

ASCENSION
LUTHERAN CHURCH
“The Good News Place”
ascensionlutheran.ca

Mission Field Montreal

Rev. Charles St-Onge, Missionary Pastor

Deborah St-Onge, Admin / Coordinator

Anna Voelker, Deaconess Intern

Kayla Gundermann, Mission Worker



Mission Field Montreal

Rev. Charles St-Onge
August 18, 2024

The Lord's Mission at Ascension, Montreal, QC

Ascension Lutheran Church is the only confessional Lutheran church building in Canada's 2nd largest city. Planted in the 1930s, Ascension now ministers to the diverse population of the Parc-Extension neighbourhood. Within a fifteen minute walk of the church's door live over thirty thousand people, almost ninety percent of whom are immigrants or the children of immigrants. How will they hear the Good News of Jesus, unless the Word is proclaimed among them?

The Montreal Forum is made up of individuals representing church bodies, districts, mission groups and congregations that support the work going on at Ascension. They meet in person each fall to review what the Lord has been doing through Ascension, what work the mission team and congregation will engage in over the coming year, what financial and personnel needs exist, and to pray for the Lord of the Harvest to empower this work. Current Montreal Forum partners include Ascension, the SELC and English Districts of the LCMS, the Mission of Christ Network, Memorial Lutheran Church in Houston, TX, and the Lutheran Church—Canada.

COVID shutdowns throughout 2020 and 2021 meant work got off to a slow start. But Ascension now offers regular introductory English classes to the community, runs monthly open houses to build bridges between immigrants, service groups and Jesus, offers volunteer opportunities, and provides workshops for children and adults. Through these activities we demonstrate to the Sikhs, Hindus, and Muslims of Parc-Extension — many who have not encountered Jesus or Christians before — the undeserved mercy shown by Jesus Christ to all of us

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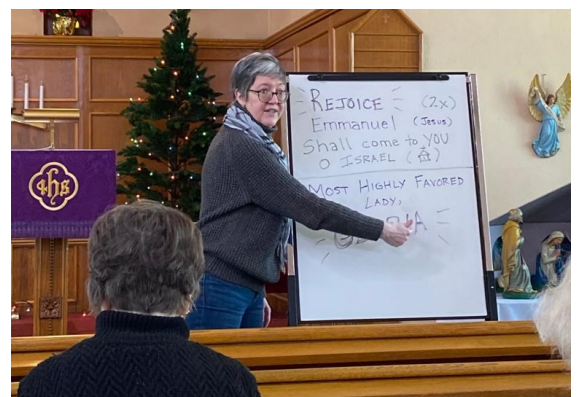
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Open House attendees with city counselor Mary Deros. Almost two dozen attended.



Graduates of a Beginners English class.



Deborah St-Onge leads the singing at our Advent open house fellowship event.



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We show our community the love of Christ that we might also proclaim to them the Good News—that God in Jesus has reconciled the world to himself. Every English class opens with prayer and a brief devotion, led by the pastor, on a petition of the Lord's Prayer or a verse of a Psalm. The prayers and psalms are learned by the class over the course of the term.

Many who hear the Good News choose to attend worship to learn more. During worship, especially when there are many guests, a call to Baptism is offered from the font in front of the chancel. Some choose to receive further instruction and be baptized or, if they were already baptized in their home country, receive instruction about the Lord's Supper and membership in the Church.

A partnership with the Lutheran Heritage Foundation has made it possible for dozens of people each year to receive copies of the Small Catechism in Hindi, Punjabi, Bengali, and Farsi.

Some who encounter the Church through our outreach efforts end up worshipping as part of the Lutheran Church—Canada's French congregation that meets in our building. Others, even if they have to leave the country, stay in touch and are connected with other Christian fellowships around the world when possible. We give thanks for the partnership of the Montreal Forum that allows Ascension to participate this way in the mission of Jesus Christ.



Community Open House at Ascension



Somu and Rajesh are baptized

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