

# BRIDGE

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

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

We are living in a time that requires codes to get access to certain important messages. The more important the messages, the more difficult the code we need.

In this Easter season, we thank God for giving us the most important message. Its core of the message -- the death and resurrection of our Jesus Christ--came with no code. Asian Lutherans join Christians around the world to proclaim this gospel -- a non-negotiable message, i.e., Christ has died and has resurrected for us.

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

## CONGRATULATIONS

1. Rev. Dr. Fred Rajan, Vice President of Mission and Spiritual Care at Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital, has been named to a joint position as Vice President of Mission and Spiritual Care at both Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital and Advocate Condell Medical Center. He will direct efforts at both sites to support the integration of Advocate's faith-based Mission, Values, and Philosophy into all aspects of the hospitals' health care delivery.

2. Congratulations to the First Taiwanese Lutheran Church in Houston which was organized on April 5, 2009. Rev. Jeremy Shih has been instrumental for the development and organization of this congregation. He was also installed by Bishop Michael Rinehart of Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod as the pastor of this newly organized congregation. At present, there are altogether five Taiwanese congregations

in the ELCA located in Portland, Anaheim, San Diego, Houston and New York.



## ETHNIC CAUCUS AND NETWORK'S NEWS

Currently, there are eight organized caucuses. To become involved, please contact the corresponding caucus leaders:

Asian English Ministry: Me. Mike Lee  
Chinese: Rev. Chi-shih Chen and Rev. Thomas Chen, director for Chinese

If you are an Asian and Pacific Islander and is a member of any ELCA congregations and ministries, you are a member of the Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders-ELCA.

To receive this E-news, please send your e-mail address to [pongsak.limthongviratn@elca.org](mailto:pongsak.limthongviratn@elca.org)

Ministry  
Filipino: Rev. Gigie Grant  
Hmong: Rev. Songchai Hang  
Indonesian: Mr. Diakonda Gurning  
Korean: Rev. Kevin Cho  
Laotian: Rev. Phetsamone Vannavong  
South Asian: Rev. Daniel Penumaka

Some ethnic caucuses will hold their annual gathering as follows:  
Laotian -- June 25-27, Des Moines, IA  
Hmong -- August 7-9, La Cross, WI  
Korean -- September 14-16, Anaheim, CA  
Chinese -- September 16-19, Monterey Park, CA  
South Asian - TBA

## REGIONAL NEWS

1. Center for Chinese Ministry will sponsor a regional training on Praise and Worship in Los Angeles area, April 18 at Truth Evangelical Lutheran Church of LA, West Covina; CA. Rev. Joseph Chang is the host pastor.
2. Under the leadership of Rev. Lit-Inn Wu, Asian leaders in Metropolitan Chicago Synod are developing strategic plan for Asian ministries in Metropolitan Chicago Synod. They are working closely with the synod staff.
3. Cambodian and Laotian Lutherans in Sioux City will organize a special event to celebrate their traditional New Year--April 13. Rev. Soriya Roeun, pastor of Salem Lutheran Church in Dakota City, NE, is the key organizer of the event.

## NEW ASIAN PASTORS ROSTERED IN THE ELCA

We welcome new Asian pastors who have been ordained or received into the ELCA. They are:

1. Rev. Edwin Arunmayagam (*Indian*), Elizabeth, NJ

2. Rev. Rowena Luo, (*Chinese*) Renton, WA
3. Rev. Houa Moua, (*Hmong*), La Cross, WI
4. Rev. Michael Wang, (*Chinese*), Renton, WA
5. Rev. Jeremy Shih, (*Taiwanese*), Houston, TX
6. Rev. Chandra Jeyakumar Sundram, (*Indian*), Rockville, MD
7. Rev. Joshua Wang, (*Malaysian/Chinese*), Houston, TX
8. Rev. Andrew Yong, (*Malaysian/Chinese*), Portland, OR

## PRAYER CORNER

Pray for all Asian pastors, developers and lay leaders that God may guide, strengthen and empower them in their ministries in the ELCA

## LIVING THE WORD

THE 10TH ASSEMBLY OF  
ASSOCIATION OF ASIANS AND  
PACIFIC ISLANDERS-ELCA  
APRIL 7-10, 2010  
NEW LIGHT CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
PALATINE, IL  
MORE INFO WILL FOLLOW

**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 news or story, please send it to [pongsak.limthongviratn@elca.org](mailto:pongsak.limthongviratn@elca.org). **Editor:** Pongsak Limthongviratn **Editorial Committee:** Kevin Cho, Gigie Sijera-Grant, Daniel Penumaka and Lily Wu.

