

Bridge

A Monthly E-Newsletter of the Asian and Pacific Islander Community
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
April 2010

FROM THE DIRECTOR



I was encouraged when I saw new faces at the 10th Assembly of Asians and Pacific Islanders-ELCA early this month. They came with vision, energy and ideas. I said to myself, "ELCA Asian

community has a future." Indeed, the landscape of Asian ministry has changed significantly from 1997 to now: from 55+ ministry sites to 110+ and 70+ pastors to 170+. Yet, what concerns me is that how to focus on the common strengths, and put aside our differences, given the fact that we are so diverse. I believe that our common strength is the will to proclaim the gospel. It is in the heart of most Asians, particularly, those who are from Asia where Christians are a minority. I continue to invite you put aside our differences, and synergize our strength in the proclamation of the gospel.

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

HIGHLIGHT FROM THE 10TH ASSEMBLY ASSOCIATION OF ASIANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS-ELCA

As a very diverse community scattered throughout the U.S., Asian community have unique challenges but also unique opportunities to proclaim the gospel, and live the word. "Living the Word" was the theme of the 10th Assembly of the Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders (AAPI)-ELCA, convened at New Light Christian Church-ELCA in Palatine, IL, April 7-10, 2010. Some participants say it was the best AAPI assembly they ever attended!

This gathering of about 100 participants both longtime and newer was a true celebration of God's Holy Spirit working among us. We worshipped together, listened to keynote

speaker Paul Nakamura, studied the Bible led by three different leaders, received greetings from several ELCA units and other ethnic communities, and took part in the introduction of our new Discipleship Training Series. This training series is a major accomplishment in progress. At this 10th assembly we also:

- Elected new executive committee.
- Voted "yes" to a resolution encouraging more women's leadership ministry caucuses.
- Honored five Asian leaders for their contribution to Asian community. They were: 1) The Rev. Chi-shih Chen, 2) Ms. Gladys Chow, 3) The Rev. Cheng Hsi Pan, Houston, 4) The Rev. Miyaishi Gyuzo, 5) Mr. Al Sagar.
- Honored the Rev. Paul Nakamura at a banquet for his 55th year of ordination. Also, he is the first Asian American ordained in the ELCA through its predecessor church body.
- Announced that the AAPI website development was back on track. The assembly expressed many thanks to our webmaster -Tom Xaimongkhon, a bivocational leader from Olathe, KS.
- Marveled at the musical abilities of our community during Talent Night.

**SOME PHOTOS FROM THE ASSEMBLY
FOR MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEO DOWNLOAD,
PLEASE VISIT ASIANLUTHERANS.NET**



The Rev. Paul Nakamura, the keynote speaker



PRAYER CORNER: Please pray for: 1) the new slate of officers of the Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders (President Dr. Edmond Yee; Vice President Esther Prabhakar; Secretary Andrew Yee; Treasurer Saitong Urramporn; Members-at-large Daniel Penumaka and Gigie Sijera-Grant); 2) Monty, Pongsak's wife, for her recovery from recent surgeries; 3) preparation for the Sixth Asian Lutheran International Conference next year in Pattaya, Thailand; 4) Luke Zhou who will be ordained on May; and 5) Another 6-8 Asians who are in the final stage of candidacy process and ready for ordination or be received into the ELCA.



Group photo



Lily Wu preached at the opening service



Dr. Yee welcomed the Rev. Dr. Sherman Hicks, Executive Director of Multicultural Ministries, ELCA to greet the assembly



The Rev. Dr. Fred Rajan presented gifts to Gladys Chow and Al Sagar, two of the five honorees



Dean Paul Rajashekar brought greetings from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia



Singspiration team headed by Hmong Central Lutheran Church

The 6th Asian Lutheran International Conference

Reading the Bible in Asian Contexts

Keynote speaker:
Prof. Paul Rajashekar
Dean of Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia

January 25-February 1, 2011
Town in Town Hotel
Pattaya, Thailand
www.townintownpattaya.com

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 Islander, ELCA, and Asian and Pacific Islander Ministry 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 Wu and Andrew Yee.