

MLP Japan News



Kegon Fall in Tochigi Prefecture

Greetings

Season of the Reformation

As October begins, Japan welcomes its harvest season. Also, in this month, Christian churches tied to Martin Luther honor and commemorate Reformation Day on October 31st.

500 years ago in Germany, Luther voiced concerns about the church teaching doctrines not present in the Bible, which ignited a major reform movement. In today's world, we pray that by embracing the true teachings of the Gospel, our hearts and souls will be guarded against beliefs that lead us away from the grace offered through Jesus Christ.

Kaori Egawa

MLP Japan Media Consultant

Pre-Evangelism Library Event

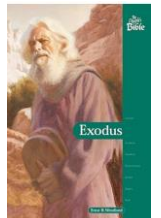
On Monday, September 25th, Oyako Joy Club (OJC) hosted the Hiyoko Event at Higashi Kurume City Central Library. The event showcased picture books centered on the "moon" theme and included hand-play activities focused on "faces". A parent with a baby as young as 3 months old also joined, contributing to the warm and friendly ambiance.

Upcoming Event:
Monday, October 23rd, from 11 a.m. (Approximately a 20-minute program)
Location:
Higashi Kurume City Central Library.

Translation Project People's Bible - Exodus

The Japanese translation project of the People's Bible Exodus is currently making rapid progress, aided by the contributions of several individuals and advancements in AI technology. Having started in September of the previous year, this project has seen significant improvements since August, following the adoption of innovative translation and editing methods. Going forward, the main focus will be on online publication.

We deeply appreciate everyone's prayers and cooperation.



SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH
So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

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

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Evangelism Topics

People's Bible

The People's Bible is written for everyone. Published by WELS, this commentary provides detailed explanations of all 66 books of the Bible. It offers valuable biblical insights and reflections to deepen our faith. During Luther's era, the advent of the printing press facilitated the rapid distribution of the German Bible that he translated. This innovation empowered those unfamiliar with the original scriptures to experience God's word in their native tongue. We pray that, with the rise of modern technology, our contemporary evangelism efforts in Japan, through translations, will flourish, Lord willing!

Martin Luther and the Reformation

In 1517, Martin Luther presented the "95 Theses" in Wittenberg, Germany, questioning the Roman Catholic Church's issuance of indulgences. Luther taught justification "by faith alone." He argued that only faith in Christ's salvation, offered through God's grace, is recognized as righteous before God. Luther held the Bible as the highest authority and translated it into German. Additionally, he emphasized the equality of all Christians, introduced worship in the German language, and emphasized the importance of the Holy Communion. These actions paved the way for the establishment of the Lutheran Church and influenced many Protestant denominations.

Collaborative Work of the Reformers

October 2017 marked the 500th anniversary of Luther's "95 Theses." October 2023 celebrates the 500th year since Johannes Bugenhagen, who later became a pastor alongside Luther, was invited to serve. While Luther played a pivotal role in the Reformation, the contributions of Bugenhagen cannot be overlooked. He served as the principal of a Latin language school (equivalent to an elementary school in modern times) for 15 years, but his life took a dramatic turn in the fall of 1520 after reading Luther's works and being convinced of their authenticity. Giving up his teaching career, he enrolled in the University of Wittenberg at age 35. Recognized for his talents, he was invited to serve as the pastor of Wittenberg's city church just three years later. Bugenhagen took on crucial tasks alongside Luther, delving into Bible translation, commentary writing, and the spread of faith. The growth of the Lutheran Church is the collective result of the efforts of Luther and his colleagues, including Bugenhagen. Today's churches also need to encourage the collaboration of individuals of diverse backgrounds and careers. (Summary of an article by Pastor Timothy D. Grundmeier in the October issue of "Forward In Christ")

Christian Topics

"God's Word Is Our Great Heritage" sung in Martin Luther' Tune

かみの みことばは さいこうの たから

ぜんせだいを こえ かがやき つづける

いきる ひびも よを さるひも

みことばこそ かみのちから まことの えいこう

Church Hymn 245 (Published by Seibunsha)

Modern Japanese translation: Kaori E. 2023

Tune: "A Mighty Fortress" Martin Luther

Text: "God's Word Is Our Great Heritage"

Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig (1783-1872)

kamino mikotobawa saikou no takara (God's Word is our greatest treasure,)

zensedaiwo koe kagayaki tuzukeru (Shining brightly among all generations.)

Ikiru hibimo yowo saruhimo (Both in our living days and on the day we depart,)

Mikotobakoso kaminochikara makotono eikou (The Word is God's power, the true glory.)