



Serving the Lord in ASIA

News from the Jastrams

November 2021

“Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith” (liturgical verse).

Worship Far and Near

I still have them ringing in my ears—the hammer blows of Martin Luther nailing the 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg, and the heavenly host arrayed in white gathered around the throne of God with palm branches in their hands crying out with a loud voice “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

Reformation Day and All Saints’ Day were particularly memorable this year. God brought about a precious opportunity for the LCMS military community in Okinawa to gather for a weekend celebration of the Reformation.

On Saturday we gathered with six adults and ten children for a family Reformation potluck, a viewing of the classic Martin Luther film, and a service of Confession and Absolution in preparation for Eucharist the next day. On Sunday, eleven adults and thirteen kids gathered for a festive Reformation Service of

Word and Sacrament with catechesis following.

What made this so special was the clear commitment of these LCMS Lutherans to adhere to the sound doctrine and practice of the Lutheran confessions as so clearly taught in our catechism. The location of Okinawa is particularly significant because, out of all U.S. military deployed abroad, nearly half are stationed in Japan, and about three-fourths of U.S. military facilities and two-thirds of all U.S. troops in Japan are stationed in Okinawa. We plan for regular occasional LCMS services in Okinawa for future months as well.



*Rev. Dr. Jastram is the Asia Lutheran Resource Coordinator:
Making Lutheran resources of theology and worship available in Asia.*

Special Thanks to:

- *Our partners in mission, for your generous October support, and for the sustaining contributions of individuals, congregations, districts, and LWML groups that make this mission work possible.*

Praise God for:

- *The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod which is the source of the International Development Grant that makes possible our translation project of Walther's Law and Gospel into the Japanese language.*
- *Development of the LCMS worship sites in Tokyo and Okinawa.*

Pray for:

- *The Japan Lutheran Church, that they repent from their 2021 convention decision to ordain women as pastors.*
- *Ongoing Lutheran resource projects throughout Asia, numbering over one hundred, in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, and Taiwan.*

NEWSLETTERS INFO

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To be ADDED or REMOVED from our mailing list, you can send an email message to daniel.jastram@lcms.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

And in our neighborhood

Our Yokohama site services are also continuing regularly on the first and third Sunday afternoons of each month.

In fact, two of our LCMS international expats attending worship at the Yokohama site have added a special degree of excitement by their active arrangements for Holy Matrimony! We couldn't be happier for the two of them, especially that both share a strong LCMS foundation and commitment. God has accomplished his wondrous work by bringing them together in preparation for a life united in marriage under his name even when far distant from the land of their birth.



Bride-to-be (far left) selecting flowers while the groom-to-be (far right) wait on the sidewalk.

That translates!

I'm happy to report that our translation project of Walther's Law and Gospel continues ahead of schedule and under budget. We have accomplished about 75 percent of the work.

At the same time, we are preparing for our next project: to transcribe, edit, and translate a series of theological lectures on the Lutheran fundamentals of faith and life presented by a Lutheran seminary professor visiting from the States a number of years ago. I'm very happy to report that we are in the final stages of completing the fully edited English transcription in preparation for its translation into Japanese.

To support the LCMS through the work of Daniel Jastram, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
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Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Asia-Jastram."

Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/givenow/jastram.

