

In The Way

May 2023

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Spring Missions in Montreal

The month of May saw the start of another English term at Ascension. On May 2 we began our beginners (and beginning beginners) classes, and our advanced conversational English classes started on May 18. I'm leading the "beginning beginners" class again, while Ruth is leading the larger beginners' class and online advanced English. Deb is serving again as one of the conversation partners on Thursday evening.

We have volunteers from all over, not just Ascension, working one on one, or one on two, with many Montreal area students. **If you would be interested in having a conversation about a Bible passage with a someone for 40-45 minutes for six Tuesdays, email me and let me know!**

Deb also helped out at our Moms and Kids day on Friday, May 5. Her gifts and abilities in teaching music and working with children have been much appreciated. We would like to build on those skills when time (and parenting) permits!

I attended our SELC circuit meeting in Westport, Connecticut on May 8-9, leading a discussion I entitled "What Does It Mean to be Lutheran? Beyond Litmus Tests.." The next week I attended a French Liturgy workshop hosted here in Montreal by the Lutheran Church – Canada's David Somers. The workshop was led by Philip Magness, LCMS missionary to Africa, and introduced us to the new African French hymnal supplement. French-speaking pastors and people from the LCMS, LCC, Synod of France, and the Congo, Cameroon and Haiti also attended. Matthew Heise, executive director of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation, stayed after to preach at Ascension. He also brought us catechisms and materials in Punjabi and Persian that were warmly received!

On the last Sunday in May we held our annual Pentecost fellowship. This year we had a potluck and game time, featuring foods from all around the world as well as the Ascension potluck staple: samosas.

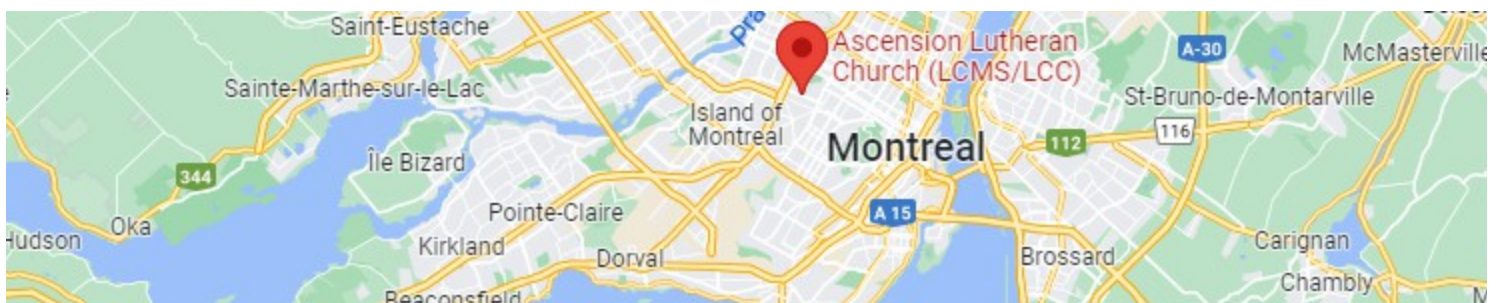
Finally, we received news that Anna Benter, our new deaconess intern, will be joined this summer by Kayla Gundermann. Both of them will be helping us with our English and Open House outreach efforts.

Mission Moments

Surkeep (not her real name) and her young daughter came to our English class this semester. She had become a Christian in India, and was so happy to find a Christian church in her new community of Parc-Extension. She asked if she could join our fellowship, and whether her daughter could be baptized.

Many Indians and Pakistanis with whom we work know only two "confessions" of Christianity: Roman Catholic, and not-Roman Catholic. Churches of the "not-Roman Catholic" variety tend to be a blend of Pentecostal and Baptist worship. But they often take Jesus' words about the Lord's Supper at face value. "Of course it's his body and blood," they say. "He says so." Would that all Christians had such child-like faith!

Surkeep was given a copy of the Catechism in Punjabi which we are asking her to read. We could certainly use a Hindi and Punjabi speaker here to go deeper into the Catechism with her, and also with Surjeet who was baptized in March. We are thankful for the work of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation in translating the teaching materials we need for sharing Christ.



A Picture's Worth of Words



Clockwise from Top Left: New members from India; Jason and Vahid, China and Persia, enjoy fellowship together; Pentecost worship; Open House with Mary Deros with over 80 attending; same day off, two opposing "celebrations" in French Quebec vs. English Canada.

Prayer Concerns

For those coming to worship for whom English is not their first language, that the Spirit that gave understanding at Pentecost would use the Word to create understanding among us;

For Anna and Kayla are they prepare to join us in our work, and for the Prozenkos as they prepare for their move to Halifax;

For our family, who should be returning home in June, Lord willing, for the first time since November 2022.

Support this Work

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

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