

In The Way

January 2024

The St-Onge Family
charles.stonge@lcms.org
intheway.org
244 21e Avenue
Deux-Montagnes, QC
J7R 4H1 Canada



It's a new (secular) year! We pray that the Lord will bless the work that he has given us to do in Montreal. May he enable us to proclaim the Good News of Jesus in our city, demonstrate his mercy to our neighbours, and to love one another as he has loved us. This is our prayer and our mission.

Christmas Season



Kayla and Deb helped provide some wonderful music for our services on December 24, morning and evening, and Christmas Day morning. Many members old and new came to help decorate the sanctuary. Our Iranian members were especially excited to get out the Wise Men creche figurines – "Our spiritual ancestors!" Vahid proclaimed. We even had Sikh and Hindu guests at our services to hear the Gospel story. We pray it will take root in their hearts and the hearts of the many we interact with each week. Speaking of which...

Outreach Season

Our English classes, open houses, and other outreach activities are all restarted for another season. Anna and Kayla have been hosting special events for our college students and young people. They made and decorated cookies for shut-ins, for example. We are teaching beginners' English on Tuesday evenings, with about 20 in the Beginners and 14 in my "Beginning" Beginners class. I teach an online Bible study (you can all attend!) on Wednesday evenings, and lead a mid-week service on Thursdays at noon. But to make all that possible, 2024 will also be a...

Building Season

We will also be focusing this year on efforts to fix and improve our seventy-two-year-old facility, which is showing its age. One of our new members has a degree in Architecture and teaches at a local university. He's part of a small group working with an architectural firm, Appareil, to complete a master plan of our building. It should be done by the early summer. Vahid, who is now also studying French, continues to help with maintenance. We are also planning to welcome a team this summer to assist with additional work.

Mission Moment

Controversy over the "religious" nature of state holidays (see: Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter). The ability of the government to override freedom of "conscience, religion, opinion, expression, peaceful assembly" if they are deemed to interfere with "secularism of the state, public order," or the "public's welfare." Laws prohibiting the wearing of any clothing or jewelry of a religious nature by police officers, court officials, or teachers. These are realities of life in Quebec.

This impacts our kids lives in various ways. Olivia, for example, has exams scheduled for Sunday mornings by her university. One professor told students "no religious exceptions." Sophia has heard students chanting "f*#@ priests" in her school hallways.

The Church of Rome exercised a lot of worldly authority in Quebec through the 1940s. It has soured the majority on "Christianity." It is our work here to proclaim, as Paul writes, "a still more excellent way" (1 Cor. 12:31).



A Picture's Worth of Words



Top Left: Deb speaking with a Sikh family on "cleaning day," using "Google Translate" to get the word across; **Bottom Left:** Winter Beginning Beginners class with Pastor St-Onge – space is at a premium; **Top Right:** Caroling down the church's street. Note Ascension's building on the left; **Bottom Right:** Sophia has been bringing her friend Brendan to worship and some church activities. This was the first major snow of 2024, on Sunday, January 7. The sign says "Who do you say Jesus is?" in French.

Prayer Concerns

For Sophia and Olivia, growing up in a culture that is indifferent and sometimes outright hostile to the Faith;

For Deb who is traveling to Austria to be with her younger cousin, Lindsey, in treatment for serious cancer and also dealing with the loss of her husband,

For Chloe and Jackline, that their unborn children may be delivered safely in the coming days, and for Jorge and Denys, the fathers of these new children.

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