



## Mission Moments

The last few weeks have been an especially busy time for us. I spent the last three days of February and the first day of March in Mississauga, just outside Toronto. The LCMS pastors serving in Canada, our LCMS leadership, and several Lutheran Church – Canada (LCC) pastors and leaders, met to discuss our church bodies' relationship and how to improve our work together.

Lyman Stone led a series of four workshops on Canadian holidays and their Christian origins. Over three dozen people attended the workshops, with many of them coming early for our worship services. The majority of those who attended were Sikh, but some were also Muslim or Hindu.

In mid-March I started a "men's leadership group" study on Monday nights. About eight of us have been meeting to talk about using our gifts in our vocations and in service to the church. All but two of those attending have been at Ascension less than eight years, and four have been with us under two years. Through prayer and study we are preparing the next generation of leaders for our mission congregation.

Today, March 28, marks the end of our winter English as another language outreach. We will be handing out certificates to the five dozen or so students who have been working with Ruth Stone and with me. Sophia and a classmate, Santiago, have also been helping as part of their volunteer service high school class.

We were blessed to welcome Sirjit Kaur into the Kingdom of God through Holy Baptism this month. Another young woman has moved from an Ottawa Lutheran Church and is joining our fellowship. We have received five new members in the last four months.

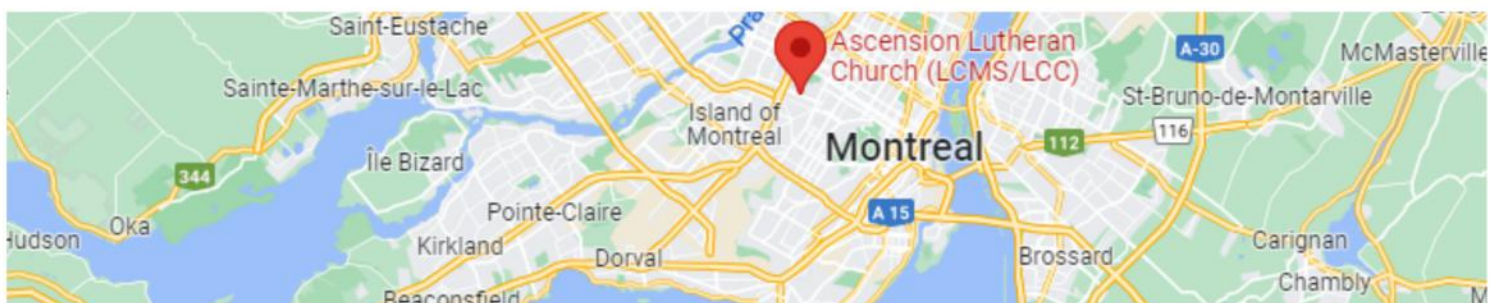
Last but not least, our Deaconess Emilie Stoller announced she, her husband and young son will be moving to Halifax this August. Avery has accepted a job there in his field. The Mission of Christ network and Concordia-Chicago also announced that Ascension will have a deaconess intern coming to serve with us around the same time.

## A Holey House

As many of you know, on November 15, a car smashed into our home and demolished Sophia's bedroom. It took out a good chunk of our basement foundation wall and rendered the home uninhabitable until repairs could be done. It took almost two months for an insurance adjustor to visit with a contractor. By that time, more damage had occurred, including a sagging first floor and basement floor. Until then there was no good support for the roof, and an uninsulated piece of plywood was all that separated the home from Montreal's famous winter weather.

From November to early January, we moved several times between AirBnBs while the girls found new ways to get to school and Deb and I prepared for Advent and Christmas at Ascension. Since January we have been living in a three bedroom AirBnB in Laval, between our old house and the church building.

Negotiations have finally begun between our insurance agency and the company contracted to restore the house. It's estimated that repairs will take at least six weeks once approval is given. We hope that approval will come by mid-April, which would mean a return home in early summer. Please keep us all in your prayers as we continue living out of suitcases until then!



## A Picture's Worth of Words



**Clockwise from Top Left:** Sirjit's baptism; Lyman teaching the holidays workshop; Sophia and Santiago at our Beginners' English Class; the Team enjoying a Saturday at the "Sugaring Shack," a Quebecois spring tradition; "The Bible in 30 Seconds" is on display with "Talking to Animals," "Reading the Tarot," and new age crystals at a Quebec bookstore.

## Prayer Concerns

For our men's leadership group, that we might grow in our faith, in support of each other, and in service to the Lord;

For those homebound by illness or the winter weather, especially Larry, Carrie, Parweede, Emily, Amitha, Vicki, Margaret, and Richard;

For Sophia and Olivia, as Sophia finishes her junior year and Olivia prepares to enter university in the fall at Université Concordia in Montreal (not an LCMS school).

## Support this Work

Support can be sent care of "ST-ONGE FAMILY" at Mission Central or "MONTREAL MISSION" 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