

Multi-Language Productions (MLP)

# MLP Japan News



Ōura Church in Nagasaki Prefecture

## Greetings

### Season of Easter Joy

For Christians, this season marks Easter, celebrating the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ. **Jesus rose from the dead three days after His crucifixion. This signifies the Son of God's triumph over death.**

As the world awakens in spring, many people in Japan find joy in the blooming of flowers. **May the message of salvation through Jesus' sacrifice inspire the blossoming of faith in many hearts,** providing them with the hope of eternal life.

Kaori Egawa

MLP Japan Media Consultant/Editor

## Evangelism

### A Joyful Reunion

On Tuesday, March 19th, we enjoyed a wonderful visit with a lovely couple from Wisconsin, USA. **Megan Donart had stayed at our home in Tokyo back in 2014, as one of the students sent from Wisconsin Lutheran High School for Christian mission work in Japan.** Reconnecting with her in person after 10 years was truly special!

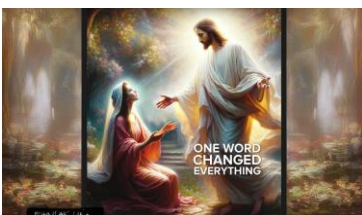


## Events

### Report

On Sunday, March 17th, we held a Tomato Club meeting. **During the event, we celebrated the 16th birthday of one member and congratulated another member on her high school graduation.** On Monday, March 18th, Oyako Joy Club hosted a storytelling session, enriched by the participation of a new volunteer. On Sunday, the 31st, Joy Club families came together online to share the joy of Easter.

The next storytelling event at Higashikurume Central Library is scheduled for Monday, April 18th, starting at 11 am.



## SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.

John 16:20

## Christian Magazine Summery-Forward in Christ

### More Room for Joy

Before Jesus went to the cross, He told His disciples, "You will grieve, but your grief will turn into joy." This prophecy highlighted God's ability to turn apparent defeat into ultimate victory. Echoing poet Edwin Markham's words, "Sorrows come to stretch out spaces in the heart for joy," **the disciples experienced unparalleled joy when they saw Jesus, who had risen from the dead. The declaration, "He lives!" filled them with boundless joy.**



This story illustrates how sorrow can be a precursor to greater joy, as their previous grief expanded their hearts, enabling them to fully embrace the joy of Jesus' resurrection.

For believers, death is not the end but the beginning of a new life filled with joy. **Jesus' assurance, "your grief will turn to joy," provides comfort to those facing hardships. God uses our sorrows to enlarge our hearts, paving the way for us to experience deeper joy.**

Nathan Nass | WELS Pastor

### The Mission of WELS Schools

Christian parents experience the wonder of God's creation with the birth of their children. Along with this joy comes the profound spiritual duty to nurture their children in faith, introduce these children to the Savior, and foster a life of devotion. Family prayers and scriptural teachings set a solid foundation for children to embark on their faith journey. This important parental role is also supported by church-run schools, which have long offered education rooted in Christian values. These institutions impart biblical knowledge and principles to the next generation, shaping future faith leaders and devout parents.

**Recently, WELS schools have experienced an increase in enrollments from non-Christian families, providing an excellent chance to uphold Lutheran values and spread the message of Christ's love to a broader audience.** This development has welcomed children from diverse religious or non-religious backgrounds, inviting them to explore and engage with the church community. WELS is fully committed to embracing this outreach potential. We continually seek divine guidance to gather the necessary resources and dedicated educators.

Mark G. Schroeder | WELS President

※Based on the April 2024 issue, the Forward In Christ (FIC) articles above were translated and summarized.

## Hymn of the Season

### Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (CW157)

- 1 Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!
- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!
- 3 But the pain which He endured, Alleluia!  
Our salvation have procured, Alleluia!  
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!  
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!



- 4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as His love, Alleluia!  
Praise Him, all you heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!