

BRIDGE

E-News of Asian and Pacific Islander Community-ELCA
March 2009

FROM THE DIRECTOR

This is the first issue of the *Bridge*, a monthly E-News of the Asian and Pacific Islander Community-ELCA. Its purpose is to share stories among Asians in the ELCA. This first issue begins with some stories that happened in our community early this year. We invite you to send your short story or encouragement to share with your Asian Lutheran brothers and sisters in the ELCA.

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

WHAT HAPPENS IN OUR COMMUNITY

1. Theological Education for Emerging Ministry (TEEM) program of the ELCA Western Mission Cluster (Luther Seminary and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary) has started Monterey Park Extension Center for 12 Asian leaders last October. They just finished their second course last month on Lutheran Hermeneutics by Dr. Jensen Sengyakulo, ELCA churchwide staff. The third course will focus on Lutheran Liturgy in May will be taught by Dr. Michael Aune, dean of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. Moses Penumaka is the director of the TEEM program.

2. Asian English Ministry network (AEM) met in San Diego, January 12-14. It presently consists of 17 ministries in the Asian community.

3. Over 80 Asians and 40 non-Asian participated in the Fifth Asian Lutheran International Conference (ALIC) held in Hong Kong, China, February 6-10. This conference has provided

opportunity for Asian Lutherans for both sides of the Pacific Rim to connect, to fellowship and to discuss ways to strengthen Asian ministries. The Sixth Asian Lutheran International Conference was scheduled for January 25-31, 2011, tentatively at Pattaya, Thailand.

4. The Asian Church Planting team met in Chicago, March 9-10. The team meet with staff of Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission twice a year to discuss and plan new Asian ministries. For 2009, four new ministries are being planned: 1) Chinese –Diamond Bar, CA; 2) Chinese, Torrance, CA; 3) Indian, Detroit, MI; 4) Pan Asian, Los Angeles area, CA. The team consists of leaders from different Asian ethnic backgrounds.

ASIAN EANGELIZING TEAM

Asian Evangelizing Team is working on the translation of ELCA Evangelism resource titled *Proclaiming His Story*. It will appear in nine Asian languages, i.e., Cambodian, Chinese, Hmong, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Thai and Vietnamese. This project is a partnership between Asian and Pacific Islander Ministries, Multicultural Ministries, and the evangelism office of the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission, ELCA.

ETHNIC CAUCUS' NEWS

Asian and Pacific Islander community in the ELCA consists of 13 ethnic groups, e.g., Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Lahu, Laotian, South Asian, Thai, Vietnamese and Asian English

DID YOU KNOW?
ALL Asian and Asian descent Lutherans in ALL ELCA congregations and ministries are members of the Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders-ELCA.

speakers. To better serve our diverse community, ethnic caucuses were established. All caucuses are a part of the Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders. Ethnic caucus' gatherings this year include Laotian – June 25-27, Des Moines, IA; Hmong- August 7-9, La Cross, WI; Korean- September 14-16, Los Angeles, CA; Chinese – TBA.

PAN ASIAN LUTHERAN SONGBOOK

Asian Lutheran International Conference is working on a Pan Asian Songbook which will include 120 songs from every ethnic group. Edwin Arunmanayagam and Philip Mathai are contracted person for this project. They have been working with several Asian leaders in the ELCA and Asia. The project will be completed in January 2011. It will be available for Asian congregations, synod and churchwide office, seminaries, and Lutheran churches and seminaries in Asia.

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Rev. Philip Mathai and Ms. Joy Philip as they write and defend their dissertation this spring. They will graduate from the Lutheran School of Chicago at Chicago with Ph.D.s this May.

ABOUT ASSOCIATION OF ASIANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS-ELCA (AAPI-ELCA):

The Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders-ELCA (AAPI-ELCA) is an organization of Asian and Pacific Islander members of the ELCA. The ELCA recognizes the AAPI-ELCA through its Multicultural Ministries unit. The purposes of the association are:

1. To express the Christian faith from Asian Pacific American perspectives;
2. To encourage the special gifts brought by Asian Pacific community to the witness of Jesus Christ;
3. To facilitate the full participation of Asian American members of the ELCA and to the fullness of the inclusiveness and diversity of the people of God;
4. To facilitate and monitor the implementation of the National Strategic Plans of Ministries among Asian and Pacific Islander community in the ELCA;
5. To strengthen the unity of Asian and Pacific Islander community in the ELCA.

AAPI-ELCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President: Chi-shih Chen

Vice-president: Yutaka Kishino

Secretary: Kevin Cho

Treasurer: Saitong Urramporn

Member-at-large: Daniel Penumaka

Maria Gracia Sijera-Grant

Caucus Rep: Thomas Chen, Diakonda Gurning, Michael Lee, Songchai Hang, Phetsamone Vannavong

Individual Asian Network (by appointment): Fred Rajan, Edmond Yee

Women Network (by appointment):

Cora Aguilar, Stacy Kitahata

Ex-Officio: Pongsak Limthongviratn

For more information on the Asian and Pacific Islander community-ELCA, please call 800-638-3522 ext. 2834 or email pongsak.limthongviratn@elca.org

BRIDGE is a monthly E-news 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 Limthongviratn **Editorial Committee:** Kevin Cho, Gigie Sijera-Grant, Daniel Penumaka and Lily Wu.

