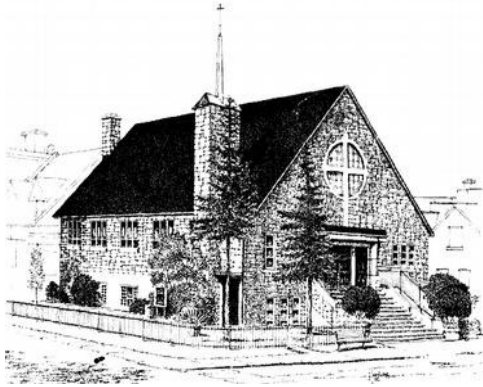


November 2015

Vol. 38



ASCENSION'S NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTERS ARE ISSUED TWICE A YEAR

MAY & NOVEMBER

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

865 Jarry Street West, Montreal, Quebec H3N 1G8
Pastor Charles St Onge: (514) 272-8570
Church Hall (komora) Telephone: **No longer in service**
E-mail (church): pastor@ascensionlutheran.ca
Our Web Page: www.ascensionlutheran.ca

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. Sunday School / Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Divine Service
11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time (Coffee & Cake)
1:00 p.m. Chinese Service/Sunday School

PARISH DIRECTOR: Pastor Charles St Onge

PRESIDENT: Linda Sitar-Aloisio

Acting/VICE-PRESIDENT: Mark Blaauw

SECRETARY: Victoria Misata

TREASURER: Xin Xian Li

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Kathryn Kollar **ASSISTED BY:** Stephen Misata, Masih Salik

MEMBERS: Ellen Botto, Richard Winnell, Joyce Thompson, Rick Layer, Stephen Misata

BUILDING & GROUNDS CONSULTANTS: Mark Blaauw, Philip Chudak

HONARY COUNCIL MEMBER: Vlasta Slavik

HONARY ELDERS: Andrew Kollar, Allen Milette

ALTAR GUILD: Parweedee Sym, Ellen Botto, Veronica Sangster-Potten

ELDERS: Spencer Potten, Masih Salik, Mark Blaauw, Ghulam Feroz

LADIES' AID COMMITTEE: Victoria Misata, Linda Sitar-Aloisio, Kathryn Kollar

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER: Linda Sitar-Aloisio

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND ATTENDANCE

Schedules & Events

| | | |
|------------|--------------|---|
| Saturdays: | | Pastor St Onge's day off at this time! |
| Wednesday: | 10:30 am | Ladies Aid meetings – usually 1 st or 2 nd Wednesday of most months – spring/fall - to be announced |
| Friday: | 6:30-8:30 pm | Council meetings – 3 rd Friday of each month |

Christmas:

| | | |
|--|---------|--|
| <u>Mid-week Advent Services</u> | | |
| Wednesdays, Dec 2, 9, 16 | 7:00pm | |
| <u>Christmas Eve Service</u> | | |
| Thursday, December 24 | 7:00pm | |
| <u>Christmas Day Service</u> | | |
| Friday, December 25 | 10:30am | |
| <u>New Year's Eve Service</u> | | |
| Thursday, December 31 | 7:00pm | |

NOTE 1:

If you are in need of a pastoral visit, please do not hesitate to call Pastor Charles St Onge. Every effort will be made to meet your needs and those of your loved ones. If you know of someone in hospital or who wants pastoral care, speak to the pastor and ask him to visit.

NOTE 2:

If there are any errors or omissions, please accept my apologies. If there are any changes to your email address or to the Information Form, contact Linda Sitar-Aloisio at (450) 662-0561 or aloisio.linda@gmail.com.

Remember to take the Good News magazines and distribute them to friends after you have read them.

ATTENDANCE - 2015

| | | <u>English</u> | <u>Chinese</u> | | | <u>English</u> | <u>Chinese</u> |
|-----|----|----------------|----------------|-----|----|----------------|----------------|
| May | 3 | 35 | 50 | Aug | 2 | 37 | 43 |
| | 10 | 51 | 40 | | 9 | 50 | 38 |
| | 17 | 37 | 42 | | 16 | 63 | 39 |
| | 24 | 56 | 38 | | 23 | 43 | 46 |
| | 31 | 55 | 50 | | 30 | 58 | 36 |
| Jun | 7 | 43 | 56 | Sep | 6 | | 52* |
| | 14 | 43 | 42 | | 13 | 57 | 55 |
| | 21 | 47 | 38 | | 20 | 53 | 52 |
| | 28 | 25 | 39 | | 27 | 52 | 47 |
| Jul | 5 | 55 | 43 | Oct | 4 | 50 | 52 |
| | 12 | 44 | 32 | | 11 | 65 | 49 |
| | 19 | 49 | 35 | | 18 | 39 | 50 |
| | 26 | 55 | 36 | | 25 | N/A | |

WELCOME PASTOR CHARLES ST ONGE AND FAMILY!

On 5 July 2015, Ascension Lutheran Church joyfully received its new pastor, Charles St-Onge, his wife, Deborah (Debbi) and daughters, Olivia and Sophia, to minister to and labour with us in the Gospel ministry in Montreal.

The Lord Himself wonderfully brought Ascension Lutheran Church (ALC) into contact with the St-Onges through Pastor Carl Kruger, SELC District President, after our former pastor, David Godkin left in March 2015. Ascension had been waiting, praying and looking at our "options" for a new minister only a few weeks, without any positive prospects on the horizon, when Pastor Kruger told us of Pastor St-Onge, and that he thought he would be the perfect minister for our church, as Pastor St-Onge was already busy in missions work and a very dedicated and qualified minister. While we were wondering where we would find a suitable pastor who could enter the work in Montreal, the Lord had already been at work to bring us Pastor St-Onge without us ever having heard of him before, nor knowing anything about him until Pastor Kruger brought him to our attention, saying he would certainly be a perfect candidate for Ascension--and Pastor Kruger was right!

Another interesting aspect of God's hand in these proceedings is that prior to knowing ALC's need for a pastor (and even prior to Pastor Godkin knowing he was leaving us), the Lord had already been drawing the St-Onges in the direction of Montreal, as their hearts' desire is to serve as missionaries in fields where opportunities are great to reach the lost of many nations with the Gospel. So when Pastor Kruger introduced our church and Pastor St-Onge to each other, this open door was nothing less than "...the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes" (Ps. 118:23).

Thankfully, the council of ALC did not have to bring in a number of pastoral candidates (if any had been available) for the congregation to meet, and to meet us, and then go through the decision-making process of calling one. Pastor St-Onge clearly filled every need, so why look further!? He is Canadian, bi-lingual in English & French, as well as having a working knowledge of Mandarin, and some Spanish too. He has the "gift of tongues" which is very useful for a pastor in Montreal!

With sincere and thankful hearts we praise God for providing us a Pastor who has already clearly shown that he is in earnest for the Gospel Ministry at Ascension Lutheran Church, and his heart is *in* the Lord's work. He has joyfully entered the work at Ascension, and his cheerful, dedicated wife is right alongside him. We enjoy their sweet daughters, who are lively and friendly as well.

Again, our heart-felt welcome to Pastor St-Onge, Deborah, Olivia and Sophia. We thank God for bringing our congregation and you together at Ascension, and we trust we shall continue together for years to come, D.V. ~Amen.

By Rhoda Blaauw

PASTOR'S PEN



By Pastor Charles St Onge

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” Those are the first words of Charles Dickens' famous book, A Tale of Two Cities. Dickens was thinking specifically of Paris and London in the late 18th century. But he could have been thinking of us, and our times. In some ways it's never been harder to be a Christian in our world. Here in Quebec the Quiet Revolution turned the tables on organized religion; we may be one of the few places in the world where sacred words – chalice, host and tabernacle – are used to swear. In the Middle East and central Asia, being a Christian can be a death sentence. It might seem like the worst of times.

But when things are going well, you never stop to think about what you believe and why you believe it. For centuries in Europe no one ever thought about what it really meant to be a Christian. Going to church was just something “good people” were expected to do. Now in this “worst of times” God is asking us to really think about our faith and what it means. Christ died for us that we might live for others: do we really believe that? An Australian pastor once wrote that Christians are those who live in ways that would make no sense, if Jesus had not died for their sins and risen again. Do we stake our life on what God has done for us in Christ? Anytime God calls us to think about our faith is the best of times.

In July I arrived in Montreal to serve as a missionary pastor. People across the United States and Canada are sacrificing so that we can be here to serve you and preach the Gospel in this place. The challenges facing Christian ministries in Montreal may make this seem like the worst of times. But I believe that this is the best of times for the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Montreal and Quebec. This is the time to be bold in our witness, and to allow the height and depth of God's love for us to grip us once more. I look forward to being a part of these times with you.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Charles St-Onge

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

SICK & SHUT-INS

We ask for your prayerful intercession for our sick and shut-ins:

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Helen Chomay | Vlasta Slavik | Agnes Hillier |
| Margaret Kubes | Milan Jankovych | Bill Diekmann |
| Olga Tassan | GiGi Brisson | Anna Cornelow |
| Andrew Kollar | Carrie Neil | Amitha Katta |
| Olga Chernabrow | Ann Vyboh | Anne Kostovcik |
| Anna Hancar | Claude Lafriener | |

Please keep Margaret Zahorec in your prayers as she recovers from knee replacement surgery in October.

Our sick and shut-ins encourage your visits, correspondence and telephone calls

SYMPATHY

Skrivanic, Miroslav passed away suddenly in April at the age of 78 in Oakville, Ontario. Our deepest condolences to Rad & Olga Skrivanic and family.

DALKE, Robert passed away on 17 May 2015 at the age of 80 in St Catharines, Ontario. Our deepest sympathy to his wife Eva and children Doris (Pastor David) Milette and Karen (Pastor David) Gallas as well as grandchildren and family.

Mikulec, Anne (Bozik) passed away peacefully on 7 June 2015 from cancer, at the age of 85. Our heartfelt condolences to her husband John, children and grandchildren. Anne was a long time member of Ascension and was a very active member of the Ladies Aid for many years. She will be dearly missed by all her friends.

SABO, Helen (Dannacker) passed away on Sunday, 20 September 2015 at the age of 75. She joined Ascension in July 1964, relocating to Goderich, Ontario in 1991. Our deepest sympathy to her husband Jerry and children are Cindy, Michael and Valerie.

HARRIS, Pearl (Blake) passed away on Saturday, 3 October 2015, in Jamaica, at the age of 73. Our heartfelt condolences to her sister Joyce Thompson and family.

CONFIRMATION

On 24 May 2015 we rejoiced as Julia Linnea Sander proclaimed publicly her faith and was joined with all the saints in the feast of Holy Communion. May God continue to bless and keep her in the faith of her Baptism.

NEW MEMBER

God has been working mightily at Ascension Lutheran Church! Congratulations Iris Boraschi who was confirmed on 28 June. We thank God for His work in her life!

BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS

We celebrated Andrew Kollar's 90th birthday on 26 July 2015! Andy is the most senior member at Ascension. Even though in poor health, he was able to attend the church service and receive good wishes from the members, friends and family.

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

Robert Milette and Graciela Escalante were united in Holy Matrimony on Saturday, 30 May 2015 at Ascension.

Annual Voters' Assembly

The Voters' meeting is scheduled for Sunday, **24 January 2016**. It is imperative that **ALL** members attend as reports will be issued with the dealings of our church.

Your input is important!

We are in need of young council members as our seniors are in the process of resigning! If you are interested, please see Linda Sitar-Aloisio **before** the January meeting. Council plays a very important part of our church, we discuss and vote on all aspects of church administration on behalf of the congregation. Council meetings are held on the third Friday of the month from 6:30-8:30 pm.

BABY CONGRATULATIONS

Godkin, Savannah Rose was born on 22 September 2015 (2 weeks early and all is well), weighing 8 lbs, 13 ozs. Proud parents Pastor David and Monalina, big brother Maximus.

Parweedee Sym is extremely proud to announce the birth of her first GREAT-grandchild, Lucas, born on 26 September, 7 lbs 4 oz!

SCHOOL? ON SUNDAY?

Over a couple of centuries ago in England children spent upwards of 12 hours a day, six days a week, working. That meant working kids weren't learning reading, writing, or arithmetic unless it was counting how many more shovels of coal before shift end. A movement started, out of churches, to educate these children on Sundays. Thus "Sunday School" was born.

Nowadays our kids attend school from a young age, sometimes well into their twenties. Here in Québec they even learn ethics in school, and are exposed to the beliefs of other religions. The original goal of Sunday School has changed. But the need to teach our children – and, truth be told, ourselves – the basics of the Christian faith has not gone away. In the days when sermons were an hour long (still the case in our Chinese congregation!) the Bible and catechism can be taught to everyone during the service. But unless (or until) we go back to that ancient tradition, we offer additional bible instruction before the worship service from 9:30 AM to 10:15 AM.

Children and adults alike join together at 9:30 AM in the parsonage living room for an opening devotion and hymn. Pastor St-Onge leads a discussion on the epistle lesson for the day. Other teachers spend time with kids 5 to 11, going through a similar age appropriate lesson prepared by the pastor.

Pastor St-Onge has also added a memory verse, catechism lesson and discussion questions on the back of the bulletin. These are for families to take home and discuss during the week. The bulletins are also posted on the website under "Learn".

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

The way in which we are taught the faith is always changing. But the need to be taught has not gone away. Take these opportunities to learn about YOUR faith!

PRAYER GARDEN

In celebration of Luther 1027 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, a place for reflection for the neighbourhood and church-goers was organized and put into effect by Pastor Somers and the French congregation this past spring. Plants, a bench and a moon-ray cross have been generously donated. The youth group (12-15 year olds from all three congregations) were very active. It is located on the front lane side.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Our campaign to raise funds for food is underway until 20 December. You may make your monetary donations towards the food gift vouchers and place your envelope marked 'Christmas Baskets' in the church offering plate. We count on your generous support to be able to meet our commitments for food for those in need. Please extend your season of thanksgiving and support this cause.

COOKIES FOR OUR SICK & SHUT-INS

Our ladies will donate tins of cookies for our sick and shut-ins in December. Pastor St Onge will visit and deliver some of them and we encourage members of our congregation to visit and deliver the others. The thought and visits are greatly appreciated by all who receive them.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

On the **first Sunday of each month**, we honor the people of that month for their birthdays and wedding anniversaries with a 'special' cake.

We have posted the calendar for **2016** which is on the 'Komora' door. Please write your name beside the month of your choice.

ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS!

Alicia Bolt and Pastor St-Onge have organized a weekly coffee fellowship and bible study. This is a great chance to grow in your faith, and to invite others to come and learn about Jesus in an informal setting. The group meets Wednesdays at 7 PM, currently at the Second Cup on 5206 chemin Cote-des-neiges, a few steps south of the Cote-des-neiges metro station. We are reading through the Gospel of John, and hope you'll join us! More info will be posted on the church website. You can also contact Alicia at rolo21_7@hotmail.com, or pastor at pastor@ascensionlutheran.ca.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

ESL classes are on temporary hiatus until a schedule and lessons are organized. We give thanks to God for this vital mission in our neighbourhood and we look forward to its continuation in the future.

COLLECTING

Keep collecting used postage stamps, can tabs and Campbell's soup labels and bring them in. Please see Veronica Sangster-Potten who is in charge of this project. We no longer collect reading/eye glasses. You can drop them off at any optician store.

LADIES AID

The Ladies Aid is dedicated to aiding the ministry of the church. Please verify with Vicki Misata if you wish to attend, as meeting dates vary (eg winter & summer). All ladies are welcome!

BOOKINGS – Church and/or Hall

Please contact Richard Winnell at (514) 273-6416 who is in charge of all church and/or hall rentals.

PARKING

Please note that there is only enough room for three cars to park on church lane-side premises. On **SUNDAYS**, we would appreciate that those spots be kept **FREE** for those members who have **handicap signs**. Thank you.



With appreciation and gratefulness, many thanks to the following people who have volunteered their time, effort and hard work in and around our Lord's House:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have been bringing in baked goods, cookies, coffee, other goodies as well as monetary donations for our Sunday fellowships.

Parweedee Sym for providing all the milk for Bible Study and Fellowship;

Veronica & Spencer Potten for preparing the hymn # notice boards every Sunday;

Parweedee Sym & Ellen Botto for preparing and washing the Communion vessels every Sunday and to Rhoda Blaauw & Veronica Potten when one or both are away;

Joselin Radimilahy who plays the organ for our Sunday services;

Deborah St Onge for playing the organ for us when Joselin was away;

Margarete Diekmann for knitting all the lovely items and donating all the proceeds to the Ladies Aid;

Rhoda Blaauw for taking care of the church indoor plants;

Jonathan Couture, of the French congregation, who mowed and trimmed the church lawn this past summer;

Claudine, of the French congregation, who cleaned the hall fridge;