

Bridge

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

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



I would like to share some information that will relate to our current Multicultural Ministries unit and its work with person of colors, particularly the Asian and Pacific Islander community. At its November meeting, the

ELCA Church Council adopted the new continuing resolutions pertaining to the churchwide organization redesign which in effect established three new units and dissolved the previous five units. As a result of the redesign the work that was done by the Multicultural Ministries unit will now be located in the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit (CSM) and the Multicultural Ministries program committee will cease to exist. The Rev. Stephen P. Bouman was elected to serve as the executive director of this new unit. The new program committee for this unit will have four members (Rev. Rani Abdulmasih, Ms. Fumei Liang, Rev. Rose Mary Sanchez-Guzman, and Mr. Alfred Sagar) from our program committee serving on it. Also, Rev. Pablo Obregon will serve as the Church Council advisor. The membership of this new program committee will have representation from all the ethnic specific communities in the ELCA in your prayers.



*Wishing you a Blessed Christmas
And a Productive New Year*

Rev. Pongsak Limthongviratn, Ph.D.

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Just a Thought:
"If Asian Lutheran ministries are to flourish and soar like the supple, graceful, and beautiful crane, gaining new angles of vision as it surges higher and higher, Asian Lutheran

professionals must assume a greater responsibility. We must develop suitable hermeneutic tools so that a theology responsive and responsible to an Asian-American context might result and with which we may meet our own people's needs, spiritual and mundane." If we are to do that, we must also pay critical attention to the various traditions before they are indiscriminately discarded or retained.

Prof. Edmond Yee, Ph.D.

President, Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders-ELCA

ELCA CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION NEW DESIGN

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PRAYER CORNER: Please pray for: 1) About 65 ELCA churchwide staff who were affected by the new design; 2) the preparation for the Sixth Asian Lutheran International Conference scheduled for January 25-February 1, 2011, Pattaya, Thailand; 3) people in Indonesia and Thailand who were recently affected by Tsunami and flooding respectively; 4) the Asian Coalition's sponsored Revival for Church Growth Event, November 20; 5) All 170+ Asian pastors and lay leaders who are serving in congregations, ministries and other capacities in the ELCA.

Sagar) from our program committee serving on it. Also, Rev. Pablo Obregon will serve as the Church Council advisor. The membership of this new program committee will have representation from all the ethnic specific communities in the ELCA.

Asian

TEEM -Monterey Park Extension Center

The 2010 Monterey Park Extension Center of the Theological Education for Emerging Ministry has finished its second course on Lutheran Confession by Rev. Dr. Pongsak Limthongviratn on December 15-17.

UPDATE OF THE 6TH ASIAN LUTHERAN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



About 120 people, including local people and stewards will be at the Sixth Asian Lutheran Int'l Conference, January 2011, Thailand. Dean Paul Rajashekar will bring 14 seminarians from Lutheran

Theological Seminary in Philadelphia as part of their J-Term. They will visit Vietnam and Cambodia before going to the conference. Also, Pastor Jon Jacobs of Ascension Lutheran Church in Milwaukee will lead 5 Hmong students to the conference and lead in singspiration. They will visit a Hmong congregation in Chiang Mai after the conference. **We still have rooms for non-Asian participants. Come and join us!**

ASIAN CHURCH PLANTING TEAM MEETING

Asian Church Planting Team continues to meet in Chicago, October 27-28. This committee consists of leaders from different backgrounds that meet twice a year under the auspices of the Multicultural Ministries

and Evangelical Outreach & Congregational Mission. It provides input and assistance to the Multicultural Ministries and Evangelical Outreach in the areas of starting new satellite, new ministry, redevelopment and partnership support. Asian Church Planting Team is one of the concrete expressions affirming that the ELCA welcomes leadership and gifts from Asian community.

REGISTER NOW!!!
DEADLINE: DECEMBER 29th
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 Melancthon
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.towntownt Pattaya.com
The conference is open to all,
including non-Asian persons

For more information and registration form,
contact pongsak.limthongviratn@elca.org

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 Limthongviratn. **Editorial Committee:** Kevin Cho, Gigie Sijera-Grant, Daniel Penumaka, Lily R. Wu, and Andrew Yee.