

# In The Way

November 2025

## The St-Onges

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



## Pivot Point

*“And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us” (Acts 16:9, ESV)*

On Sunday, November 23, I received a divine call to serve St. John’s Lutheran Church in Pembroke, Ontario. If Ascension is a small community in a metropolis, St. John’s is the opposite: a large church in a small town of 14,000. Deb and I are now deliberating this call and ask for your prayers.

This is a milestone date year. Deb turned 60, Olivia turned 21, Sophia turned 18, our marriage turned 25, and we completed 10 years of ministry at Ascension. Sophia has finished high school and is having to leave Quebec to look for work in English. Olivia is entering her last year of university. Our family is pivoting to a new future.

Ascension is also at a pivot point. As our outreach among Hindi-, Punjabi- and Bengali-speakers grows, our outreach amongst the dwindling English population in Montreal is struggling mostly due to our location. With the growing push towards eliminating English in the province entirely, and a new push for Quebec independence, this community will shrink even more in the years ahead.

Should we choose to accept the call to stay in Montreal, it will not be accepting the status quo but a) a call to learn one of Parc-Ex’s languages, b) keeping up the fight for closer cooperation between the LCC and the LCMS (one step forward, one step back) and c) a likely relocation to Ascension. Please pray as we deliberate what the Lord has in store for us next!

## In Praise of Deb

I called Deb up to the front the other week and introduced a new “Hallmark Holiday”: Pastor’s Wife Appreciation Sunday. Deb is more than just my helpmate: she is an integral part of what Ascension does as “The Good News Place.”

This fall Deb taught a whole trimester of beginners’ English for the first time to over two dozen students. Judging by the hugs and thank yous at the end of the term it was much appreciated! Attendance barely dropped over the course of the eight weeks—which it normally does as the term goes on.

Deb is also the secretary of Ascension’s church council, the head of our Women of Ascension group, the mailer of Portals of Prayer booklets, an active part of our mission team, the musician for our Sunday evening and Wednesday services, an SELC District board member and a mother to two missionary kids. She led the clean out of our old pantry and the organization of our new kitchen - a major task in and of itself!

While I may be the missionary pastor here, Deb is every bit as much a part of this work. Praise the Lord for her faithful and selfless service.



[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



**Top Left:** Graduates of our Fall 2025 Beginners' English Class, taught by Deb and Grace Sugg.



**Middle Left:** Members of Ascension and many from the community came out to help clean the church after the renovation work, pack up supplies, and clean up the LCC's new storage room and office.

**Bottom Left:** Balraj and Baljit received Christ's gift of Holy Baptism on Sunday, November 9.



**Bottom Right:** I attended the first in-person meeting of the LCEF-Canada board at the annual LCEF meeting in St. Louis in early November. I currently serve as board secretary.

## Prayer Concerns

- For Balraj and Baljit, newly baptized members and confirmands,
- For the Patterson, Lehoux, Torres, and Tetreault families, and for Dominique and Damien, Steve and Giancarlo that the Gospel may strengthen and keep them day by day.
- For Pastor St-Onge as he deliberates his calls.

## Support this Work



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