

# In The Way

October 2023

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## Fall English Term Ends

Our Fall beginners' English outreach ended this month, and our conversational English outreach will end in just a few more days. We had several dozen members of our community attend, many who were Sikh but others of different faiths and backgrounds. Once again we taught the Gospel through the Lord's Prayer and helped new immigrants and refugees learn the language spoken by the rest of Canada. My "beginning" beginners' class varied from six to fourteen, including a few children who would occasionally attend with their mums. Through activities like this, we have build up a database of over 450 people who receive regular invitations to worship.

## Ottawa Circuit Forum

On October 21, Deb, Nick, Vahid and I attended the fall Ottawa Circuit forum of the Lutheran Church – Canada in the city of Ottawa. The theme was "Missions in Quebec and Beyond," led remotely from Montreal by Pastor David Somers. The Ottawa circuit of the LCC stretches 1,200 miles from one end to the other. By way of comparison, it is only 850 miles to drive across the widest part of Texas!

## Fellowship Events

We had several fellowship opportunities for the congregation in October, including a walk in a nearby national park, Mont-St-Bruno.\* There was a bowling day, which many members and non-members attended. Lyman and Ruth Stone hosted a Reformation party on October 28, at their home. Two dozen members and non-members gathered to eat, enjoy a Reformation trivia contest, and join in a hymn sing.

Our largest fellowship gathering was on Reformation Sunday. We held our annual bilingual service with the Lutheran Church – Canada's French congregation and had around ninety people in attendance. Many of them are new residents of Montreal who have arrived from Lutheran churches in west Africa. We shared a lunch after worship of African chicken, rice and bread as well as a plethora of potluck salads and desserts. Our deaconess intern, Anna Benter, and mission worker Kayla Gundermann organized a special mosaic art project in which many adults and kids participated.

\* Quebec calls their "provincial" parks "national" parks.

## Mission Moment

Mission is about language, because we are often speaking to people in a different mother tongue than our own, or with those who share our language but not our understanding of God and his grace in Jesus Christ. This requires language training and a lot of patience!

Deb gave the explanations before our Reformation luncheon in English *and* French for the first time this year. Pastor Somers came up to translate, only to realize he really didn't have to! It was an exciting moment for everyone, especially Deb.

We learned the Persian word of greeting was "salom" – peace. We've been using that regularly with Vahid and Parisa, our new Persian members.

Lyman Stone learned the Punjabi greeting, "Hello! / How are you?" He actually learned it from our Greek city counselor, who has picked up the language of many in our community.





## A Picture's Worth of Words



**Clockwise from Top Left:** Pastor and two of our youngest mission workers, Suzie and Jojo Lyman; the Fall "beginning" beginners' English class; Reformation Sunday luncheon; Ascension welcomes people in ten languages; the community comes out to learn about "keeping Parc-Extension clean" at our *Ville en vert* open house.

## Prayer Concerns

For the students attending Ascension while they are at college, especially Olivia, Rachel (Moncton, New Brunswick), Jamar (Mississauga, Ontario), and Charlotte (Paris, France),

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

For Anna and Kayla, as they settle in to their new routines and their work in our church and community.

## 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