

CHANGING PATHS

Reformation Day 2016
Volume 14 Issue 8



While perhaps common in Germany, statues of Martin Luther are extremely rare in Asia. In fact, this might be the only one and it is to be found in front of Luther Tower, a building constructed by our partner church, the Lutheran Church in Korea. Earlier this month, Korea celebrated Hangul Day, commemorating the creation of the Korean phonetic system credited to Great King Sejong whose statue sits in downtown Seoul.

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."¹- Jesus

Great King Sejong (1397-1450) is known as the wisest and most capable of all Korean kings. Among his many accomplishments in multiple fields, his oversight in creating *hangul* (한글), the Korean phonetic alphabet, is the most famous. Comprised of 14 consonants and 10 vowels and ordered in clusters to produce the sounds unique to the Korean language, *hangul* served to set free the written language to the masses.

One hundred years later, Martin Luther, as a troubled monk, experienced the crushing burden of what was, in that day, understood as the righteousness of God. God's justice demanded sins to be punished and despite living a life "without reproach"² as a faithful monk, Luther's troubled conscience convinced him his efforts to placate God were in vain. It wasn't until a spiritual breakthrough, by "the mercy of God,"² was it made clear that the righteousness of God that Paul was speaking about in Romans 1 is the gift that God grants us through faith in Jesus. During the Reformation, Luther accordingly sought to clearly proclaim this Gospel - *good news* - by translating the Word of God into the common language of the day, serving to set free the message to the masses that we are made right before God through faith in Jesus.

On this Reformation Day, let us thank our gracious God for having set free the message of His work, through Jesus, on our behalf. In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are free indeed.

1. John 8:36 ESV

2. Luther, "Preface to Latin Writings," in Luther's Works, 55 vols. (St. Louis: Concordia; Philadelphia: Fortress, 1955-76, 34:336-37).



Matt, Dee Dee, Lily and Olivia Wasmund
matthew.wasmund@lcmsintl.org
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
446-11 Huam-Dong
Yongsan-Gu
Seoul 04326
SOUTH KOREA



To support the LCMS through the work of the Wasmund family, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; P.O. Box 66861; St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 -OR-
Mission Central; 40718 Highway E 16; Mapleton, IA 51034.

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or LCMS. Include 'Wasmund - Korea' in the memo line.
Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at www.lcms.org/wasmund.