

MLP Japan News



Sunflower Fields of Hokkaido

Greetings

Christian Mission

As the summer heat deepens, even coping with the daily temperature can feel challenging. Yet in the midst of it all, **I find joy in embracing the calling to faithfully share God's Word.**

This month, I've been reflecting on the truth that God gives wisdom generously and without finding fault. Even when our own ideas or plans fall short, **we can trust in the Lord's abundant guidance and gracious heart.**

Let us continue to walk together with joy, **trusting that the Lord will lead us day by day.**

Kaori Egawa
Editor of MLP Japan

Prayer and Gratitude

Start of a New Ministry Year

MLP (Multi-Language Productions), a ministry of WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod – <https://wels.net>), **begins its new ministry year in July.** We are deeply grateful for your continued prayers and support as this new season begins.

MLP Japan is committed to **sharing God's Word clearly and faithfully**, both online and in person, with the hope of **reaching all 47 prefectures in Japan.**

We are thankful for our partnership with LECC and pray that **we may continue walking together in unity of the true faith.** May this year be filled with joy, purpose, and lasting spiritual fruit.

Evangelism

Outreach Activities

On **Saturday, July 19 at 2:00 p.m.**, we will host **Tomato Club**, a Christian cooking event for junior high and high school students.

On **Monday, July 28 at 11:00 a.m.**, we will offer an **outreach storytime** for parents and toddlers (ages 0–3) at **Higashikurume Library**, as part of our **Oyako** (Parent-Child) **Joy Club**. All are welcome — we hope to see you there!

More outreach events and story times are being planned throughout the year. Stay tuned for updates!



SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

**If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God,
who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.**

James 1:5

Christian Magazine Summary – From *Forward in Christ***Distorted Bible passages: Psalm 23:4**

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil." (Psalm 23:4)
This verse is a source of deep comfort to many. But what does **"the valley of the shadow of death"** really mean?

In Psalm 23, God is described as our shepherd. Just as a shepherd cares for his sheep, **God provides, protects, and guides His people.** The phrase "valley of the shadow of death" in Hebrew can also mean **"deep darkness"**—not just death itself, but any time of fear, uncertainty, or sorrow.

Imagine walking alone down a pitch-black alley at 2 a.m. in a dangerous neighborhood. Illness, grief, loneliness, or fear about the future—these can all be "valleys" we walk through. And yet David declares, **"I will fear no evil, for You are with me."**

Of course, this verse also includes the reality of death. **When we stand at the bedside of a dying loved one or face our own mortality, the Lord is still with us.**

Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, laid down His life for us and rose again in victory over death. Because of Him, we need not fear—even when we walk through life's darkest valleys.

The Bible is filled with metaphors and poetic language. Rather than interpreting every word literally, **we are invited to listen closely to the context, to the flow of Scripture as a whole, and most of all, to the heart of God.** In doing so, we come to know His love and protection more deeply in our daily walk of faith.

How can we know if a Bible passage is meant literally or figuratively? In general, we read the words plainly unless the context suggests a symbolic meaning.

When Jesus tells a parable, He often begins with, "The kingdom of heaven is like..." — letting us know He's speaking figuratively. Paying attention to context and language helps us grasp the message more deeply.

Resources like *The People's Bible* (Northwestern Publishing House) are helpful tools for deeper understanding.

Pastor Andrew Schroer
Redeemer Lutheran Church (Edna/Victoria, Texas)

Andy Schroer has served as a pastor in Mexico, Miami, and now in Edna/Victoria, Texas. He published *364 Days of Thanksgiving* in 2015 and writes a devotional column for five newspapers across Texas.

Adapted from the July 2025 issue of FIC Magazine, the above articles have been rewritten in simplified English.

The People's Bible (Japanese editions of *Exodus* and *Hebrews*) is available to read on the LECC Publications page. ▶ Learn more here: <http://leccjp.org/post-78/>

**TELL Announcement**

For those who want to go deeper in their study of the Bible: **TELL (Think, Evaluate, Learn, Lead)** is a free online Bible learning program offered by WELS. Anyone is welcome to enroll at no cost.

▶ Learn more here (English): <https://www.tellnetwork.org>

Praise Time***I Am Jesus' Little Lamb* わたしはイエスの ちいさなひつじ**

I am Jesus' little lamb;
Ever glad at heart I am,
For my shepherd gently
guides me,
Knows my needs and well
provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same,
Even calls me by my name.

wah-tah-shee wah yay-soo noh
chee-sah-nah he-tsu-jee
mee-doh-ree noh noh-hah-rah deh
soo-beh-teh oh mee-tah-sah-reh
oo-reh-shee-koo soo-goh-soo
ee-mah kah-rah zoo-toh

shoo nee mah-moh-rah-reh-teh
kyoh moh shee-ah-wah-seh
koh-chee-rah eh oh-ee-deh toh
ee-tsoo-moh hee-toh-ree zoo-tsoo
nah-mah-eh oh yoh-bah-reh
mee-chee-bee-kah-reh-roo noh



The first verse in English has been adapted into two verses for children. Translation: Kaori Egawa 2025.7

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