

Bridge

A Monthly E-Newsletter of the Asian and Pacific Islander Community
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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August 2010

www.asianlutherans.net

FROM THE DIRECTOR



We have added a permanent column into the Bridge, from Prof. Edmond Yee, the president of the Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders-ELCA. Prof. Yee, our "old man," will

convey his monthly message to ELCA Asian and Pacific Islander Lutherans. He is also the secretary of the Asian Lutheran International Conference, a network of Asian Lutherans that meets every other year.

The 6th Asian Lutheran International Conference will be held as planned in January 2011. Registration has begun, and we expect approximately 120 people at the conference. Also, we will have our first university student track that will consist of 15 students from Thailand and 4-5 Hmong students from Ascension Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, WI. They will lead singspiration at the conference. Thanks to Pastor Jon Jacobs of Ascension who encouraged and supported his Hmong members to participate. I encourage you to attend this conference which is open to all. Come and join us!

Rev. Pongsak Limthongviratn, Ph.D.

Director for Asian and Pacific Islander Ministries,
Multicultural Ministries, ELCA

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Greetings to you from Berkeley, California! Thank you for having elected me president of AAPI-ELCA. I feel much honored by your trust and confidence in me to lead this wonderful

organization. In the coming months, I will count on your continued support so that

together we may advance the ministry of AAPI.

My first official act was to attend the open session of the Church Council's conference call on August 4, 2010. I was on the phone for about 20 minutes. It was reported that the ELCA's relationship with the LWF was good and the mood of the synods of the church was upbeat. However, the financial picture of the church did not look good. Another round of budget cuts will be forthcoming. There will be implications for our work together.

The AAPI officers had a get acquainted conference call on August 16. We received reports from the president, the treasurer, and the staff. No decisions were made. Our next conference call will take place on October 11. I will keep you posted on any decisions made then.

Blessings to you in your ministry,

Rev. Edmond Yee, Ph.D.

President, Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders-ELCA

NEWS AROUND THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY

Rev. Tita Valeriano began her new role as mission developer for multi-ethnic ministry in Hayward, CA. She began her new ministry in August.

Rev. William Siong has resigned as the pastor of Hmong Central Lutheran Church July. He has accepted a call as mission developer reaching young adult Hmong in the East St. Paul area, MN.

Our condolences to the Rev. Songchai Hang for the loss of his mother on August 24. Rev. Hang was the former chair of the Hmong caucus. A wreath from the ELCA Asian community was delivered to the funeral service.

WESTERN MISSION CLUSTER TEEM PROGRAM - MONTEREY PARK EXTENSION

Thanks to the Rev. Dr. Moses Penumaka, the director of the Western Mission Cluster (Luther Seminary and Pacific Lutheran



PRAYER CORNER: Please pray for: 1) Rev. Tita Valeriano and Rev. William Siong as they begin their new ministries, 2) the Chinese and South Asian caucus gatherings in September in Monterey Park, CA, and Philadelphia, PA, respectively, 3) the preparation work for the 6th Asian Lutheran International Conference next January, 4) students and young adults from Ascension Lutheran Church who will lead singspiration at the Asian Lutheran International Conference, 5) Rev. Songchai Hang and family after the loss of his mother, 6) the LIFT study on the future of ELCA identity, change and mission.

Theological Seminary) who has prepared the tentative schedule for 2010-2011:

1. October 7-9, 2010 - Church Polity by Dr. Gregory Villalon
2. December 16-17, 2010 - Lutheran Confessions by Dr. Pongsak Limthongviratn
3. March 17-19, 2011 - Systematic Theology by Dr. Paul Rajashekar
4. June 5-7, 2011 - Lutheran Liturgy by Dr. Michael Aune
5. August 20-22, 2011 - Biblical Hermeneutics by Dr. Jensen Seyenkulo

LIVING INTO THE FUTURE (LIFT)

The ELCA has formed a task force called Living into the Future Together (LIFT): Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA. Its purpose is to develop and recommend options for the future of the ELCA in light of its identity, changes in its environment and its call to God's mission. The task force will make recommendations on how to position this church for new possibilities in God's mission. You can participate in several ways: get involved through <http://liftelca.org/get-involved>, become a fan on Facebook (LIFT-ELCA), or follow the progress of the work on www.liftelca.org.

HMONG AND LAO CAUCUS GATHERINGS

Under the theme "Who Am I?" the Hmong Caucus was convened on August 6-8, 2010 at Indian Sands Camp, Neshkoro, WI. More than 90 people attended this annual gathering.

The Laotian Caucus also gathered on August 20-21, Des Moines, IA. The gathering was attended by more than 50 people.

CHINESE CAUCUS

The Chinese Caucus will gather in Monterey Park, September 15-18. Speakers include the Rev. Dr. Peter Li, Dean of Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong; and the Rev. Dr. George

Tan, EOCM Director for Evangelical Mission for SW California Synod.

SOUTH ASIAN CAUCUS

The South Asian caucus will gather at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia (LTSP), September 2. Prof. Paul Rajashekar, dean of the LTSP, will be speaker. About 25 South Asian pastors and lay leaders will be participating.

REGISTER NOW!!!

The 6th Asian Lutheran
International Conference

Reading the Bible in Asian Contexts

Keynote speaker:

Prof. Paul Rajashekar

Dean of Lutheran Theological Seminary
in Philadelphia

Other sub-theme speakers:

Bishop Nicholas Tai

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong

Prof. Monica Melanchthon

Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research
Institute, India

Rev. Dr. Martin Sinaga,

Department for Theological Studies, LWF

January 25-February 1, 2011

**Town in Town Hotel
Pattaya, Thailand**

**for hotel information, please visit
www.towntintownpattaya.com**

**The conference is open to all,
including non-Asian persons**

**For more information and registration form,
please visit www.asianlutherans.net**

Bridge is a monthly E-Newsletter jointly published by Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders, ELCA, and Asian and Pacific Islander Ministries Desk, Multicultural Ministries, ELCA. To share your story, please send it to pongsak.limthongviratn@elca.org. **Editor:** Pongsak

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