

# In The Way

September 2025

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



## Focus 2026

Our fall 2025 Montreal Forum meeting was held the last Friday in September. We were privileged to have many new attendees from our partner congregations, including Rev. Gery Luck, the circuit visitor for Canada East of the English District; Rev. Philip Gai, pastor at St. Mark in Mississauga; and Linda Patel from San Francisco representing the Mission of Christ Network. Rev. Jim Douthwaite sat in for the SELC District, as our mission executive, Dr. Mark Larson, was grounded in St. Louis due to weather.

We set a streamlined action plan for the coming months, owing to the smaller team of workers and volunteers. We have moved our Beginners' English Class to Sunday afternoon to enable Deb to teach, and so we can take advantage of members already being at the church building and able to volunteer. Over thirty students attended our first session, and fourteen volunteers (five of whom are not members) assisted.

Our first open house with Promis-Quebec, an immigration assistance group, will take place on October 2. We also plan to continue our work with students, fellowship meals, a Bible camp (in French, we hope!) during March break, and recruiting a US-based team to help us complete our building renovations.

## Eleven Years of Ministry

This fall we begin our eleventh decade of work in Montreal. That means I, personally, have lived longer in our house in Deux-Montagnes than anywhere else my whole life. Yet even though we've been at Ascension more than ten years, we have in some ways served three different congregations.

When we arrived, the congregation had one main family, new to the Lutheran church, who made up 20% of our attendance. We still had many original Slovak members as well.

By 2020 and the COVID epidemic, however, that family had relocated to Nova Scotia. Most of the old Slovak members had fallen asleep, and new people from the Parc-Extension community and from greater Montreal began to show up.

Now, we have both local members who have been newly baptized, and converts to the Faith who come from twenty and as much as ninety miles away.

What will the congregation look like as we head towards the 2030s? Proposed bans on prayer outside of places of worship, a future separation referendum for Quebec as early as 2027, and continued restrictions on the use of English will be major challenges.

But the Lord will be with us. And we thank you for being with us in the Lord as well. Together, we will proclaim the Good News of Jesus to Parc-Extension and the Greater Montreal area.



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

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

# A Picture's Worth of Words



**Clockwise from Top Right:** Forum 2025 attendees; Deb, Soma and Sonia at English Class; Jamar, Aneer, Angel and Leeann at English Class; Forum attendees listening to Grace Sugg present on her work in Parc-Extension; our first English class, with Linda speaking about her conversion to Christianity and Deb teaching names and introductions; our new front door with a fire-safe crash bar and a safety window—making it a little more welcoming for guests and members alike.

## Prayer Concerns

- For Sophia, who will be moving to Ontario to look for work this month;
- For our elderly members, especially Spencer, who is suffering from hip pain, and for Larry, who is awaiting a kidney transplant,
- For all our English volunteers, especially Kathryn, Soma, Sonia, Amio, Aneer, Jamar, Angel and Olivia.

## Support this Work



By check and mail c/o  
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