

# In The Way

December 2018

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## Welcome New Co-Workers!

What new co-workers, you might say? **You are!** The several dozen people from Azle, TX through Waterville, ME, from Houston, TX to Greenwich, CT, who are getting this newsletter for the first time. Thanks to your faithful prayers and support, we are able to head into 2019 with the wind/Spirit at our backs and Christ leading the way, all to the glory of the Father. We look forward to staying in touch with you every month over the coming years.

This month I spent another 11 days on the road. The first half of the month I met with many of you in the Houston, TX area, at Concordia University Texas, at Grace in Elgin, TX and at Messiah in Keller, TX. The middle of the month I visited Resurrection in Waterville, ME, St. Paul in New Hartford, CT, Immanuel in Bristol, CT and First / St. Paul in Greenwich, CT. I will be at Peace in Cincinnati, OH on December 30.

## Work Up North

It is the beginning of winter today, but the pouring rain out the window will leave us with just a few smidgens of snow – it will be a cold, but green, Christmas in Montréal this year. I'll be leading our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services in English this year. We pray that the Lord blesses the proclamation of the Gospel here this weekend. Next month our mission team will meet for the first time to plan our next mission steps for the city in 2019.

## Work Down South

With my network reconnect completed for another two years, I'm ready to dive back in to the supervision of work in the Caribbean. With the strengthening of our team in Puerto Rico, including the February arrival of both (now Rev.) James Neuendorf and Deaconess Christel Neuendorf, I hope to return to a more supervisory advisory role and be less of a day-to-day manager. Focus will shift a little more to Jamaica, as I work with our new short term team coordinator Erin Mackenzie to complete renovations on our ministry centre. I will also be back to the Caymans, and continuing the search for a longer-term missionary. It appears that all our supply pastor needs for 2019 are covered for the Caymans, for which we give thanks to the Lord!

## Mission Moment

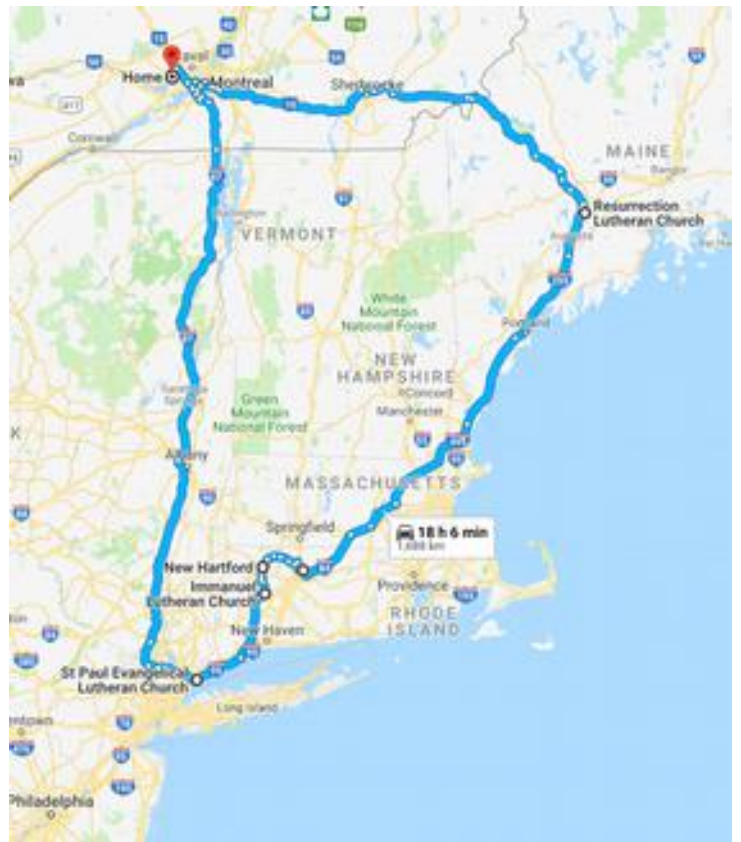
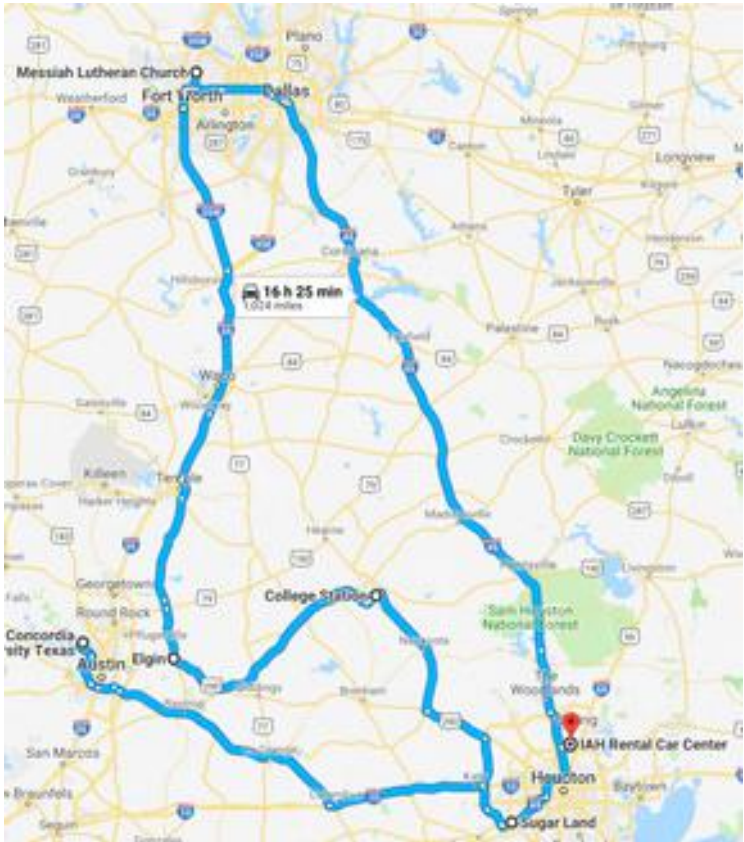
As many of you have heard over the last two months, Ascension, Montreal is located in a community of 36,000 people in a half-square mile area. That's three times the population of Elgin, Texas in an area 1/4 the size. About 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s of that population are immigrants from every corner of the world: Pakistan, India, the Caribbean, South America and Eastern Europe, primarily.

This week Deb and I met with a group called Promis-Quebec that helps provide services for immigrants and refugees to help them assimilate. They have never worked with a Protestant church, but are thinking about partnering with us. I also had a meeting with our English outreach teachers. All of this is to explore the possibility of increasing our work with this particular community.

Of the eight folks I confirmed and baptized this year, only one was born in Canada. While immigrant outreach is not the only outreach opportunity opening to us, it is one to which we will be devoting much thought and prayer over the winter.



## A Picture's Worth of Words...



**Top Left:** Visiting supporters in the Golden Triangle of Texas, Nov 30-Dec 7. **Top Right:** Visiting New England supporters old and new, Dec 10-14. **Bottom Left:** Sophia and Olivia renew friendships in Houston, TX. **Bottom Middle:** Chatting with seventh graders at Immanuel Lutheran School, Bristol, CT. **Bottom Right:** Guest preacher at Concordia University Texas in Austin.

## Prayer Concerns

In thanksgiving for healing for Deb's ankle and Sophia's as well, and for protection from worsening viruses,

For the mission to Montreal, that we might focus on those things that are profitable for our congregation's growth,

For new missionaries in Puerto Rico and new pastor-in-training in Jamaica, and our volunteers serving the Caymans, that all might be blessed by Christ this Christmas season.

## Support this Work

You can donate online at [lcms.org/givenow/stonge](https://lcms.org/givenow/stonge). Or you may send a cheque, payable to **The LCMS**, to the addresses below. Include **St-Onge – LAC** in the memo line.

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