

# In The Way

July 2020

The St-Onge Family in Mission

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intheway.org

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## Work Up North

After four months of quarantines and lock downs, Quebec is now as fully opened as it is likely to be until we find a vaccine for COVID-19. That means restaurants are open (sort of), malls are open (with lots of distancing, masks and hand sanitizer), parks are open (mostly, but not in all places) and places of worship are open (at 50% capacity or up to 250 people at a time).

Well over 4,000 Montreal area residents succumbed to COVID-19 over a five month period. (The seasonal flu, by comparison, claims 200 to 800 lives a year). The metro region is now seeing under two hundred new cases a day, and deaths in the single digits, and we would like to keep it that way as long as we can.

Our city's slow and gradual reopening started back in mid-May. We are now enjoying the chance to get out, to be with each other, and to celebrate the Lord's Supper together. We have had in-person worship services every Sunday in July at Ascension. The services are also live streamed via Zoom and available on YouTube. Setting up the sanctuary for live streaming was quite a task, but as half of our attendance is still via the internet, a worthwhile one.

Deb and our D.I. Emilie (deaconess intern, not detective inspector!) organized a virtual vacation Bible school. Thanks to Julie and Jaimee Stoller from Zion (SELC) in Norridge, IL who also helped. Over a dozen kids from Montreal, Chicago, Cincinnati, Moncton, and the Virgin Islands participated each day at 2 PM the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July.

Since I have been grounded now for four months, and we cannot travel back to family in the US, we have enjoyed a few days of "staycation" this month. We've finally had a chance to visit the famous Granby Zoo, take a hike at Mt. Tremblant National Park, and get some work done around the house.

## Work Down South

Our team in Puerto Rico has prepared for the hurricane season, stockpiling relief supplies at both our disaster response centers. Ashley Lehr has arrived to begin her service on island, and our English and internet outreach continues to expand there. Obot Ite continues to bring the Gospel to the people of Kingston and the larger Jamaican community. We await a meeting of the Board for International Mission to consider extending a call to a missionary for service in the Cayman Islands. Even without travel, work to support our missions in the south continues!

## Mission Moment

"Where did God come from?" That was one of the many questions our fearless vacation Bible school teachers encountered as they shared about being a Hero of the Faith with a small group of international kids. Children are smarter than we give them credit, and are internalizing what is happening right now in our world. We should never be afraid to share the grown-up Good News of Jesus Christ with the little ones whom Jesus wants to welcome with open arms.

Adults, too, ask their own profound questions. Our mid-week study has been reading through the Book of Jonah. Both long-time Christians and new seekers are asking the big questions, and finding out that there are indeed answers to their deep questions. Can God change his mind? Is God mostly a judge or mostly a savior? Why are there so many different kinds of Christian?

These unprecedented times are still opening unprecedented opportunities to share the Gospel!





## A Picture's Worth of Words

**Clockwise from Right:** Charles preparing the Lord's Supper with our new temporary vessels; Emilie and Deb leading "virtual" Vacation Bible School from church building; Emilie greeting visitors and members for worship. About 50% of our attendance is still virtual, with a total attendance a little higher than pre-COVID; Olivia St-Onge at the controls of our new on-line streaming system, monitoring new attendees and incoming chat messages.



## Prayer Concerns

For Deaconess Intern Emilie Stoller, who will be married at Ascension to Avery Prozenko on August 1, and for her American family who will be unable to attend due to the closed border;

For the children who heard the Good News of our salvation in Jesus in Vacation Bible School, that they may find courage in what they heard;

For all missionaries, pastors and Christians sharing the Gospel in dark and frightening times.

## 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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