

# LTS

LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

信義宗神學院



# NEWS

# The Power of the Spirit



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## Statement of Purpose

The LTS News is a newsletter for local and global alumni/ae and friends of the Lutheran Theological Seminary "LTS" in Hong Kong. Through stories about people and events at LTS, it aims to connect readers and create a sense of belonging to a broad LTS community even beyond graduation.

## Donation

To make a donation to support LTS, there are three methods and receipts will be sent back afterwards.

1. A check payable to the "Lutheran Theological Seminary" may be sent to the mailing address above.
2. A deposit may be made to Dah Sing Bank in Hong Kong, Account No: 040-645-701-23889.
3. For US tax deduction, a check in US\$ payable to "Friends of LTS-USA" and send to "Friends of LTS/USA & Canada" c/o Mimi Borchers, 160 Third Street, Ste 102 Pittsburg, CA 94565, USA.



## The Power of the Spirit A Meditation on Acts 2

When I was a small child, I liked windmills. I don't talk about those big things that generate electricity, but about the smaller version: the toy for children. I loved to blow on it and see how the blades of the windmill moved.

Such a windmill is not only a fascinating toy for small children. It helps us also to understand better a few things about Pentecost because the Holy Spirit has a lot to do with wind. In Acts 2, where the events of Pentecost are described, we read about a 'sound like the blowing of a violent wind'. That wind comes down from heaven and fills the whole house where the apostles are sitting. And more general, in the New Testament, the Greek word for 'spirit' also means 'breath' or 'wind'.

This brings us back to our windmill. Like me in my early childhood, many children like that colourful windmill when it moves. But in the beginning, nothing is moving at all. The blade stands still. A drive is needed to move it. I can now provide this drive myself by blowing. The effect: the windmill moves. I blow, I provide the wind. But that doesn't work in the long run. As a child, I got tired soon. Sometimes, my parents helped me and started blowing, but after a short time, they run out of breath, too.

And actually, windmills are not meant to be blown and be moved. They are meant to be exposed to the wind. And the wind makes the windmill turn. For children, it is particularly fascinating when the wheel starts to turn for no visible reason, simply because a breeze has come up.

We are similar to the windmill, we as church and we as individuals.

After his ascension, Jesus' disciples were despondent, powerless, disoriented. Jesus had risen, but then he has left the disciples again. Like orphans, they are alone and quite depressed. When we look at them, we see a discouraged troop, a pitiful bunch. The apostles are not standing outside in the streets and squares of Jerusalem, preaching powerfully and confidently, but they have withdrawn into the house where they sit silently.

The disciples can do little on their own. But then, it happens... God's Spirit comes down from heaven. Like a wind, like a storm. He enters the house and even more, he enters the hearts of the disciples. And they feel strength in themselves again, strength and courage. Now, Peter starts to preach in front of a large crowd, full of enthusiasm and excitement. The Holy Spirit blows, and He brings vitality into this tired, lifeless group. Just like the wind moves the windmill powerfully, the Holy Spirit brings movement into Jesus' disciples, into the Church.

What was true for the disciples 2000 years ago, is also true for us: we achieve little with our own forces. We can blow as much as we want, we can plan and organize and act. But if we trust in ourselves, we will run out of breath and be like the disciples before Pentecost. We get strength and energy when we don't just trust in ourselves, but when we hope and believe that God's Spirit is with us and works among us. Have a blessed Pentecost!

Shalom,

In Christ,

*Stefan Gradl*



**Dr. Kenneth Tsang**

President of LTS

# Joining LTS for Leadership Formation

Lutheran Theological Seminary's mission statement is "Grounded in the Bible and true to our mandate, we equip leaders to bear witness for Christ." To carry out our mission more effectively in the latest context, LTS often reviews our ministry both in "software" (e.g. curriculum design, pedagogy) and "hardware" (e.g. campus environment and facilities). In the coming 2023-24 academic year, you can find some enhancements as follows:

## Merging of Two Existing Systems to Increase Flexibility

LTS has had two different systems running our study programs for years - Day School and Theological Education by Extension (TEE). The reason for setting up two systems in the past is that they have different functions: Day School offers courses in the daytime and for pastoral training, while TEE provides courses in the evening and for Christian leaders. Since the need for such a division of labor no longer exists, LTS has decided to merge these two systems. In other words, LTS continues providing various programs for different training purposes. Students can select courses offered in the daytime, in the evening, or on Saturday. Hence, students will have greater flexibility in course selection and time arrangement.

## Increasing the Utilization of Online Education

The COVID-19 pandemic pushed every teacher and student to get familiar with online education. The push also allows LTS to speed up the development of utilizing online and hybrid teaching modes. We understand that online education has its advantages and limitations. Therefore, although we will increase providing online courses for students' convenience, a careful selection is always in our minds. LTS is not

just providing knowledge and skills training. We also emphasize spiritual and leadership formation. We believe face-to-face classes and in-person community life are vital for these goals.

## Providing a Distinct Learning Environment for Leadership Formation

One distinctive feature of LTS is that our community comprises people with different backgrounds. Such a feature becomes apparent again after the pandemic. Our faculty team includes teachers from Hong Kong, Mainland, Germany, Finland, and the United States. Our students also come from Hong Kong, Mainland, and Southeast Asia. In this multicultural context, we all have great opportunities to learn from one another. Such a learning context benefits our students since it can widen their perspectives through mutual learning. Moreover, students' ecumenical hearts and capabilities in communication, analytical and reflective thinking could also be enhanced. Hence, we will take more measures to facilitate students gaining benefits from such a learning context.

Churches and societies lack good leaders, and being a good leader in the present volatile, uncertain, and complex world is challenging. Therefore, a solid theological education for good leadership formation is essential. If God calls you to serve Him as a pastor or a Christian leader, LTS invites you to join us, and we have various programs to suit different aims. Suppose you prefer to finish a theological degree through English only, LTS provides programs of Master of Arts in Theology, Master of Divinity with Theological Degree, Master of Theology, and Doctor of Theology. We are committed to accompanying you to respond to God's calling and the needs of our churches and societies.

### Lee Sin Yee (BCS)

Hello, I am Sin Yee Lee from the Tuen Mun Alliance Church. I love discovering new things in the nature and wandering in the farm.



God called me to study in a seminary so that I could know more about Him and follow His guidance. A thought flashed through my mind that I should enroll in the program of Christian study. Yet, I failed to put my thought into action.

Three years ago, I served as a voluntary Bible teacher for

children at a Chinese church with about one hundred members in Vanuatu (in the South Pacific Ocean). It is a small church having only one pastor. The pastor there asked me to stay behind as he planned to go to serve more island nations. I found that with limited biblical knowledge, I was incompetent to take up the job. So, I decided to start my study in LTS. After staying in the campus for a few months, I was impressed by the endless healing and consolation from God. I pray that I could be well-equipped in LTS and serve as a faithful servant in my future congregation.

### Choy Sheung Mun (MDiv)

I'm Sherman from the ELCHK Hung En Lutheran Church. I love cats so much. I'm grateful for studying in LTS as I am accompanied by lovely cats there - Seon Seon, Thalo and Bailey.



I entered LTS upon a calling from God during a sermon on Matthew 19:16-22 (The Rich Young Man). At that point of my life, I was miserable and was seeking wisdom from God. The Lord approached me, looked at me, loved me and asked me to follow Him by receiving theological training and letting go

of all my belongings. I've been encouraged to take the shepherd path by my previous pastors. I believe I've been called to keep guard of His sheep with love and His word.

My life in LTS is not easy. I wasn't really a good student in my previous school days, not to mention all the challenges laying ahead. I well understand that the pastoral training is tough. I pray that I could live the fullest of my time in LTS and get a quiet growth in grace and character (Hebrew 12:11).

### Tsang Yui Hang (MDiv)

As a new student studying the Master of Divinity Programme, my first school year has been both challenging and enriching. The coursework was rigorous, but it was also deeply rewarding to delve into theological studies at a more advanced level.



The faculty members of LTS are incredibly knowledgeable and enthusiastic about their areas of study. They challenged me to think more deeply about my faith and helped me develop my critical thinking skills. I appreciate the diversity of opinions and perspectives among the faculty members and my fellow students, which provides lively and thought-provoking discussions

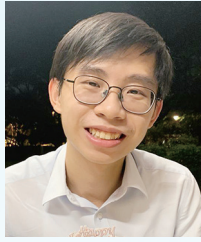
both inside and outside the classroom.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my first year was the opportunity to apply what I have learned through practical ministry experience. I am able to work with a local church and participate in pastoral care in a variety of settings, which helps me to put my theological studies into practice.

To conclude, my first year of studying the Master of Divinity Programme is both a challenging and rewarding experience which helps me to grow both spiritually and intellectually.

**Ng Kwan Nok Enoch** (MDiv)

Hello everyone! I'm Enoch, a first-year student of the M.Div Programme. I come from the Chinese Rhenish Church Tai Po. I'm so glad to be here studying the pastoral programme.



Same as many others here, to equip to serve at church as a pastor is the reason why I joined LTS. God led me to LTS which I think it's really a suitable place for me to study.

I've been studying around half a year and life in LTS is awesome. Teachers, staff, and fellow students

are nice and friendly, especially to those newbies like me. Despite demanding and time-consuming studies and services, life in the seminary is lovely. We study together, pray together, and nevertheless, we also play and hike together. Hiking has become my new hobby after entering LTS.

It's really my pleasure to be here and I'm excited to be part of this lovely community. Thank you, and God bless.

**Tsui Ka Wai** (MDiv)

Hello! I am Tsui Ka Wai, Kary. My lovely seminary classmates like to call me Kawaii (meaning in Japanese 'cute'). Feel free to say Hi to me when you see me around at LTS. I have joined the Hung En Lutheran Church of ELCHK when I was 9 years old. I enjoy reading novels, petting cats, having desserts and crocheting.



I devoted myself to God when I was 15 years old, and God called me repeatedly during my adolescence. I used to follow my calling without doubt until the social movement broke out in 2019. I started to critique my

calling for instrumental benefit. Yet, Lord Jesus is patient and willing to call me repeatedly. Therefore I submitted the admission application in March 2022 and commenced my studying at LTS in August 2022.

It was more than I expected to study at LTS, especially the fellowship. The dormitory life bounds us together as a great community. We share from food to life issues, and practice from cleansing duty to pastoral topics.

Thank you for your prayers and caring for LTS!

**Luk Chung Yin** (MDiv)

Hello, I am Luk Chung Yin, Cecilia, a first-year student of the Master of Divinity Programme.



I am honored to be a LTS student. I grew up in a Lutheran Church. I currently serve at the Martinson Memorial Lutheran Church. I am very enthusiastic about music. I love singing and playing the piano and violin. I have been teaching these instruments for over ten years.

Upon joining LTS, I feel very welcomed by fellow

students and teachers. I am happy to find that they come from a variety of countries, such as Germany, Sweden, Myanmar, Mainland China, etc. I am glad to see that we are encouraged to join a variety of activities, where we can build bonds and learn to cooperate with each other. We always worship, sing, pray, and study together. Our campus is like a big family and we get along very well. I can feel strong support from people around me. Thus, I could improve my language skills and broaden my horizons.

# Germany

In Germany, Easter doesn't start on Easter Sunday. The services in the Holy Week and on Easter Sunday are connected.

In many churches, on Maundy Thursday, the Holy Communion is celebrated in order to commemorate its institution by Jesus Christ. Once again the bells ring and the organ plays joyful songs. After the Lord's Supper, the Passion story is read. Now the mood changes from joy to mourning: the candles are extinguished, all beautiful things - the communion utensils, the flowers, candles, the antependium, the altar cloth - are carried out of the church. The altar is left empty. At the end of the service, the congregation leaves the church in silence without a benediction or a postlude.

Good Friday is the only service in the liturgical year for which no church bells are rung. It begins in silence, without the joyful sound of the bells. The Holy Communion is celebrated again - at the altar, which is empty and without any decoration. This service is sober and simple. Even the organ is often silent.

The Easter Vigil is particularly impressive. It can be celebrated in different ways. Decisive is the transition

from darkness to light. Often the service begins between 5 and 6 a.m., still before dawn. The church is dark or only very dimly lit. During the service, the Easter candle is lit and carried into the church. The light of the Easter candle is passed on to all participants. All the beautiful objects such as the flowers and altar clothes are returned. When the service ends, the sun has risen and the morning has begun. Christ is risen and has overcome the darkness of death. In every service of the following year, the Easter candle is lit in the church, commemorating Christ's resurrection.



In many churches it is customary to celebrate an Easter breakfast after the service. Some Christians have fasted before Easter. Now, on the morning of Easter Sunday, they break the fast and celebrate life with a delicious breakfast.

# Finland

## Some typical Finnish Easter traditions

Finnish Easter traditions mix religion and rites of spring. In a popular family tradition, young children (especially girls) dress up as Easter witches, donning colourful old clothes and painting freckles on their faces. The little witches then go from door to door, bringing willow twigs decorated with colourful feathers and crepe paper as blessings in return for treats (sweets, candy). The most popular day for this tradition is Palm Sunday.

According to the Eastern Orthodox tradition, the words of this "ritual" commemorate the entrance of Jesus to Jerusalem. This tradition is also practiced in some places of Finland.

During Holy Week before Easter concerts such as

## Dr. Jukka Helle

Assistant Professor  
Missiology, Contextual Theology, Worship and Liturgy

Bach's Passion oratorios are also performed in many churches.

Maundy Thursday has traditionally been one of the most popular days for going to church where a worship service is held to commemorate the last supper of Jesus. At the end of the service the liturgical colour of Lent (violet) is changed into black, the colour of sorrow and mourning as to prepare for Good Friday. The altar is also stripped, and all candles are blown out, except for one candle, which represents Christ, the only one who remained faithful. During the last few decades also the Easter night vigil (which usually starts at 10 or 11 pm) has gained popularity.

## Easter grass

Growing Easter grass is common in Finnish households.

## Easter around the World

Easter grass seeds are planted as a way to welcome the arrival of spring. Once the grass is grown, it is, just like the willow twigs, decorated with colourful ornaments. It is also common to hide small self-painted Easter eggs or decorative items such as Easter chicks or bunnies inside the grass.

### Easter cuisine

Roast lamb is the most common main course for a Finnish Easter Sunday family dinner.



Two seasonal local desserts are also widely enjoyed. Mämmi is a sludgy-looking dark brown pudding made of malt and rye flour.

Pasha is a creamy-coloured pudding made of sweetened homemade cheese, eggs, cream and seasonings left overnight to solidify – traditionally in a mould decorated with religious motifs, e.g. XB = Khristos

Voskres (in Cyrillic alphabets), Christ is risen.

# China

Do you know how the churches in Mainland China celebrate Easter? Some pastors from Mainland China are studying in the LTS. From their sharing, I am given to understand that Christmas and Easter are the two major festivals in their churches.

Rev. Enoch Wang, coming from Zhejiang Theological Seminary, pointed out that the churches in Zhejiang Province attached importance to the following festivals, in descending order, namely, Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter. Yet, most churches don't celebrate Pentecost. One or two nights before Easter, some churches in the mainland have a Good Friday evening service. The service has different varieties, including sacred music worship, playlet or movies about the Passion of Christ, prayer meetings and the Holy Communion.

Rev. Luo Ya, coming from the Bible School in Guizhou, told me that the teachers and students at her Bible school would take part in the Via Crucis procession before Easter.

Most churches in the mainland will celebrate Easter during the Sunday services. Some services will be held in the early morning. The key messages of the hymns and sermons are about the resurrection of Jesus. Some churches will have Holy Communion and baptism in their services. Other churches, like the church in Datong City, will have the choir performance praising our Lord, dramas about Jesus as well as dances to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Members of the congregation will commence the practice and rehearsal

### Piano Chow

Assistant Chaplain



one or two months in advance. In Zhejiang Province, some churches will have the sacred music worship on Easter Sunday. The services include congregational singing, scripture reading, prayers, duet, solo, chorus, and band music etc.

Regarding the church decoration in the Easter time, Rev. Wang said that churches in Zhejiang Province would have simple decorations to celebrate Easter. Most churches just displayed the wording of "Happy Easter" on electronic screens. And during the service, members of the congregation would wish each other Happy Easter! Some churches would distribute eggs, symbolizing rebirth, to those joining the services.

## Sharing of the Awardee of the Doctoral Dissertation Outstanding Award

### Chen Kuan Hsien

(2019 D.Th.)

My heartfelt thanks go to the LTS for inviting me to write this article. This allows me to make use of this opportunity to share with you my feeling in receiving the award.

After my graduation from the LTS in 2019, I have heavily engaged in the teaching and administration work. Meanwhile, I also have to assume the pastoral caring duties in my church. In July 2021, I learned by chance that the Rev. Dr. Lien-hwa Chow Memorial Foundation would issue awards annually to dissertations with high qualities written by students with master or doctoral degrees. Noting that the completion day of my doctoral dissertation was in compliance with the prevailing requirement set down by the Foundation, I immediately submitted my application.

Next year, in February 2022, the first working day right after the Chinese New Year holiday, I received an email from the Foundation notifying me that “*Shalom Dr. Chan. Congratulations! Upon stringent screening and reviewing by the Foundation’s internal and external assessment panel members, you are awarded the Doctoral Dissertation Outstanding Award 2021.*” I also received comments from two anonymous members. Thanks to my Lord for giving me the opportunity to submit my application before the deadline as well as getting the recommendation of the assessment panel to issue me an outstanding award.

One of the comments received mentions that “*The finding of the dissertation is a breakthrough in the research of the Chinese Lutheran theology and it could be put into practice in the pastoral ministering.*” It is not only a recognition on my research work, but also serve as a reminder and encouragement to me as I am having dual capacity, a theology teacher as well as a pastor.

The research topic of my doctoral dissertation is “*Creatio per Verbum: Luther’s Trinitarian Theology of Creation.*” I chose such area of research because I have interest in



Lutheran studies and have a vision to make some contribution on the study area which has not been explored before. After commencement of my research, I then realized that I had my limitations. At that time, I had taken up three posts, serving as a teacher, an administrator and a pastor. I got limited time and not enough strength to pursue my studies. Each time before I had to

discuss the progress of my research with my advisor, I would send him by email the content of my research which I myself felt not so well satisfied. Then I boarded the plane to Hong Kong to meet my advisor Dr. Pilgrim Lo with a feeling of restless and unease. Each time I met my advisor face to face, I got insightful advice and guidance, warm and supportive encouragement. This allowed me to hold on and move on step by step till the completion of my dissertation.

Every trip I stayed in Hong Kong was a short one. I have to thank colleagues of the Seminary giving me administrative support patiently and conscientiously. I am also overwhelmed by the kind words, encouragement and hospitality of fellow students, brothers and sisters in the Seminary.

Looking back my hectic schedule in those years commuting between Taiwan and Hong Kong to further my studies, the journey was not easy, encountering many difficulties and frustrations. Yet, I have also experienced that my Lord is merciful and what I have received is grace upon grace. As what Luther said in the First Article about Creation, “*All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me.*”

Last but not least, I must give thanks to my mother Seminaries, the China Lutheran Seminary and the LTS. They gave me good theological training as well as unfailing support in my academic journey. The award has also received due recognition in both Seminaries. May God continue to bless and use my mother seminaries, so that they could continue to bear fruitful achievements in the theological education and research. Amen!



## Sharing of the Awardee of the Doctoral Dissertation Excellence Award

### Leung Ching Hang

(2022 D.Th.)

Thanks to the grace of God, my doctoral dissertation received the 2022 Doctoral Dissertation Excellence Award from the "Rev. Dr. Lien-Hwa Chow Memorial Foundation" in Taiwan. I completed my Doctor of Theology degree in LTS in 2022 with a dissertation entitled "A Socio-Rhetorical Interpretation of 1 Cor. 9 with its Relevance to the Rhetoric of 1 Cor. 10-14". This paper looks forward to proving that 1 Cor. 9 plays an important guiding role in understanding 1 Cor. 10-14, and concludes that 1 Cor. 9-14 is likely a set of discussion units.

Winning this award was truly a great surprise, and I would like to thank the selection committee for their recommendation and support. I also want to thank my advisor, Dr. Sin-pan Ho, for his inspiration and guidance. It is through his teaching that I was able to achieve this honor. I would like to thank all the teachers and classmates of the "NT Colloquium" for their opinions and support, and also thank the dean, teachers, and colleagues of the LTS for their help and encouragement. All glory be to God!

Looking back on my five-year doctoral study journey, it was not easy, and both struggles and joys accompanied me. As a part-time student, I often had to balance the tension between church ministry and learning, and encountered countless difficulties in the process of writing my dissertation. I experienced many highs and lows, and my dissertation content went through



numerous revisions. Despite the challenges, the whole process brought me great joy and grace, such as the excitement of finding direction through my advisor's guidance, the thrill of discovering new possibilities in scripture research, the joy of finding new knowledge in books, the emotions of completing each chapter, and the grace of God shining light in my struggles.

On the other hand, people often say that academic research is a lonely journey, and indeed, researchers often have to read and write alone, immersed in a sea of books and computer screens. However, the "Colloquium" established by LTS became a great help to graduate students. This monthly platform allowed us to engage in academic discussions in a serious, rigorous, and open space, enriching and supplementing our own thinking blind spots. More importantly, it allowed us to meet and encourage each other as fellow travelers.

I hope that this award will be a driving force for my future endeavors, as I continue to devote myself to the field of biblical studies. I pray that God will help me to have a more solid understanding and interpretation of the truth of the Bible, in response to the various needs of Hong Kong's churches today.

All glory be to the Lord!



# Happy Anniversary, Companion LeShalom Centre!

**Dr. Angel Lam**

Associate professor  
Dean of Counseling Studies and Ministry

## 5 years ago: A new Centre for Counseling

In 2018, the “Companion LeShalom Centre (CLC)” was established by LTS. The aim was to match the pressing needs of church and social communities, and also to support the development of counseling programs in LTS. CLC is located in the centre of Kowloon. It provides a practicum platform for students to deepen their learning through internships and clinical supervision, to achieve the goal of combining knowledge and practice. In addition, CLC also renders support to students, alumni, pastors, and believers in personal and psycho-spiritual growth, thus strengthening the church’s pastoral care and counseling ministry. Since 2017, more than 200 students have received various forms of counseling training at LTS.

CLC provides a full range of services: counseling, spiritual direction, professional assessments, clinical supervision, training, talk/workshops and non-credit programs, hoping to inspire and encourage more people and to bless the community.

## CLC's Vision

The vision and mission of CLC is built on the Lord Christ, emphasizing on walking with the Lord, self and others. Through counseling on personal growth, more people have been enabled to experience a healthy life. As the saying goes, Prevention is better than Cure, and so, strengthening people’s inner self enables them to face challenges in different phases of life. They will not easily stumble or lose balance. Even if they are knocked down, they can recompose and carry on easier. In this way, our society will look different and be changed for the better if everyone has a healthy inner self.

The mission statement of CLC is: Walking with Our Lord in order to grow deep in God. Walking with Others in order to bless people. Walking with Self in order to strengthen one’s inner life.

## CLC Service Team and Membership Program

CLC has a total of 48 counselors, including post-

internship counselors, 6 counselors, 7 senior counselors, 8 clinical psychologists, 3 spiritual direction counselors and a total of 9 clinical supervisors. Over the past 5 years, more than 10,000 visitors have benefited from the services of CLC. Our membership system started from September 2021 to establish and connect believers and friends who echo our vision of "Counseling Ministry", and to unite people from all aspects to work, walk and grow together. We have about 100 members.

## CLC's Commitment

In order to upgrade and maintain quality service, CLC has regular supervision, case conferences, training for our counselors and working teams. For our members and volunteers, various activities like trainings and workshops, are organized to connect those believers and friends sharing our common visions, and to promote their healthy life as well. For instance, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Growth Groups, Refresh Our Heart Scheme have been launched to inspire and build up lives so as to help our society.

## CLC's Celebration of the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Counting the blessings and looking forward... We all are grateful that the "Towards the 5th Anniversary Thanksgiving Services" of CLC was held on July 10, 2022. In 2023, the “5th Anniversary of CLC” is celebrated under the theme “Refresh our Heart, Walk with Love”.

The Norwegian Missionary Society visited CLC at the end of 2022 and decided to grant financial support in the coming three years. In the first year, the support is HKD 360,000 which is for developing the ministry of “Refresh Our Heart”. Training on Emotional Management and Caring will be on the way.

One of the activities of the 110th LTS Anniversary and also of the 5th Anniversary of CLC has been a Public talk on 12th May 2023 at Nathan Road (Sung En) Lutheran Church. The theme was “Live Well and Walk with People: Integrating Counseling and Spirituality, Nourishing Live, Walking with People.” The speakers have been Dr. Jane Tam and Dr. Angel Lam.

## Eva Lam

Graduate Master of Arts  
in Christian Counseling

I, who had never accepted emotional outbursts in the past, began to care about, and to accept myself. I also realize that I had been healed a lot in taking this subject. It has not only given me knowledge, but also has fulfilled the satisfaction of my inner self. In the program, the professors have led me to experience God's love and getting the affirmation from HIM.

Facing the current social situation, maybe most of us want to do something such as comforting those in need. In the past, I had this caring mind, but I thought that I didn't know what to say and I didn't know how to help the real needs in people's hearts. But through the program I have learnt some counseling skills, so that I can better understand how to talk with people and how to comfort them. I hope that more people can walk with themselves, with others, and with God via the study of Christian counseling programs, bringing more hope to the society.



## Horace Kung

Ministerial Graduate

I am a self-confident, subjective and demanding person. Therefore, these traits inevitably meant pressure on myself and others when getting along with or cooperating with others. Sometimes, because of my personal subjective personality, unnecessary misunderstandings and conflicts with others may be caused.

In 2019, I participated in the "Theological Student Personal Growth Counseling Scheme". After many sessions with the counselor, apart from deepening my "inner" knowledge of myself, the most precious thing was to discover and deal with some negative thoughts that had been buried in my heart for many years. It turned out that these negative thoughts had been affecting my personal growth and my attitude and orientation towards others. After receiving the counseling service, I was "relaxed" and feeling more "secure" in terms of personal emotions and attitudes toward others, and I also

knew how to deal calmly with difficulties and challenges. This new "cognition" has helped me to enter the church safely and able to face various challenges.

## A CLC Client

I had two young men in my family who were encountering challenges in personal development. I learnt from Dr. Lam how counselling could help in personal growth and decided to invite my elder son to try the counselling on self-development. My son often came home excitedly after the counselling sessions, eager to share with me his new self-discovery and his understanding of his past experiences. After some time, he developed a better understanding of himself and started to practice new ways of thinking, and he found himself starting to live a proactive life.

When my younger son heard the sharing of his brother, he realized that some of his habits and mindsets needed improvement and he wanted to try counselling on personal growth too. During the counselling sessions, he came to be aware of his own blind spots and discovered his strengths, and so he developed greater confidence. During the course of counselling, he also learned the art of listening and caring, and he has become a more thoughtful and considerate young man.

As a mother, my influence plays a significant role in their development, both positive and negative. From their sharing, I gained yet a better understanding of myself. All mothers wish their children to be mentally and spiritually strong and healthy, hoping they can rise to challenges in life. Yet, we have no control over their future. With the help of counselling on personal growth, they have the chance to learn the importance of seeking assistance and accepting their limitations as well as those of others, facilitating them to achieve healthy personal development. To me, this is a precious gift.

# In Memoriam of Rev. Dr. John LeMond

Maggie Mathieson

I first saw Revd. Dr John LeMond but from a distance when I attended inter-faith groups in Hong Kong. This enigmatic man, dressed in his Indian garb, was always making contributions to the discussions, sometimes leading them, and after the talks, always very busy with the many that would gather around him.

Only when I had entered LTS and seminary life did I get to know him, and that was during the Fall retreat at Cheung Chau Bosco Centre. He stood and introduced himself uniquely – ‘I am the Revd. Dr John LeMond happily married to my beautiful wife Barbara – you can call me Dr LeMond, or you can call me John, but please do not call me **Dr John!**’

I was not assigned to his family group. I only got to know more of him during the communal times of the retreat, like when we were washing the dishes – he joined our team, probably the noisiest one in the centre, singing along with us as we worked, his voice blending in harmony with ours.

On campus, his presence was known and felt in all situations, in and out of class, chatting along the road, sharing a joke, a prank, or a cup of tea and, of course, in worship, leaving a lasting impression on all there – always a man who talked the talk and walked the walk!

His classes were a highlight of the week as you never quite knew where your thoughts would be led or challenged. Not knowing how he would teach a topic or theme – or working out just ‘how long a piece of string’ you as a student would be given in your interpretation and creativity.



**Revd. Dr. John LeMond**

A man of art and culture, which, like all other things, he made particularly his own. Pen ink drawings mainly in black but some-times with a splash of colour. The composition and exposure showing the depths and understanding of his faith walk and his convictions in life. Dr LeMond, along with some students on campus, launched the LTS Arts Festival – creating a space for all - encouraging students and faculty alike to share their cultural gifts, not only in visual arts but in music and performance arts. Of course, who could forget The Mountain Trio!

There are so many words, ways and images with which he is remembered – not one alone could suffice. The man clothed in white carrying a lantern on the Feast of All Souls, candle lights lining the pathway before him, those behind following to the place of remembrance.

The turban-clad golden-cloaked magician and the never-ending theme song that stayed in your brain. The dancer ever ready - joining in the cultural dances from all around the world. The man with open arms who was ready and willing to receive, console, comfort and celebrate, a man who loved to laugh with you but was not afraid to cry with you too.

The solitary figure sitting crossed-legged on the floor, poised with his singing bowl, looking up to the Christ on the wall.

The Revd. Dr John LeMond was and is so many things to so many; he is missed, but what he has left us will never be forgotten and continues within us as we remember—our professor, mentor, friend and brother in Christ.

# The Risen Christ Cross in the Chapel of LTS

**Phyllis Lam**

Development Officer

In July 2017, accompanied by the cicadas chirping in the high summer, I took a stroll in Tao Fung Shan after lunch. I chanced on Dr. He Qi (何琦), a renowned artist sojourning in USA, in front of the Chapel. I learnt that the Jesus Christ portrait and the colorful stained glass depicting the dove of Holy Spirit at the central part of the sanctuary inside the Ming Chieh Chapel was originated from Dr. He's paintings which were donated by the Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre at the opening of the LTS new campus. We in LTS then imitated the paintings to prepare the bronze cross and the stained glass. I grasped the opportunity to ask him more about his works and his life story and he responded unreservedly. I would like to share with you what I had learnt from the encounter as we celebrate the 110th anniversary of the LTS.

Dr. He was born in China and was sent to the rural areas as a labourer during the Cultural Revolution. He was then a teenager and physically unfit to do the hard labour work. He was re-deployed to paint portraits of Chairman Mao as his daily duty. When he had his rest at night, he practised paintings by copying the Madonna della Seggiola by Raphael of the Italian Renaissance. He felt his soul was comforted and at ease. In His amazing way, God opened for him a path to creative arts. Dr. He is currently sojourning in the United States, serving as visiting scholar to various institutions of higher education. A recipient of the "20th Century Religious Art Theory and Christian Art Creation Award" of the Cambridge University, he has exhibited artworks in museums, universities and churches all over the world.



## “The Risen Christ” Cross

Dr. He's art creations of “The Risen Christ” blended messages from the scripture with the aesthetics of Chinese culture. Jesus Christ is dressed in the style of Eastern Han Dynasty, exactly the time Jesus walked on earth, about two thousand years ago. There are four groups of people, comprising of three group of men and one group of women. Men wear turbans from the Miao tribe and Tu Jia Zu (ethnic minority groups in China) and women are dressed in Jiangnan indigo dyed cloth. All show that Dr. He is fond of the distinctive colourful costumes of ethnic minorities.

### An Image symbolizing the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

- The halo above the head of Jesus Christ symbolizes the Heavenly Father.
- The dove-shaped hairline on the forehead of Jesus Christ symbolizes that He is filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus Christ wearing Han costumes with the bread and cup in front of Him symbolizes His body and blood and the fulfillment of the Heavenly Father's salvation plan.

### An Image symbolizing the Triune God with us.

- The risen Christ with open arms and with blood-red marks of nail wounds on his palms symbolize that He has overcome death and has resurrected.
- The risen Christ with open arms symbolizing He embraces and accepts all who come before Him.

### Four Groups of Characters presenting wonderful Gospel Stories.

- The four groups of three people each, making a total of twelve, represent the twelve disciples.
- The four groups with men in three groups and women in one group symbolize that Jesus has both men and women disciples.
- The four groups with the upper two all have their own concerns, while those in the two below are all looking to Jesus Christ intently.

### Four groups of Characters presenting not only good models, but also bad examples to remind believers.

- To the upper left of Jesus, one person holds a money bag, while the other two surround him and seeming to be

whispering. They all turn their backs to Jesus. This reminds believers not to fall into the temptation of money.

- To the upper right of Jesus, one person is pointing his finger to the sky, while the other two are staring to the sky. None of them has their eyes on Jesus. They were arguing who will be the greatest. Believers are reminded to be mindful of the temptation of power.
- To the lower left of Jesus, one person is holding a fishing net and all three of them are looking to Jesus. They are responding to the call of Jesus “Come, follow me”.
- To the lower right corner of Jesus, different from the other three groups, there is a group of three women. It is a distinctive group symbolizing women have been following Jesus and serving the church wholeheartedly for two thousand years.

### Three women, three stories

- The woman closest to Jesus is holding an oil lamp, depicting the story of the ten virgins where the wise ones carry both lamps and oil while the foolish ones carry lamp but without oil. It reminds believers to be ready at any time to wait for the second coming of Jesus.
- Another woman holding an alabaster jar of spikenard is offering a precious gift for the sacrifice of Jesus.
- The woman in the middle in rosary red is the Blessed Virgin Mary. When she was young, the angel told her that she would become pregnant. Since then, she safeguarded Jesus faithfully. She set an exemplary model for believers to follow Jesus all their lives.



One image with several Bible stories conveying inspiring gospel message

## A thanksgiving review of the LTS 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Logo Design

### Phyllis Lam

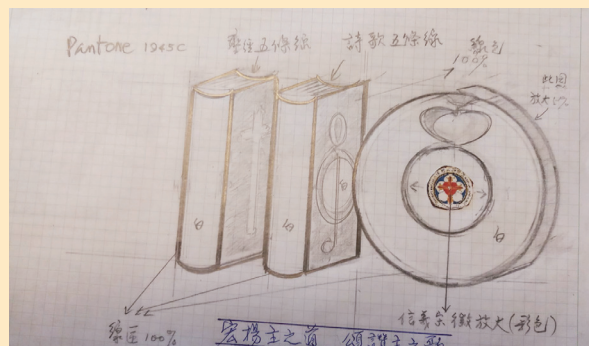
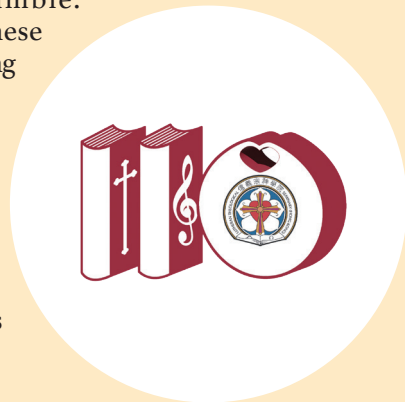
Development Officer

In a chatting with Mr. Hui Wan Tien Isaac (許允甜) over the phone, I mentioned that we in LTS were going to prepare a logo for the LTS 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Then, one day, unexpectedly and with much thanksgiving, I received a draft design from Mr. Hui. He eloquently shared the theme of his creative design. One bible and one hymn book are combined together to make “I” and “I”. It is the mission and the task of the Seminary to train students to study and be faithful to the words of God and to preach the gospel. We also sing hymns together wholeheartedly to praise the holy name of our Lord. The “O”, which is shown by two arms and embraces the LTS logo, with the fingers making a heart shape, represents the aspirations to love God and to love LTS.

Mr. Hui chose palace red as the theme color. This color has been used in ancient and modern times in China for great celebrations

- glamorous yet humble.

Like an ancient Chinese saying: “brocade clothing by sackcloth”, which means that a person puts on a linen overcoat to cover his beautiful clothes inside, an idiom describing a humble person who hides his capabilities.



## News:

- 2023 Spring School Outing organized by the Student Association was successfully held on January 13. Teachers and students had BBQ gathering in Tai Po on that day, full of love and fun.



- 13 participants joined the Seminar on Commitment on February 18 and 19. Many participants expressed that the camp was impressive, and they were moved by thoughtful arrangements in the camp. May God bless all of them.



- The Rev. Daniel Wong Lectures on Pastoralia was held on March 13.

- A Memorial Service for our beloved Rev. Dr. John G. LeMond was held on March 17. We gathered together to share our good memory on him and to thank God for his faithful and fruitful life.

- After the pandemic, many things are resuming back to normal. In April, overseas visiting scholars could come to Hong Kong to meet the LTS students face to face. Also, two intensive courses for Mainland students were held. 20 to 30 students enrolled in each course. The campus became full of live and energy. Teachers, students and staff treasured the time of getting together to eat, to chat and to learn. Thanks be to God.



- The Annual Sacred Music Worship cum the Commencement of the LTS 110th Anniversary Celebration was successfully held on April 21. We had an attendance of about 500. The graduating students were grateful because they could have the "normal" Annual Sacred Music Worship before their graduation. They praised God through the hymns with the congregation without wearing masks.



## Upcoming events:

- The Graduation Thanksgiving Service will be held on 4 June 2023 (Sun) 4:00p.m. at the Chinese Rhenish Church Kowloon.
- There will be a tour to study the Reformation and its Heritage in Germany from 14 Jun to 2 Jul. Please pray for Dr. Prilgrim Lo and the students joining the event.
- In summer, Miss Hellen Bok and some students will have a cultural exploration and mission trip to Sabah, East Malaysia.
- Theological Public Lecture will be held on 13-14 October 2023 (Fri-Sat).
- 2023 Founders' Day will be held on 24 November 2023 (Fri) to celebrate our 110th Anniversary. Please reserve time to join the event!

## Snapshots of LTS

### Commissioning Service for the Graduates



Enjoying Sunlight in Sai Kung



Lenten Series



Graduation Class Photo-taking Day





2023-2024  
Fall Enrollment

# Navigate by Faith

**Christian Leadership Program**  
Master of Arts in Theology (MA-T)

**Pastoral Enhancement Programs**  
Master of Divinity with Theological Degree (MDIV-T)  
Master of Arts in Classical Judaism (MA-CJ)  
Master of Arts in Mission (MA-M)

**Advanced Study Programs**  
Master of Theology (MTH)  
Doctor of Theology (DTH)

**2023 Entrance Exam (Sat)**  
only for local applications

June 17 [Deadline: May 29]

August 5 [Deadline: July 17]



Curriculum



Inquiry

\* The above programs can be completed in English.