

MLP Japan News



Oirase Gorge in Aomori Prefecture

Greetings

A New Term Begins

We're starting to feel the subtle approach of autumn after such a hot summer in Japan. This summer, I took extra care that we stayed hydrated and took a few more precautions than usual.

September marks the beginning of the second term for many schools in Japan. It is often said this can be a particularly stressful transition for kids. But we must remember **God never gives us more than we can handle.** Let's embrace the new phase of life with joy as we pray and put our faith in the Lord.

Kaori Egawa

MLP Japan Media Consultant

Evangelism

Infant Baptism Ceremony

This month at the **Mihikari (Holy Light) Lutheran Evangelical Christian Church** in Utsunomiya, Tochigi, Pastor Takeshi Nidaira officiated a heartfelt **infant baptism ceremony.** Surrounded by the loving presence of the Akagami family, church members, and guests, we are grateful the event was carried out smoothly.

Date of Baptism: August 13
Baptized: Kisui Esther Akagami
(6 months old at the time)



Notice

Library Event

On August 28th, we hosted the "Hiyoko (chick) Event" at Higashi-Kurume City Central Library. Our **"Oyako (Parent-child) Joy Club", OJC**, handpicked four books and crafted a session blending playful hand games and songs. A standout moment was our "Turtle Exercise", complete with a special appearance of our turtle puppet, Leon. The sight of a two-year-old boy clapping and enjoying the entertainment was very heartwarming.

Next Hiyoko Event hosted by OJC

Date: September 25th

Time: Starting at 11 a.m.



SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?
Psalm 42:1

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〒203-0053 1-3-39 HON-CHO, HIGASHIKURUME-SHI, TOKYO PHONE: 042-472-3454

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Evangelism Topics

What is baptism? – Kaori's Diary

Recently, I had the privilege of attending an infant baptism. **In the Christian faith, baptism represents the rebirth of the soul.**

(John 3:5-7) It also signifies the day we receive our passport to heaven, a gift of God's amazing grace. Baptism, rooted deeply in the teachings of the Bible, assures us of eternal life with Jesus.

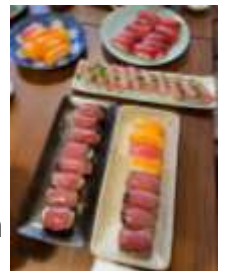
On this significant day, my husband Kouji and I, were given the solemn responsibility of being **'godparents'** to the young Kisui-chan. Being a godparent is not merely an honorary title. It is a commitment to consistently pray for Kisui-chan and ensure she receives a proper Christian education. With God's guidance through the Bible, we solemnly pledge to uphold this holy duty.



Summer Event for Tomato Club

On August 20th, our **"Tomato Club," catered towards middle and high school students,** held its summer event. By popular request, sushi was chosen as the culinary theme. We began the day at the Egawa home, studying the Bible and singing hymns. Later, we moved venue to E.den, a Japanese restaurant run by Kouji Egawa, to experience sushi-making using fresh tuna and salmon. After mastering the basics of sushi making, we were joined by family members (Kaori's mom and dad) and guests (E.den staff) for a friendly gathering. It provided a valuable opportunity for members, who often don't get a chance to converse at length, to connect and share.

To the high school students who attended: I am aware a new school term is upon us in September. **Though busier days are ahead, I hope and pray they are manageable and fulfilling.** Remember, we are blood-bought and baptized by Jesus. We've already received our salvation and life in heaven from God through the Holy Spirit. With our Lord by our side, we can conquer temptations and difficulties. My prayer for you all is to always cling to our Christian faith and to navigate daily life with joy.



Christian Topics

Tasting the Psalms

"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" (Psalm 42:1,2) Have you ever been so thirsty you thought you'd pass out? That first gulp of cold water is pure bliss. Now, think about those times you felt lost, sad, or off track. It is as if our souls get thirsty. During those times, we feel an urge to find answers or comfort, just like the thirsty deer in the Psalm above.

However, instead of drinking pure, safe water for our souls, we sometimes try to quench the thirst with all kinds of worldly things: money, health tips, chasing likes on social media, diving into human relationships, and man-made religions. They might distract us for a short while, but they do not help in the long term.

What is the one thing that gives us real comfort? The message of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are genuinely loved by Jesus, and here is the proof: Jesus came willingly to this world to save us. By his sacrifice on the cross, he made sure anyone and everyone could find a way back to heaven. Whoever believes in his message gets a fresh start, free from sin, and has a place in heaven eternally. This is not some old tale; it is a timeless truth, consistently taught in the Bible, that remains relevant today and always will.

