

In The Way

November 2022



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Be Prepared

The morning of November 15, I was sitting where I am now, in my home office, working on emails and sermon preparation. Deb was at a Bible study; Sophia and Olivia were both at school. Suddenly the entire house shook as if – well, as if hit by something really big. Picture fell off walls in the hallway, knickknacks fell from shelves in my office, and the cat took off like a flash from her perch behind me.

We had just had a 4.3 earthquake the night before, and I wondered if this was finally the "big one" we've been told could hit Montreal one of these days. Across from my office, Deb's work room was a mess. Then I heard the yelling from outside. I ran to the front door and looked out to see a small car sticking out of Sophia's downstairs bedroom.

One of our neighbours was yelling for me to call 911. Running back into the house, I realized my phone – which had been on our bedroom nightstand – had gone flying somewhere. I found it and called the magic number, summoning in short order police, two fire trucks, and two ambulances. Our mailman ran into the house looking for a knife to cut the airbag curtain around the two older vehicle occupants. Another neighbour, a former paramedic, also ran over to help.

Realizing Deb should have been home by now, I called her. She answered and immediately asked what was happening on our street. She had dropped off the car to have a warning light checked and had seen the flashing lights from a block away.

Two weeks later, we are in our third temporary house. An engineer is coming Wednesday to establish a timeline for when we might return "home." We are healthy and safe, fed and dry. We have much for which to give thanks.

Last Sunday our text was from Matthew's Gospel: "If the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into" (Mat. 24:43). It was hard to read that and not substitute, at least in my mind, "what part of the day the car would crash into the house." We never know what the world will throw our way each day. But Christ calls on us to trust that whatever it is, he will walk with us through it.

Mission Moment

2023 Action Plan

The Montreal Forum partners met with our congregation members and mission team to develop an action plan for this year, based on our mission, vision and strategic plan. Here are some of the highlights for this year:

English Outreach: two classes per week, three eight-week semesters per year.

Campus Ministry: focus on the students currently attending.

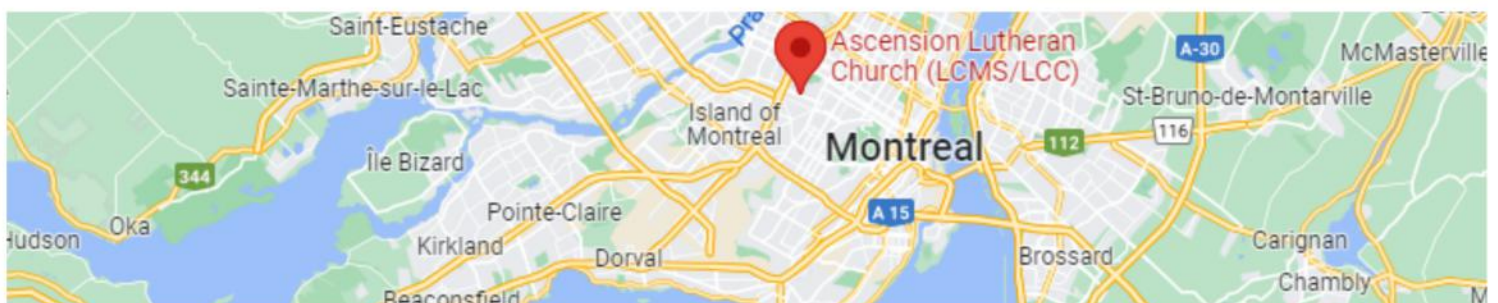
Open Houses: one a month, cycling through past speakers.

Volunteer Days: four a year, with participation certificates given.

Mother's Group: meets once a week for most of the year.

All participants are invited to attend worship, intro to Christianity classes (two a year), and special fellowship activities (Pentecost, Reformation, Christmas and Holy Week).

Our stretch goals include starting a Spanish service, identifying a Punjabi evangelist, and having a monthly South Shore outreach.



A Picture's Worth of Words



Top Left: Deb teaches the refrains of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" and "The Angel Gabriel" at our Advent fellowship party for advanced English learners. The event was held in conjunction with a "prepare the sanctuary" party. **Top Right:** Graduates from the fall semester of our beginning English class. Ruth Stone took the lead teaching, ably assisted by her husband Lyman, Emilie's husband Avery, Olivia (who supervised the kids), and other Ascension volunteers. **Bottom Left:** Sophia's room, temporary wall in place. Her bed is under the concrete slabs. **Bottom Right:** Open House with our City Counselor Mary Deros (second from right, front row).

Prayer Concerns

For Nick, who joined our communion on All Saints Sunday through confirmation of his faith, that he might continue to grow in faith and in fellowship,

For Genevieve, Alex, Peter and Ann as they explore deeping their relationship with Christ at Ascension,

For the many who continue to hear the Gospel through our outreach events, that the Spirit might work faith in Christ in their hearts this holiday season.

Support this Work

To be announced! Until our accounts are officially changed, support can still be sent care of "ST-ONGE" at Mission Central or "ST-ONGE" at the LCMS:

Mission Central
40718 Highway E16
Mapleton, IA 51034

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