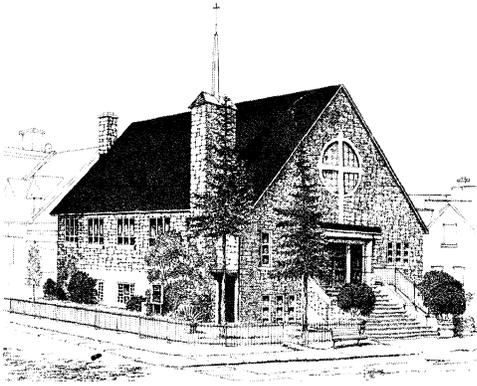


November 2017

Vol. 42



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
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 (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: Vacant – Acting/Bruce Bell

TREASURER: Xin Xian Li

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Kathryn Kollar

ASSISTED BY: Masih Salik, Linda Sitar-Aloisio, Spencer Potten

MEMBERS: Masih Salik, Benjamin Blaauw, Bruce Bell, Yanson Frimpong

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: Mark Blaauw

ASSISTED BY: Linda Sitar-Aloisio, Benjamin 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

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

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 laloisio@sympatico.ca

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

ATTENDANCE

				<u>2017</u>			
		<u>English</u>	<u>Chinese</u>			<u>English</u>	<u>Chinese</u>
May	7	50	59	Aug	6	42	56
	14	61	52		13	48	58
	21	33	48		20	39	64
	28	58	52		27	43	60
Jun	4	42	52	Sep	3	41	54
	11	47	53		10	53	52
	18	43	50		17	47	55
	25	47	50		24	54	52
Jul	2	30	49	Oct	1	43	55
	9	50	n/a		8	44	57
	16	48	53		15	49	58
	23	50	52		22	47	48
	30	35	57		29	154**	59

** Combined Service (English & French) Reformation Sunday – 500th Anniversary Celebration

PASTOR'S PEN



By Pastor Charles St-Onge

“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come.” (Matthew 22:2-3).

This fall we’ve been reading through some of Jesus’ “hardest hitting” parables. Most of these were stories preached by him on the last days of his life, before the authorities finally had enough and figured out how to get rid of him once and for all. He talked about obedient and disobedient sons, workers in a vineyard, unworthy tenants and, lastly according to Matthew, a great wedding feast to which the guests would not come.

The key to understanding Jesus’ parables is quite simple. First, we should know that “kingdom” is better translated into modern English as “reign.” It’s a *verbal noun*, and it has to do with an action, not a place. Jesus is telling us about the *reign* of the heavens, the *reign* of God, not a geographic location.

Second, the *reign* of God has come to earth and is near. “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” That’s the sermon preached by John the Baptist (Matthew 3:2), and the one preached first by Jesus (Matthew 4:17). God *is reigning*; He is at work.

Last, the reign of God is most clearly shown forth in Jesus. What God is doing in the man born of the virgin Mary is the salvation of the world. When we look elsewhere to see God at work, we become easily confused and misled. But when we look at the Jesus presented to us in Scripture, all becomes true and clear.

The very last parable recorded in Matthew speaks of a King, the Father, who holds a wedding feast for his Son, Jesus. Over centuries the invitation to the feast has gone out through the prophets, from Adam through to Malachi. The response to the RSVP was “thanks, and we’ll be there!” But when the feast is finally ready and the big day arrives, everyone is suddenly busy. In anger the King destroys those people, and invites others to the feast instead.

Each Sunday, the Lord sets the wedding feast of His Son before us on the altar. Many who have told the Lord they’ll be there suddenly find themselves busy. The miracle of the Gospel is that the Lord restarts the clock each week. Every Sunday is like the first wedding feast. The same people whom God has promised to destroy for spurning his invitation become the ones “both bad and good” brought in from the roads and byways (Matthew 22:7-10). There is always a chance to start over.

The mission of the Church has never changed. Like the parables, it is quite simple. We are couriers sending out invitations to the greatest wedding banquet ever. “The Spirit and the bride say come” (Revelation 22:17). Let the one who hears come, and enjoy the meal that gives eternal life.

David Keating

55 Union Avenue, Center Moriches, NY 11934
(631) 974-4034
david.keating@ctsfw.edu

August 14, 2017

Dear Members of the Ascension Lutheran Church Council,

Let me begin by thanking you for the opportunity to serve here in Montréal this summer! I have learned so much by being able to participate in the work of the Church alongside Pastor St-Onge. There aren't many opportunities for seminarians to be able to see what urban ministry looks like while they are still in the seminary, and Ascension has provided me with a very valuable foundation for future ministry.

Ascension has given me a distinctive glimpse into what working in a bilingual setting looks like as well, and has also allowed me to "stretch my legs" during my theological education. It's given me a ton of hands-on experience. The fact that I have been able to preach four times for you this summer allows me to continue to strengthen my preaching ability as I prepare to serve the Church in the Office of the Holy Ministry one day.

Additionally, Ascension has given me many remarkable opportunities to see how the practical side of pastoral ministry works for a pastor. Being able to shadow Pastor St-Onge during hospital visits and shut-in calls has shown me how a pastor should handle bringing the Gospel to those who are hurting. I am so thankful that this vicarage has been offered, as it has let me see how the Gospel can be administered in many different settings.

I am also happy to have been able to participate in and lead church functions like Children's Week, the young adult bible study downtown, and Sunday morning bible study. All of this has been tremendously helpful for me as I continue to improve my ability to lead in the non-liturgical functions of the Church.

Lastly, I have been beyond blessed to be so welcomed by the Ascension community and its members. I cannot tell you how much it means to me to have had families invite me to dinner as soon as I arrived, and really make me feel like I was an important part of your church fellowship. I hope that my time here felt like a success to all of the members of Ascension, and I pray that you will continue to offer the Ascension summer vicarage. Many of our seminarians come from rural and suburban settings, and have not had the chance to see what urban church work looks like. Ascension is in a vital position to offer this experience to the seminary, so that students can get their feet wet and be prepared to serve in any context into which God calls them. The program provides a unique opportunity for Ascension to serve the LCMS/LCC in a special way, and I pray that God will continue to bless Ascension in all of its endeavors. Thank you again for offering me such a wonderful experience.

In Christ,


Vicar David Keating

"I thank my God at every remembrance of you." Phillipians 1:3

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	Carrie Neil
Amitha Katta	Stephen Misata	Michel Yalenti
John Sitar	Emily Kmec	George Benjamin
Angelo Matthis		

Please keep in your prayers:

Miles Blaauw had a serious infection and was hospitalized. With treatment, he was able to make a complete recovery;

John Sitar had a bad fall in June and broke his right shoulder. He was hospitalized and was in a convalescent home for many weeks. Recovery is very slow but steady;

Allen Milette had his pace maker changed this past October and has had a remarkable recovery;

Masih Salik was involved in a car accident in October. His car was totalled and he was hurt and taken to hospital. He is recovering slowly;

Parweedee Sym had a successful cataract surgery in October;

Spencer Potten had a triple by-pass on 31 October which was a success. His recovery is slow but steady.

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

SENIOR MEMBERS

Are you older, with no family or close friends in the congregation? If you were to end up in hospital, would we ever know? We encourage everyone to keep the church phone number (front of the Sunday bulletin or Church directory or Newsletter) handy. Consider having a 'worship buddy' in the church. For those of you who do have family or a good friend, perhaps you can give a contact name and number to the pastor or ask the relative to contact pastor.

SYMPATHY

SKRIVANIC, Radivoj (Rad) passed away peacefully on 23 May 2017 after a long illness at the age of 85. He is mourned by wife Olga Botto, son Robert (Karen), 2 granddaughters and sister-in-law Ellen Botto as well as many other family members and friends. Our heartfelt sympathy to the family.

HANUSAIK, Betty passed away on 17 July 2017 after a massive stroke.. Pre-deceased by her husband John Hanusaik, sister Anna Ederova and brother Janko Licko (Slovakia). Devoted mother of Susan, Nancy (Gordon), Angie (Jordi), Linda (Kirby) and six grandchildren.

It is with sadness to inform you that Richard Foltz's granddaughter, **Natasha Greniuk**, passed away on 3 August 2017 at the age of 26.

VYBOH, Anna passed away on 7 August 2017 after a long illness at the age of 86. She is mourned by long time friend & companion Joseph Zosak, family & church friends. Anne was part of ALC's choir for many years. She will be missed by many.

BRISSON, GiGi passed away on 16 August at the age of 93. Gigi was a great help to the ladies aid for all events and was a joy to work with. She will be missed by many of her church friends especially by her dearest friends Margaret & Allen Milette.

CONFIRMATION

We gave thanks to God through Jesus Christ for Yaw (Junior) Frimpong and Olivia St-Onge, who confirmed their faith in him on 28 May and now join us as communicant members. The two families served an extended fellowship lunch and all joined in in celebration.

RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP

On 16 July we received Ms Ataah Osei in joining our communicant membership. She was a member of the Lutheran Church in Ghana.

On 8 October we received Ms Susia Lim Watanabe into membership through transfer. Susia was a member of the Indonesian Orthodox Lutheran Church, a mission associated with the LCMS in Jakarta.

Wondering what a sermon at Ascension sounds like? Wonder no more! Almost all of Pastor St-Onge's sermons are recorded, and you can listen to them online at ascensionlutheran.ca/sermons.

BABY CONGRATULATIONS!

Mark & Rhoda Blaauw are extremely proud to announce the birth of their 8th grandchild, Leon Andrew born on 27 September! Parents Hans & Melanie and big sister Jane are doing well..

"Always Called To Serve" (Deuteronomy 10:12)

Lutheran Women's Missionary League – Canada

On Saturday, October 14, seventeen sisters in faith joined together in fellowship, Bible study, prayer, devotion and song. Along with members from the French and English congregations of Ascension, we welcomed two visitors who traveled from Ottawa for the event. We benefited from the faithful leadership of Rena Detlefsen and Patti Lach-Kreutzwieser (from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan) who have been travelling to Canadian cities this year along with Regan Schultz, sharing God's Word and the experience of God's love in our lives. As part of our fellowship and service, we made several fleece blankets and collected an offering for a

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

crisis pregnancy centre (“Enceinte et inquiète”). One of the group’s representatives received our gifts and shared with us information about the centre’s work with pregnant women looking for support and shelter.

Pat Geick, President of the Laurentian District of LWML–Canada, sent her greetings and thanks to the Ladies’ Aid group for their regular mites. She also extended an invitation to all those who may be interested in attending the annual convention in Winnipeg, MB from July 5-8, 2018, where LWML–Canada will be celebrating its 25th anniversary.

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!

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Ladies Aid will be hosting a Christmas party on Saturday, 16 December 2017. It will be held between 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm. Please contact Vicki Misata or Linda Sitar-Aloisio if you plan to attend and what you intend to bring for the potluck table.

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.

Wondering what Pastor St-Onge is doing when he’s not at Ascension, but fulfilling his call as Area Facilitator for the Caribbean? Sign up for his monthly newsletter at intheway.org. He posts pictures of his work as well as radio interviews and bible studies he does for KFYO radio.

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.

NEW LAWN MOWER!

Our circuit visitor, Pastor Douthwaite, has graciously donated a brand new electric mower for Ascension. Pastor St-Onge and Debby have donated a 100’ cable to go with the mower! Thank you for your generosity – it is greatly appreciated!

SUMMER VICAR AT ASCENSION

On 18 June we installed our summer vicar, David Keating. He came to us from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. David is a native of Long Island, New York. He assisted Pastor St-Onge with services, bible studies, visitations, our children’s week outreach and learned what it’s like to serve a community like ours.

SUMMERTIME WITH JESUS

On 16 July we welcomed the Ahlmeyers, Mooneys & Vicar Luke Watt from Vandalia Hills, Alabama and served a chili/potluck lunch after service. They came down to help with the ‘summer children’s week’.

It was a long (80 hours for pastor) week, but a successful restart of this outreach opportunity. We had three children from the French congregation, two from the English, and three from outside the congregation. Gail Bell-Spence and Veronica Sangster-Potten were invaluable volunteers from Ascension.

COMMUNION LINENS & VESSELS

Gail Spence-Bell has continued sewing new altar linens and has completed the four chalice veils & white burse and is now working on the red burse. Gail has taken the old white altar cloths and will be doing necessary repairs and has made new anti-tarnish bags for the Communion vessels.

Also, Gail had our Communion vessels repaired and plated.

REFORMATION SUNDAY – 500th ANNIVERSARY

On October 29th Ascension celebrated the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in grand style. We had over 150 in attendance at our bilingual service on Sunday morning. Both the French and the English congregations worshipped and received the Lord’s Supper together, with some members of our Chinese congregation attending as well. Pastor Somers, Pastor Jacobsen of our partner church in Brazil, and Pastor St-Onge led worship. Participating musicians included Joselin Radimilahy (organist and singer), Joan Harrison (clarinet & singer) and her two very talented daughters Linnea (viola) and Emily (cello), singers Rena Detlefsen, & Victoire Goutenzenzi Deborah St-Onge, and Richard Winnell, as well as several members from the Outreach to the Blind. Following

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

the service, there was a luncheon prepared and served by both congregations with lively entertainment from a local Balafon Ensemble, a display table of Lutheran books and information, and beautiful red and white decorations with many "Luther" touches. You can see photos of the event at <http://intheway.org/2017/10/29/happy-500th-anniversary/> Pastor St-Onge did a great job as 'emcee' during our lunch. Much time and effort went into planning this day. Coordinating members from Ascension include Gail & Bruce Bell and Pastor & Debbi St-Onge with help from Veronica Sangster-Potten, Linda Sitar-Aloisio, and Kathryn Kollar. Thank you to all and for those who helped with set-up and clean-up.

We thank God for a blessed day of memories!



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 Theophile & Ingrid Nde, Rena & Pierre Couture, Mireille Rakotonjanahary, Vallieres and Sylvain Primeau of the French congregation for volunteering and taking on the weekly church cleaning as well as Claude Lafrienerie for cleaning the parsonage on a bi-weekly basis;

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

Rhoda Blaauw for maintaining the care of the sanctuary/hall plants and for helping pastor in making visitation appointments with our sick and shut-ins;

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

Pastor St-Onge, Vicar Keating and Bruce & Gail Bell for mowing the lawn of church grounds;

Gail Spence-Bell for picking up visitors at airports, donating furniture, refurbishing/painting furniture, running errands and sewing new paraments and having the communion vessels repaired;

Gail Spence-Bell & Debbi St-Onge for purchasing furniture & miscellaneous items and setting up the Annex (parsonage) for the Vicar and future guests;

Joyce Thompson & Kathryn Kollar for helping Gilda Cecere with Sunday fellowships this past summer, also those that also have pitched in;

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.

BOOKINGS – Church and/or Hall

Please contact Linda Sitar-Aloisio regarding church and/or hall usage. Church premises is strictly for the use of the church members. It is important to advise Linda as soon as possible with your date. There are fees for church usage.

Want to learn more about the bible? Join Pastor St-Onge for bible studies most Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM at Ascension, or downtown on Wednesdays at 7:15 PM.

PROJECTS

There are continuous projects planned throughout the year.

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

BE that someone else!

SPRING CLEANING

Saturday, 13 May

We had a great turnout for our annual spring cleaning of the Annex, Sanctuary & grounds! Thanks be to God for all that came to help from the three congregations.

We were a team of 30-35 people.

With thanks & appreciation to:

Team leaders: Gail Spence-Bell; Bruce Bell; Mark Blaauw. The Ladies Aid provided lunch and snacks and were prepared by Veronica Sangster-Potten & Linda Sitar-Aloisio

FALL WINTERIZING

Saturday, 30 September

Thanks to all from the three congregations who came to help with winterizing the church grounds and general cleaning as well as continued repairs. There were 30 people who came in.

With thanks & appreciation to:

Team leaders: Gail Spence-Bell; Bruce Bell; Mark Blaauw.

The Ladies Aid for providing lunch and was prepared by Gilda & Gloria Cecere;

Rhoda Blaauw for supplying sandwiches & cookies.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS



BIBLE PUZZLE TEST YOUR BIBLE SKILLS Author Unknown

Can you find the names of 25 books of the Bible in this paragraph?

This is a most remarkable puzzle. Someone found it in the seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping himself occupied for hours. One man from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Roy Clark studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Vicks mentioned it in her column once. One woman judges the job to be so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help calm her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot...that's a fact. Some people will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. The truth is , from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation may help, books like! Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. And punctuation or spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete. Remember, there are 25 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13.

ANSWERS

This is a most remarkable puzzle. Someone found it in the seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping himself occupied for hours. One man from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Roy Clark studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Vicks mentioned it in her column once. One woman judges the job to be so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help calm her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot...that's a fact. Some people will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. The truth is , from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation may help, books like! Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. And punctuation or spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete. Remember, there are 25 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13.