

In The Way

January 2025

The St-Onges
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Mission Moment

One of the questions I'm asked by our District mission executive every month is, "tell me about a conversation you had with someone who doesn't attend your services." I then get to look back over the last four weeks and consider who I've spoken to that not only isn't a member of Ascension, but hasn't been to worship with us. Some months this list is longer than others. January was one of those months.

Some of the people are thinking about coming to worship, but for physical reasons cannot enter our building. Some of them cannot drive, and public transit can take more than an hour to reach our facility. Some of them are Christian, newly arrived from southeast Asia. Others are not Christian at all but are interested in who Jesus is. But the opportunities each month are many, for which I give thanks to the Lord.

I had a conversation over two years ago with one person in particular. I had the chance to have breakfast with him again this month. To my pleasant surprise he attended our Wednesday night bible class by Zoom. One never knows where a conversation will lead!

Another New Year

It's hard for me to believe that it's 2025. In many ways that seems like a year out of science fiction and not a real date. But we are already one month in to this year of God's grace, and the Lord has gotten us off to fast start.

Our beginners' English class this term includes almost forty new students. I spoke with many of them, and found Arabic, French, Malagasy, Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi and Bengali speakers among them. Despite freezing cold temperatures and squall winds three dozen people attended our first open house.

I've started a Monday evening "Conversations about Christ" time at Ascension for people from our classes interested in learning more about Jesus. We've had several people come, with two Christians from India being our regular attenders. We've given out catechisms in Bengali, Punjabi and Hindi.

Our Wednesday study group has chosen to read through Judges and Acts this year. Judges, because it deals with the cyclical and fallen nature of life in this world. Acts, because it focuses specifically on how Christians ought to live in these often trying and frightening times.

Deb and I also attended our triennial SELC District convention in Orlando, Florida. It seems we brought the cold with us; most days the temperature stayed in the 50s. Deb was re-elected to our SELC board as lay member with mission focus. I was elected to serve as our circuit delegate to the 2026 LCMS Synodical convention.

I also began serving this month as a member of the new LCEF Canada Corporation board, serving the financial needs of LCMS and LCC congregations up north. A busy month indeed!



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A Picture's Worth of Words



Quebec bishops pan Legault's push to ban public prayer

Federal immigration minister says freedom of religion should be respected

Posted: December 10, 2024 3:32 PM EST
Last Updated: 1 hour ago
The Canadian Press

Quebec's Catholic bishops have come out against Premier François Legault's desire to end prayer in public places, saying it would violate people's constitutional rights.



Left: Quebec is still trying to strip religion out of public life; **Above:** speaking at our SELC convention; **Below:** teaching the Lord's Prayer at Ascension.



Prayer Concerns

- For Steve, Raoul, Pawan, Arun, Shally, Tejinder, Lise, Jaskarandeep, Rajesh, and all who are exploring becoming members of Christ at Ascension,
- For the many who have colds, flu, COVID, RSV, and other diseases in these winter months that they would be kept in the Lord.

Support this Work



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