

Missionary Prayer Page

DIVISION FOR GLOBAL MISSION/EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



PRAY FOR

Mari and Tim McKenzie

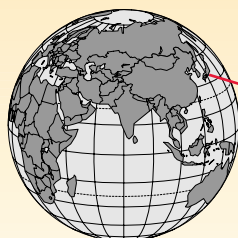
Tim is assigned to the Japan Lutheran College and the Japan Lutheran Theological Seminary as an instructor of historical theology. Mari serves as a teacher in the orientation program for new ELCA missionaries to Japan.



BIRTH DATES	Tim – April 27 Mari – June 21
ANNIVERSARY	July 22
COMPANION SYNOD	South Carolina
COUNTRY OF SERVICE	Japan

Prayer Concerns

- † Please pray for the seminarians of the Japan Lutheran Theological Seminary, that they be prepared for their work as parish pastors.
- † Please remember the leaders and churches of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church as they seek to share the Gospel within Japanese society.
- † Please prayerfully remember those who are preparing for Holy Baptism, that their faith may be strengthened and that they might love and serve Christ according to their gifts.
- † Please remember the students of the Japan Lutheran College, that they be led to a deeper understanding of the power of faith at work in their lives.
- † Please remember the Japan Lutheran Theological Seminary as it seeks to restructure its curriculum to better respond to the needs of parish ministry in Japan in the 21st century.
- † Please pray for those who are homeless, alone, suffering from depression, or thoughts of suicide, that God might find a path into their lives and renew them with hope and joy.



Japan

(see letter from Mari and Tim on the back side of this page)

As a sponsor of Mari and Tim, you are asked to remember them with your prayers and your financial support. Gifts of any size are welcome; a gift of \$ 130 supports a family for one day. Please send support gifts to:

Missionary-for-a-Day
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
P.O. Box 71764
Chicago, IL 60694-1764

Make check payable to: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear Friends,

We send you greetings from Tokyo, Japan! We serve as ELCA missionaries in the metropolitan Tokyo area. Tim serves at the Japan Lutheran College and the Japan Lutheran Theological Seminary as an instructor of historical theology, and Mari serves as a teacher in the orientation program for new ELCA missionaries to Japan. We thank you for your prayerful sponsorship of our work and the wider work of the Division for Global Mission. Your gifts make a wide variety of work overseas possible, and we thank you for your concern in the global mission of the ELCA.

Tim's work as an instructor of historical theology is a challenging ministry that provides him with the privilege of teaching college and seminary students in the Japanese language. Dialogue in the classroom is stimulating as students have varied interests from many different backgrounds. In April 2005 (the school year begins in April) the college established a new interdisciplinary department combining the Social Welfare, Clinical Psychology and Christianity Departments. It is hoped that through interdisciplinary study these three departments will be able to aid students in their understanding of life, work and faith. The Japan Lutheran Theological Seminary provides theological education for both the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC) and the Japan Lutheran Church (N'RK). The JELC works together in mission with the ELCA, while the N'RK is historically in cooperation with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

Mari continues her work in a ministry of orientation for new ELCA missionaries arriving each year in Japan. Moving to a new country and facing the struggles of learning a new language and engaging a new culture is a daunting task. Mari helps new missionaries with sessions on daily life and culture in Japan as a means of helping them to adjust to Japan and begin work in their new respective assignments.

Though Japan is a highly developed nation, its people nevertheless face human issues common around the world. One issue that we are concerned about is the high number of persons who commit suicide each year. Every year roughly 30,000 persons choose to end their own lives. That is about one suicide every fifteen minutes. This startling figure suggests that personal struggles seem to overpower personal hope. Japan is often portrayed as a hard working and diligent nation, and while that is often accurate, many people face issues which they are unable to resolve alone. Though Japan is filled with an abundance of daily goods and services, the high rate of suicide reveals another side of daily life for which economic development has been unable to provide an answer. We ask for your prayers for those persons, who may be unknown to us, but for whom life holds no hope or joy. May the Lord of all life find a way into their lives renewing their hope and joy.

Finally, we remember your ministries in our prayers and hope that your involvement in God's mission will continue to be fed and nurtured by God's grace. We are constantly amazed by the great gifts that God bestows on people, allowing them to use their talents for God's mission. Japanese churches are often small but are characterized by a deep commitment to mission, discipleship and stewardship. Because of your support of the global mission of the ELCA we are able to participate in God's mission here in Japan. May the God of love, who sent Christ Jesus into the world, continue to bless you and your ministries with love and grace.

In the peace of Christ,

Timothy & Mari McKenzie