



IN THE WAY Christmas 2022 Edition

The year that was 2022 is quickly drawing to an end, and we turn our attention to the next year and all that it might bring. Will we see a recession? More shootings? More war? More displaced people seeking a home for their families? The Lord alone knows what 2023 has in store for our world.

This last year certainly brought its fair share of surprises, some pleasant and some unpleasant. We rejoiced to see the prayers we had for Ascension being a “Good News Place” in the midst of one of Canada’s most diverse neighbourhoods began to take shape.

Over the course of the spring and summer I transitioned from holding two calls, one as missionary in Montreal and one as Area Facilitator in the Caribbean, to serving at Ascension-full time through the Office of National Mission.

The Stones did an incredible job of hospitality ministry and bringing the Good News to the campus of McGill University. Ruth’s moms and tots group on Fridays, Lyman’s “introduction to Jesus” course in September, and many other bridges into the community brought the Gospel of Jesus Christ to many who had never heard it. Deaconess Emilie and her husband Avery worked alongside Ruth in expanding our English Outreach classes and open houses. For our part, the St-

Onges worked with our Ascension volunteers to keep the “wheels on the bus,” lead adult instruction and Bible studies, conduct worship services and do home visits for members as well as those interested in learning more about the Faith.

In September, Deaconess Emilie went on maternity leave following the birth of her first child, Owen. I left in October for a one month reconnect, where I had the chance to visit many of you from one end of the US to the other.

Then, less than two weeks after my return, a car careened down our street and crashed into Sophia’s basement bedroom, demolishing a sizeable chunk of the foundation wall. We then began a series of moves between temporary homes, seven in all before Christmas. To make things a little more interesting, we had two significant snow storms in December and almost all of us came down with our first bout of COVID-19. It was an epic end to the year!

What will 2023 bring? We pray one thing, in the words of the hymn: “Lord, give us faith to walk where You are sending / On paths unmarked, eyes blind as to their ending / Not knowing where we go, but that You lead us / With grace precede us” (LSB 311). Merry Christmas and a Grace-Filled New Year to you all!

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The Best of 2022!

Clockwise from Top Left: Our 22nd Anniversary; Pentecost Potluck; accepting my new call; open house; presenting at Memorial, Houston; in Toronto discussing Canada missions with Synod leaders.

