

# MLP Japan News



Cherry blossoms in Hamamatsu, Shizuoka

## Greetings

### Lenten Season

It is the beginning of spring and we are in the lenten season in the church. Jesus Christ had mercy on mankind who are suffering under the curse of sin and the devil.

**He willingly suffered and died in our place** to give us eternal life in heaven. In this season of lent, let us be mindful of Jesus' amazing love for us.

Media Consultant  
Kaori Egawa

## Pre-evangelism

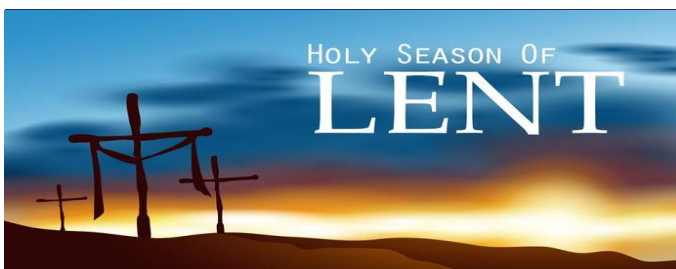
### Reading Time in E.den

On Fri. March 17, Oyako Joy Club held a **book reading event** for babies and toddlers at E.den, a Japanese Restaurant in Higashikurume. We are thankful for the mother and toddler that participated. The mother told us that they had a relaxing time through the picture books we read. They also enjoyed the English reading of a bilingual book. The next event at E.den will be held on Fri. April 21 from 2:45-3:15pm.

## Notice

### Church Dedication Ceremony

Please join us on March 21, for the church dedication ceremony held at Aganai Church in Higashikurume. The old church building and the parsonage which were built almost 60 years ago was taken down and the basement was filled up with soil. The area where the old church became the new parking space and **the church was built where the old parsonage was.** We are thankful for this great blessing.



## SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die. John11:25

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## Devotions

## God and Me

YouVersion link of  
*God and Me* →



**“On the seventh day God rested from all his work.”** Why do you suppose he did that? You and I rest because we get tired. Does God get tired? Of course not. He had just as much pep on day seven as on day one of creation week. Did he knock off his cosmic construction activity to set a pattern for his children to follow, i.e., that it’s okay to take a day off once a week? Maybe a little. Did he rest on Saturday to decree that Saturday should forever be *the* day for worship? No.

Chapter 4 of the book of Hebrews helps us see that the main point of the Sabbath is not the *day* but the *resting*. And it’s not primarily the resting of the *body* that God cares about (though that has its own value) but the resting of your *soul*. The deepest meaning of God’s wonderful Sabbath is the forgiveness of your sins and having a great relationship with God. Jesus talked about that kind of rest in Matthew 11:28: **“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest [Sabbath].”** I would like to walk with you through some of the psalms and think about various aspects of your most important possession—your relationship with God.

*God and me*—through our Savior Jesus, it’s all good! The psalms are designed by God to give you a language of praise and prayer, written often in the first person, to give you a vocabulary to express and celebrate that Sabbath relationship. I hope that you enjoy these little devotions, one for each day of your month. But I hope even more that they lead you to dig deeper into the power and wisdom in the psalms as you grow in your relationship with the Lord, who loves you.

-- Pastor Mark Jeske

From Time of Grace Devotions, edited by MLP Japan

## Events Coming Up

## LWMS

**Lutheran Women Missionary Society**

**(LWMS)** of WELS will be having its annual convention in La Crosse, WI on June 22-25. Many WELS Women members who are interested in the mission work of WELS will be gathered to worship together and be reminded of God’s precious work of proclaiming His Love in many parts of the world. LECC women participated in the LWMS in 2001. Kaori E. was there for the convention at that time. This year MLP will be doing a treasure hunt activity of TELL. For more information, please visit the following link:

<https://60.lwms.org/>

## Hymn Translation

**What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

1. My kind and gentle friend Jesus,  
Takes away my sins and worries.  
Let me cry out to my God,  
And tell him my suffering and my all.
2. When I face trials and temptations,  
I believe in Jesus and pray to Him.  
Jesus knows my weakness well,  
He stays near and feels my sorrow.
3. Precious Jesus will be my refuge  
When I am burdened.  
He hides me and keeps me,  
Even when friends abandon me.  
The Lord opens his arms and protects  
me from all harm.

Kaori E. 2023