



## OKINAWA LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Pastor's corner:

On the Fourth of July many Americans say the Pledge of Allegiance. As the words say, they pledge or promise to live with the motto of "with liberty and justice for all." We want everyone to have true freedom, and no one is either above or below or without the law, and true justice is like clear, clean water and air that we breathe.

In Church, every Sunday morning, we say the Creed, which is like a pledge or promise to God to be a Christian, living in the freedom and justice (forgiveness) that Christ has won for us. True liberty is not just freedom "from" something, but it is freedom "to" something. We are freed to love, to be kind, to work for justice, to work for true freedom and to be peacemakers. We no longer have to be slaves of the devil or bullies or thugs or our habits: we are free to friends of Christ. Perhaps we can live with the motto of "with liberty and forgiveness for all."

Fly the flag. Raise the cross. Be proud to be an American. Be proud to be a Christian.

Michael Nearhood, Pastor



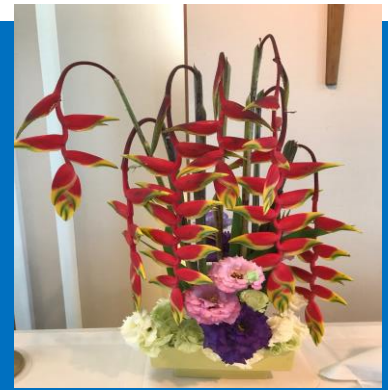
Lutheran Hour Ministries has released a fantastic, twelve video, course on Christianity. It's well worth the time. Please visit and share:

<https://www.lhm.org/godconnects/topic.asp?id=24010>



### Reformation 500 Year Anniversary Plans:

Activities are still being planned out! The first activity will be a **Concert by Amilia**, on Saturday, August 12, from 6:00 pm. It will be like an evangelism rally. She will sing and give her testimony. Mark your calendars! Thank you to the Reformation Committee Members who are working together to help make these Reformation events wonderful!



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Kitanakagusuku  
Okinawa, Japan 〒901-2301  
<https://church.ne.jp/okinuth/english/>

Upcoming Events:  
Sunday School is on  
summer vacation until  
September 3<sup>rd</sup>

8/25: (Friday Evening)  
VBS

10/31: Reformation,  
500<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary  
(Activities are still being  
planned)

English Conversation  
Classes Schedule:  
Saturday, 7:30-9:00

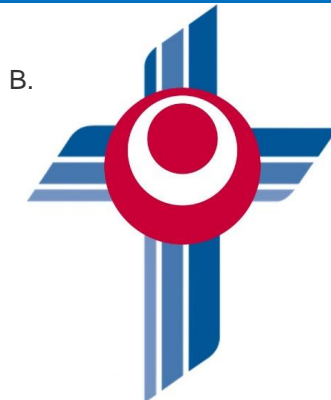
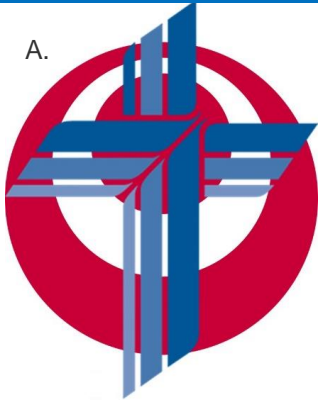
Please take a look at our  
updated Okinawa Lutheran  
Church Facebook site:

<https://www.facebook.com/okinawalutheran.church>

Thank you Megan!

## Okinawa Lutheran Church logo...? Do we have or want one?

Imagine wearing a polo shirt representing OLC? How about a refrigerator magnet or bible cover showing our church logo? I came up with a couple of suggestions if anyone is interested. We can always come up with more if the current ideas don't fit anyone's liking.



Volunteering:

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: 'They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.'" 2 Corinthians 9:7-9*

It is challenging for some to naturally volunteer for activities that are outside of their comfort zones. Some would say that it is an unnatural act to help those who are not intimately familiar. However, we were called upon by God to be cheerful givers and assist others for the purpose of spreading the gospel and evangelizing to our non-Christian neighbors. It's never about us, it's always for the glory of God.

A church family is not unlike a regular family; we each have our specific role that benefits us all. One parent may be the breadwinner/provider while the other is the nurturer. The children also have their roles which they are responsible for as well. Some closely support the family with housework, cooking, cleanliness, or caring for younger siblings. Still others help by doing their part by helping to relieve a portion of the financial burden. In church, the same roles are available for its members. There is always a need from members to assist with the church work (acting as an acolyte, lay reading, teaching Sunday School, etc.)

If you are able to share your talents. It would be greatly appreciated.

Kevin Hazzard, OLC English Speaking Congregation President

### Happy July Birthdays:

Kevin Hyde (4)  
Yushi Ohmine (7)  
Kinuko Fukuchi (14)  
Seichu Inafuku (16)  
Emily Nichols (21)  
Ayako Shimabukuro (25)  
Kayoko Shimabukuro (25)  
Shiori Shimabukuro (31)  
Maya Hazzard (31)

*"God's blessings to you. God's blessings on you.*

*God bless you and keep you, the whole year through!"*

