



Serving the Lord in JAPAN

News from the Jastrams

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"Alleluia. Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you. Alleluia."
(Liturgical Verse for Pentecost 2, Luke 8:39a)

Challenges and Joys of Lutheran Worship

"The real challenge right now is how will we manage the five different worship resources we need for Japanese Lutheran festival and regular services," the pastor's wife shared during our conference visit after the Pentecost Day service. "It's all about the resources," she noted.

I was the first person to step into the sanctuary that Sunday, where beautiful church-hymn music was gently wafting through the speakers from a Concordia Publishing House CD. We had scheduled a long-awaited, in-person visit with another Japanese Lutheran pastor, together with me and a Japanese pastor from our location, attending at some distance by express train in order to discuss more in depth the current status and challenges involved with Lutheran mission work in Japan. Lutheran festival worship was under discussion in our conference because the day was Pentecost Sunday, with the same challenges arising for Easter, Christmas, Holy Week, Trinity Sunday, etc.

Japan has a need for new, richer, Lutheran worship resources to replace the inadequate, ecumenical resources



PRE-SERVICE PREPARATION.

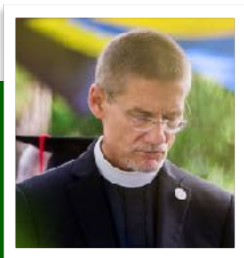
currently available; particularly, with a translation and notation for the Lutheran Service Book liturgy and its theologically rich Introits and Collects. Much has already been accomplished. The new liturgy is done. Translation of the three-year cycle of Introits and Collects is keeping pace with their weekly use in worship. Key hymns are getting translated for the church festivals

according to their season. But, these wonderful worship resources also present interim challenges as they are being developed.

"I keep a close watch on our newest visitor during worship," said the pastor's wife. "As I play the organ, I notice if she gets confused. Then I help her find the right resource."

(continued on next page)

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



PRAYER AND PRAISE FOR

- the challenges involved with multiple worship resources in use for festival and regular Lutheran worship services;
- fruits resulting from Japanese Lutheran pastors in conference with each other regarding theological resources and future directions of ministry;
- the new Yokosuka base access pass;
- continuing good progress on our translation work of Walther’s Church and Ministry, now over 30% translated;
- continuing Word and Sacrament coordinated ministry at our civilian and military worship sites for LCMS Lutherans in Tokyo, Okinawa, and Yokosuka;
- advanced August home service preparations now including dates for ten congregational presentations;
- the faithful prayers and support provided by our LCMS Jastram-Asia mission partners;
- The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and support us .

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“After all, in our worship, we now have five different resources we are using: 1) the worship bulletin; 2) the new liturgy booklet; 3) the old hymns; 4) the bible; and 5) the new festival-hymns supplement. That’s five different resources! We’d like to print everything in the bulletin each Sunday, but that’s a lot of extra work in addition to the translation work and notation work we

are doing. It’s beyond our capacity right now” she sighed.

With so few Japanese Lutheran pastors, members, church workers, facilities, and stewardship supporters, I fully sympathized with her conclusion. Her concerns are on my prayer list of Lutheran resources in need! ■

First, and Now, Second Base

“Foreign CIV Visitor” was the category and “2022 JUN 13” was the issue date printed on the laminated, military base access pass finally in hand.

his term of service in Japan, he arranged for me to provide coordinated pastoral care as a civilian pastor for LCMS military personnel on the base in the absence of LCMS chaplain personnel.

What a relief after nine months, three in-person visits to the pass office, along with all the memos, documents, signatures, ID photos, background checks, waiting in line, and delays. These all finally resulted in a receiving a Yokosuka base access card according to LCMS Chaplain Christensen’s proposal. In preparation for completing

What a pleasure it is now to add this new opportunity of bringing Word and Sacrament spiritual comfort and strength to our military families at Yokosuka in addition to those in Okinawa. ■

YOUR SUPPORT is vital for our continued mission work in Japan: regular services at our worship sites, translation of theological resources, and nurturing relations with Japanese Lutheran pastors facing individual challenges to the faith. We are humbly grateful for your continued prayers and support.

~Dan and Joan



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on “Service Opportunities.”

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Daniel Jastram. Make checks payable to:

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