

# In The Way

August 2025

The St-Onges  
244 21e Avenue  
Deux-Montagnes, QC  
J7R 4H1 CANADA



## Mission Moment

There are two distinct missions that I've identified here in Montreal. Both are to what we might call immigrants, but of different sorts.

The first is to those newly arrived in Quebec and building a life here. Our first Sunday back I was greeted by a young man who'd started attending before I left. He speaks Urdu and English but is learning French, and is seriously considering baptism. All our open houses, English classes, and other community work are geared to building bridges with folks like him.

The second are those Christians who are looking for an expression of the faith that is more than "what's happening now." They often connect with Reformation theology through websites and podcasts, then come seeking a faithful church that proclaims the Gospel clearly and sees worship as receiving gifts and not "giving glory." A young couple, their baby, and a friend came last Sunday seeking exactly that, and I've begun conversing with them.

Hebrews proclaims that folks like this "are seeking a homeland...they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city." (Heb 11:14, 16). And we are not ashamed to be the port of entry to the city that is Christ's.

## The Year Ahead

I'm back to work and putting in motion things the Lord brought to mind during my sabbatical. The renovations to Ascension need to be completed, and I've restarted that work with our subcontractors. Our mission to our East Indian residents has restarted, with an improved Punjabi worship folder for guests in addition to the Punjabi translation of the sermon notes.

If we are to expand our second mission to "Christian refugees," however, we need to deal with our worsening parking situation. We have only three off-street parking spots, and on some Sundays even we end up parking eight to ten minutes away from the building. In winter, parking becomes almost non-existent. I'm in negotiations with a church in another area of the city, one with a parking lot, close to major highways, in which to conduct a second service from November through March. This will also "dip our toe" into the waters of a second church plant.

We're working with Lutheran Heritage Foundation to be able to print materials directly in Canada, and my work with the soon-to-be LCEF-Canada corporation is increasing. Both will enable not only our mission but others as well to expand.

Last, a great thanksgiving to **Deaconess Maryann Hayter** at the LCMS IC, who has greatly simplified the flow of funds from you who support us to Montreal!



[charles.stonge@lcms.org](mailto:charles.stonge@lcms.org)

[intheway.org](http://intheway.org)

[ascensionlutheran.ca](http://ascensionlutheran.ca)

# A Picture's Worth of Words



**Clockwise from Top Right:** Coffee hour at St. Mungo, Glasgow (1197 AD); St. Magnus, Kirkwall (1137 AD); the chapel of St. Margaret, Edinburgh (1130 AD); Broch of Dun Carloway, Isle of Harris (100s BC); entry into Maeshowe Temple, Orkney (the interior was estimated to have been built centuries before the birth of Abraham). See more pictures of some of the churches we visited at [intheway.org](http://intheway.org).

## Prayer Concerns

- For Olivia, who begins her last fifteen months of university in September;
- For Sophia, who graduated from Quebec high school (!!!) and will be moving to Ontario to look for work and a break from school for a bit;
- For Deborah, who has volunteered to teach one of our English classes this year.

## Support this Work



By check and mail c/o  
"Montreal / St-Onge" at:  
Mission Central  
40718 Highway E16  
Mapleton, IA 51034