

Introducing Seminarians 1

This Year's Resolution



Japan Lutheran
Theological Seminary 1st Year
Mari Amada

Dear sisters of the JELCW, thank you for all of your prayers and support. Time flies and in a blink of an eye, the curriculum of my first year is over. Looking back, in the environment that was different from the department of Christianity, every single day was passed just by doing all the assignments in front of me. My days were busy with classes, services and church trainings every Sunday, but they were truly blessed and supported by many prayers.

What made the most impression on my mind was the summer break. For a few days, I became a leader of a children's camp and enjoyed going to the nearby Nogawa Park and a public bathhouse with the children and other camp staff. I was impressed and inspired by the children's ideas. Being around the happy kids gave me a lot of good energy.

For church training, I left Hoya Church, my home church, and attended Koishikawa Church. I cannot thank Rev. Tokuno, his wife Setsuko and everyone at the church enough for

the wonderful training environment. This training gave me the foundation of learning as a first year student.

I have two resolutions this year. The first is to spend more time reading books and learning, quietly and relaxed. Theology is a broad and deep subject; I, who am standing just at the beginning, feel overwhelmed by its sheer scale and not knowing where to begin. I want to start approaching it from what is in front of me, slowly and little by little.

The other resolution is, though it seems opposite to the first, to meet many people and experience many things. While being a student, I can go on different adventures. I would like to challenge and experience different things by learning through trial and error, stumbling and trying out new things.

To be specific, I want to start by reading many books that are stacked up in my room; playing piano and organ, which I love; and writing songs, thinking about Martin Luther. And I want to experience new things with many people.

Introducing Seminarians 2

From the 2nd Station



Japan Lutheran
Theological Seminary
1st Year
Yuko Nakagawa

It has been a year since the time I was about to take the entrance examination of the Seminary and prepare to dedicate myself. I have just finished the first year curriculum, but if I may use a metaphor of climbing a mountain, I have just passed the second station. I turned in my papers and received credits for required subjects. However, looking back at my year, I am wondering what I really learned and if I got one step closer to my goals.

I went to the Seminary after spending nearly 30 years in a secular career. Because of my experience in the previous life, my preconceived notions often had me thinking that “things will turn out this way” or “most people would behave that way.” Last year I experienced continual upturns of those notions. I could no longer apply rules of thumb the way I used to and nothing seemed to go well. My confidence and expectation for myself

that “I could do this” crumbled after failing over and over.

Right now, I have no sense of accomplishment or fulfillment. I’m also not sure what my future holds or even about my current self. I feel as if I’m surrounded by clouds. But when I think back, God is carrying me to where I should be, even when I don’t feel like I’m making a progress, confused and frustrated by not being able to do anything I want to do. I feel that God has been setting me at the point where I can see myself from a slight opening in the clouds. The Lord who called me is surely leading me to where He wants me to be. I believe I should trust Him more and follow His way from now on. This is where I am, at the second station, trusting and walking this path while looking up at the top of the mountain afar.

Other than the classes, I had church trainings, seminary programs and many other events. In spite of nothing going right, I enjoyed everything. I would like to thank God again for giving me this rich experience in learning.