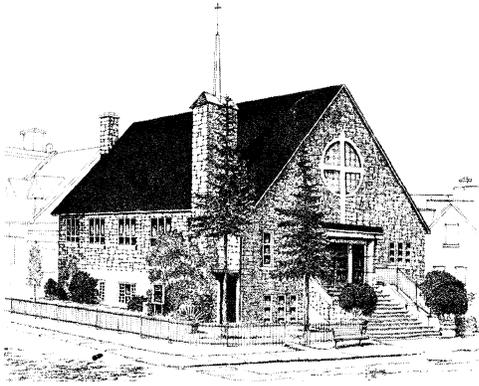


November 2016

Vol. 40



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
11:30 a.m. Fellowship (Coffee & Cake)
1:00 p.m. Chinese Service/Sunday School

PARISH DIRECTOR: Pastor Charles St-Onge

PRESIDENT: Mark Blaauw

VICE-PRESIDENT: Linda Sitar-Aloisio

SECRETARY: Victoria Misata

TREASURER: Xin Xian Li

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Kathryn Kollar

ASSISTED BY: Stephen Misata, Masih Salik, Linda Sitar-Aloisio

MEMBERS: Masih Salik, Stephen Misata, Benjamin Blaauw

BUILDING & GROUNDS: Mark Blaauw

ALTAR GUILD: Gail Spence-Bell, 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

Friday: 6:30-8:30 pm Council meetings – 3rd Friday of each month

Wednesday: 10:30 am – 1:00 pm Ladies Aid meetings – to be announced

NOTE 1:

If you are in need of a pastoral visit, please do not hesitate to call Pastor 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.

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

				<u>2016</u>			
		<u>English</u>	<u>Chinese</u>			<u>English</u>	<u>Chinese</u>
May	1	41	49	Aug	7	36	44
	8	35	46		14	46	40
	15	59	46		21	36	55
	22	67	41		28	43	46
	29	46	36				
Jun	5	55	47	Sep	4	55	50
	12	45	51		11	43	53
	19	62	47		18	44	47
	26	34	34		25	38	49
Jul	3	40	42	Oct	2	52	50
	10	35	48		9	51	56
	17	42	49		16	46	42
	24	50	47		23	41	44
	31	36	36		30	71*	44

* Combined Service – English & French (Reformation Sunday)

PASTOR'S PEN



By Pastor Charles St-Onge

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this it is Thanksgiving Day. The leaves are changing, and winter is coming. Many old friends at Ascension have been called home to Christ since our last newsletter, including Andy Kollar, Ann Chudak, Margaret Kubes, and Margarete Diekmann's husband Bill. The wife of our missionary in Jamaica, Abasifreke, may need kidney dialysis for the rest of her life. Yet on Thanksgiving Sunday we heard the Lord, through his apostle Paul, calling us to give thanks in all circumstances:

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:4-7)

In 1970 Lynn Anderson has a hit with her song "I Never Promised You a Rose Garden." We had our one chance at life in a garden, and we chose to become like God instead. Now we know good - the beauty of sunset, a child's first smile, the leaves of autumn. But we also know evil - the spouse diagnosed with cancer, the child who dies too young, the storm that brings death and destruction. We see great good in our world and tremendous evil, as did the people of the church in Philippi, Greece.

Yet the Lord sent Christ that in the midst of our lives filled with good and evil we might know the peace of God, which passes all understanding. In Christ we have the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. We have the promise of a new garden city yet to come, a city that "has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb" (Revelation 21:23).

Until that day, let us continue to rejoice always, to pray instead of being worried, and to give thanks to God in all things. And the peace of God "will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Amen!

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
Anna Hancar	John Sabo	Olga Tassan
Carrie Neil	Amitha Katta	Ann Vyboh
GiGi Brisson	Olga Chernabrow	Anne Kostovcik
Claude Lafriener		

Please keep in your prayers:

Steve Misata as he slowly recovers from a stroke in August and is continuing with extensive physio;

John Sitar as he slowly recovers from serious medical issues this past September.

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

SYMPATHY

KOLLAR, Andrew, who passed away peacefully on 20 May 2016 at the age of 90. Andy was a long-time member of Ascension and served on council and as an Elder. He was predeceased by wife Rose and survived by his two children Kathryn (Claude) & Paul (Mary Ellen), grandchildren Christine & Alexandra. He also leaves to mourn many family members and special friends.

CHUDAK, Anna (nee Novotny), passed away peacefully on 15 June 2016 at the age of 88. Anna was a long-time member of Ascension and served on the Ladies Aid. She was predeceased by husband Philip and son Mark and is survived by three sons Philip (Linda), Michael, & Steven (Nancy), sister Mary and brother Andrew (Sharon) and other family members. Her cousin, Howard (Barb) Sabol, Colorado, USA, sent a thank you on behalf of the family to Ascension for being Anna's long-time friends and throughout her journey of ill health. She will be dearly missed by all her family and friends.

KUBES, Margaret (nee Lenard) passed away peacefully on 29 July 2016 at the age of 95. She was predeceased by husband Otto and daughter Carol and survived by daughter Lorraine and 3 grandchildren. Margaret was a long-time member of Ascension and the Ladies Aid, helping with all the events as well as the treasurer for the Butterflies for 10 years. She will be missed by all her friends.

DIEKMANN, Willie (Bill) passed away on 10 August 2016 after a long battle of medical issues. Our heartfelt sympathy to his wife Margarete, daughter Carolyn and grandchildren.

CECERE, Our condolences to Gilda & Gloria Cecere who lost both a brother and nephew due to illnesses, within a week of each other, in August 2016.

ANNUAL VOTERS' ASSEMBLY

The Voters' meeting will be held on

Sunday, 22 January 2017.

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 Mark Blaauw **before** the January meeting.

Council plays a very important part of our church, discussing and voting 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL / BIBLE STUDY

Children and adults alike join together at 9:30 AM in the parsonage for an opening devotion and hymn. Pastor St-Onge leads the adults with a discussion on the epistle lesson for the day. Deborah St-Onge teaches children ages 5-11, 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".

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!

BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS

We celebrated John Sitar's 90th birthday on 15 May 2016! He was able to attend church service and receive good wishes from the members and friends during an extended fellowship provided by his family.

DOUBLE 'BLAAUW' BABY CONGRATULATIONS

On 29 July 2016, Miles William, parents John & Linda AND Claire Oceanne, parents Benjamin & Julie were born. The cousins were born within 12 hours of each other!! Proud siblings are Lilyanna & Vivian and Chanelle & Jacob. Grandparents for the 6th and 7th times are Rhoda & Mark!

BAPTISMS

On 4 September 2016, we welcomed into the Lord's family Claire Oceanne Blaauw and Miles William Blaauw.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Vicki & Stephen Misata who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 13 August 2016! Thanks be to God for being present in their lives together.

COMMUNION VESSELS & LINENS

This past summer, Gail Spence took on the project on behalf of the Ladies Aid, to have the silver plated flagon that holds the communion wine repaired. We will work to keep the

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

flagon clean and dry between uses to prolong its new life. After purchasing two corporals and a pall (white), Pastor St-Onge asked for a chalice veil and a burse in each of the liturgical colours (white, green, purple and red) to complete our communion linen set. Gail purchased fabric, lining, cross appliques and thread and completed the white and green veils; she will make the remaining veils and burses over the next couple of months. Gail also purchased and decorated 3 boxes to store the linens. The total expenses for repairs and materials, excluding the excellent and much appreciated work by Gail, were \$845.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Pastor St-Onge leads a coffee fellowship and bible study meeting on Wednesday nights at Gare Centrale. This is a great chance to grow in your faith, and to invite others to come and learn about Jesus in an informal setting. Pastor Somers assists on days when Pastor St-Onge is away. More info will be posted on the church website. You can also contact pastor at pastor@ascensionlutheran.ca.

COOKIES FOR OUR SICK & SHUT-INS

The Ladies Aid will be making up Christmas baskets filled with baked cookies and cakes for our sick and shut-ins. Please contact Vicki Misata or Linda Sitar-Aloisio if you are able to help deliver the treats in the month of December!

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.

Please write your name beside the month of your choice which is located on the Komora door.

IF you wish to bring in a special cake on any other Sunday OR wish to provide an 'extended' fellowship for a special occasion, please contact Linda Sitar-Aloisio or Vicki Misata.

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.

AFTERNOON TEA / BAKE SALE

The Ladies Aid hosted, for the 2nd year, a 'Bake Sale' which was held on Saturday, 5 November 2016. It was a great success! The proceeds, \$1,755, will be donated to our 'home' mission fund.

A special section was set up for the Sunday School children who hand-made lovely containers and were filled with goodies. They received \$50 in proceeds. Special thanks to Gilda & Gloria Cecere, for baking all the scones that were given with the purchase of tickets and to Margarete Diekmann for the knitted goods that she provided. Many thanks to ALL who participated with the set-up, serving, clean-up and those that provided all the delicious baked goods!!!



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;

Hong Sun, Ying Zhou, Hao Ran Sun, Yi Chen Sun, Yu Ping Lin, Yu Jing Zhang, Rong Yan Cui and Xin Xian Li of the Chinese congregation and Mireille Rako, Theophile & Ingrid Nde, Rena & Pierre Couture of the French congregation for volunteering and taking on the weekly church cleaning;

Debbi St-Onge for playing the organ at Sunday worship services for the English and French congregations when Joselin was away;

Olivia St-Onge for playing the recorder, Debbi St-Onge playing the organ and Rhoda Blaauw for playing the flute during one of our services – it was a special treat!;

Rhoda Blaauw for maintaining the care of the sanctuary/hall plants;

Bruce Bell, in charge of the church grounds & assisted by Gail Bell, for doing a huge clean up of church gardens and leading a team in the maintenance. Bruce & Gail also planted all the flowers & plants; Gail had a team to paint the parsonage main entrance; this past Sept, Bruce organized a team to place all the collected newspapers along the church wall, building it up to help water drain away from the foundation;

Akwesi Frimpong for dealing with the weekly trash, mowing of grass and the snow shovelling of church grounds;

Claude Lafrienerie in assisting Akwesi with the mowing of grass and watering of grass/plants; he also cleans the parsonage on a bi-weekly basis;

Rhoda Blaauw for helping pastor in making visitation appointments with our sick and shut-ins;

Olivia & Sophia St-Onge for singing an introductory hymn on 4 Sept, accompanied by Debbi St-Onge on the keyboard – Olivia also played the recorder for the opening hymn;

Margarete Diekmann expresses her appreciation to John Rakotondrajaona, Theophile Nde, Kebin Peng, Gail Spence & Linda Sitar-Aloisio for transporting a huge bureau from her home to the parsonage.

Please accept our apology if we left off anyone as there are so many projects and tasks that go on throughout the year, we may have lost track of some. To make things easier and to keep track, please contact Linda Sitar-Aloisio if you were involved in one of the many jobs done in and around the church. Thank you.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

BOOKINGS – Church and/or Hall

Please contact Linda Sitar-Aloisio regarding church and/or hall rentals. We do not rent to outsiders – it is strictly for the use of the three congregations: English, Chinese & French.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Vlasta Slavik is now residing in Vancouver, B.C.
No address is available

SUMMER PROJECTS

Youth Group

With thanks to Mark Blaauw for arranging to have two youth groups come to Ascension this past July, to help with preparing our church for upcoming repairs/painting. Mark, assisted by Linda Sitar-Aloisio, organized, prepared for and set up this special project. With his experience and guidance, as well as that of Walter & Elizabeth Rozeboom and Jim & Jacoba Kroesbergen, there were 19 young people working on different projects.

Providence Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA

Samuel & Leah Boerkoel
Hosanna Bazen
Gloria & Bobby Vanderboon
Jonathan Brands
Chaperons: Elizabeth & Walter Rozeboom

Springford Reformed Church, Springford Ontario

Joanne, Petra-Lynn, Emily, Alayna & Maeghan Kroesbergen
Esther, Roseanne & Erik Zekveld
Willianne de Boer
Teresa Vanderboon
Cece Byl
Maria Bisschop
Trudy Van Warden
Chaperons: Jacoba & Jim Kroesbergen

One team spent several hours preparing the fence & parsonage door for painting. Unfortunately, it rained and they couldn't do any painting;

In addition, there was a team that polished all the wood in the sanctuary: pews, lectern, pulpit, railing, altar, altar walls and several doors;

Another group took down all the drapes and unused drape frames from hall while the rest of the group washed the hall walls in preparation for repairs and painting.

The Ladies Aid provided snacks and a hot lunch & dessert!
The team consisted of Gilda & Gloria Cecere, Vicki Misata, Veronica Potten, Rhoda Blaauw, Debbi & Olivia St-Onge and Linda Sitar-Aloisio.

Continuation Project

Due to time limit and bad weather, some of the projects were not completed with the Youth Group. Mark Blaauw organized for a home team to come in to finish it off and assisted by Gail & Bruce Bell and Linda Sitar-Aloisio.

Thanks to the Chinese, French & English congregations:

Sun & Ying Hong
Xin Xian Li
Cui Ru Uan
Henry Sun
Tom Cui
Andrew Li
Beatrice Mbida
Theophile Nde
Spencer Potten
Laingo, Nambine & John Rakotondrajaona
Alex Savard
Yuping Lin
Yichen Sun
Iris Boraschi
Kebin Peng
Pierre Couture
Jason Huang
Claudine & Marie Catherine Picard

The Ladies Aid provided lunch & dessert. Special thanks to Gilda & Gloria Cecere for manning the kitchen.

Masonry Project

This past September the masonry project went ahead and was completed. The church budget for 2016 accounted for this huge undertaking and was done by a professional company *Les Entreprises Cam Construction inc.* The following building parts were repaired: bell tower; general office bay window; parsonage conference room window; parsonage kitchen door & window and garage.
The total cost came to \$29,000.

There are still other parts of the building that need to be addressed, but not for this year.

There are major issues with the bell tower that will need a complete over-haul within the next 4-5 years. This project will cost between \$30,000-40,000. An account will be opened in January 2017, to start saving money towards it. Please write 'Bell Tower' on your donation envelopes

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Repair & Painting of Church Hall/Stairwells

With heart-felt thanks and appreciation to Mark Blaauw and his sons, Hans, Benjamin & Stephen for repairing the cracks in the walls/ceiling and painting the church hall, one of the stairwells and hallway to furnace room.

The hall floor, hallway to furnace room, two bathrooms, broom closet and komora were then stripped of the old wax, super-powered cleaned and waxed by a professional company.

FURNACE FUND

As you are all aware by now, Ascension has a NEW furnace that was installed last fall. We benefited by staying warm throughout the cold winter. There were no more 'break-downs' that forced us to wear our coats and scarves indoors.

A Fund Raiser was immediately launched for this huge undertaking.

With all said and done:

cost of furnace: \$39,652

minus government taxes: \$2,582

minus GazMetro grant: \$6,850

Final total cost of furnace: **\$30,220**

We sincerely thank those of you who have generously donated funds – **over and above** the regular donations still needed to maintain our church – but we are still short in meeting the goal.

As of October-end there is a balance of

\$7,338

The fund will continue to the end of December 2016.

Please continue to give,
so that we can pay it off !

*Your financial assistance is
GREATLY APPRECIATED*

*Please write '**FURNACE FUND**' on your donation envelopes.*

Winterizing Project

Lead by Bruce & Gail Bell, a team from the Chinese congregation was put together to winterize the church grounds. Weeds were pulled, plants cut down and a general over-all clean up as well as building up the grounds along the foundation with newspapers to avoid water damage at base.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Ladies Aid will be hosting our annual Christmas POTLUCK party on

SATURDAY, 17 December 2016

12:00 pm (noon) to 4:00 pm

**By having it on a Saturday, there will be
!NO RUSHING!**

**Instead, a leisurely fellowship celebration to be
enjoyed by all**

**The Ladies Aid will be providing the desserts
and all members can bring in a delicious food
item.**

**Please contact Vicki Misata or Linda Sitar-
Aloisio for menu ideas**

Year 2017!

There are more projects planned for next year.

**Please do not 'assume' that work will be
attended to by someone else....**

BE that someone else!

UPDATE OF CHURCH MEMBER RECORDS

We are now in the final stages of updating the church official records (Re-Registration Forms).

Over the years, there have been many changes in membership. It is **very important** that the church keep track and update all general information. If you now have/changed an email address or moved from last known address, please advise Linda Sitar-Aloisio, either through email, phone or in person.

We are also continuing to cut back on postage expenses. If you wish to continue receiving the bi-annual Newsletter, it will be sent through email and no longer through regular mail-outs. Only a select few with no access to email will continue receiving a hard copy.

If you have not completed the Re-Registration Form, please see Pastor St-Onge or Linda.

With this updated information, we plan to produce a NEW church directory, which will be issued to members.

Please keep in mind that ALL email addresses are kept confidential!

Dear Members & Friends

In 2017 we will be celebrating
the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran
Reformation.

Here are some interesting websites to
read about this special event!

<http://www.luther2017.de/en/reforme/>

<http://www.luther2017.de/en/reforme/et-ses-hommes/katharina-von-bora/>

<http://www.luther2017.de/en/reforme/et-ses-hommes/philipp-melanchthon/>

<http://www.luther2017.de/en/reforme/et-ses-hommes/johann-walter/>

<http://www.luther2017.de/en/reforme/et-ses-hommes/lucas-cranach/>

<http://www.luther2017.de/en/reforme/et-ses-hommes/johannes-bugenhagen/>

<http://www.luther2017.de/en/reforme/>

<http://www.luther2017.de/en/martin-luther/textes-sources/les-95-theses/#c534>

<http://www.luther2017.de/en/martin-luther/biographie-de-martin-luther/martin-luther-biographie/>

<http://www.luther2017.de/en/martin-luther/>

<http://www.luther2017.de/en/reforme/et-la-societe/>

<http://www.luther2017.de/en/reforme/et-la-culture/>

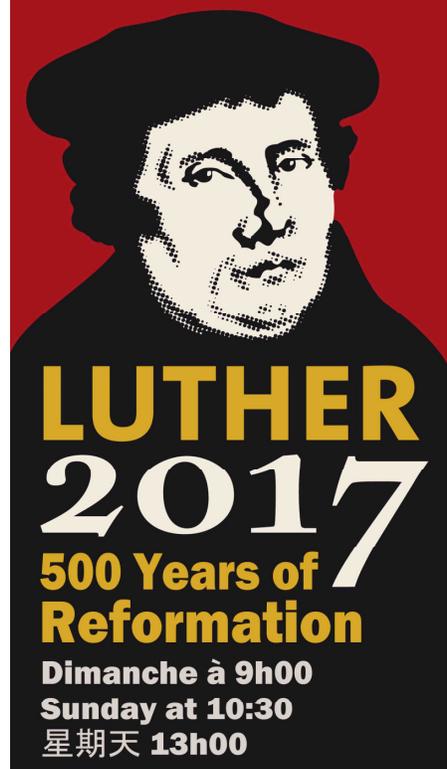
<http://www.luther2017.de/en/reforme/et-leglise/>

**We preach
Christ crucified**

**Nous prêchons
Christ crucifié**

我们却是传钉
十字架的基督

luther2017mtl.com



Pastor St-Onge prepared a banner design
for the 500th Anniversary of the
Reformation which will hang from our bell
tower for the year 2017.

He is also in the process of creating a
website to go with it.