

BRIDGE

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

August 2009

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Asian Lutherans always take the Great Commission seriously since many audiences of our ministry are people of other faiths. The Great Commission reminds us to proclaim

the gospel through words and deeds. Thus, the mission of Jesus Christ remains the focal point of our ministries despite changes in our church and society. God's Work. Our Hands.

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

ETHNIC CAUCUS NEWS

Under the theme "Evangelizing the Hmong," more than 130 Hmong Lutherans gathered together at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, August 8-9 for their Hmong Caucus this year. Mr. Nengyia Her, a Hmong TEEM candidate, spoke to first generation Hmong while Mr. Michael Lee challenged second generation Hmong to engage in evangelizing work. The Rev. Dr. Sherman Hicks and the Rev. Dr. Pongsak Limthongviratn brought greetings from the Multicultural Ministries Unit of the ELCA.



REFLECTION

I've always been interested in art. But since entering seminary I've become more *intrigued* with it, because I've discovered that art can lead us to encounter God's Word in ways that are new and unexpected, in ways that push us beyond the limits of the written or spoken word. This Lent I set out to explore with my internship congregation some of the ways Christian communities past and present have used art to articulate our understanding of God and of who we are as God's people. We learned how early Christian symbols like the cross and fish originated and how the way artists depicted Christ changed with the advent of the Christian state, after the Reformation, and in response to the Enlightenment. We saw how the modest house church of Paul's day morphed slowly into the medieval skyscraper — the Gothic cathedral. And we discovered the real reason churches were decorated: to teach the Bible to people who couldn't read. We also got to explore art in hands-on ways, constructing and walking a labyrinth, experiencing what it was like to pray with an icon, and working our way through the stations of the cross, much like medieval pilgrims did 800 years ago. In our very last session, "The Many Faces of Jesus," we saw Christ depicted as Latino, Asian, African and African-American, each face a reminder that in Jesus we can see reflected our diversity as God's people, for his is an amalgam of all our faces.

Sumie Song

NEWS

Prof. Paul Rajashekar, dean of Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, has finished his course — Systematic Theology -- with 12 Asian candidates. They are enrolling in the Monterey Park Extension Center, an extension of the Theological Education for Emerging Ministry (TEEM) program of the ELCA Western Mission Cluster (Luther Seminary and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary). The last course (Lutheran Confession) will be taught by the Rev. Dr. Pongsak Limthongviratn October 15-17 at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.

UPCOMING CAUCUS GATHERINGS

Korean

September 14-16, Anaheim, CA

Chinese

September 16-19, Monterey Park, CA

South Asian

September 28-29, Philadelphia, PA

Indonesian

October 15-17, New York, NY

PERSONAL SHARING

I had my latest procedure done to my eye on Monday afternoon. The doctor removed the clotted blood to see what was behind the lens of my eye. He found out that there was really nothing in the back of my eye. The initial impact from my accident tore out the retina and lot of tissue from my eye. The next step is probably to remove the eye and put a prosthetic one in its place.

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.

This is to save the right eye from going bad. Anyway, I am still upbeat and my overall health is good. Praise God and thanks for all your support and prayers.

Rev. Kevin Cho, Secretary,
Association of Asians and Pacific Islander, 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 AVAILABLE SEPT 2009



PRAYER CORNER: Please pray for: 1) Rev. Kevin Cho's eye surgery. 2) Asian Women network; 3) Rev. Andrew Yong's recuperation from surgeries; 4) unity of the ELCA particularly after the Churchwide Assembly in August.

BRIDGE is a monthly E-news jointly published by the Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders-ELCA and the 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 R.Wu.

To share your brief news or story, send it to pongsak.limthongviratn@elca.org.

