



SEPTEMBER 2020

HEADING HOME FROM SCHOOL

*Pastor Jastram is the Asia Lutheran Resource Coordinator:  
Helping to make Lutheran resources of theology and worship available in all of Asia.*

# New Focus Based On Tried and True Patterns

During the past several months I have been shifting into a new direction and focus under my new title of responsibility: *Asia Lutheran Resource Coordinator*. This came about in the process of careful consideration with our Asia regional director, when it became clear that, with a surge in interest for Lutheran resources, there was a necessity for overarching attention to providing resources of theology and worship so critically needed for continuing ministry in the mission parishes and for theological instruction in Asia.

This month, my new focus led me to become reacquainted with the history and patterns of early mission work regarding Lutheran resources of theology and worship—in Japan—where my father, Rev. Robert Jastram, served before me from 1953-1976.

It was through a review of his personal missionary archives, and the specifically tailored LCMS Japan missionary

training course he took in St. Louis, that I too came to focus on fundamental missionary questions:

- Do they have God's Word in their own language?
- Do they have hymns or liturgy for their worship?



**EARLY BIBLE, CATECHISM, LITURGY & HYMNAL (JAPAN)**

•Do they have catechisms and other resources for instruction in the faith?

•Do they have to learn English so they can use the English resources already available—OR—does the missionary learn their language and help to provide, in their language, the theological and worship resources so critically needed for healthy churches and church bodies?

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**SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

- *Our TIM congregations who have pledged ongoing support for LCMS mission work.*

**WE PRAISE GOD FOR:**

- *God's blessings of His clear teaching as witnessed in our Catechism.*
- *Concord in doctrine and practice as we work with various partner church bodies.*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- *The continuing diligent work of St. Louis Executive Director Daniel McMiller and his staff in LCMS Missionary Support, and Asia Regional Director Charles Ferry.*
- *Patience and strength for long-term goals for Asia Lutheran resources.*

**NEWSLETTERS INFO**

Want to catch up? Here's our archive link: [tiny.cc/dvv9iz](http://tiny.cc/dvv9iz)

Want to self-subscribe? Go here to receive your own email newsletter: <http://eepurl.com/ddOobf>

To be ADDED or REMOVED from our mailing list, you can also send an email message to [daniel.jastram@lcms.org](mailto:daniel.jastram@lcms.org) with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

The answer to the first two questions, in Japan back when my father asked them, “Do they have God's Word in their own language? Do they have hymns or liturgy for their worship?”, was that the Bible, hymns, and liturgy were already available in the Japanese language through the work of previous Lutheran missionaries. But, the need for a reliable Lutheran catechism was just at the verge of fulfillment through the translation work and coordination of Rev. George Shibata, the first LCMS Japanese-American missionary to Japan. George served in Japan for 53 years, from 1949 until his death in 2002. He, along with the whole Literature Committee of the LCMS Japan mission at the time, focused first on the primary need for Sunday School material, then very shortly after, on the need for a reliable Lutheran catechism to use for instruction in faith, baptism, and church membership. That Japanese catechism passed through its first printing in 1952, a second edition in 1957, and a third in 1965. Later, when the LCMS 1991 Catechism appeared, George—while in retirement—completed its translation also into Japanese in 1998, with a following edition in 1999, and a final edition appearing in 2005, three years after his death.

As you may have noted, my excitement about Lutheran resources for Asia has grown exponentially as I delve into the particulars of my new direction and focus—making resources like these available throughout Asia. As the process for organizing and funding these resources of Lutheran theology and worship becomes more developed, I will certainly keep you informed of how your partnership, prayers, and project funds can accomplish together what seems monumental individually.



**DAN VISITS HIS ELDERLY FRIEND AT HIS NURSERY (PRE-COVID)**

**Today We Pay Respects**

Japan leads the world for adults over 65—thirty-six million—comprising 29% of the population. We think it is a wonderful tradition to celebrate the elderly every year in September with a national holiday, “Respect For the Aged Day”, a time for people to visit their elders and pay their respects.



To support the LCMS through the work of Daniel Jastram, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861**

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks “Support of Asia-Jastram.”

Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at [lcms.org/givenow/jastram](http://lcms.org/givenow/jastram).

**WE THANK YOU WITH DEEP APPRECIATION FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

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