

In The Way

April 2021

The St-Onge Family
charles.stonge@lcms.org
intheway.org
244 21e Avenue
Deux-Montagnes, QC
J7R 4H1 Canada

Work Up North

I couldn't help but notice the first line from last month's newsletter: "Our curfew is now only from 9:30 PM to 5 AM. Places of worship can again have up to 50% capacity just in time for Holy Week." That didn't last. Immediately after Easter, places of worship were backed down to 25 at a service, gyms and fitness centers that had been temporarily opened were closed again, and curfew went back to 8:00 PM.

However, as of May 3, we will be relaxing some of these measures as the 3rd wave seems to have largely passed Montreal by. This time, it is the capital of Quebec, rural areas, and the Quebecois suburbs of Ottawa, Ontario that are dealing with major outbreaks. But as our premier, Francois Legault, said this week, "there is light at the end of the tunnel – we just need to make sure it's not a train." There is an expectation that by this summer we will gradually see life returning to normal.

For the Easter season, we returned to communion services every Sunday, with the 11 AM service streamed online. We have two services to accommodate the limit of 25 people and are seeing attendance numbers slightly above where we were two years ago. I have one man in instruction for confirmation, and another young woman interested in Baptism. Two ESL students attended our Easter service. The Word of the Lord always bears fruit as we share it.

Our intern, Emilie Stoller-Prozenko, has accepted our call for her to serve as our deaconess starting August 1 (provisional on her graduation). We continue to reach out through two English classes each week, with many volunteers from Ascension and across the US assisting. Last but not least, our new sign was installed this morning! We are only awaiting the electrician to, literally, plug it in.

Work Down South

Spring is a time for FORO meetings, and this spring has been no exception. The only difference from the last few years is that our meetings have been online and not in-person. I participated Saturday, April 24 in our Puerto Rico FORO where we unveiled some mystery guests: the Lehman family. Pastor Adam Lehman, wife Christine and children will be moving from Spain this summer to join the team in Puerto Rico.

I've also been helping Pastor Gerald and Heidi Paul settle in to the Caymans, assisting Ashley Lehr and Ruth Maita as they transition from GEO to career in Puerto Rico, and preparing for big changes to our regional leadership team. We will have a new business manager and new operations director beginning in May.

Mission Moment

How do we answer someone in grief who has placed their hope in something that is not true? This question came up with respect to our online outreach work. Emilie was specifically dealing with someone who believed her husband was "in a better place" because he had been "a good person." How can we answer in such a way to keep the conversation going and lead someone to Jesus?

When faced with an emotional situation like this, I think of Proverbs 26:4-5:

Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.

I suggest responding with something like this "I know what you mean. Because Jesus has died for us and rose from the dead, we have hope of seeing our loved ones again at the resurrection!"

In other words, let the wisdom of the Lord be the answer to someone's incorrect belief. He will not let his Word return empty.



A Picture's Worth of Words



Top Left: The St-Onge family selfie at home after Easter service. 43 people gathered for worship, our largest in-person gathering at one time in over a year. **Top Right:** Even Coke gets a distinct twist in Quebec. **Bottom Left:** New sign, ready for electrical hookup and dedication in early May. **Bottom Right:** Thursday night English class, with a large group of students and volunteers learning a language and learning of Christ.

Prayer Concerns

For our new sign, that the Lord might use it to proclaim his glory and show his mercy in our community,

For Pastor Mike Ahlemeyer, former short-term team member to Montreal, who has been in hospital for a month and a half due to COVID-19 in Birmingham, Alabama, and is now off the ventilator,

For our partnership with CV Outreach, as we seek to work with with them in the Cayman Islands.

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.

Mission Central
40718 Highway E16
Mapleton, IA 51034

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861