

In The Way

May 2016

The St-Onge Family

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Work Up North

Spring has come to Montreal, and this month we enjoyed the first days of warm weather. More and more people are out walking, and new members of Ascension have worked hard to make our street presence more pleasing. We have new flower beds, trimmed trees, and thanks to the city of Montreal a much greener exterior. Our next task is signage, and we are in discussion on what banners to put outside to share the message of Christ's love with our community.

I'm continuing instruction for one adult and three tweens, preparing them for admission to the Lord's Supper. As you will see under "Mission Moment," our young adult bible study downtown is still going strong and bearing some fruit. The first Sunday of May I preached and led worship at all three of our services on campus. That meant preaching in French, English, then via a translator in Chinese. What a blessing to be with God's people from so many continents and three languages all in one morning!

Several Tuesdays a month I make visits to shut-ins as well as other members of the congregation, and give thanks for faithful lay leaders like Rhoda Blaauw and Spencer Potten who have helped me organize these visits. And a podcast through iTunes is now available of my sermons. Look for Ascension Lutheran Sermons in the iTunes store.

Work Down South

My work in Spanish continues, and I've completed the first two levels of Rosetta Stone and am starting on the third, for a total of about 240 hours of training. Enough to enable me to 1) preach a basic sermon in Spanish, which I did at the beginning of May, 2) help out someone in Miami who wanted to get Wifi, and 3) have a basic conversation about Jesus with a taxi driver. I've also completed a 40 week course through Concordia – Fort Wayne on missionary formation.

At the beginning of May I traveled to Puerto Rico to commission Rev. Richard and Gema Schuller for their work in Ponce. Introducing our newest congregation in the Commonwealth: Fuente de Vida, Fountain of Life! And at the end of May I spent the weekend with Rev. Leif, Nancy and their son Chris Hasskarl in the Caymans, as well as preaching and meeting with the congregational leadership to begin plans for a possible early childhood center.

Mission Moment

"Come and see." That's a phrase that appears many times in John's Gospel. The first time is from the mouth of Jesus, who invites two disciples of John the Baptist to "come and see" where he is staying. It's used again by Philip to invite Nathanael to come and see Jesus.

It is well documented that the vast majority of new church members come through the invitation of other members to "come and see." We are beginning to see that happen at our young adult bible study, with two new regular visitors now coming through the invitation of others. The Chinese congregation is growing in the same way, with a baptism of a friend of the church coming up this month.

Ascension has "church cards" with the Gospel, our address, service times and website in French, English and Chinese. Members are using them to invite their friends to "come and see"!



Coming to Iowa

I will have the pleasure of preaching and teaching at all services, including the Spanish language service, at Shepherd of the Valley in West Des Moines, IA on Saturday and Sunday, June 25-26. If anyone in Iowa would like to make the drive to the capital, I'd love to see you!



Top Left: Deb and Ascension member Rhoda Blaauw hosted a children's music / bible study lesson. Some of the kids (and Jasmine the cat) at "break time". **Bottom Left:** Instruction in Scripture and Catechism, Saturday mornings. **Top Right:** With Rev. Leif, Nancy, and Chris Hasskarl, missionaries to the Cayman Islands. **Bottom Right:** With Rev. Richard and Gema Schuller and Rev. Matthew and Heather Ruesch, at Principe de Paz, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, commissioning Pastor Schuller as missionary to Ponce, Puerto Rico.

Prayer Concerns

For the work of the Schullers in Ponce, that the Word of Christ that they share will well up as living water in the people there,

For St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Kingston, Jamaica, as we seek to find them a more suitable and permanent worship facility,

For those hearing the Word of Christ through us and through others in Montreal, that the Gospel might take root in their hearts,

For the Lord to raise up Foro partners to help us in the work of mission.

Support this Work

Make checks payable to The LCMS, memo line: St-Onge Family Support, and send to:

Mission Central
40718 Highway E16
Mapleton, IA 51034

or

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
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