



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Dear Friends,

February 2018

Happy new year to you all!

In this newsletter I bring you greetings from the members of Centre Lutheran Church in the Kwai Chung district of Hong Kong. Here they are, waving at you!



↑                    ↑                    ↑  
Lai Wing Yiu      Sanjo Tam      me

I go to Centre Lutheran Church once a month as a sacramental minister to preside over holy communion because the congregation is served by an evangelist who is still preparing for ordination. Her name is Sanjo Tam. Sanjo is delightful to work with. She puts out a lot of hospitable energy to print a bilingual version of the worship service for me so that I can follow it, and she arranges for members of the congregation to translate my sermons. Since each sentence of the sermon needs to be repeated in Chinese, I have to work on keeping the sermons relatively short; a 20-minute sermon becomes a 40-minute sermon. But the congregation is patient and engaged, in spite of the limitations of my language.

The last time I was there I sat down after church with Mr. Lai Wing Yiu, an English-speaking member, to hear the story of the congregation so that I could share it with you. Mr. Lai is a retired social worker and active volunteer in the administration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong (ELCHK), the broad church network to which Centre Lutheran Church belongs. Over the years, in addition to helping with the ELCHK's social services department, Mr. Lai has served as the treasurer and as a member of the Executive Committee of the ELCHK.

He told me that Centre Lutheran Church was started 43 years ago by the Norwegian Missionary Society. The congregation bought the space where they currently worship 35 years ago. It is the third floor of a building that is now aging and is difficult to access for people with mobility problems.

So the congregation is working toward buying a new space in a more accessible building nearby.

You can see from the photo above that Centre Lutheran Church is a small (but committed!) congregation, with fewer than 100 members. They are excited that their evangelist, Sanjo, has a heart for young people and a gift for involving young people in the congregation in various ways in order to teach them how to serve so that they can grow into leadership.

The members of Centre Lutheran Church would love it if I could share with them greetings and photos from you and your congregations. You can send me messages, congregational stories, and pictures for them at this email address: [Carolyn.schneider@elca.org](mailto:Carolyn.schneider@elca.org).

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P.S. Your support makes a world of difference. Here is how to give:

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*The church is just past this park, on the top floor of the grey building.*



*Here the worship leaders are preparing as the congregation begins to arrive.*