

# In The Way

## September 2023

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## Fall Starts at Ascension

September is often one of the busiest months at Ascension, and this September was no exception. We spent a good portion of the month training our two new workers, exposing them to their first volunteer day, English classes, and open house, as well as letting them experience fall in Montreal.

Our fall volunteer day on September 2 was such a success that the work outside Ascension was completed in under half an hour. Several dozen members of the community, many of them Sikh, came to clean out our flower beds and clean up the front lawn.

The next week we held our annual Montreal Forum. Several partners, including mission execs from the SELC and English District, came to help us set our action plan for the coming year. We are working to intentionally bring a Lutheran Hindi or Punjabi speaker to Parc-Extension to lead one or more workshops on Christianity. Partners participated in a "listening walk" around Parc-Extension and marvelled at the opportunities and challenges to mission. Opportunities abound, like the easy opportunity to speak to people on the street. Challenges abound as well, such as the ongoing eliminating of parking throughout the neighborhood in favor of dedicated bike lanes. The Forum ended with an installation service for Anna Benter and Kayla Gundermann.

English classes started in early September, and attendance is once again very good. We have several dozen in the Beginners' Class, I teach another dozen in the "Beginning" Beginners' Class, and over two dozen volunteers and students participate in the online Advanced Class. See pictures on the back of the newsletter.

We had two mission team "bonding events" as well. One was a Sunday afternoon trip to one of our local apple orchards called "Jude Pomme," a play on the French for "apple juice," which is jus de pomme. The second was a Saturday trip to Mont-Tremblant, a "swiss village" an hour and a half north of Montreal complete with its own gondola chair lift and outdoorsy shops.

We have more events scheduled for October, but the sharing of the Gospel is already off to a great start!

## Life in the Field

By Sophia St-Onge

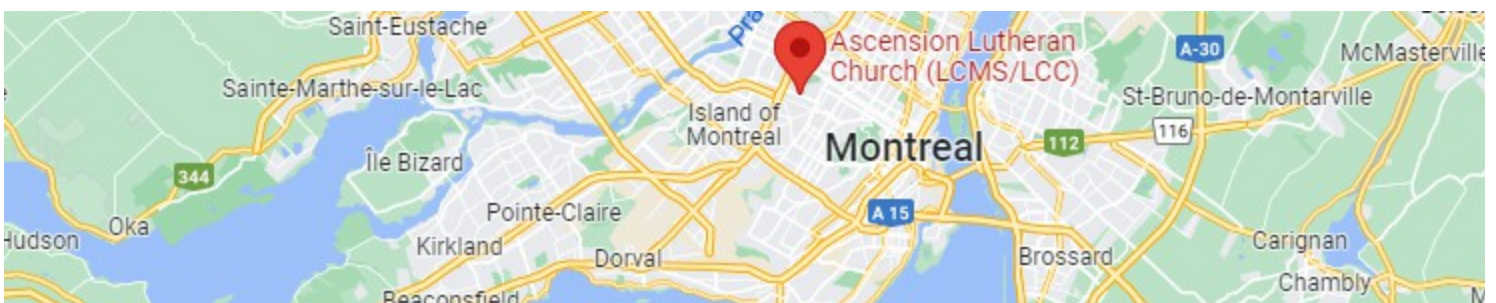
Hello! I'm 16 now and this year I started at a new high school. It's a small high school with only 60 students in all. That means there are only 6-12 people per class. My grades are going up which I'm super thankful for.

I'm struggling a little bit in French, but I'm trying my best. (ED: Sophia has to demonstrate a basic fluency in spoken and written French to receive a high school diploma in Quebec).

At my new school, every two weeks, we go on field trips like the zoo, hiking, skating, etc. (ED: There is no gym in her building, and Quebec also requires five phys. ed. classes to receive a diploma).

The teachers are also super caring and helpful. I've made some really good friends that I see every day after school. We mostly go to the water or get a hot chocolate. But over all there are really nice people.

*Sophia's new school is a public school about 30 minutes from us. It's designed for kids who may be struggling with Quebec's standards.*



## A Picture's Worth of Words



**Clockwise from Top Left:** Our Beginners' English Class for the Fall of 2023; Volunteer Day cleaning the church building yard; the Team goes apple picking (Anna, Kayla, Ruth, Lyman, and Olivia with Jojo); the Stones present at the Montreal Forum meeting; my "Beginning" Beginners' Class for Fall 2023.

## Prayer Concerns

For everyone attending our English classes, that they might have ears to hear the Good News being shared with them,

For the new individuals and families who started attending this September, that we might support them in their Christian growth, especially Jorge, Steve, Jeff and Min, and Jamar,

For the members of our team, especially for safety for our "newest" member: Ruth and Lyman's baby.

## 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