

World



THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

This is the newly completed LDS temple in Sapporo, Japan.

# New Mormon temple completed in Japan

JAMES BUNTING  
THE REPUBLIC | AZCENTRAL.COM

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has announced the completion of a new temple in Sapporo, Japan. The temple will dedicate Aug. 21 and will serve the 8,000 church members on the northern Japanese island, according to the church's press release.

Mormons first arrived in Japan in 1901 as part of their first mission to Asia, and ceased their missions and conversions after an earthquake in 1923. New efforts began after World War II, and the number of church members has slowly grown since. Today, Latter-day Saint membership in Japan is over 128,000 with 266 congregations. For comparison, there are more than 400,000 Mormons in Arizona and 6.5 million in the United States. More than 70 percent of Japan's 127 million population is Buddhist, with Mormonism coming in at about 0.1 percent.

The 48,480-square-foot Sapporo Japan Temple sits on 9.8 acres and has a statue of the Angel Moroni on top of its

single spire.

It is the biggest of the Mormon temples in Japan, but small when compared with its American counterparts. The Phoenix Latter-day Saint temple is 64,870 square feet, and the temple in Gilbert is 85,326 square feet. The Salt Lake City temple, meanwhile, is 253,000 square feet.

The Sapporo temple's design is heavily influenced by Japanese architecture and art, attempting to blend the western religion with the Japanese culture.

It will be the third Latter-day Saint temple in Japan and the 151st operating temple worldwide.

"Latter-day Saint temples differ from the meetinghouses or chapels where members meet for Sunday worship services," according to the press release. "Temples are considered 'houses of the Lord' where Christ's teachings are reaffirmed through marriage, baptism and other ordinances that unite families for eternity. Inside the temple, members learn more about the purpose of life and make covenants to serve God and their fellow man."



## Around Arizona

# Cameras keep an eye on 'preemies'

CHRISTINA TETREAULT  
CRONKITE NEWS

Nurses sweep through narrow aisles in a dimly lit room, tending to tiny patients born prematurely or with problems.

A mother is here for hours, watching her baby born 10 weeks too soon, touching the hands of her son to the beeps and buzzes of the machines that monitor her boy.

Still, as much as she wants to be here always, she has a 3-year-old daughter at home who also needs her.

But Ashlee Minton's smartphone and the camera that hovers over Michael Minton in his crib provide a 24-hour view of his life at an Arizona hospital.

"Michael had surgery the other day and I was able to just login to the camera and see how he was doing," Minton said. "I logged in every hour to see if he was awake, if he was happy, if he was sleeping."

Michael Minton, now 8 months old, is a "preemie" who developed ascites, a dangerous buildup of fluid in his abdomen and other organs. Ashlee Minton saw her son flatline several times. He has lived his young life in three hospitals, the last four months at Phoenix Children's Hospital.

Two weeks ago, the hospital became the first in Arizona to install cameras in its neonatal intensive-care unit. A camera, clutched in a metal claw similar to those in arcade toy machines, is suspended over 31 cribs.

For two weeks, Ashlee Minton and Michael's big sister, Elizabeth, could watch him as he squirmed or slept.

"I pull it up before she goes to bed at night and

she gives him a kiss good-night on my phone," Ashlee Minton said. The cameras provided relief and reassurance in the rare times when she and her husband could not be at the hospital.

"The last eight months this has become my life," she said. "I get up, take my daughter to my in-laws, come to the hospital all day, take care of Michael, eat lunch in the cafeteria, go home."

She tried to balance her time with her daughter and her son, concerned about staying with him but leaving her daughter.

"I was really worried about her feeling neglected or feeling animosity towards her brother."

Before the camera was installed a call to the nurse's station was her only lifeline.

"I was neurotic," Minton said. "Instead of calling and having to wait to talk to a nurse I could just login and see how he was doing."

Diane Minton, Ashlee's mother-in-law, praised her for her commitment to family.

"You can't be here 24 hours a day," said Diane Minton, who also used the camera connection to see her grandson when she was away from the hospital. "To be able to check in and see how things are going, to see whether he's awake or sleep and everything's alright, is very reassuring."

The hospital is the only one in Arizona and among a few in the country to have the camera technology, according to Barb Harvey, manager of the neonatal unit. The cameras allow families to use a smartphone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer to check on their child, day or night.



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