

In The Way

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The St-Onge Family in Mission

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intheway.org

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Work Up North

On September 12-13 Ascension hosted its first ever Montreal Forum, an opportunity for partners to come together in support of the ministry at Ascension. We welcomed almost a dozen guests representing the Office of International Mission, The Lutheran Church – Canada, and the English and SELC Districts of the LCMS. We focused on expanding the ministry to immigrants and refugees, making use of our location and building for Gospel proclamation, and expanding worship and study opportunities beyond Parc-Extension and beyond the English language.

Ascension also celebrated her 90th Anniversary the Saturday after the Forum. Many members, new and old, worked tirelessly to prepare a feast for the over 70 people who attended worship and a luncheon. No "typical" Lutheran food here: we enjoyed St-Hubert roast chicken, basmati rice and curried vegetables. The following day I baptized the daughter of a new member I baptized just a few months before!

Work Down South

Immediately after the Montreal Forum, I made my way to Jamaica for the official dedication of our first ever Lutheran school on the island. Parade Gardens Lutheran School meets in a community centre a couple of blocks from Faith Lutheran Church in downtown Kingston. It currently serves about two dozen preschoolers, but we have hopes of expanding its reach to many more.

I then met with two more retired pastors serving Safe Harbour Lutheran Church in the Cayman Islands. We continue to seek a missionary who can serve this small island nation with the comforting and true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

After returning and leading the congregation in worship once more, I attended our SELC circuit fall retreat and shared some of the mission plans for Montreal with other east coast pastors. I then made my way to Omaha, to help lead the fall Jamaica FORO with the help of Mission Central's own Brent Smith and Zion Lutheran Church. A full month!

Mission Moment

A FORO meeting might seem like the last place that evangelism would happen – at least for those of us who have are used to North American voters' and council meetings. But at our Montreal Forum the Lord send direct opportunities to share the Good News.

Right before our closing service on Friday two Pakistani men came to me through the church's open side door. They were Urdu-speaking Christians who saw us entering the sanctuary and said that they, too, would like to worship Jesus with us. It was their first ever Lutheran service, but they were quite taken by the sermon on the proclamation of the Cross of Jesus. One of them even returned the next day for our 90th anniversary celebration.

Then, as the evening prayer service was concluding, a young couple came to speak with Pastor Krey and me. They lived not far from the church, and Pastor Krey had invited them to speak to us about a situation involving someone known to them in the Dominican Republic. The woman, a Cuban, and her boyfriend, from Argentina, were wary about coming into a church. Over the course of an hour, however, both of us shared the Gospel with them and invited them to learn about the congregation.



A Picture's Worth of Words...



Top Left: *Dedicating Parade Gardens Lutheran School in Kingston, Jamaica. **Top Right:** Lindsay receives the gift of regeneration and renewal in Holy Baptism. **Bottom Right:** The participants from afar and from Ascension at Montreal's first Forum. **Top Left:** With only two days warning, Deb St-Onge covers five services including the 90th Anniversary Service on the keyboard. Our usual organist was stuck on a business trip and unable to return.*

Prayer Concerns

For Charles' father, who is continuing treatment for kidney cancer, that the Lord might grant him rest,

For the teachers and supporters of Parade Gardens Lutheran School, that many may come to know Christ through their work,

For the Montreal Forum and the Jamaica FORO, that workers and supporters would find encouragement in each other through ongoing prayer and financial commitment.

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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