

Multi-Language Productions (MLP)

MLP Japan News



The terraced rice fields and hills, the scenery of Nozawa Onsen Village

Greetings

Joy After the Storm

After the storm has passed, there is a **joy unlike any other**—fresh and renewing, as though the air itself has been **washed clean**. Here in Higashikurume, we can already sense the **first hints of autumn**, even while the skies remain unsettled with sudden thunder or heavy rain.

Just as every storm soon gives way to calm, **God's Word steadies our hearts with His peace**. May we walk in hope into this new season, treasuring the quiet **"moments of joy"** He so graciously provides.

Kaori Egawa
Editor of MLP Japan

Announcements

A New Christian Music Initiative

Freetide, a music project created by our **MLP Director**, is producing **Christian music inspired by the message of Scripture**. Its sound carries the rich influence of Western rock, yet remains gentle and uplifting to the ear. On **August 15**, the newest album **Healing** was released on Spotify. From beginning to end, its theme is **God's comfort and healing**, offering a soundtrack of grace for weary hearts. This work has been featured on the [**WELS Tech video program**](https://wels.net/).

We invite you to search for **"Freetide" on Spotify** and enjoy the music for yourself.



Outreach Activities

Tomato Club

On **Saturday, August 9**, Tomato Club gathered once again. This time, the **Egawa family's goddaughter's mom** joined us as a guest, sharing laughter with the high school student as they made **refreshing jellies** together. The room was filled with smiles and joy.

The following day, on **Sunday**, a **devotion time was held at the Egawa home**. Using a **bilingual liturgy**, we lifted our voices in song together. This weekly Sunday devotion is part of the ongoing ministry of the **Grace Home Outreach Station**, a place where God's Word is shared in both peace and joy.



SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

Hebrews 13:5

Message from WELS

It's All About Christ

For 175 years since the beginning of WELS, we have experienced many different events throughout our long history. There have been wars, economic downturns, social changes, and outbreaks of disease. Yet through it all, we remember how **Christ has protected and guided us every step of the way.** It is only because of His work that the church has been preserved and has continued to grow until today.

Now we are undertaking a bold challenge: **to open 100 new mission sites in the next 10 years.** There are challenges—such as financial needs and a shortage of pastors—but with the strength and resources God has given us, we are striving to bring the gospel to as many people as possible.

The work of the gospel is also spreading overseas. New missionaries have recently been sent to **the United Kingdom and Australia**, and in **Vietnam**, Lutheran pastors are studying theology. In many countries around the world, Lutheran churches are growing and walking hand in hand with WELS.

In our schools and seminary, the training of new pastors and teachers continues. Through those who are sent out, Christ Himself will continue to raise up laborers for His harvest fields. In local congregations as well, Christ strengthens His people through **the Word and the Sacraments.** We do not need flashy methods or special gimmicks. The **gospel itself nurtures faith and gives us strength.** From there, people go out into their communities, inviting their neighbors with the words, "Come and see." (John 1:46)

All of this is Christ's work. And what an amazing thing it is that He allows us to be part of it. Though we are sinful, He still uses us and lets us take part in the work of His kingdom. For this we give Him our heartfelt thanks.



Mark Schroeder | President of WELS

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

Parent Conversations

Children grow up so quickly. The baby becomes an elementary school student, and before long, a teenager. The role of parents changes over time, but one truth never changes: **both our lives and our parenting have meaning in Christ.**

God has entrusted parents with the special mission of leading their children to faith. Trusting in the power of His Word, we walk in prayer that it will take deep root in their hearts. Our desire is that our children may grow to be—

- **Humble Christians**, who confess their sins and find rest in Christ's salvation
- **Grateful children of God**, who treasure worship and prayer
- **Learners**, who continue to study God's Word
- **Disciples**, who live out God's law and gospel in daily life
- **Servants**, who use their gifts for God and for others
- **Witnesses**, who speak of the hope they have in Jesus.

To help them grow in this way, parents can do three things: 1. **Be an example.** Not in perfection, but by showing a life of faith rooted in Jesus. 2. **Speak the Word.** Point to God's truth in everyday conversations. 3. **Protect and correct.** Guard the child's heart, and when mistakes are made, guide with grace.

We are imperfect parents, but **Christ's perfect work covers all our shortcomings.** Children belong not only to our families, but also to God's family. Let us believe that faith is nurtured through both words and example, and continue daily in prayer.

Melanie Giddings

Melanie and her husband, John, have three children. Melanie is the coordinator for the new theology curriculum being developed for WELS schools.

Praise Time

My God is So Great

My God is so Great, so strong and so mighty!
There's nothing my God cannot do! (clap, clap)
My God is so great, so strong and so mighty!
There's nothing my God cannot do! (clap, clap)

The mountains are His, the rivers are His,
The stars are His Handiwork too,
My God is so great, so strong and so mighty!
There's nothing my God cannot do! For you !



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◀ Listen to the song.



This song joyfully praises how **wonderful God is.** With fun actions and lively singing, it celebrates His greatness. The final phrase—"For you!"—reminds us that the love of our **mighty God** is given **personally to you, right here and now.**

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