

Multi-Language Productions (MLP)

MLP Japan News



Mount Fuji in Winter

Greetings

New Year's Prayer

A new year has begun!

How are you spending this season? In these times of climate change and societal shifts, many of you may be striving to adopt good habits and make choices that are kind to the earth and to your neighbors.

Even amidst the challenges of daily life, we can trust that our Savior, Jesus Christ, is with us to lead and support us. This year, through the work of MLP Japan, we'll keep moving forward in prayer, sharing the love and peace of Christ with many people.

Kaori Egawa
Editor of MLP Japan



Report

PB Translation and WELS 175th Anniversary

Starting this January, we will begin translating the People's Bible (PB) commentary on Genesis. Genesis is a foundational book of the Christian faith, describing the creation of the world and God's promises. We hope this translation will make the Bible more accessible to a wider audience and deepen their understanding.

This year marks the 175th anniversary of our Lutheran church, WELS, the home of the professors who authored the People's Bible series. A translated article is available on the [LECC website](https://lecc.org), showcasing WELS' journey of faith.

Pre-Evangelism and more Activities

On December 21, the **Tomato Club** hosted a Christmas cookie baking event. Then, on the 29th, members participated in a volunteer activity, helping to prepare New Year's desserts.

The **Joy Club** held an online gathering on the 22nd, where participants enjoyed hymns, stories, and crafts.

The **Oyako (Parent-Child) Joy Club** hosted a storytelling session at Higashikurume Central Library on December 16, where we connected with eight parents and children. **The next session is Monday, Jan 27 from 11AM.**

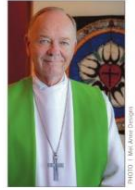
SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!**

2 Corinthians 5:17

Christian Magazine Summary – From *Forward in Christ***What a View!**

When I was in college, I went on a three-day hiking trip in the mountains with two friends. We drove across Minnesota and South Dakota and finally arrived at Glacier National Park. With our backpacks loaded, hiking boots on, and bear bells attached, we set off along the steep mountain trails.



When we reached Gunsight Pass which was our high point of our hike and looked back, we could see the winding paths we had walked, the ridges of pine-covered forests, the towering snow-capped peaks, a blue lake nestled in the valley, and even the icy stream where I had slipped and taken the coldest bath ever. We also noticed things we hadn't seen before, such as mountain goats playing on the rocky slopes and a waterfall cascading from a glacier. Looking ahead, we saw new trails disappearing into the mist, and our hearts filled with excitement for the journey ahead.

Life has moments like this, too. As we enter the New Year, it's a time to reflect on the past and look ahead to the future. We give thanks for the blessings God has given us over the past year, including the blessings of His Word and sacraments, the time spent with family and friends, and the trust deepened through failures and challenges. I am confident that this new year will also be a year of God's grace and protection. **After all, our God, our help in ages past, is also our hope for years to come. What a view!**

Mark Schroeder | WELS President

Strength to the Weary

Have you ever felt stuck and thought, "I just can't do it anymore"? Sometimes, God lovingly leads us into those moments. They are opportunities to recognize our limitations and trust in God's presence and help.

Through His miracles, Jesus resolved impossible situations in an instant. With words like "Be clean" and "Get up," He brought healing, restoration, and forgiveness, transforming despair and even death into hope and life. That same power remains unchanged today.

When you feel like you can't go on, trust in Jesus. According to His will, He can make all things possible. **Jesus said, "In this world, you will have trouble," but trouble is not the end of your story. He promises, "I have overcome the world."** (John 16:33)

The victory of the cross is guaranteed by the undeniable event of His resurrection. That victory is yours. You are not stuck—Jesus has set you free.

Michael Ewart | Pastor at St. Peter The CORE, Appleton, Wisconsin

The above two articles have been translated and summarized from the January 2025 issue of *Forward In Christ Magazine*.

Simple Bible Class**Introduction to the Hymn Project**

Starting in January, we are excited to launch a new hymn project called "Praise Time." Each month, MLP Japan will select an English hymn, offering tips on pronunciation and techniques for singing smoothly while supporting fun and engaging practice sessions. **We'll also explain the meanings of words and phrases in the lyrics and provide Japanese translations to help participants deeply understand and enjoy the hymns from the heart. Each session will focus on one hymn, take about 10 minutes, and is free of charge.**

This project will be part of existing outreach activities, such as Joy Club, Tomato Club, devotions, worship services, and other language and music events. **As the culmination of this year-long effort, we plan to hold a live music event in the fall through winter.** We hope this project will bring joy and blessings to many. Please keep us in your prayers, and thank you for your warm support.

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