

In The Way

March 2017

The St-Onge Family
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Work Down South

Plans are in place for our second Foro meeting for Puerto Rico. We'll be meeting in Mayaguez April 25-26. Pastor Ruesch will be taking his furlough this summer, and Rev. Schuller will be covering the services in Mayaguez. This will delay the start of some activities in Ponce, but we are hoping to begin regular Sunday services around Christmas of this year. The biggest obstacles have been finding money for the lease of a worship space, and finding the best way to sign a lease on that space.

Rev. Leif Hasskarl has decided to seek a call back to the United States. He was originally called to serve in the Caymans under a model that provided funds directly from Synod. As giving to The LCMS general funds continues to drop, we are looking for new ways to support our mission work in the Caymans. I'm now working to identify interim pastors to serve Safe Harbour while we prepare for the next steps for this mission. We are continuing to work towards an early childhood centre for the island. The Lord has also opened up work with Cuban refugees seeking asylum there – a group which includes a possible future pastor. We are beginning with Bible studies 2-3 times a week, providing theological materials for their pastoral leader, and helping with some physical needs like clothes.

We are also very close (possibly days) away from the purchase of a building in Kingston for worship and ministry! This work has coincided with the start of my service as the chair of Lutheran Ministries in Jamaica. Much to pray and rejoice about!

Work Up North

Deb has written a little about our work here in Montreal. We are currently hosting a display of Reformation 500 signs in our church basement; publicity for our summer VBS has begun; preparations are ongoing for the arrival of our summer vicar; there have been lots of opportunities for contact with non-Christians this month; and – did I mention Easter is coming? Christ is... okay, we'll celebrate that next month. For now, let us lift high the cross together here and everywhere.

Mission Moment (from Deborah)



Recently, headlines in most international news outlets have contained the words “immigration” and “refugees”. Depending on the source, those words have been unpacked in different ways. It has been our pleasure to put those articles in context by working with recent arrivals to Montréal. Actual people with interesting stories to share!

This month we feature three families from Brazil. Our first family arrived in early March after waiting seven years to come to Québec. Jason and his wife are Syrian and Algerian, respectively, with a son born in France, and a daughter in Brazil. Since Jason is a convert to Christianity, specifically Lutheranism, we were happy to respond to his request for help with transportation and the set-up of their home here. We are looking forward to getting to know them better. The Jacobsens arrived last week so Pastor Marco can begin study on a doctorate in sociology. They, too, are with the Lutheran Church of Brazil and have a three-year-old daughter that is enamored by the snow. Finally, we are preparing to welcome Rovana and Jeferson who will be arriving in a few weeks so they can also begin work on advanced degrees. What a blessing to have Lutherans arriving in Québec - and from South America!

As each of these families we have befriended makes new friends and interacts in the community, we pray that the Lord will provide opportunities for them to share Christ and to connect them to his gifts that are offered at Ascension. We covet your prayers for this as well!



March 2017 Pictures - see more at intheway.org



TOP LEFT: Deaconess Tiffany Manor of Lutheran Friends of the Deaf, and Chair Rudy Auslander of Mill Neck meeting with members of St. Andrew. They were present to investigate possible partnerships in deaf ministry in Jamaica. This was a meeting I began planning last summer; BOTTOM LEFT: Visiting a cabane à sucre (Sugaring Cabin). People from around the world have visited this one!; TOP RIGHT: We are praying that this will be the future home of St. Andrew in Kingston and of Lutheran Ministries in Jamaica; MIDDLE RIGHT: Dinner at Ascension with one of our newest families, with members from Syria, Algeria, France and Brazil; BOTTOM RIGHT: Pastor Marco Jacobsen, wife Lilian and daughter Nicole from Brazil, come to Montréal to study.



Prayer Concerns

For the opportunities for new ministry in the Caribbean, including to Cubans in the Caymans and the deaf in Jamaica, that we would seize these opportunities through Christ,

For those who are coming to Québec from around the world, that we might continue to welcome them in the name of Jesus,

For our work in the Cayman Islands, that the Lord might guide us as we seek new missionaries to continue the work that is developing there.

Support this Work

You can donate online at lcms.org/givenow/stonge. Or you may send a cheque, payable to **The LCMS**, to the addresses below. Include **St-Onge – LAC** in the memo line.

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