

In The Way

February 2024

The St-Onge Family
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I thank the Lord for an extra day this month to talk about what he's been doing in our midst. We give thanks for the gifts that have been shared in study, conversation, and Divine Service this month, as well as the many dozens with whom we have shared the story of Jesus our Good Shepherd.

English Classes



Our winter beginners' English class ended on February 27 with around three dozen people participating, almost evenly split between "beginning beginners" and those with a little English already. We read Psalm 23 together at the start of every class. Each week I would look in depth at one line of the Psalm and talk about our Christian faith. The very last night we learned the word "amen" – the only non-English word in our prayer. Each class also ends with prayer for the week and an invitation to study and worship.

Campus Ministry

Our main focus for campus ministry this year has been on the four college students who attend Ascension regularly. In addition to our own Olivia, we have a student from the LCC church in New Brunswick, another from a WELS church near Toronto, and a third from a Synod of France congregation in Paris. We took them all to Quebec City for a day at the (very soggy) winter carnival. It was the 70th anniversary of the festival and the temperature was above forty fahrenheit – about twenty degrees higher than usual. Despite a melting ice castle and bare grass snow mobile runs, we had a wonderful time together.



Mission Moment

"Sir, respect. I would like to learn about Christianity." This was a text I received this month from an unknown number. "What is your name?" is usually my standard response to this kind of text. The name was one I knew: a student from my beginners' English class. He has very, very limited English. But enough to use Google translate to ask more about our faith.

People often ask me how "big" our congregation is. That implies there is a set number of people that are "in," that are "Christian," as opposed to those who are not. I prefer to think in terms of people being drawn closer to Christ...and those the world is trying to pull away.

Whether it is someone who sits in the pew every Sunday, or someone just asking about Christianity, God is at work through the Gospel of Jesus to call people to his Son. Through the Good News, we pray that we are all being brought closer to Christ each day.



A Picture's Worth of Words



Top Left: Rachel "on ice" in one of the exhibits at Quebec City's Winter Carnival. **Bottom Left:** Deb volunteered to grade the beginners' class students' English. **Top Right:** Ascension students, along with workers Kayla and Anna, in front of Quebec's National Assembly. The French reads "stronger than the cold" in Quebecois slang. **Middle Right:** Our Winter 2024 English students, some of whom will be returning in a couple of weeks to continue with their studies. **Bottom Right:** one of our newest members with his mom. Owen's family have emigrated to Quebec from Brazil, where they were members of a Lutheran church.

Prayer Concerns

For Owen and Fiona, that they would be brought up in the hope and knowledge of Jesus Christ,

For Jorge, Brendan, Jeff and his family, and others, as they learn more about our Lord and his salvation,

For those dealing with anxiety and treatments for illness, especially Emily, Linda, Carrie, and Larry,

For the ongoing mission of Ascension to be the Good News Place in Montreal.

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

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