



# Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC)

Congregations in Kumamoto

Rev. Hitoshi and Satoko Adachi

ELCA Missionary and Associate

## HEADING TO US and THANK YOU

This summer Hiroshi and Satoko will be leaving Kumamoto to go to the US on July 6th for Home Assignment and Summer Missionary Conference, called "Becoming Conference". They thank God for everything and thank you for your continued thoughts and prayers.

## VERY UNUSUAL WEATHER AGAIN

The rainy season in Kumamoto city started this year on June 11th, which was one week later than average and ended on June 28th, which was three weeks earlier than average. During this shorter and relatively light rainy season, flower services in Jiaien's nursing schools and Kuwamizu Kindergarten were held and flowers were given to police officers, fire fighters, elderly in senior homes, etc. And in Kuwamizu Church, one special 20th birthday party was held for Lilian from Germany.



## LOVE: THE TRUE ACT OF GOD

### Hitoshi's Reflection

It is now July. Two years ago, during the beginning of the pandemic, heavy rain hit Kumamoto. At the same time, boxes of clothing for the Charity Bazaar held at the Kuwamizu Church were immediately brought to Hitoyoshi city. Due to the flooding many people lost extra clothing, so donations were helpful. This year, as war reports from Ukraine continue, there were reports of earthquakes in various parts of Japan during June and there are still concerns that heavy rain may occur somewhere in Japan. Hitoshi writes this newsletter hoping and praying for God's comfort and peace.

When Hitoshi was working for a medical device company, he oversaw agreements with overseas companies. Most of them promised

each other to act when something goes wrong. Specifically, when a situation such as a natural disaster or severe weather occurs, they would still cooperate with each other. The word "Act of God" is often used to describe such situations. But are all those events "Acts of God"? If they are events beyond human control, they are considered as such.

The story of Noah's Ark is described as a catastrophe in the Old Testament. The heavy rain lasted for 40 day and tremendous flooding occurred, but it subsided in 150 days. During the second half of this story, God has contracted with Noah and his descendants (including us) that there would never be this kind of catastrophe that will destroy the world again. The fact that this covenant is written after the catastrophe in the Bible makes it unclear if the disasters humanity experience are Acts of God anymore.

In the classes at Kyushu Gakuin High School (their school building, the picture below, seems like the image of Noah's Ark) where Hitoshi teaches, he and his students read the story of Noah's Ark seriously and he asked them to write their thoughts. Some of them wrote "At first it was a terrible flood, but I understood that God so loves humanity He created and eventually kept them from perishing." As human beings, we ought to reflect upon what God's actions are as we read the Bible and live our lives worshipping Him the creator. The Bible is the merciful story of God's love, a promise between God and humanity. God brings us rich nature and a sense of peace that evening comes, and morning follows. Praise the Lord God, wishing everyone in the world a wonderful and Spirit filled July and August. Amen.

