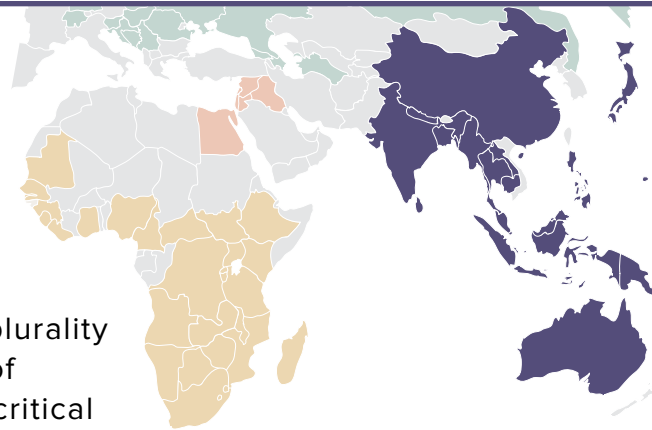


# ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



The ELCA accompanies churches as they renew their Lutheran identity and meet challenges of a religious plurality in today's context. We work to increase the capacity of churches and development organizations to address critical issues of sustainable development and justice.



## THE REV. HITOSHI AND SATOKO ADACHI – JAPAN

The Rev. Hitoshi and Satoko Adachi arrived in Kumamoto in the summer of 2018. Hitoshi serves as co-pastor of the Kuwamizu and Matsubase congregations of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC) and also preaches for the international service at the JELC Kumamoto congregation. Additionally, he serves as chaplain for the Jiai-en social services facility, which has been a JELC ministry for almost 100 years. Satoko serves as pianist/organist for the Matsubase congregation.

Kumamoto, where the Adachis serve, was the center of a devastating earthquake in April 2016. As of July 2018, over 24,000 people were still living in temporary housing. Part of Hitoshi's ministry is listening to people as they share the fear they felt during that time and the pain and troubles that persist in the aftermath. He is not alone in this ministry, however; he feels the importance of the long-term presence of many Christian caregivers who were trained to listen to and care for those affected by various disasters. Hitoshi says, "Hopefully and prayerfully may these disaster victims find the presence of God's grace and mercy in the midst of their hardships. Amen."

*Pastor Hitoshi (right) and Rev. Mizuhara of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church help with recovery work following a flood in the Hiroshima prefecture. Photo: K. Kozaki*

## AUSTRALIA



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