

Bridge

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

June 2018

FROM THE DIRECTOR



We had a good assembly in mid-April at Elim Lutheran Church, Robbinsdale, MN. We met jointly with the Association of European Descent

Lutheran Association for Racial Justice (EDLARJ). The experiences we had together were memorable.



Now we start preparing the 10th Asian Lutheran International Conference (ALIC) scheduled for January 23-30, 2019. It will take place in Thailand with a one-day excursion to Laos. ALIC is the first and the only network that connects Asian Lutherans from two sides of the Pacific Rim. The main speaker for this conference is the Rev. Margrethe Kleiber who was both former AAPI-ELCA president and an ELCA Global Mission unit staff person. Please come join us. The conference is open to all.

Prior to the ALIC gathering, about 50 ALIC young adults will gather for a work camp. They will finish a community hall we are building for 200+ families in a village about 40 miles south of Udonthani.



Rev. Pongsak Limthongviratn, Ph.D.
Program Director for Asian and Pacific Islander Ministries, Domestic Mission Unit, ELCA

SHARING ON ASIAN LEADERS IN MINISTRIES SERIES

Law, Richard Man Chan, (1944 -), a native of Hong Kong, is the founding pastor of the Chinese ministry at Wollaston Lutheran Church (WLC) in Quincy, MA. He holds an MA degree from Washington University, St. Louis, MO and a D. Min. degree from Andover Newton Theological School, Newton, MA. Law was a pastor of the Lutheran Church-Hong Kong Synod and the founding director of Hong Kong Lutheran Social Services of the same church before serving WLC. In the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Law helped develop the Chinese Lutherans in Mission Building program. In 1997, he received the Governor's New American Appreciation Award from the state of Massachusetts for his service to senior citizens.

--Gigie Sijera-Grant
(Edited and adapted by Edmond Yee)

AROUND THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY

Rev. Terisita ("Tita") Valeriano was appointed the new Director for Evangelical Mission for Sierra Pacific Synod. She also serves as an Assistant to the Bishop there.

Samee Singkeovillay was ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on April 29. He is serving at Christ Lutheran Church, Visalia, CA. Rev. Samee Singkeovillay is the first Lahu pastor in the ELCA.

Rev. William Siong has received his DMin degree from Luther Seminary in May. He is also a pastor developer at Good Samaritan Lutheran Ministry, St. Paul, MN.

Rev. Pan Cheng-Hsi passed away on Sunday, May 13th. Rev. Thomas Chen, former director of Center for Chinese Ministry represented the Asian community at the funeral service.

Truth Lutheran Church in Naperville, IL has dedicated its new church building on May 27th. The new location is 503 W. Bauer Road Naperville, IL 60563. Rev. Peter Wang and Rev. Marian Wang continue to serve as pastors of the congregation.



New building of Truth Lutheran Church

RISE And SING

Rice and Sing is a joint project of the Asian American Ministries of both The Episcopal Church (TEC) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The

goal is to enrich Asian American ministries by producing, publishing, and promoting a binder-book of 101 hymns and spiritual songs coming from diverse Asian traditions, cultures, languages, and dialects with expressed or implied Christian values. This book will also be our gift to the world and to the wider Church.

People joining this project from the ELCA are Pongsak Limthongviratn, Tita Valeriano, Diakonda Gurning and Moses Penumaka and Pongsak Limthongviratn. The targeted completion date is October 2019.

Eiichi Matsushita Scholarship

Pongsak & Monta Limthongviratn Scholarship

The 2018 Scholarships for Asian Lutheran seminarians / TEEM candidates are available through 1) *Eiichi Matsushita Scholarship*, 2) *Pongsak & Monta Limthongviratn Scholarship*. Please email pongsak.limthongviratn@elca.org for information and an application form. The deadline is June 30.

ELCA's First Lahu ministry at Christ Lutheran Church, Visalia, CA

Visalia, California, is the home of many Lahu refugees. The Lahu are a southeast Asian tribal group that fled war-torn countries, and lived in refugee camps in Thailand. Eventually many Lahu settled in Visalia.

Having experienced Christianity through missionary work in Thailand, the Lahu came looking for churches to worship. In 2005 a segment of Lahu came to Christ Lutheran and asked if they could join our congregation's ministry. The congregation welcomed them, but encouraged them to raise up their own indigenous leader.

The leader they chose was an exceptional young man named Samee Singkeovillay. In 2011 Samee began seminary in the TEEM program. After six years of study he was ordained at Christ Lutheran Church on April 29, 2018. In addition, over 150 Lahu were welcomed into membership, and together we are building a vibrant multi-cultural ministry.

Rev. Brian Malison, Senior Pastor
Christ Lutheran Church



Rev. Samee Singkeovillay was ordained by Bishop Mark W. Holmerud

YOU'RE INVITED!

10TH ASIAN LUTHERAN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (ALIC)



SINGING THE LORD'S SONG: MIGRATION AND MISSION

January 23-30, 2019

To watch the highlights of the 2017 ALIC in Medan visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=phcomr178Js&t=229s>

Young Adult Work Camp

January 19-22, 2019

ALIC Conference

January 23-30, 2019

For more info and Registration Form, contact pongsak.limthongviratn@elca.org



lth of Asian Kiku Nakamura, Edmond Yee, Dr. Moy, Prof. Wijo 2) preparation for h Assembly of the and Pacific ers-ELCA; 3) on in Indonesia lestine.

Bridge is a quarterly-newsletter jointly published by Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders, ELCA, and Asian and Pacific Islander Ministries Desk, Domestic Mission unit, ELCA. To share your story, please send it to pongsak.limthongviratn@elca.org.
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