This was a man that *nobody* touched. Long ago he had probably given up the thought of being touched by anybody. He was contagious. Unclean. Untouchable (in a bad way).

But Jesus reaches out and fulfills the man's deep need for human contact. Human touch. Jesus knew it, and He provided it.

At what point will we be able to do the same? At what point in this pandemic timeline will we be able to put a comforting arm around the shoulder of someone receiving bad news? To hug someone who has lost a loved one? To simply shake the hand of a person you are glad to see?



If we have learned anything from this pandemic it is the importance of human contact. Humans struggle with social distancing. While it may be necessary during a pandemic, it is not normally healthy for us to stay so far apart. We need handshakes, hugs, and slaps on the back. It's an important part of who we are.

So I encourage you to think on that and act on it as the time becomes appropriate. Make the time to reach out to someone, figuratively and literally. Let them know they are loved and cared for.

Sometimes you will see signs or posters or memes referring to us as the hands and feet of Christ. Maybe now this is more important than ever. We certainly need to care for one another as Christ has cared for us. We will get through this, and we will find ways to connect to one another once again; one extended handshake at a time.

May the God of all comfort and peace be with you always.

Pastor Dressler





Kid's Bible Study 9:00 am Sunday Mornings Outside



An E-transfer offering can now be made by using the following email address:

donation@st-matthew.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

FACE COVERING OR
MASK REQUIRED
Bylaw 2438/H/20
Temporary Mandatory
Face Coverings

Sanitize your hands upon entering

Maintain physical distance (6 feet)

**REMEMBER TO
PRE-REGISTER
FOR ALL
WORSHIP SERVICES.**



Beginning June 6th

Sunday Service Times are:

8:00 a.m. - Communion
&
9:30 a.m. - Communion

Sunday Bible Study will resume in September



May 4 - Star Wars Day

May 6 - Talent Show (Virtual)

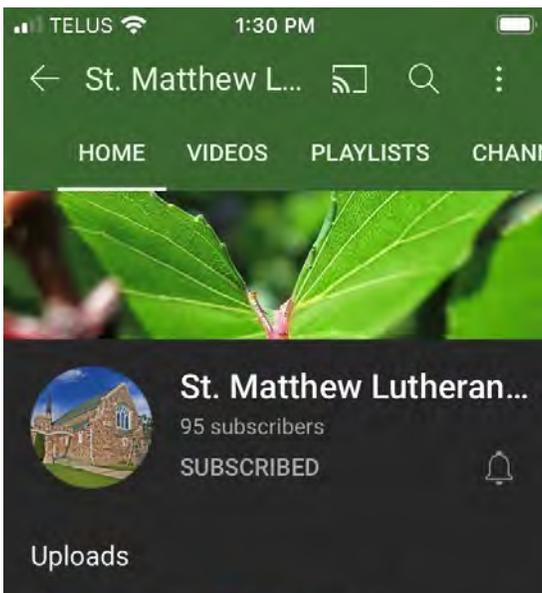
May 7 - T-Shirt Day

May 21 - NO SCHOOL PD Day

May 24 - NO SCHOOL - Victoria Day



Get the Sermons as soon as they are uploaded to YouTube.



Go to the St. Matthew Lutheran Church YouTube Channel to find the latest uploads and/or to subscribe.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuizsjls0wQXg8c_p7rF_cQ

You can also find it by doing a search in YouTube:

St Matthew Lutheran Church Stony Plain

If you are having volume issues on the sermon videos, we suggest you check your computer volume settings. Our recording settings are at maximum.



St. Paul teaches us: *“Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches”* (Gal. 6:6). And again, he says: *“Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel”* (1 Cor. 9:13–14). In other words, ministers of the Gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them.

And this is how the church lives even now. It is standard practice. But this deserves closer examination. For it instructs us not just *that* we are to give but also *what* we are to give. And it does so with four little words: “In the same way ...”

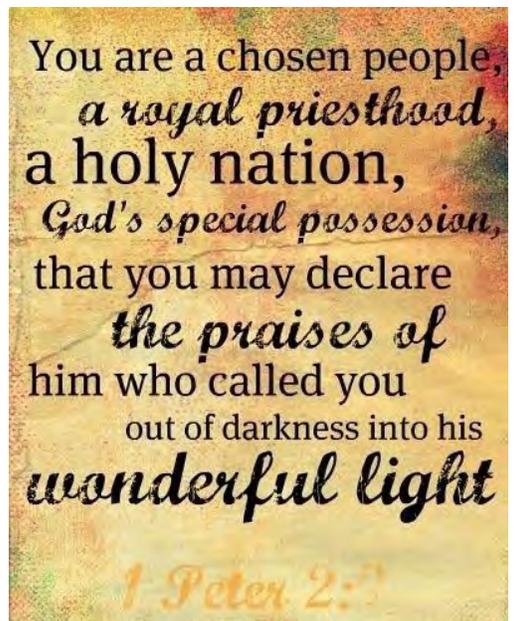
St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving of individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices. We’re to support the Gospel ministry “in the same way.” But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites?

Moses records this: *“You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always”* (Deut. 14:22–23). The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested.

Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry “in the same way?” If it does, ask yourself: Is the church’s job in the New Testament bigger or smaller than the Levites’ job in the Old Testament? Back then, there was one Temple, and the ministry was almost exclusively located in one nation among the descendants of Abraham. In Matthew 28, Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations, and there are churches and ministries all around the world! How could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?

Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God’s revelation, the fullness of His salvation, and the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do. For we have received Christ, God’s own Son, in the flesh, who took upon himself our sins and in exchange gave us his righteousness. The Father claimed us as his own in Holy Baptism. He gathers us together in the place where his name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the resurrection, the risen and living body and blood of His Son – our Lord Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts.

In the same way – and in response to His fatherly divine goodness and mercy – we gladly give to those who proclaim to us “the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.” For once we were not a people, but now we are God’s people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (1 Peter 2:9–10).



www.lutheranhour.ca

The Lutheran Hour Program Summaries for May 2021

A listing of Canadian stations and broadcast times is also available at www.lutheranhour.ca or from the Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada - 1-800-555-6236 - helpful@lll.ca

Hear these inspirational messages on AM 1260 CFRN radio at 7:30 a.m. or FM 98.5 CFWE radio at 8:30 a.m. Streaming audio and pod-casts at www.lutheranhour.ca

May 2

“Replace or Repair?” – Jonah 2

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Broken doesn't mean “disposable”. Dr. Michael Zeigler tells how God redeems and repurposes broken people.

May 9

“Seriously?” – Jonah 1-4

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Speaking out against the prevailing culture might prompt ridicule but it could also produce repentance.

May 16

“Gain a Heart of Wisdom” – Psalm 90:12

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

May 23 & May 30

“TBD”



St. Matthew Facebook Page

If you are a member of the Church, find our Facebook Group!



Go to www.facebook.com, in the search bar at the top left of the page type in St. Matthew Lutheran Church – Stony Plain and ask to join our page.



Did you know St. Matthew has a prayer chain?

If you have a prayer request, our prayer chain is there to pray for you or your loved one.

Call Judy Kulak at 780-963-6481 to get that name into the prayer chain or if you wish to join the prayer chain group.

CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?



“Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.” Jeremiah 29:12

SERVING IN THE LORD'S HOUSE: MAY 2021

COMPUTER:

Date	8:00 am/10:30 am
May 2	Rhonda Buck/Shelley Kulak
May 9	Noah Keith/Ali Hennig
May 16	Danielle Glubish/Gwen Gabel
May 23	Annette Visser/M.J. Hennig
May 30	Rhonda Buck/Shelley Kulak

ELDERS:

Date	8:00 am/10:30 am
May 2	Kevin Burger & Jordan Prefontaine/ Colin Schutz & Randy Hennig
May 9	Luke Adam & Clay Hennig/ Trevor Kleijnen & Brent Hennig
May 16	Adrian Selles & Colin Schutz/ Glen Schmitke & Matt Hamilton
May 23	Kevin Burger & Jordan Prefontaine/ Pat Hall & Luke Adam
May 30	Randy Hennig & Trevor Kleijnen/ Brent Hennig & Clay Hennig

USHERS:

Date	8:00 am/10:30 am
May 2	Gerald Glubish & Michael Glubish/ Rod & Sandie Schutz
May 9	Ron Shepherd & Ivan Boles/ Bruce Fielhaber & Dirk Rothfos
May 16	John & Bev Raffa/ Cole Kleijnen & Carter Kleijnen
May 23	Norman Baron & Greg Lutz/ Eric Steuber
May 30	Coralee & Darrel Hennig/ Gordon Schoepp & Darius Starreveld

ALTAR GUILD:

May	TBD
June	Carol Namchuk



REMEMBER TO
PRE-REGISTER FOR
WORSHIP SERVICES.



CHURCH
OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY
9:00 AM - NOON
12:30 PM - 3:00 PM

ATTENTION USHERS

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS
REQUIRED.

Please contact Gerri Schram at 780-963-6578 if you are willing and able to assist with usher duties on Sundays.

As Communion has returned to Sunday services, your assistance is required in directing the congregation during communion so we can maintain social distancing.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO SERVE ON THE DATE LISTED, PLEASE CONTACT ANOTHER MEMBER OF YOUR GROUP, SWITCH WITH THEM, AND LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW OF THE CHANGE NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY OF THAT WEEK. THANK YOU!

ARTICLE DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE MESSENGER IS MAY 19, 2021