

MLP Japan News



Tokyo Skytree and Fireworks

Greetings

Everlasting Light

Fireworks light up the summer skies all across Japan, painting the night with **vibrant colors** and shaking our hearts with their **sound and power**.

Just as we are moved by their beauty, **God's Word also speaks to our hearts strong, beautiful, and full of life.**

But while **summer fireworks last only for a brief moment, God's message gives us the hope of eternal life that never fades.** May **His Word shine as an everlasting light** in our hearts as we walk in faith.

Kaori Egawa
Editor of MLP Japan

LECC News

A Visit to Heian Lutheran Church

On **Sunday, July 20**, Egawa attended **worship at Heian (Peace) Lutheran Church** in Ashikaga, Tochigi Prefecture. It was a **blessing** to also take part in the **Holy Communion** led by **Pastor Nidaira**.

After the service, we had a **short but uplifting time of fellowship**. Pastor Nidaira kindly shared his **thoughts on outreach ministry** and his **experience at the recent CELC Asia Conference**. We look forward to our next meeting in the near future.



Evangelism

Tomato Club & English

On Saturday, July 19, our youth group **"Tomato Club"** made delicious homemade **castella cake**. This month, we **began offering English lessons**. In these lessons, we practice **clear pronunciation using the phonics method** and learn **practical, everyday English conversation**. We also **sing hymns in English**—the same ones introduced in the **"Time of Praise"** section of this newsletter. We **pray** that God gives the **high school students among us peace and focus** as they prepare for their **upcoming college entrance exams**.



SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

But now, this is what the Lord says—
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
Isaiah 43:1

Message from WELS – Faith and Life

Jump Into the Deep End

One summer, I was watching my children take their very first swimming lessons. At the end of the class came the big moment: **it was time to jump off the diving board into the deep pool.** My kids looked nervous, but with all the courage they could gather, they leapt in. **Watching them take that brave step made me feel so proud as their mom.**

But when they came up out of the water, their faces were twisted with fear. **They had sunk deep where their feet couldn't touch the bottom, and that feeling terrified them.** One of my kids cried for a full 30 minutes afterward.

I remember thinking, **"But the lifeguard was right there, ready to catch them. Why were they so scared?"** And in that moment, I felt as if God was speaking to my heart: **"You're the same way."**

We all have moments in life when we face our own kind of "deep water." Worries, grief, guilt, fear about the future... Sometimes we feel like we're sinking and just want to cry. **But God sent Jesus to rescue us from exactly that.** Jesus gave His life on the cross, carrying every one of our sins. **And He's alive today—right beside you, watching over you.** You have a personal Lifeguard, on duty 24/7. His name is Jesus. The Bible tells us:

☞ **"Do not fear... When you pass through the waters, I will be with you."** (Isaiah 43:1–2)

☞ **"He who watches over you will neither slumber nor sleep."** (Psalm 121:3–4)

☞ **"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God... will guard your hearts."** (Philippians 4:6–7)

Even on the days when you feel scared and want to cry, it's okay. **God loves you. He's holding out His arms to catch you. You are already safe.**

Author Katie Augustine

Edited from the article of *FIC Magazine* July 2025 issue. This originally appeared as a blog for *Time of Grace*, timeofgrace.org.

Praise Time

He's God the Whole World in His Hands – Japanese version

He's got the whole world in His hands ×3
He's got the whole world in His hands

Seh-kah-ee wah, shoo gah mah-mo-teh-roo ×3
Shoo noh teh noh hee-rah noh nah-kah



Translation: Kaori Egawa 2025.7

Learn the Bible More Deeply

TELL (Think, Evaluate, Learn, Lead) is a **free online Bible study program** offered by WELS. Seekers and Christians from around the world are learning through TELL to grow in faith and to be equipped as future leaders. We invite you to **pray with us that TELL may reach many people in Japan.**

Features of TELL

- **Multilingual access worldwide:** Bible lessons are available in English, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, and Tagalog, making TELL accessible to people from diverse cultural backgrounds.
- **Focus on leadership development:** TELL is not only about gaining Bible knowledge—it's about training leaders who can host small groups, teach the Word, and help build Christ-centered churches.
- **Structured curriculum with four stages:** The program is built on four steps—**Think → Evaluate → Learn → Lead**—allowing learners to grow step by step in faith and leadership skills.
- **Free and available anytime, anywhere:** All materials are free and can be accessed on a smartphone. The platform is designed for easy use, even in areas with limited internet connectivity.
- **Live classes and personal support:** Weekly Zoom sessions, follow-up resources, and one-on-one contact with teachers or mentors via WhatsApp help participants stay connected and encouraged.
- **Experienced instructors:** TELL's teachers are well-trained in biblical languages, church history, and world religions, answering questions with both knowledge and care.
- **Global community of learners:** Thousands of students from over 40 countries join every year, creating an international network of Christians growing in faith together.

TELL's Impact (as of 2023)

- 5,000 new students from 40+ countries
- 400+ students enrolled in advanced courses
- Over 1 million followers across six regional Facebook pages
- Over 40,000 monthly visitors to the website



► [Learn more](https://wels.net/)

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