

In The Way

June 2022

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A Month of Fellowship and Fun

It has been a busy first month of summer at Ascension! June began with an open house on Saturday, June 4, and a presentation on housing issues. All of Canada has been struggling for years with housing issues, and now both Montreal and our Parc-Extension neighbourhood are feeling the pinch. One of our long-time members is losing her apartment to renovations, as one example. Not a few months of renovations but seven to eight *years*.

Sunday, June 5 we celebrated a multilingual, multicultural Pentecost Day with an international potluck followed by a hymn sing. You can see more pictures and a video of the day at intheway.org.

The following Sunday Ascension formally extended me a call to serve as their full-time missionary pastor. I was delighted to accept, and the St-Onges will continue the work the Lord started through us here seven years ago.

On Saturday, June 18 Ascension held a clean-up day for the church buildings and grounds. Avery Prozenko – Deaconess Emilie's husband - and Laingo Rakondrajaona helped organize the day. We had over two dozen volunteers from the Parc-Extension community show up to help! As a result, some church members who showed up later on Saturday morning found most of the work already completed.

The following day, Sunday, June 19, Ascension gathered for a baby shower for the Prozenkos. Deaconess Emilie, who is expecting a baby boy in September, joined with her husband in a series of "parental trials." We had a great turnout for the "Ba-By-Q" and enjoyed a third Sunday of fellowship.

Later that week Ruth Stone, Deaconess Emilie and I met our city councilor Mary Deros for the first time. Mary has served Parc-Extension on both the borough and city council for over two decades. Years ago, she rented space to Pastor Joshua Hallmann when he served as a missionary attached to Ascension.

We expect a quieter July and August, but one never knows what the Lord has in store. We will continue to share the Good News!

Mission Moment

Persian. Spanish. Chinese. Urdu. These are just four of the languages spoken by members of Ascension as they learn English and / or French here in Quebec. Almost all these members are attending our English classes, and our worship service in English is obviously a challenge. How do we help these Christians be strengthened in the Word?

It is popular for many American churches to consider starting a second-language service, often in Spanish. But what do you do when there is no obvious "second language" among new members, but a plethora of them instead? This is one of the challenges that led me to accept the call to serve Ascension full-time, starting July 1.

Deaconess Emilie and I are considering possibilities. A simultaneous translation system for the sermon would be great, but costly and difficult to run. Certainly we can start making our liturgies available in other languages, as well as Scripture readings. In the end, it is a great challenge to have, and we pray that the Spirit who descended at Pentecost will also enable us to reach people in their mother tongues.



A Picture's Worth of Words



Top left: Manee, one of our new members, with Suzie Stone. **Bottom left:** Pictures of Queen Elizabeth are common in older buildings. Sophia and Olivia pause to recognize her 70 years as Canada's monarch. **Top right:** Signing call documents with members of Ascension's council. **Bottom right:** "Ask and you shall receive." The team reached out to their contacts in the Parc-Extension community and two dozen people showed up for cleaning day on June 18!

Prayer Concerns

For the Singhs, the Rams, and the Fetanats as they await decisions from the government on their visas;

For the many members of Parc-Extension who do not know the name of Jesus, as we share the hope in him who has reconciled us to God in his cross,

For planning for our network reconnect this October, that the Lord will open doors for us to renew friendships and share in the joy of mission.

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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