



SERVING THE LORD IN ASIA

NEWS FROM THE JASTRAMS



Holy Week, April 2021

“Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted” (Liturgical Verse for Good Friday)

No Go and Go!

Joan and I still face a couple of “no go”– related situations in Japan regarding the coronavirus. Last week, for instance, we could only stand at the *entrance* of a nearby campus to enjoy the cherry blossoms (still beautiful!), and, (a little more seriously) until we are vaccinated this summer, we cannot return to the States. On the other hand, our project of translating Walther’s Law and Gospel (1929) into Japanese continues to be a “go!” and I can report with great pleasure that we have reached 33% of the way toward completion. We sent in our first periodic grant report, received the second grant disbursement portion, and have encountered no snags or delays in the project. This wonderful progress would not be possible without God’s gracious providence, the generosity of our Jastram-Asia network supporters, the wonderful support and guidance of our LCMS Asia region administration, and the

International Development Grant provided by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

LUTHER’S MEDICINE FOR THE SOUL

Did you know Walther called his Friday evening Law and Gospel lectures his “Luther Hours”? This was because in them he so extensively quotes and explains how Luther taught the proper preaching and application of God’s Word of Law and Gospel (p. 344). Walther explains that, like a pharmacist who distributes proper medicine to the proper patient, preachers also “must give to each of his hearers his due: he must see to it that secure, care-free, and willful sinners hear the thunderings of the Law; contrite sinners, however, [must receive] the sweet voice of the Savior’s grace” (p. 33). Therefore, “the proper distinction between Law and Gospel is the highest and most difficult art . . . everything else that a theologian must know is of less value than this art” (p. 51).



WE STOPPED...AND ENJOYED

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

Zooming to Zama—Camp Zama that is!

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

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

WE 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 text into the Japanese language.*
- *Receipt of the second grant disbursement portion for Walther's Law and Gospel translation project with no major obstacles and smooth sailing ahead.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

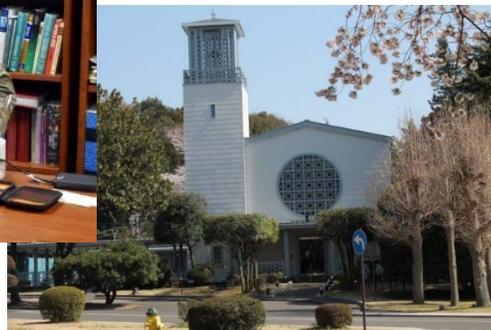
- *Ongoing Lutheran resource projects throughout Asia, numbering well over one hundred, in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, and Taiwan.*
- *Japan, as it manages its pandemic precautionary measures, organizes its national vaccination program and sets up its safety protocols for the summer Olympics.*

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In the midst of the long duration of pandemic precautions for travel and gatherings in Japan, it was welcome news indeed to receive communication from local **LCMS Chaplain Douglas Ochner** that Camp Zama U.S. military base could now process requests for civilian guests. Ever since we had learned of each other's presence in the greater Tokyo area, and of our previous life-experience in Japan, we had looked forward to introductions in person and to becoming better acquainted with each other. As U.S. Army Garrison Japan deputy chaplain, LCMS Chaplain (Maj.) Douglas Ochner has the advantage of previously coming to Japan as a civilian with LCMS Volunteer Youth Ministry and assisting mission church ministry while living in Japan for seven years (1987-1994). Needless to say, we had a delightful time exchanging recollections of past experiences and of collaborating on current pastoral care for expats in the Tokyo area. The second Sunday of Easter Joan and I eagerly look forward to worshipping at the Camp Zama Chapel during its Lutheran sacramental service.

It is truly a privilege to be working on your behalf in Japan!

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
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

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.

