



# *The* **LUTHERAN**

MESSAGE VOL.21 MIC(P)035/06/2019



## CONTENT

1 - 2 .....	Message from the Bishop
3 - 6 .....	Ordination of Pastor Andrew Thinagaran
7 - 8 .....	LCS Councilmen Forum 2019
9 - 12 .....	Joy in the MIDST of Sufferings
13 - 16 .....	LCS Luther Study Tour 2019 17th – 28th June 2019
17 - 18 .....	五年后再回到这里
19 - 20 .....	Spirituality of the Cross a Seminar by Dr. Peter Li on 7 Apr 2019
21 - 22 .....	Turning Lives Towards Jesus

## 会督的话

使徒保罗在提前三1说：“如果有人渴慕监督的职分，他就是爱慕善工。”我将这节经文也用在牧养事工上，若有人渴慕成为一位牧师，他就是爱慕善工。新加坡基督教信义会需要弟兄姐妹积极参与门徒训练的行列——上帝的儿女跟随上帝、学习基督并且活像基督。我的祷告是，在这些活跃的门徒中将会有人回应教会和上帝的呼召，荣让自己被装备成为牧者。

再过五年，就有最少五位的牧者将退休，上帝是否正呼召你成为祂的仆人？

当我回应上帝的呼召进入全时间服事时，我从来没有看自己是一位牧师，更不用说是一位会督。

当服事上帝的意愿在我的心越来越强烈时，我仅仅回应上帝说：“主，我不知道我能做什么，但是我在这里。”让自己接受训练是我要走的第一步。在新加坡神学院接受装备时，神学性的科目让我挣扎不已，但是，基督教教育和实践事工科目成绩的优越使我想全职以儿童事工为选项。

我记得在1982年毕业前夕与Keith Hinton博士的一段对话，他问我有关毕业后的计划，我告诉他正在探索教会的儿童事工或是加入万国儿童布道会，因为我觉得自己的恩赐在这些领域。

他微笑着并告诉我要重新考虑，因为他在我身上看到其他的东西。我的多方面才干让他留下了深刻的印象，他说我应该考虑牧养事工或宣教，特别是在教会植堂方面。我笑着但顺服执行委员会将我差派至勿洛信义会，成为蓝以信牧师的助手并由他来指导我。剩下的都是历史。

你或许没有想到或觉得自己有条件做一位牧者，我恳请你向教会的主祷告，愿收割庄稼的主能为教会兴起更多年轻的弟兄姐妹进入禾场。

在我的经验中，除了主之外，牧养事工承担的任务和责任是非常艰巨的。然而，靠着上帝的帮助，每一天都有机会去经历祂奇妙的带领。以牧师、宣教士和会督的身份服事上帝这37年的岁月中，上帝的话透过保罗所说对我是何等的真实：“我的恩典是够你用的，因为我的能力在人的软弱上显得完全。”就是在我的软弱和全然倚靠上帝中，我经历上帝的大能。



# MESSAGE BY THE BISHOP

The apostle Paul declares 1 Timothy 3:1 that “anyone who aspires to the office of overseer , he desires a noble task.” I would apply this text also to the pastoral ministry that anyone who aspires to be a pastor, he desires a noble task.

The Lutheran Church in Singapore needs men and women in active discipleship – children of God following Christ and learning of Christ that they be like Christ. It is my prayer that among these active disciples will emerge men and women, in response to the need of the church and the call of God, avail themselves to be equipped to be pastors.

At least 5 pastors are due for retirement within the next 5 years. Is God calling you to be His servant?

I never saw myself to be a pastor, much less a bishop when I responded to God’s call to full time ministry.

With a growing desire to serve God more and more, I merely responded to God saying, “Lord, I do not know what I can be or do but here I am.” Availing myself to be trained was the first step. In the course of training at Singapore Bible College, I struggled with Theological subjects but did well in Christian Education and Practical ministry subjects as such I was considering full time children ministry options.

I remember a conversation with Dr. Keith Hinton a few weeks before my graduation in 1982. He asked me about my plans after graduation. I told him I was exploring parish work with children or ministry with Child Evangelism Fellowship because I felt they are in the area of my giftings.

He smiled and told me to reconsider as he saw in me something else. He was impressed with my versatilities and said I should consider pastoral ministry or missions, especially in the area of church planting. I laughed but submitted to the decision of the Executive Council when they moved to assign me to Bedok Lutheran Church, to assist Rev. Nelson and be mentored by him. The rest is history.

You may not think or feel that you have what it takes to be a pastor, must less a good pastor. May I beg you to pray that the Lord of the Church, the Lord of the harvest will raise up more young men and women for the church.

In my experience, apart from the Lord, the tasks and responsibilities of the Pastoral ministry is very daunting. However, with the Lord’s help, each day is an opportunity to experience Him in a very special way. After serving God as pastor, missionary and bishop for 37 years, God’s words to Paul was also true for me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” It was in my weakness and dependence on God that the power of God was experienced.



Ordination of Pastor  
Andrew Thinagaran









# Ordination of



Pastor Andrew Thinagaran was ordained with much rejoicing at Jurong Christian Church (JCC) on 6th July 2019. It was especially memorable as he served as a Pastor at JCC from 2010 until his reassignment to Queenstown Lutheran Church on 1 January 2019. Members from both of these churches were in attendance together with LCS Co-Workers / Reps and Ps Andrew's extended family members.

The ordination service was conducted by Bishop Terry Kee with the laying of hands by Bishop, Rev Lu Guan Hoe the Secretary of LCS and his two ordination process supervisors Dr Jeffrey Truscott and Dr Samuel Wang.

Ps Andrew's passion is in making Christ-like disciples, grounding members in God's word / ways and building a loving / serving community. Studying the Book of Concord, he has developed his Lutheran convictions and now enjoys teaching the Lutheran distinctive. For his conversion testimony, please check out <https://qlc.lutheran.org.sg/qlc-testimonies/>.



# Pastor Andrew Thinagaran



## 安德鲁传道按立牧职典礼

安德鲁传道在万分喜悦当中于2019年7月6在信义会裕廊基督教会接受了按牧礼。这真是特别具有纪念性的一天！因为他从2010年起就在裕廊基督教会担任传道，直到2019年1月1日他被调到女皇镇信义会。当天，两间堂会的会友与信义会的牧师、同工代表以及安德鲁牧师的家庭成员都见证这感性的一刻。

按牧礼由纪木和会督主持，并由会督与信义会文书卢元和牧师以及他的两位按牧督导楚示格博士与王琦恩博士为他举行按手礼。

安德鲁牧师的热忱在于培养活像基督一样的门徒，使他们建基在上帝的话语/生活方式上，并建立一个充满爱心/服务的社群。在研读协同书时，他培养了他对信义宗信仰的坚信，现在更喜欢教导信义宗特色。有关他的信主见证，请查看 <https://qlc.lutheran.org.sg/qlc-testimonies/>。



# LCS Councilmen Forum 2019

The LCS Councilmen Forum 2019 was held at Jurong Christian Church on Saturday 17th August 2019. In the morning session Bishop Terry Kee shared on danger of how modern culture has impacted the church, besides the moral and ethical issues. The Councilmen then discussed on what should the culture of their church be, in their own congregation's context. It was a good time of sharing of the challenges faced, the vision and possibilities of what the church culture can be.

In the afternoon, Bishop Terry Kee shared on the obstacles that inhibits evangelism and the various creative ways other churches have overcome them resulting in an evangelistic culture. The councilmen reflected in their own groups on how their own church can creatively evangelise and develop an evangelistic church culture.

It was a blessed time of sharing and fellowship among church council members getting to catch up and know one another although they from various LCS congregations.

## 2019信义会执事论坛

2019年信义会的执事论坛于8月17日星期六假裕廊基督教会举行。在上午的环节中，纪木和会督分享现代文化除了在道德和伦理方面危害教会之外，还讲解给教会带来怎样冲击。

过后，执事们按照各自堂会的背景为考量，讨论他们的教会应有怎样的文化。这是一段美好的时光来分享所面对的挑战，教会文化的意象和可能性。

下午，纪木和会督分享了拦阻布道的障碍，以及其他教会克服这些障碍的各种创意方法，而形成了一种传福音的文化。执事们在他们自己的小组中反思自己的教会如何可以创造性地传福音及形成传福音的教会文化。

这真是一个蒙福的时刻能！使得信义会的各个堂会的执事之间融洽在分享和团契的氛围。







# JOY IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERINGS

By Lanny Widjaja

The 22nd Annual Retreat of the Sisters' Fellowship was held on 27 April 2019 at Bedok Lutheran Church. Pastors and members from many congregations of the Lutheran Church in Singapore supported the event.

The climax of the event was a message on "Joy in the Midst of Sufferings" by Mrs. Lucy Lim. Lucy delivered the message in English, with Mrs. Eric Chan translating it into Mandarin. The message was very touching and inspiring.

Lucy has been actively serving the Lord for over 40 years, in her church, as well as Vision Trust Asia, Bible Study Fellowship and Singapore Youth for Christ. A teacher at heart, her passion is to bring God's Word to women and the next generation. Recently retired due to her cancer prognosis, she now enjoys spending time with her family, individuals, groups and women at large.

Lucy had cancer for the first time in 2000. In March 2017 her cancer re-occurred and it was at stage 4. Currently she is going through chemotherapy. People wondered how she could still smile after the doctor said that she had only some months to live.

Lucy highlighted that joy and suffering are both characteristics of our Christian faith. Jesus said that there will be suffering in the world (John 16:33), but He told us not to worry (Matthew 6:34).

Lucy differentiated joy from happiness. Happiness is a temporary satisfaction. Joy is a firm belief that God loves us and looks after us no matter what happens, and we find rested-ness. Joy is independent of circumstances. It resides in our hearts and it comes out of a deep and vibrant relationship with God, and believing God.

Lucy wrote her life story titled "Joy beyond cancer". She wrote in the book a few essentials to help us experience joy in the midst of suffering: having a community, faith in the Lord and reaching out to others. In her message, Lucy focused on three basic essentials: gratitude, attitude and solitude.

## **Gratitude**

We must show gratitude to God, because Jesus has come to the world and brought us salvation. Jesus told His disciples, "Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:20)

Lucy shared that her worst-case scenario is actually her best scenario. She lives her life with the end in mind. When she dies, she will have salvation and eternal life. Every day she thinks of the day when she will be with the Lord – a time when there will be no more pain, no more tears; for this world is not our home and we are just passing through. "In light of eternity, our present suffering is light and momentary." (2 Cor 4:17)

*Whoever does not know Jesus, his suffering will be forever.*

## **Attitude**

Our attitude on how we react when something bad happens is important. Lucy's friends got angry with God, when they heard about her illness. When people question God's love, their attitude may lead to a cold war with God. Some people even leave their faith, because they think that God is not powerful.

Lucy thought that it is alright to lament, but we should not let it linger or grow in disappointment with God; because this attitude will lead to a hardened heart. We should remember that God is sovereign and in control of all things in the world, in the church and in our life. "All the days ordained for me were written in our book before one of them came to be." (Psalm 139:16)



When Lucy discovered that her cancer had recurred, she resolved to face it better this time, and to journey together with the Lord. Her attitude is to surrender to the sovereignty of God and trust Him. Suffering develops our character, so that we can be more Christ like.

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance - and maturity.” (James 1:2-4)

“We can be full of joy here and now even in our trials and troubles. Taken in the right spirit these very things will give us patient endurance; this in turn will develop a mature character, and a character of this sort produces a steady hope, a hope that will never disappoint us.” (Romans 5:3-5)

*Jesus sets the example for us, as shown by the following verses.*

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed three times to the Father. “If possible, let this cup be removed from Me, yet not My will but Yours be done” (Matthew 26:39-44)

“For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2)

“A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.” (Proverbs 17:22) Lucy’s pathologist advised her to maintain joy. When we are happy, our body will create chemicals that stop the cancer from growing.

### **Solitude**

When we are going through pain and suffering, there will be lots going on in our minds and our hearts. Thus, we need to quiet down and re-align ourselves with God. The priority is for us to sit with God daily, when we can pour our hearts to Him and allow Him to speak to us. We let God chart our future and give us peace.

“The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save, He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will exult over you with loud singing!” (Zephaniah 3:17)

*“In Your presence there is fullness of joy.” (Psalm 16:11)*

Lucy acted as the Lord’s mouth piece, even in her suffering. After her moving message, the retreat participants watched performances from different congregations, including a dance, Cantonese and English songs, and a ukulele item. The retreat ended with a sumptuous dinner enjoyed by all.

The offering of SGD 2,487.55 received at this year’s retreat was given to the International Lutheran Seafarers’ Mission.



# 受苦中的喜乐

Lanny Widjaja

第22届姐妹团契退修会于2019年4月27日在勿洛信义会举行。各堂会的教牧和弟兄姐妹出席支持这项活动。

这次活动的高潮是由洪金秋姐妹分享“受苦中的喜乐”的信息。洪金秋姐妹以英语分享，并由陈张嘉屏师母用华语传译这非常感人与激励人心的信息。

金秋姐妹过去40多年一直在她的教会，也在亚洲视觉信托，研读圣经团契和新加坡青年归主协会里积极为主服务。身为天生的老师，她热衷于把上帝的话语带给姐妹们和下一代。由于癌症的缘故最近退休了，她现在享受着与家人、个人、团体和一大群的姐妹们共度愉悦的时光。

金秋在2000年第一次罹患癌症。2017年3月，她的癌症复发并且已是第4期。她目前正在接受化疗。人们都惊叹当医生告知她只剩几个月的生命时仍然可以面带微笑。

金秋强调，喜乐和受苦都是我们基督徒信仰的特征。耶稣说在世上会有苦难（约翰福音16：33），但他告诉我们要不要忧虑（马太福音6：34）。

金秋把喜乐与快乐区分开来。快乐是一种暂时的满足。喜乐是一种坚定的信念，无论发生什么事情，上帝都爱我们并照顾我们，使我们得着真正的安息。喜乐与环境无关。它就存在我们的心里，是源自于对上帝的深刻而充满活力的关系与信靠。

金秋以“超越癌症的喜乐”为题写了她的人生故事。她在书中写下了一些要领，以帮助我们在苦难中体验喜乐：拥有一个社群、对主有信心、及与他人接触。在她的信息中，金秋专注于三个基本要素：感恩、态度和独处。

## 感恩

我们必须向上帝表示感恩，因为耶稣来到世界并带给我们救恩。耶稣告诉他的门徒，“不要因鬼服了你们就欢喜，要因你们的名记录在天上欢喜。”（路加福音10：20）

金秋表示她最糟糕的情况实际上是她最好的情况。她是以面对生命的终点来活着。当她死了，她将得到救赎和永恒的生命。每一天她都会想到她将与主同在的那一天 - 那时不再有疼痛，没有眼泪；因为这个

世界不是我们的家，而我们只是路过罢了。“我们这至暂至轻的苦楚，要为我们成就极重无比、永远的荣耀。”（哥林多后书4：17）无论谁若不认识耶稣，他将承受永远的痛苦。

## 态度

当一些不好的事情发生时，我们反应的态度是非常重要的。金秋的朋友在听到她生病时，就生上帝的气。当人们质疑上帝的爱时，他们的态度可能导致与上帝发生冷战。有些人甚至离开了他们的信仰，因为他们认为上帝并不是大能的。

金秋认为哀叹是正常的，但是我不应该让它持续或演变成对上帝失望，因为这种态度会导致心灵变得刚硬。我们应该记住上帝是至高无上，并掌控世上、教会和我们生命中的一切事物。“你所定的日子，我尚未度一日，你都写在你的册上了。”（诗篇139:16）

当金秋发现她的癌症复发时，她决定这次要更好地面对它，并与主同行。她的态度是降服于上帝的主权并信靠他。苦难塑造了我们的品格，使我们更像基督。

“我的弟兄们，你们落在百般试炼中，都要以为大喜乐；因为知道你们的信心经过试验，就生忍耐-和成熟。”（雅各书1:2-4）

“在患难中也是欢欢喜喜的；因为知道患难生忍耐，忍耐生老练，老练生盼望；盼望不至于羞耻。”（罗马书5:3-5）

如下面的经文所示，耶稣为我们树立了榜样。

在客西马尼园，耶稣三次向天父祷告。“倘若可行，求你叫这杯离开我。然而，不要照我的意思，只要照你的意思。”（马太福音26:39-44）

“他因那摆在前面的喜乐，就轻看羞辱，忍受了十字架的苦难，便坐在神宝座的右边。”（希伯来书12:2）

“喜乐的心乃是良药；忧伤的灵使骨枯干。”（箴言17:22）。金秋的病理医生建议她保持喜乐。当我们喜乐时，我们的身体会产生化学物质来抑制癌症的生长。

## 独处

当我们经历疼痛和受苦时，在我们的思想和心灵中会有很多事情发生。因此，我们需要安静下来并使自己重新与上帝校准。最首要的是我们每天都来坐在上帝面前，向他倾心吐意并容许他向我们说话。我们让上帝规划来我们的未来，好让我们能安心。



“耶和华你的神，是施行拯救、大有能力的主，他在你中间必因你欢喜，默然爱你，且因你喜乐而欢呼。” (西番雅书3:17)

“在你面前有满足的喜乐。” (诗篇16:11)

金秋即使在受苦中，她仍充当主的代言人。在她感人的信息后，退修会的参与者观赏了来自不同堂会的表演，其中有舞蹈，粤曲和英语歌曲以及乌克里里表演。聚会结束后所有人都享用了丰盛的晚餐。

今年退修会所收到S\$2,487.55奉献。





# LCS Luther Study Tour 2019

## 17th – 28th June 2019

28 members from LCS congregations participated in this tour which was hosted by our mission partner, Mission EineWelt, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria. Besides learning about the mission and Diaconia work centred in Neuendettelsau, we visited key Luther cities of the Reformation e.g. Worms, Eisenach, Erfurt, Torgau, Wittenberg, Eisleben, Augsburg and Coburg. The confessions of the reformers who went through fiery trials are to be treasured, learnt and lived out today. We give thanks to God for the precious gift of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in which we are saved by grace through faith alone! For interesting reflections by various participants of this study tour you can go to the LCS website link <https://lutheran.org.sg/2019/08/14/luther-study-tour-2019/>

By Rev. Fredric Lee




St. Nikolai Kirche, Neuendettelsau, Germany.  
圣尼可拉教堂, 纽恩德特绍, 德国









# 2019信义会路德学习之旅

## 6月17日至6月28日

来自信义会各堂会的28名会友参加了这次由我们的宣教伙伴——巴戈利亚福音信义会的壹世界宣教主办的考察团。除了让我们了解以纽恩德特绍为中心的宣教和服侍事工外，还一路参观/访问了路德宗教改革的主要城市，如沃木斯、埃申纳、耳弗特、托尔高、威登堡、埃斯勒本、奥斯堡和科堡等等...对改革家们在经历激烈考验时所存的信念，今天我们应当要珍惜、学习并活出来。我们感谢上帝赐予耶稣基督宝贵的福音为礼物，使我们借着恩典透信心得蒙拯救！

要知道本次考察团各参与者有趣的反思，您可以到信义会网站链接<https://lutheran.org.sg/2019/08/14/luther-study-tour-2019/>









方言联合聚会 27/7/2019 JCC

义顺基督教会（信义会）方言聚会

裕廊基督教会（信义会/福建崇拜）

**五年后，我们来了！**





二零一九年七月廿七日一个周六的下午，我们在裕廊基督教会的大礼堂，完成我们五年前的约定，再一次相聚。

二零一四年，我们信义会属下两个从事方言工作的教会，就是义顺基督教（信义会）方言聚会及裕廊基督教会福建聚会，在义顺教堂有了第一次的联合聚会，当日有纪木和会督做我们的嘉宾给我们勉励；那时我们就有了约定与承诺，当裕廊基督教会重建完成后，要再一次有联合聚会。



今天，我们的心愿完成了！聚会开始先由裕廊福建聚会的钟彼得执事致欢迎词，然后由他们的敬拜团带领唱诗敬拜，所唱的都是我们两个聚会熟悉的福建诗歌；之后由义顺信义会黄德成牧师分享，题目是“方言工作的危机与转机”，内容包括新加坡福建教会开始的历史，以及三个重点：方言聚会的价值，发展和前途；黄牧师更指出，福建话有两千年的历史，是唐朝皇帝用的语言，甚至当日的唐诗是用福建话朗读；黄牧师目前不单是义顺信义会方言聚会的牧师，也在过去十年襄理裕廊福建聚会每个月的圣餐。

之后是两个聚会呈现的节目；义顺信义会有方言聚会主席钟宝德弟兄的见证，他见证上帝如何改变他的人生，从一个有学习障碍的孩子，变成研发晶片技术并获得专利的成功企业家，义顺信义会的弟兄姐妹也献唱一首大家熟悉的诗歌《上帝疼爱世间人》；裕廊基督教会的小组献唱两首短诗，之后是他们同工带来的赞美旗舞，最后一个节目是宝德弟兄独唱所创作的诗歌。当天，两个教会也放映各自的短片以介绍彼此的事工。

结束前，我们拍摄一张大合照，黄牧师为食物谢恩也为会众祝福，并诚邀裕廊福建聚会参加义顺方言聚会明年底的退修营会，也期待两个聚会有更多的联合活动，因为我们不只是属于同一个宗派，而且在主里是一家人。最后，要谢谢筹备小组的辛劳，为我们做各样安排。



黄德成牧师  
义顺基督教会（信义会）方言聚会



# SPIRITUALITY OF THE CROSS A SEMINAR BY DR PETER LI on 7 Apr 2019

## A Reflection by Revd Soh Guan Kheng

This was a pivotal moment in his spiritual life – when he decided that it was time for him to settle into a church community, Dr Peter Li had three choices – three longstanding Christian traditions to choose from – Baptist, Methodist and Lutheran. He decided to attend the Lutheran church first, because he was baptized in a Lutheran church. He never looked back. He found that the Service moved him deeply, with its confession of sins, and its use of the Apostle's Creed. There was no need for him to look elsewhere, this was the church, the tradition and the spirituality that he would imbibe and embrace.

What a refreshing thing to hear, I thought. So often I hear of how our Lutheran members have chosen to leave our churches and join other churches, and how one reason for that is because our Service or liturgy is boring. It was so good to hear someone articulate an appreciation for our Liturgy from the word “go”, and how corporate worship is inseparable from our understanding and practice of spirituality.

This provides me with a springboard from which I will share 2 reflections regarding the spirituality of the cross.

First, the theological centre of the spirituality of the cross. Spirituality, which has to do with the daily spiritual life of a Christian, must have a theological anchor. For Lutherans, this anchor is the doctrine of justification by God's grace through faith in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Dr. Li spoke of his being touched by the 2 confessions in our liturgy – the confession and absolution of sins and the confession of faith using the Apostles' Creed. These are poignant applications of justification by faith to our daily life. They help us to get the starting point right – the starting point of the spirituality of the cross is not the aspiration or the effort towards God-pleasing holy or victorious living. Rather it is admitting our utter sinfulness and our utter inability in our own will, wisdom and works to ever please God. It is the starting point of the tax collector, not the Pharisee in the temple of God, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” (Luke 18:9-14) Before God, then, we are poor, miserable sinners who deserve death, but who are instead given forgiveness and declared righteous because of the finished work of Christ on the cross for us. This gracious gift is indeed given when the called and ordained Pastor declares us forgiven in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and is received by simple trust in that name. This trust, this faith, itself a gift created in us by the Holy Spirit and the word of God, we gladly confess using the Apostles' Creed.

The Creed itself, a summary of what the Scriptures teach and witness about who God is and what He still does for us everyday, points us to the cross of Christ. As Dr Li said, the “cross” in the “spirituality of the cross” refers to the cross of Christ, not to our crosses. The cross of Christ, His death and resurrection, is the heart and centre of His gracious work of justification by faith, which the Holy Spirit enables us to live out everyday in all of our callings in life, as Christians, as parents, as sons and daughters, as husbands and wives, as employers and employees, as citizens of our nation.



My second reflection flows from the first. The theological anchor of the spirituality of the cross is the doctrine of justification by grace through faith in Christ and His finished work on the cross for us. But how and where is this justification proclaimed and indeed procured by us – how is this spirituality birthed in us and nurtured to maturity? Answer, in the church of Jesus Christ, gathered by the Holy Spirit into His presence to receive His word and sacraments. The importance of the church in the spirituality of the cross cannot be underestimated. The spirituality of the cross is a spirituality that is founded, grown and blessed by God in and through the ministry of the church, including the local church like ours.

We recall that Dr. Li returned to the church where he was baptized, and was touched by the Liturgy of the Divine Service. In contrast to the individualistic spirituality today which pronounces people as disciples of Jesus based on their personal decision and raising of their hands to accept Christ, he stressed that Lutheran spirituality emphasizes God's action in baptism to make us His disciples as Christ Himself clearly commanded the church in the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20, and which the Apostle Peter clearly obeyed and taught in Acts 2:38. It is for the church that Christ instituted the meal of bread and wine with the clear promises: This is my body...this is my blood...for the forgiveness of sins (Matt 26:26-28; 1 Cor 11:23-26), and it is to the church. From its very beginning the church was the gathering of the baptized for the apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayer (Acts 2:38-42). To quote from Dr. Li's notes: the spirituality of the cross is not the spirituality of the Christian individual, but spirituality of the Christian community. Echoing Luther, John Calvin said, those who have God as their Father will necessarily have the Church as their Mother who give them their birth, feed and nurture them unto maturity.

With the proliferation of mass media and social media, Christians are increasingly swayed towards individualistic spirituality, and away from the spirituality of the Christian community. The rise of the Cell Group Church has also shifted the epicenter of God's actions for sinners from the assembly of the church to the cell group. Why go to church if I can listen to best songs and the best speakers at home? Why must I go to church for prayer when I can pray by myself at home? Why not just have Holy Communion at home without the ordained minister? The spirituality of the cross teaches us that just as our physical lives are given and nurtured through our families, spiritual life is birthed in baptism and nurtured in His word and His body and blood, which He avails to us through the church. Just as learning to honor our parents, our values, our traditions, and to communicate with others is inconceivable without the family, learning to worship, pray and love our neighbors is inconceivable without the church.

The spirituality of the cross tells us that Christ died on the cross to draw all people to Himself, to give us the right to become the children of God – His family, His people, His community, His church – in and through which He is at work through the means of grace, His word and sacraments. Through word and sacrament He creates and strengthens us with faith towards God and fervent love for our neighbors. It is a spirituality that drives me to church and to the divine service week after week, because there all that Christ has won for me on the cross are given to me as He has promised, and with those gifts, the power to live out our daily lives as His holy people, forgiven and free to live not for ourselves, but for God and neighbor. Amen.





# 十字架的灵命观与亚洲的基督徒一听后感

苏源卿牧师 / 义顺基督教信义会

感谢主李广生博士让我们首先认识灵命不只要敬虔 (piety)，其实灵命应该如路德所主张的是信靠上帝，顺服圣灵，以主耶稣基督的爱生活在自己的社群中。所以基督徒的灵命或灵修观，就是肖像基督的灵命或灵修观 (Christ-like spirituality)，要像基督是为他人，不是为自己而活。而不像在中世纪被认为敬虔是要离群独身修道的灵命观。

第二认识基督的十字架，这十字架并非我们的十字架。然而基督徒的十字架都由主的十字架来定义。主耶稣的十字架为世人带来希望。因只有在十字架里才有复活和永生的生命，耶稣基督是道路，真理和生命 (约14: 6)。因此十字架的灵命观既不是律法的灵命观，也不是行为的灵命观。而是当人信靠耶稣基督，上帝为你成就的乃是福音，就是对罪人的好消息的灵命观。也就是圣灵作为的灵命观；圣灵重生我们，浇灌神的爱引导我们的一切，活出信心与爱心的灵命观去爱邻舍。这十字架的灵命观不是个人的，而是基督徒群体的灵命观。因我们都在基督的一个身体里称为教会。大家都是遵行耶稣基督的吩咐领受洗礼，表示愿意相信耶稣基督的名，并愿意做主门徒的人。

第三今日在亚洲的基督徒如何活出十字架的灵命观，特别在多元种族，文化和宗教上如何做主的盐和光。并活出基督徒祭司和君王的属天身份。首先君王是每一个基督徒接信心被提升到万事之上，接着属灵的能力他作了万事之主，无一例外，所以没有什么能伤害他。

事实上，所有事都伏在他之下，且都不得不为他服务，使他得着救恩。但这不是凭着物质的能力享有和管制万事，因为这能力只属于地上的君王，亲王与其他人。反而照我们经验，我们倒为万事所管辖，受许多的苦难，死亡，如同我们头生的王基督自己身上，以及其他基督徒身上。所以我们有的权能是属灵的；他能在仇敌当中施行管制，在受压迫当中大有权势。这就是《在软弱中显得安全的能力》(林后十二9)，而且在一切事上我都能为得救的事找到益处，就连十字架与死亡也不得不服侍我，为我效力，作成我的救赎。

这是一个何等荣耀和难得的特权，是真正无所不能的能力，是属灵的管制，只要我相信，无论是何等善或何等恶的事，就必互相效力，叫我得益。这就是得救所需的唯独是信心。只需信心本着它所有的自由而行使它的权能和管制，那就够了。这是基督徒无比贵重的能力和自由。若所有基督徒能清楚明白基督徒如何不受万事的管辖，反而管辖万事。因这样了解他就不需靠行为使他称义和得拯救，而会完全靠信心就已经将一切丰丰富富赐给他了。

最后再次认识到信徒皆祭司的真意，因在上帝的眼中没有分成等级的基督徒，大家都是圣洁属灵的。因此每位基督徒都当勇敢地站起来，为上帝托付他们管制和照顾的基督徒社会进行改革来合乎上帝的旨意。基督徒不单是极其自由的君王，也是永远的祭司，这比君王更大更可贵。因为我们作祭司，配在上帝面前为别人祷告，并将属上帝的事教导别人。这两种事就是祭司的责任，而为不信的人所不能有的。这就是唯独因着从神而来的信心，不靠行为而得的君王和祭司高贵荣耀的身份地位。因此信徒皆祭司的重任是以祷告和分享神的事，见证荣耀神的名。





# TURNING LIVES TOWARDS JESUS

## The Afternoon Activity

Jan-June 2019

By Romans Wong

I thank the Lord that I can be a part of His work here in Bangkok, Thailand. Five and a half years has passed and day after day, I am still awed by His faithfulness in the community of NONGMAI.

It been very much a part of my life now to live and minister to the kids here. Everyday, there is only one prevailing thought in my mind and that is; how can I help these kids to turn their hearts to Jesus in the way they think, in the way they express their feelings towards those they live with, like their parents, siblings and friends. My work is not just to organize activities to occupy their free time after school, but to give them a place with a different environment from that of the slum. One of love, acceptance and joy where they can dwell in the love of Jesus, where they grow to be a positive influence to the society but most importantly a disciple of Christ.

### 15 JULY

It's a challenge of going against the culture and life patterns of a particular living environment and culture.

Without even realizing it, they create for themselves a vicious cycle of unhealthy characters, social habits and behaviors which inevitably flow into their teenage life and adulthood. This is further reinforced by the examples they see at home; most of which are dysfunctional. So these kids watch, copy and paste that into their lives. Many of these kids are not bad, they just lack LOVE. Many desire attention, affirmation, acceptance and approval. For the kids that I work with, they are learning that they do not have to fight, take revenge and be angry just to get these.

I thank the Lord for the "Afternoon Activity" where the kids can come and find a safe place where they can laugh and enjoy every single moment with their friends without the unnecessary strife.

(picture of them laughing and playing) it took 4 years for these kids to stay regularly everyday 3-4 hours just for me to cultivate positive mindset, to share the love of Jesus, to teach biblical principle and to pray together (pictures of praying together) Many kids and youths have come and go but those who stayed, we can see a change in their mindset and behaviors towards themselves and one another. For this reason, the Afternoon Activity is essential for it provides an alternative for the kids; one which they can grow up in love and proper guidance.



TangLek 7

He came from a family who deal with drugs. He used to be an angsty boy who likes to stir trouble with other kids and often fights. Ever since he came to the Afternoon Activity's program regularly. He has changed to become a smiley boy who learns to be at peace with other kids in the Afternoon Activity. He enjoys the company and loves the loving atmosphere here. I thank God for His work in the lives of the kids here, even though they may not realize it. May they one day understand that the Lord has always been with them when they come to know the Him.

## TURNING LIVES TOWARDS JESUS

### PRAYERS

**Please keep this work in your prayers**

- The work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, to change their hearts towards God.
- The continuation of financial support to keep the work going after next year (as the Norway Mission Board decided to stop funding this work from 2021 onwards)
- Good health and good sleep
- for me, so that I can be in good shape to do His work
- Opportunity and learning moments to teach them about God and their need for God through their everyday life
- These kids will eventually be the godly influence in this community to other kids and bring them to Afternoon Activity and eventually to Christ

# LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

新加坡基督教信义会

**LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SINGAPORE**

2 Tah Ching Road, #04-02 Singapore 618744.

Tel: 6464-6337 Fax: 6464-6323

Email: [lutheran@lutheran.org.sg](mailto:lutheran@lutheran.org.sg)

Website: <http://www.lutheran.org.sg>

勿洛信义会

**BEDOK LUTHERAN CHURCH**

485, Bedok South Ave 2, Singapore 469315

Tel: 6449-5344

国际信义会海员事工

**INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN SEAFARERS' MISSION**

2 Tah Ching Road, #04-02 Singapore 618744

裕廊基督教会

**JURONG CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

2 Tah Ching Road, Singapore 618744

Tel: 6266-0538, 6266-0537

信义会救主堂

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR REDEEMER**

30 Duke's Road, Singapore 268912.

Tel: 6466-4500

女皇镇信义会

**QUEENSTOWN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

709 Commonwealth Drive, Singapore 149601

Tel: 6473-7866, 6479-4720

义顺信义会

**YISHUN CHRISTIAN CHURCH (LUTHERAN)**

10 Yishun Avenue 5, Singapore 768991

Tel: 67558855

## EDITORIAL

**Editorial Advisor:**

**Bishop Terry Kee**

**Editorial Board:**

**Rev. Lu Guan Hoe (Editor)**

**Rev. Martin Yee (Editor)**

**Rev. Low Kim Cheng (Editor)**

**Designed by:**

**CH Seow**

**Printed By:**

**First Printers Pte Ltd**