



March to April 2026

SERVING THE LORD IN

Japan

News from
Pastor Dan and Joan Jastram

<https://www.lcms.org/jastram>



Pastor Dan and Joan Jastram

Rev. Jastram serves as the
Asia Lutheran Resource
Coordinator:

*Making Lutheran resources of
theology and worship
available in Asia.*



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Together At Last

Last year I wrote about a Chinese couple separated both from their home country and from each other by their respective international jobs. The wife works in Tokyo and found our worship services through her husband who was working in Africa.

He had learned online about the solid doctrine and practice of the Lutheran Church, found my name from LCMS publicity, and provided an introduction for his wife to attend faithful Lutheran worship in Tokyo.

Now, the husband has moved from his work in Africa to live in Tokyo together with his wife with the result that they can both attend Lutheran worship in Tokyo. What a joy to gather together with them around the Word and Sacrament as they learn more deeply the treasures of a living faith!



Two Groups Meet

At the end of March, two Lutheran church groups were able to meet and enjoy each other's company with mutual Lutheran conversation of faith and life: one from Numata, and the other from Mito.

Our small Numata LCMS house-church mission gathering meets on the fourth Saturday of each month. We decided to travel together 2.5 hours by car the next day to meet with members of Megumi Lutheran Church in Mito who gather on Sunday.

What a pleasure! There were five from Numata including me and Vicar Turley. We met with nine from Mito including Pastor Haga and his four American lay church workers. We had the whole afternoon for introductions, explanations of current work, and considerations of the challenges and similar goals of mission work in Japan.



Thanksgiving and Prayer:

- thanksgiving for the Chinese husband and wife together now in Tokyo enjoying faithful Lutheran worship;
- thanksgiving for recent opportunities where fellow Lutherans from different areas can meet and engage in the mutual conversation and consolation of the brethren;
- prayer for our newest adult confirmand, that she might remain faithful in hearing Christ's Word, in receiving His body and blood, and in finding joy and comfort in Christ through all of life's crosses and challenges;
- prayer that life-long catechesis in Luther's Small and Large Catechism might bear rich fruit throughout the world;
- thanksgiving for additional progress on our newest Japanese translation project of Luther's Small Catechism (CPH 2017) (about 70% completed);
- thanksgiving for God's blessings at our five current LCMS fellowship sites: Shinjuku (twice a month), Yokosuka (once a month), Numata (once a month), Osaka (once a month), Niigata (every Sunday);
- thanksgiving for our interim Asia regional director, Rev. Dr. Brian Gauthier, our Asia facilitator Rev. Matthew Wood, and our fellow LCMS Asia missionaries each with individual challenges and blessings;
- thanksgiving for the faithful prayers and support provided by our LCMS Jastram-Asia mission partners.

To support this LCMS mission work:

Give securely online through the LCMS page:

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Adult Confirmation

One of the greatest pleasures in the mission field occurs when a baptized member becomes a communicant member in accordance with the Lutheran confessions, through instruction, examination, and absolution. About ten months ago, Jane Simmons (*front row, second from the left*) found our LCMS sister congregation at Kobari Niigata through an online search for Lutheran worship in English. Pastor and Mrs. Wakabayashi diligently prepare liturgical material each Sunday in both Japanese and English for those using either or both languages. Their skillful translation of the Lutheran Service Book Divine Service Setting Three, their expert adjustment of the original musical notation to accommodate the extra syllables of the Japanese language needed for a full, accurate, and reverential rendering of the lyrics, and their careful re-translation and re-notation of the introits of the day, all result in a glorious service of praise and adoration for God's wonderful blessing of salvation through his Word and Sacrament means of grace. It was a special treat to welcome LCMS Rev. Chris Vossler and his wife Gerianne from Sanford Michigan on that special day (*front row, second and third from the right*).

(Image below: Sunday catechesis in Shinjuku Tokyo.)



OUR HOME SERVICE

We will be in the States this year from July 14 to September 8.

Contact us soon for a Sunday or weekday mission visit and presentation to learn more about participation in this exciting Japan mission work.

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 local Lutheran pastors facing individual challenges to the faith. We are humbly grateful for your continued prayers and support. We couldn't do it without you.

Thank you!

Your missionaries, Dan and Joan Jastram

"We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him."

(Romans 6:9, Sixth Sunday of Easter, Liturgical Verse)

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