

In The Way

October 2022

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Reconnect: 2022 Edition

I write this newsletter on October 27, on Day 29 of my fourth network reconnect tour. I'm currently in Franklin, Ohio, preparing for my last stop this weekend in Shaker Heights, Ohio, near Cleveland. By Sunday night, Lord willing, I will be home.

I want to thank the many people who opened their homes and their churches to me over the last month. It has been such a blessing to meet people from one end of the United States to the other; from Ohio to Idaho, and from Montana to Texas. Special thanks to Gary Theis and the warm welcome at Mission Central, and to Wayne and Zola who opened their home to me in Mapleton, IA; to the Boyers and the folks at Zion, Hiawatha, IA; to the Brandts and everyone at immanuel, Clarinda, IA; to the Hasskarls in Nebraska and the Warners in South Dakota; to Jeff Lehrmann in Idaho; to the Kitchells, to Trinity, Kalispell, MT and to the women of the Flathead Zone of the Montana LWML who met in Thompson Falls, MT; to the women of the Kearney LWML Zone who met with us in Sumner, NE; to the Sandforts and the good of people of The Edge in Azle, TX; to the great many of you who took me out for lunch and supper in Houston, TX (and expanded my waistline); and for the warm welcome back at Memorial, Houston, TX.

Deb was able to join me for several of these stops, especially the LWML rallies, and had a great time meeting so many of you. We look forward to staying in touch!

Thank you, as well, to our co-workers at the International Center in St. Louis who work "behind the scenes" to keep the mission going. Special thanks to the Fales for their hospitality while I was in "the Holy City."

The mission of Christ in Montreal, of course, has not stopped while I've been gone. You can read some of that in this month's mission moment! I look being part of that work in the coming months.

Mission Moment

What if you invited your community to church and they all showed up?

Not *everyone* in Parc-Extension showed up when we invited folks of them to a four-week "learn about Jesus" course. But several dozen folks from the community did come to hear the Gospel in worship, and to stay afterwards for the special classes led by our lay mission worker Lyman Stone. By Sunday, October 23rd, our worship attendance numbers swelled from our normal 30-40 to over 120.

SELC District President Waldemar Vinovskis led service at Ascension that Sunday, while I was at Memorial Lutheran Church in Houston, TX preaching and presenting on the work in Montreal.

Our Moms and Tots group on Fridays, our English classes, our monthly open houses, the hospitality ministry of the Stones, our new sign: all of it served to show Christ's love and mercy in our neighbourhood. When the invitation to "come and see" went out, people were ready to say "yes." We pray now that some will accept the invitation to be baptized into Christ In the coming weeks!



A Picture's Worth of Words



Top left: Deb and our host Cathy Kahle at the Kearney Zone LWML rally in Sumner, NE. They graciously let us "present first" so we could make the drive to Azle, TX that afternoon and evening. **Top right:** Making new friends at the Legion Hall in Jackson, WY. **Bottom Right:** With the Sandforts at The Edge Lutheran Church in Azle, TX. Charles preached for both their services, then we went over to their coffee house ministry in Lake Worth. **Bottom Left:** Preaching for LWML Sunday at Zion Lutheran Church in Hiawatha, IA.

Prayer Concerns

For Nick, Ann, Peter and the Vera family as they prepare to join our communion with Jesus Christ,

For the many dozens of people, mostly Sikhs, who heard the Gospel this month, that the Spirit might lead them to be received into Christ and his church through Holy Baptism;

For those suffering from lack of heat as we enter into winter, that we who are blessed by warmth would offer support to them through various ministries in these cold months (James 2:16).

Support this Work

To be announced! Until our accounts are officially changed, support can still be sent care of "ST-ONGE" at Mission Central or "ST-ONGE" at the LCMS:

Mission Central
40718 Highway E16
Mapleton, IA 51034

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