

In The Way

June 2016

The St-Onge Family
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Work Up North

Just as new life came to the city with the arrival of spring, so did the Lord of Life recall two of his own to himself. I conducted funerals for two long-time, active members of Ascension. While a time of grieving for the families, it was also a time of rejoicing in the hope we have of our resurrection in Christ on the last day.

Preparations continue for Reformation 2017, and I have been laying the ground work for a couple of campaigns in our neighborhood and a website for the whole city. I've posted drafts of two doorhangers we're hoping to use on my website, as well as a pamphlet in English I've written entitled "Let There Be Light." Both are on intheway.org.

Our Chinese ministry pastor will not be back until August, so until then I continue to preach and administer communion the first Sundays of the month for the Chinese congregation. I also continue to preach and teach in French one Sunday a month, and during our mid-week bible class. We had an adult baptism the first Sunday of June as well!

We completed another round of paperwork for Deb's immigration process, and ask for prayers that we get her approved speedily. We also finished the first round of tax submissions for 2015! Lots and lots and lots of paperworks.

Lastly, I've set up a podcast for my sermons and other audio presentations. You can find it at Ascension Lutheran Sermons through iTunes, or subscribe by clicking on the link on my website.

Work Down South

I was able to visit and share with the good folks at Shepherd of the Valley in West Des Moines, IA on June 25 and 26. Thanks to everyone there, especially Scott and Lori, Pastor Dahlke and his family, Pastor Lincon, and everyone who attended one of the services and the bible study. I will hopefully be able to post audio of one of the sermons on the Ascension website and through the podcast.

I also ran across some potential partners for our work in Puerto Rico and in Jamaica, and will be pursuing those over the summer. I'm in the middle of two months off of trips south, but those will be starting up again in August with several already lined up.

Mission Moment

"It is absurd and unacceptable that a [palliative care unit] would ... stop short of accompanying [patients] to the end of their lives." So said a candidate for the leadership of a Quebec political party. She was speaking about Montreal's largest hospital, whose palliative care unit had chosen *not* to offer patients physician-assisted suicide.

Canada and Quebec have now both passed euthanasia laws. Quebec passed its law in the fall of 2015; the federal government passed its law this month. Both were in response to a Supreme Court of Canada ruling that the right to die is a protected right under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Jesus Christ did not establish his Church on earth in order to rule through nations. Our obligation is not to fix the world's laws. But we do have a calling to proclaim the Lord who is the Giver of Life; the Father who creates, the Son who redeems, and the Spirit who preserves, yet ever One God. As our culture loses its belief in the sacredness of life, we ought to be bold in our belief that Jesus "was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men." (John 1:2-4, ESV)





Top Left: Baptizing Sonia during the Chinese service at Ascension. **Middle Left:** Visiting and eating with one of our Pakistani families; mom, dad and brothers are not members – yet! **Bottom Left:** With Rev. Michael Saleminck, Executive Director of Lutherans for Life, in Nevada, Iowa on Quebec's National Holiday. **Top Right:** Olivia graduates from Elementary School with an award in Ethics! **Middle Right:** With the mission board of Shepherd of the Valley, West Des Moines, IA. **Bottom Right:** With members of El Pastor del Valle, many from Puerto Rico, after worship on June 26.

Prayer Concerns

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

For Deb's immigration process, that all her paperwork be accepted and that a decision be rendered soon,

For Deb, Olivia and Sophia and me, that we might have some family time together this summer before the travel season begins once more,

For those who consider their life not worth living, that we might comfort them with the comfort we ourselves have received.

Support this Work

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

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