

*"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone."*

1 Corinthians 12: 4-6

In the ELCA there are many gifted Asian-American leaders who can be voluntary lay evangelists. These evangelists are those who have their own vocations and are also passionate about mission, evangelism, and service the church. These leaders have a yearning for theological education and pastoral training. The ELCA's Program Director for Asian and Pacific Islander ministries in collaboration with some Directors of Evangelical Mission and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary's TEEM Director have a vision to bring together cohorts of Asian American lay members in the Westcoast, covering Sierra Pacific, SW California, Pacifica and Northwest Washington, Southwest Washington synod for theological studies, outreach and pastoral training. This is a pilot project. The trained voluntary evangelists will be working alongside with their pastors in the wider church especially among Asian-American congregations.

The program will focus on theological education, outreach and pastoral training through Asian and Asian-American lens, experience, and perspective. Faculty with Asian-American background will make a major contribution. The program will consist of a curriculum based on Scripture, Lutheran tradition, Asian American culture and compulsory practicum. The outcome of this innovation is to prepare leadership to sustaining and growing Asian congregations with vitality. Asian Americans have a unique position to contribute to the life and witness of our Church in this area. It is crucial as the 1st generation leadership have fulfilled their task

and are ready to pass on the legacy to the emerging leadership.

### **CURRICULUM AND FACULTY**

1. Core message of the Bible by Pongsak, Moses (APR 23-24, 2021)
2. Asian ministry by Pongsak, Tita (TBD)
3. Teaching and Preaching by Tita, Moses (TDB)
4. ELCA polity and society by Tita and DEMs (TBD)
5. Evangelism and Justice by Tita and Ruben Duran (TBD)
6. Lutheran Confession in Asian Contexts by Paul Rajashekar, Surekha and Moses (TBD)
7. Lutherans & ecumenical communion by Moses, DEMs JAN 2022)

### **DURATION OF THE PROGRAM AND COURSE HOURS**

The program will begin in March 2021 and complete in January 2022. Due to the COVID-19 situation, most courses will be offered online. The first course will be held on Friday (2-5 pm; small groups 7-9 pm) and Saturday (9-noon) all Pacific time. The following courses will continue with five to six weeks intervals.



### **PRACTICUM**

All students are required to do four hours/week of practical training to assist their pastors.

### **CONTINUING MONITOR AND SUPPORTS**

The project will provide continuing monitor and supports as Lay Evangelists create outreach ministries in their community and beyond.

### **COST**

The project is supported by Domestic Mission Unit, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and your synod. However, all students are encouraged to contribute \$35 per course to offset the costs. One time-payment for the whole program is \$196, a 20% discount.



### **MEANS OF TEACHING: 4 ONLINE CLASSES, 2 CLASSES CONNECTED TO ASIAN LUTHERAN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN ASIA AND 1 CLASS AT PLTS**

Courses will be offered in three different ways:

1. Courses #1-#4 will be offered online. The first course will begin on November 6-7.
2. In mid-July 2021, all students will have a good opportunity to study Evangelism and Lutheran Confession in Asian Contexts, courses #5-#6 before/after the ALIC and the assembly of Asians and Pacific Islanders which will be held in Asia. The Asian Lay

Evangelist project will subsidize 50% of the air fare. Students will be responsible for the fare difference plus \$200. ALIC Registration fee. The ALIC will take care of rooms and boards in Asia. These expenses are in addition to registration for the Lay Evangelist Project. A separate ALIC Registration will be available in early 2021. Online courses will be offered to those who could not attend courses in Asia.

- All students will attend the last course (#7) offered at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, CA. The course will be followed by an awarding of the certificate and celebration.

*Please note that in the event that the ALIC and AAPI's assembly could not take place as planned, courses #5-#6 will be offered online.*

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

Information on ticket/transportation to locations for a course to be determined and the celebration event will be available later.



# ASIAN LAY EVANGELIST PROJECT

March 2021 – January 2022

## REGISTRATION FORM

Please check:

Young adult  Adult  Female  Male

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Synod/ \_\_\_\_\_

### REGISTRATION FEES *Please check:*

[  ] I pay \$35/course \_\_\_\_\_

[  ] I pay \$196/whole project \_\_\_\_\_

The fees cover air ticket or ground transportation to the site and room for in-person classes. It also covers meals and class's materials

**TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to Sierra Pacific Synod and mail this registration form and check to:

Rev. Tita Valeriano  
Sierra Pacific Synod, ELCA  
9965 Folsom Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95827-1405

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:  
OCTOBER 15**

# ASIAN LAY EVANGELIST

EQUIP YOURSELF TO BE A LAY-EVANGELIST



A project by ELCA Asian Ministry, pilot synods and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

November 2020-October 2021