



**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: Rhoda Blaauw, 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

Saturdays: Pastor St-Onge's day off at this time

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

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>2015</u>				<u>2016</u>	
		<u>English</u>	<u>Chinese</u>			<u>English</u>	<u>Chinese</u>
Nov	1	89*	57	Feb	7	39	47
	8	50	46		14	36	43
	15	47	46		21	42	45
	22	62	43		28	35	43
	29	46	52				
Dec	6	48	43	Mar	6	47	41
	13	49	49		12 **	114	
	20	63	47		13	47	42
	24	65	-		20	62	50
	25	37	-	27	81	54	
	27	24	40	Apr	3	40	55
			10		66	48	
			17		49	42	
			24		47	39	
		<u>2016</u>					
		<u>English</u>	<u>Chinese</u>				
Jan	3	29	49				
	10	38	48				
	17	35	44				
	24	34	50				
	31	43	44				

* Combined Service – English & French congregations

** Pastor St-Onge's Installation – English, Chinese & French congregations

PASTOR'S PEN



By Pastor Charles St-Onge

One of my Caribbean colleagues ran into a Canadian couple on the beach a couple of years ago. When he told them he was a missionary, they said, “Oh, you build houses and stuff.” Yes, but the house we are building is Christ's! And the tools we use are not hammers and nails, but the Word of God and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

After his resurrection, Jesus told the disciples that “it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things” (Luke 24:46-48, ESV). Following in their footsteps, we are also witnesses of Christ's death for our sins and his resurrection for our justification.

On February 28, I was officially installed as Area Facilitator for Puerto Rico, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. In that position, I spend 80% of my work time visiting our pastors and their families in the field and working along side them, developing strategic plans, learning Spanish, and generally assisting the Regional Director for Latin America. I'm away from Montreal about 10 days and a Sunday each month. A portion of that time is spent fund-raising for my own position and for the work in the field.

On March 12, I was also installed as pastor at Ascension. Here in Montreal I preach, teach, do young person and adult instruction, young adult bible studies, work with our Chinese congregation's teens, visit our sick and shut-ins, and call on members and non-members as I can. You can follow my work in Montreal and in the Caribbean through my monthly newsletter, which I post on my website intheway.org.

But whether I am “up north” or “down south,” my essential mission work is the same: to be a witness to the salvation we have in Jesus Christ. Beginning in Jerusalem, Christ's message of salvation is to be taken out to the whole world. Let us not tire in sharing that message which brings hope, life, freedom and forgiveness. 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
Margaret Kubes	Anna Hancar	Bill Diekmann
Olga Tassan	GiGi Brisson	Andrew Kollar
Carrie Neil	Amitha Katta	Olga Chernabrow
Ann Vyboh	Anne Kostovcik	Claude Lafriener

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Stephen Misata as he recovers from major surgery, replacement of 2 heart valves, back in January;

Steve Kmec as he recovers from a stroke in January;

Rhoda Blaauw as she recovers from having surgery on her wrist after falling on an icy sidewalk in February;

Helen Chomay as she now has pneumonia;

Andy Kollar and Ann Novotny-Chudak as they are now residing in CHSLD residences (please see Directory Update for new addresses and phone numbers to reach them).

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

SYMPATHY

JANKOVYCH, Milan passed away on Wednesday, 21 October 2015. Our heartfelt condolences to his wife Marta and family.

SALAJ, Vladimir passed away peacefully on Wednesday, 30 March 2016 in Ottawa, Ontario. Our deepest sympathy to his wife Sophie, children Karen & Brian and families. Vlad was a long time member and on many committees at ALC until his move to Ontario, yet he and his wife dropped in for Sunday Service from time to time and all special events. His smile and laughter will be greatly missed by all.

STRIEZ, Paul passed away suddenly from a massive heart attack on 5 April at the age of 77 in Stittsville, Ontario. Our heartfelt condolences to his wife Shirley, children Donald & Carolyn (Rob) and grand-daughter Clarissa.

NEW MEMBERS

On 25 October 2015 we welcomed into Christ's Church **Yanson Frimpong** and his son **Akwesi** through baptism and confirmation; Yanson's children **Yaw** and **Mama Afnah** into baptized membership; **Gail Spence-Bell** through confirmation; and her husband **Bruce Bell** through reception into communicant fellowship.

Michel Yalenti, also a member of 1st Ascension, was recognized as being a member of Ascension on 8 November 2015.

BABY CONGRATULATIONS

BLAAUW, Jane Gisele was born on 24 October 2015. Proud first time parents are Hans & Melanie. Grandparents for 5th time are Mark & Rhoda Blaauw!

ANNUAL VOTERS' ASSEMBLY

The Annual Voters' Assembly, held on 31 January 2016, with 22 members in attendance, opened with Pastor's devotion from 1st Corinthians 12: 31-13:13. The church business included Pastor's Report, church finances for 2015 & 2016, and an overview of what was done last year. Linda Sitar-Aloisio resigned as President and voted in as Vice-President; Mark Blaauw was voted in as President. One new member – at-large was voted in: Benjamin Blaauw. Rick Layer, Richard Winnell, Ellen Botto & Joyce Thompson resigned from council. The meeting closed in prayer and thanksgiving.

INSTALLATION

Ascension Lutheran Church welcomed Pastor Charles St-Onge officially as their pastor on Saturday, 12 March 2016. We were fortunate to have Rev Andy Dzuovcik (SELC District President), Rev Jim Douthwaite (SELC Circuit Visitor), Rev Paul Hoyer (SELC Mission Executive), Rev Paul Zabel (LCC East District President), Rev David Milette (LCC East District), Rev Dr David Somers (Ascension LCC) and Rev Chun Lin Hu (Ascension LCMS), attend and participate in the installation.

Also joining us in celebration, were Pastor St-Onge's family from Ontario and Deborah St-Onge's family from Ohio. There were over 115 people in attendance and all participated in the huge potluck luncheon, organized by the Ladies Aid. Many thanks to those who helped with the organizing, setting up and clean up! A lot of thought and planning was put into this special occasion.

EASTER BREAKFAST

Many thanks to all who helped organize and set up the hall and to all who provided the food for the potluck 'Continental' Breakfast held on Easter Sunday right after the sunrise service. It was a great success and enjoyed by 75-80 members and families. Your efforts in serving the church, to the glory of our resurrected Lord were greatly appreciated. Ladies Aid provided the children with chocolate chicks and, along with the St-Onge family provided Easter Lilies for the altar.

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 kids 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".

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!

COOKIES FOR OUR SICK & SHUT-INS

This past Christmas, the Ladies Aid baked a variety of cookies and cakes and prepared baskets for our sick and shut-ins. Thanks to Pastor St-Onge and those who helped in delivering the treats!

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.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Pastor St-Onge has resumed coffee fellowship and bible study meetings 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.

BOOKINGS – Church and/or Hall

Please contact Linda Sitar-Aloisio regarding 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.

AFTERNOON TEA / BAKE SALE

The Ladies Aid hosted, for the very first time, a 'Tea & Bake Sale' which was held on Saturday, 7 November 2015. It was a great success! The proceeds, \$2,000, were donated towards the Furnace Fund.

Special thanks to Gilda & Gloria Cecere, who encouraged and guided the ladies with their experience in holding this event and for baking all the scones that were given with the purchase of tickets; also to Margarete Diekmann & Ellen Botto for the knitted goods that they provided. Many thanks to ALL who participated with the set-up, serving, clean-up and those that provided all the delicious baked goods.

Thanks

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;

Veronica & Spencer Potten, Xin Xian Li and Ying & Hong Sun for helping Linda Sitar-Aloisio with the weekly church cleaning until two teams were setup and organized;

Ying & Hong Sun and Xin Xian Li of the Chinese congregation and Sylvain of the French congregation for volunteering and taking on the weekly church cleaning;

The English congregation for taking on the cleaning of the parsonage;

Mark & Stephen Blaauw for washing, preping and painting the general office;

Mark Blaauw for taking on the furnace project with the Servitech company;

Rhoda Blaauw for maintaining the care of the sanctuary plants and sewing up curtains for the general office;

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

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

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.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

KOLLAR, Andy

Centre d'hebergement de Cartierville
12235 rue Grenet, Room A223
Montreal, QC H4J 2N9
Telephone: (514) 331-2908

CHUDAK, Anna Novotny

Centre d'hebergement des Quatre-Temps
7400 St Michel, Room 292
Montreal, QC H2A 2Z8
Telephone: (514) 355-4795

*Wishing you all a a Great and Safe
Summer!*

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Work Up North - Work Down South - April 2016

Lots of exciting things are starting to develop at Ascension and in Montreal. In an effort to better work together in ministry, the English congregational council now includes official representatives from both the French and Chinese Lutheran congregations. We spent over half of our April meeting discussing how to use 2017 as a real "Year of Outreach" for our congregations. It will be a momentous year: the 500th anniversary of the posting of the 95 theses, the 375th birthday of Montreal, the 150th birthday of Canada, and the 50th anniversary of Expo 67. Pastor David Somers, who leads French mission work on behalf of the Lutheran Church – Canada, got us up to speed on some of the preparatory work he has already done.

The English congregation is planning to hang a huge banner on our bell tower based on the German "Reformation Year" design boldly proclaiming that "In the beginning was the Word" in French and English. In the short term, I've begun preparing three young people – and hopefully two new adults – for the Lord's Supper. Our group consists of one Russian-American-Canadian, one from Ghana, and three Pakistanis.

At the end of March I met up with Pastor Richard and Mrs. Gema Schuller for their first days back in Puerto Rico. As of the end of April, the Schullers have officially moved to Ponce and are getting ready to begin outreach to the second largest city in Puerto Rico! Pastor Ruesch is also working toward plans for a third church start in Rincon, a community just north of Mayaguez on the west coast of the island. I have been assisting both of them in finding Foro partners to walk alongside them in all this work.

These last two weeks I've made three trips in a row. The Canadian Bible Society has offered us use of their visitors' area and display windows in a major downtown underground mall beneath the Anglican Cathedral. I'm planning a major canvassing effort of the neighborhood around the church, with a population of 35,000.

April 18-20 I attended the SELC church workers conference in Racine, WI. I was able to share what the Lord is doing not only in Montreal but also in Puerto Rico, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. As a bonus, I met up with Pastor Ken and Mrs. Lois Ballas, former servants at Ascension. From Racine I traveled to Kingston, Jamaica, where I continued enrichment work with Pastor Obot and Mrs. Abasifreke Ite, and Deaconess-in-Training Melissa Thompson. I also met

with St. Andrew Lutheran Church to discuss options for moving out of their leased house into a building of their own! I finished off in the Dominican Republic, where I met up with Pastor Leif Hasskarl from the Caymans. We discussed possibilities for a permanent facility for Safe Harbour Lutheran Church, worshipped together, and reconnected with regional staff.

Pastor St-Onge

UPCOMING EVENTS / PROJECTS

FURNACE FUND

As you are all aware by now, Ascension has NEW furnaces that were 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 as the cost of this huge undertaking was \$40,000!

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 far from meeting the goal.

Please continue to give, so that we can pay it off as quickly as possible! We have reached the half way mark!

*Your financial assistance would be
GREATLY APPRECIATED*

*Funds have to be collected for the **Furnace Fund**
BEFORE
we can go ahead with other major projects*

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

Thank you!

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

2016 SPRING CLEANING!

It has been four years, 28 April 2012, that a MAJOR spring cleaning project was done at Ascension!!! A great team of 30 people from the English, Chinese & French congregations was coordinated and well orchestrated by team leaders!

During Spring 2015, the Chinese & English got together and cleaned, washed, repaired, prepped and painted the parsonage as well as pastor's office and the general office.

Mark Blaauw & Linda Sitar-Aloisio organized and prepared for another major spring cleaning which was held on 30 April 2016. There was a large team of 32 people from the English, Chinese & French congregations who got together to trim trees, clean up grounds, wash windows, clean/wash the parsonage, clean/wash/prep the Sacristy, now ready for painting.

With thanks to the Ladies Aid who provided snacks and lunch for all. Special thanks to Gilda & Gloria Cecere and Vicki Misata for manning the kitchen and feeding everyone at lunch.

Volunteers

Rick Layer
Sylvain Primo
Yichen/Henry/Hong Sun
Di Mao
Guo Lian/Rong Yan Cui
Rong Liao
Christian Kelly Andriamitaotsoa
Claudine/Marie Catherine Picard
Pierre Couture
Jason Huang
Ingrid/Theophile Nde
Ben/Rhoda Blaauw
Joe Zipay
Veronica/Spencer Potten
Laingo/Nambine Rakotondrajaona
Alex Savard
Shahzad Khokhar
Akwasi Frimpong
Xin Xian Li

*There are more projects planned for this 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 still in the first stage 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 an email address or moved from last known address, please advise Linda Sitar-Aloisio, either through email, phone or in person.

We are also going 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 members that do NOT have a computer 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!

SPECIAL DONATIONS

It is **very important** for you to write
the
DATE,
OFFERING NUMBER &
NAME

on **ALL** your offering envelopes as
you use them, including the 'special
donations' such as: birthday,
anniversary, memorial, etc....

In addition, on the 'special donations'
envelopes, **CHECKMARK THE**
CORRECT BOX(s) & FILL IN THE
APPROPRIATE INFORMATION

If you are missing offering envelopes,
please contact

Kathryn Kollar

If you do **not** have an envelope number,
write your name and full mailing
address

This is to facilitate the issuance of tax
receipts

'SPECIAL DONATIONS'

ALL 'special' donations will be
published, listing your name and amount.

If you wish otherwise,
then please indicate on the envelope
'Do Not Publish'

MEMORIAL In loving memory of:

Milan Jankovych

Ladies Aid	\$25
Steve & Vicki Misata	\$50
Anonymous	\$20
Linda Sitar-Aloisio	\$25
Parweedee Sym	\$20
Emile Vaudaud	\$20
Ellen Botto	\$25

Helen Sabo

Vlad & Sophie Salaj	\$100
---------------------	-------

Martha Benada

Ellen Botto	\$50
-------------	------

Ann Mikulec

Betty Hanusaik	\$100
----------------	-------

My Anna

John Mikulec	\$1,000
--------------	---------

My parents

Joseph Zipay	\$50
--------------	------

My mother Anna Lickova, sister Anna Ederova, brother Jan Licko, husband John

Elizabeth Hanusaik	\$400
--------------------	-------

My John, daughter Connie and loved ones

Ann Cornelow	\$500
--------------	-------

Our dear parents, Roman & Genovefa Pazia

Zygmunt & Olga Zielinski	\$100
Elsie & Gerry Ivanski	\$50

My husband Reg

Barbara Uhrin-Clancy	\$200
----------------------	-------

Parents, Elizabeth & Paul Sitar

Ann & John Sitar	\$100
------------------	-------

Parents, Anna & George Striez

Ann & John Sitar	\$100
------------------	-------

Brothers, Joe Sitar & Geroqe Striez

Ann & John Sitar	\$100
------------------	-------

Vladimir Salaj

Linda Sitar-Aloisio	\$30
Ann & John Sitar	\$30
Ladies Aid	\$25
Andy Kollar	\$30
Vicki & Steve Misata	\$100

Paul Striez

Ann & John Sitar	\$100
Linda & Tony Aloisio	\$50
Andy Kollar	\$30
Ladies Aid	\$25

OTHER

Church Eternal Candle

Barbara Uhrin-Clancy	\$63.24
----------------------	---------

Portals of Prayer

Margarete Diekmann	\$30
Vicki & Steve Misata	\$20

BIRTHDAYS

Elizabeth Hanusaik	\$85
Richard Foltz	\$40
Linda & Tony Aloisio	\$60
Vicki Misata	\$79
John Sitar	\$90

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Anonymous	\$40
Ann & John Sitar	\$75
Richard Foltz	\$20
Olga & Zygmunt Zielinski	\$20
Margarete Diekmann	\$35