

MLP Japan News



The fireworks at Lake Toya in Hokkaido.

Greetings

Summer Fireworks

In Japan, summer is synonymous with the beauty of fireworks lighting up the night sky. These fleeting displays captivate us but also bring a sense of sadness as their bright light quickly fades, leaving the sky in darkness.

Jesus Christ said, **"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."** (John 8:12)

Unlike fireworks, Jesus' salvation provides an everlasting light. We are grateful for the Lord's eternal salvation.

Kaori Egawa
Editor/Media Consultant
MLP Japan

Evangelism

Taken Home to Heaven

Pastor Steve Witte, leader of Asia One Team was taken home to heaven on June 30th at age 67. He died due to a fire at a vacation home in WI where his family had gathered. Six people, including Pastor Witte's two daughters and three grandchildren, also passed away. After escaping the fire, Pastor Witte went back into the fire to rescue his family and perished in the flames. **Please pray for the comfort of his family members and all those affected.** The funeral was held on July 9th and was streamed on YouTube. You may view the funeral service recording at: St. Mark Ministries

Events

At Higashikurume

On July 22, **Oyako Joy Club** hosted a **parent-child storytelling session with ukulele performances** at the Central Library of Higashikurume City. The event was attended by 19 people and was a great success. **The next session will be on September 23 at 11:00 AM.**

On July 24, members of Tomato Club made fruit yogurt gelato to beat the summer heat. While it chilled, **they watched "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" and listened to Handel's Messiah.**



SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

**"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.**

Matthew 11:28

Christian Magazine Summery-From *Forward in Christ* July Issue**Yoked with Jesus**

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matthew 11:28-29) This message from Jesus Christ offers us great comfort.



When we are exhausted, anxious, or burdened by guilt, Jesus promises us rest. **He invites us to take His yoke, a tool for sharing the load, which means learning from Him and applying His teachings.** This involves praying, studying the Bible, and practicing love and service. Through this, Jesus shares our burdens and guides us, providing eternal rest for our souls.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, lead us to Jesus and grant rest to our weary souls. Amen.

Evan Chartrand | Home Mission Pastor, Panama City Beach, Florida

**Workers Working Together**

Helen Keller once said, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” This idea is vital for Christian congregational life. This month’s “Free in Christ” article highlights the freedom of congregations to invite and appoint people to service roles. Called pastors and laypeople cannot handle the church’s work alone. The Bible says, **“to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up”** (Ephesians 4:12).

Church board and committee members serve without compensation, managing policies, finances, and programs. However, many congregations face a shortage of volunteers due to aging and the passing of many faithful servants.

It is crucial to volunteer willingly, pray for, and thank those who serve. Also, by involving young people and emphasizing teamwork, the church can achieve its goals. Together, called workers and volunteers can accomplish so much.

James Pope | FIC Editor

An Encouraging Word

Gustav and Annaliese Wenz, siblings from Billings, Montana (members at Apostles, Billings), decided to enroll at Martin Luther College (MLC) in New Ulm, Minnesota, with encouragement from their church pastor and family. Supported by their family, they successfully graduated this summer. Annaliese was assigned to Nebraska Lutheran High School, while Gustav will attend Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. They are also encouraging their sister, Wilhelmina, to attend MLC. Many other students study at MLC with their families’ support and encouragement. Gustav says, “My advice to my sister would be to get to know your professors! The faculty at MLC is like no other in the way they care about their students.” Annaliese agrees: “It’s not going to be easy. There are going to be days when you want to quit... Remember that God has placed so many amazing people in your life who care about you on and off campus. Don’t be afraid to reach out to them.”

A Special Prayer

Josiah R. Wordell
Mequon, Wis.

Josiah R. Wordell graduated from MLC this summer. He is the son of former WELS Japan missionary Professor Bradley Wordell and his wife, Andrea. We will keep Josiah in our prayers as he enters a new stage of his life, glorifying God’s name through his new call. Josiah has been assigned to staff ministry and will teach at Divine Savior Academy-Santa Rita Ranch in Liberty Hill, TX.