



January to February 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.*



To be added to or removed from this
mailing list, send an email message
to:

daniel.jastram@lcms.org

with the word ADD or REMOVE
in the subject line.

Here's our newsletter archive link:

<https://bit.ly/3Xkd9W8>

Link to join our mailing list:

<https://tinyurl.com/47vyhnae>

888-THE LCMS • lcms.org • infocenter@lcms.org



Vicar Turley In a previous newsletter I introduced Vicar Zachary Turley who arrived in Japan towards the end of last year. He has settled into a regular schedule of worship assistance and evangelistic outreach at our various locations of Word and Sacrament ministry. As you may imagine, his weekdays include a substantial dose of language learning and outreach where he lives in Niigata City. Monthly, we schedule a set of weekdays to assist with outreach at our LCMS sister congregation at Kobari Niigata. We are grateful that now there are two LCMS missionaries at work in Japan upholding Lutheran sound doctrine and practice. *(Image above: Vicar Turley talking with a visitor to the Shinjuku service; Masthead Image [top left]: Kyoto temple, on a day after "Girls' Day" [Hinamatsuri] and before "White Day" [the counterpart to Valentine's Day].)*

Osaka Worship Location Last year I began monthly home visitation to Osaka for catechesis and worship, with a resulting October adult confirmation into our LCMS Japan communion fellowship. Recently, another LCMS member has joined our gathering there. After difficulties with the previous household location, and after one surreal, urban-mission Sacramental Service in a karaoke room, I was able to make arrangements for a more suitable churchly location. The Japanese Lutheran pastor there, Kenta Mizuno (rostered with the West Japan Ev. Lutheran Church), earned a Master of Sacred Theology degree at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne Indiana. He has graciously made his congregational worship space available for our LCMS use on a weekday night. This connection with Pastor Mizuno testifies to LCMS seminary influence in the global mission field. *(Image: Osaka worship location.)*



Thanksgiving and Prayer:

- thanksgiving for God's gift of a second LCMS missionary to Japan, Vicar Turley;
- thanksgiving for God's arrangement of a new churchly LCMS worship site in Osaka through the graciousness of Pastor Mizuno;
- prayer for God's grace in the midst of various mission challenges of culture, of distrust toward foreign religions, and of resistance toward spiritual truths;
- thanksgiving for wonderful headway on our newest translation project of Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation (CPH 2017) (about 50% completed);
- thanksgiving for God's blessings at our five current ministry sites: Niigata (weekly support ministry of Vicar Turley with Pastor Wakabayashi at Kobari Niigata); Shinjuku (twice a month); Yokosuka (once a month); Numata (once a month); Osaka (once a month);
- prayer that God might prosper his mission work throughout the world "to conserve and promote the unity of the true faith" (cf. Eph. 4:3-6; 1 Cor. 1:10);
- prayer for our interim regional director, Rev. Dr. Brian Gauthier, serving in this role in addition to his role as OIM Managing Director;
- thanksgiving for the faithful prayers and support provided by our LCMS Jastram-Asia mission partners.

Mission Challenges

Over the past five years, I have made occasional outreach visits to a small "Speed Queen" shop owner. I was initially drawn to investigate because I noticed an attractive pottery display . . . *in a dry cleaning shop!*

After learning that the owner was an amateur handcraft potter firing his own work in his own kiln, we enjoyed trading stories about various Japan travels and pottery making. But when I told him that I was a Lutheran missionary, he responded with mild disdain, "So, you try to find non-religious Japanese and try to convert them to your religion?"

On subsequent visits, I learned that due to health difficulties, he planned to close his dry cleaning shop. Most recently, I learned from his wife that he was in hospice care at the end of his 90+ years of life. In response to her deep grief, I explained about salvation and eternal life by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, based on the final authority of Scripture alone. What a surprise to learn that decades earlier, she had frequented a Japanese Christian church and fell in love with its music! But her husband disallowed any connection with the church. The eldest son once met me in passing, then asked his father in hospice if he knew me. After reporting that his ailing father had no recollection of me, the eldest son disallowed me from any further contact with the household, now under his authority. The outreach door at "Speed Queen" seems to have closed. (Image above: "Speed Queen" outreach site.)

(Image below left: theological books during one of my monthly visits to Shibata Niigata-ken.)

(Image below middle: conversations with LCMS Tokyo visitor interested in Japan mission work.)



OUR HOME SERVICE dates for this year are from July 14 to September 8. Please contact us for a Sunday or weekday mission visit and presentation to learn more about participation with 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

"The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth."

(John 4:23a, Third Sunday in Lent, Liturgical Verse.)

To support this LCMS mission work:

Give securely online through the LCMS page:

lcms.org/givenow/jastram

[OR] Mail your 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"