



# In The Way

April 2023

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## Christ is Risen Indeed!

One of the first computer programs I ever wrote was in middle school, in the 1980s, in BASIC. It made a pattern on the screen with the phrase, "Spring has sprung. The grass has ris'. I wonder where the flowers is?" I think of that "poem" every year in April as winter is finally forced to give way to spring.

This year, winter did not give up without a fight. It was cold enough Palm Sunday morning that we weren't able to gather outside for our procession. On Holy Wednesday, an ice storm engulfed the region that eventually plunged more than a million of us into darkness for one, two, and in some cases up to three days. By God's providence the church building had power the whole time. We had many souls leave their cold homes and brave the darkened streets to celebrate the gift of the Lord's Supper in our annual bilingual service.

By Good Friday morning many of us had power, and we gathered again to worship and then for a Moms and Kids event. Several families from the neighbourhood came to sing and play with us as we prepared to celebrate Easter. Deb led the music and movement program, while Deaconess Emilie led a Bible study on Jesus as our shepherd.

Immediately after Easter, I drove Deb to Macungie, PA for the spring SELC District Board meeting. I had a chance to share with the board about the work going on in Montreal (20% of our financial support comes from the District).

Earlier this week I attended my first Lutheran Church – Canada church workers' conference. This was the first time in decades that the LCMS pastors serving Canadian churches were invited to attend. One of the fruits of the growing fellowship between Canadian pastors is a renewed commitment to work together in mission. We aren't sure yet what that will look like, but the Holy Spirit does and we will allow him to continue his work among us. As Canada further secularizes, there is an increased need for the clear proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and witness to his mercy among us.

## Mission Moments

One of the greatest challenges and opportunities for mission in our neighbourhood is the variety of languages and cultures of the people of Parc-Extension. On a monthly basis we share the Gospel and the love of Christ with people who speak Urdu, Punjabi, Spanish, French, and Mandarin, just to name a few.

On Thursday morning, as I was preparing in my office to lead our noontime mid-week service, a young man knocked on the door asking about our English classes. They have become so popular that we are having to cut off total enrollment. He had heard about them, and wanted to make sure there would be space.

He explained that he was from Bangladesh and seeking refugee status in Canada. He had a degree in political studies back home which made him a target for persecution. It took me some time, but I was able to ask "where he prayed." He was finally able to understand, and said that he was a Muslim who attended one of the local mosques. I gave him the information for our class and told him we would be praying for him.

This young man is just one of many examples of people we will be sharing the Gospel with throughout May and June. Please pray for us as we share Jesus through English teaching!





## A Picture's Worth of Words



*Clockwise from Top Left:* Anna Benter (L), our new deaconess intern; Deb teaching a song at Moms and Kids; Sirjit (one of our new members) with the Pal family; Drs. Korcok and Kellerman of CTS – St. Catharines presenting on the importance of quality Lutheran preaching in the Church.



## Prayer Concerns

For our outreach amongst Punjabi speakers in our neighbourhood, that we might find more ways to share the Gospel with them;

For the relationship between the LCC and LCMS, that we might find ways to work together to bring the Gospel to the 40 million people of Canada and the 8.5 million in Quebec;

For our family, as we await a return to our home and all the stresses of reconstruction and the end of the school year.

## 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