

**St. Paul International Lutheran Church Tokyo, Japan
Seeks Pastor for
*A Lutheran Church With International Flavor***

St. Paul International Lutheran Church (SPILC) Tokyo, offers a unique pastoral opportunity to serve an International Christian community in English. This ministry values working in a multi-cultural, international environment to nurture people in faith. This position of pastoral leadership of Word and Sacrament is to serve Christ through cross-cultural leadership in worship, witness, learning, service, fellowship and stewardship. This is an ongoing ministry position that is considered part-time and is available from Fall 2009. Consider this stimulating and challenging position for call or on a contractual basis.

Required Qualifications:

- Ordained and rostered Lutheran clergyperson; minimum 10 years' experience as ordained clergy; experience with diverse/multi-cultural populations in a congregation.
- Minimum two year commitment.
- Two (2) References

Additional Helpful Qualifications:

- Some knowledge of/experience with Japanese culture and language.
- Evangelism Growth and Faith Community builder.
- Cross cultural/international leadership skills.
- A healthy sense of humor.

Call/Contract Specifications:

Position as pastor reports to the Church Council of SPILC and to the Bishop of the pastor's home Synod. The pastor leads and supervises all ministry of the congregation collaborating with the Church Council and members – assuming responsibility for training leadership.

Call/Contract responsibilities and duties include:

As per our constitution: "The pastor shall preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and conduct public worship in consistency with the faith and practices of the evangelical Lutheran Church. The pastor shall care for the congregation individually and as a whole, give catechetical instruction, confirm, marry in accordance with the laws of God and the state, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead. The pastor shall supervise all schools and auxiliary organizations of the congregation. The pastor shall install to office regularly elected and appointed members of the congregation, and with the Church Council administer discipline. The pastor shall keep the membership rolls of the congregation, reporting thereon periodically to the Church Council. The

pastor shall record acts in the official register, which shall be and remain a property of the congregation.”

Reimbursement:

Reimbursement is a monthly stipend for a part-time call/contract to be negotiated at the time of the call/contract; an annual bonus is possible depending on the health of the congregation. To supplement income, an outside part-time position is possible, dependent upon visa requirements.

Benefits:

Fully furnished western-style apartment

Utilities (phone-local calls)

Paid vacation is available after six months of service – 2 weeks/six months or 4 weeks/year

One vacation trip back to the US/Home Country for pastor and spouse

Japan National Health insurance

Dental

Legal documents allowance

Local public Travel Allowance per month; no car is provided as public transportation in Tokyo is extensive

Home country income tax is the pastor's personal responsibility

Call/Contract period:

Begins with agreement, for a minimum of two years, renewable

Application Process:

1) Send letter of application with resume to:

SPILC Call Team

Attn: M. Kawashima, Council President

Email: “stpaul_tokyo65 at yahoo.com”

2) For Questions or Concerns Contact M. Kawashima, Council President at:

E-mail: “stpaul_tokyo65 at yahoo.com”

3) For Current Congregation Activities:

our website: <http://www2.gol.com/users/alleluia/>

4) Deadline date for candidates search and transmittal of PDF's or sermon tapes: September 1, 2009

5) If call/contract is approved, follow Call Team directions to apply for Religious Work Visa for Japan. This process could take a month or more.

Additional Information

Mission Statement:

“St. Paul International Lutheran Church Tokyo serves people of diverse backgrounds in deepening and sharing their Christian faith through English language worship, fellowship, learning, and community service.”

Historical Background:

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church was founded by Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod missionaries in the 1960s, to fill the need to provide administration of the Word and Sacraments to the numerous English-speaking LCMS missionary families, especially wives and children, in the Tokyo area. On September 12, 1965, the congregation was officially re-organized to serve all English-speaking Lutherans in Tokyo. It became a self-supporting, independent Lutheran congregation recognized by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS). Also recognized by their partner churches in Japan, the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC) and the Japan Lutheran Church (NRK), the congregation changed its name in the 1970s to “St. Paul International Lutheran Church” to better reflect an evolving, growing ministry to the international community in Tokyo. By the 1990s the missionary population greatly decreased and the congregation began to serve people in the business, government, and education fields. Today, the congregation is truly international serving people from around the world who live, work, study and visit in Tokyo. English is the common denominator for people from Africa, Europe, Australia, Asia, Latin America, and North America who worship and do ministry together.

Facilities:

St. Paul rents and shares worship and fellowship facilities with a Japanese congregation also located in the Lutheran Center. The facility includes a pipe organ and a grand piano for worship use. The SPILC office is located in the same building, the Lutheran Center of the Japan Lutheran Church and its English language school and administrative offices. Future planning includes the possibility of the congregation seeking its own facilities.

Budget Information:

Annual Net Operating Budget: Yen 6.8 million or US \$70,000.

Church Staff and Services:

In addition to the pastor, the congregation retains a lead and an assistant organist. We have one Sunday morning worship service each week at 9:30am Sunday school follows a short fellowship time and begins at 11:00am for children and adults. There are special services for Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter.

Belief:

As a “blended Lutheran” congregation, we accept and follow the Belief Statements of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

Membership:

SPILC members are from Japan, Africa, Europe, Australia, and other Asian countries and represent the spectrum of Lutheran as well as various other denominations. The membership is well educated. Some families are bi-cultural and interracial. Families as well as singles are present. Our membership is very transient. Our current weekly attendance averages about 40 - 50. Attendance is lower during the summer months. Greater Tokyo is large, has a population of 35 million, and thus most members travel some distance to attend worship.

Ministry:

A. Worship

Worship at SPILC follows a Lutheran liturgical style. Currently, The Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) is used. Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. Lay members participate extensively in our worship as Lectors, Communion Assistants, Cantors, and ushers. A gospel time with children is included in worship.

Our Sunday Schedule:

9:30 – 10:40 AM Worship with Holy Communion

10:45 – 11:00 AM Open fellowship time

11:00 – 11:55 AM Learning Hour: Sunday school and Adult Forum/Bible study

12:15 – 2:30 PM Meetings, open lunch, other activities

There are special services for Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter.

B. Education

There is one Sunday school class for children ages 4 through 10. The adults meet during the learning hour for an “Adult Forum” time of discussion and study, led by the pastor and periodically by members. The pastor leads a Bible study on Wednesday nights. There is a library/resource center containing Christian books and videotapes for both adults and children. We share this room and materials with the language school located in our building.

C. Fellowship

We have a 30 minute Fellowship Time following the Sunday morning worship service. Several times throughout the year, potluck lunches or other special fellowship activities are held after the service.

D. Outreach/Service

Visitors learn about our church primarily through our website, brochures in hotels and notices in the English newspaper. We have established one day a month for volunteering with local charitable organizations.

Opportunities and Challenges in the Next Five Years:

- 1) Learn how to better witness to the diverse English-speaking and international community in Tokyo. The current economic downturn may be either a negative or a positive factor for our transient population.
- 2) Promote faith and discipleship growth of people who are with the congregation often for short periods of time.
- 3) Seek leadership development of even short term members of the congregation.
- 4) Further develop Sunday school, youth and young adult ministries.
- 4) Seek a permanent site, with the necessary financial support and required legal process in Japan, for the congregation. This would expand ministry opportunities.
- 5) Expand service into the community across cultural and language boundaries.
- 6) Continue to develop ministry collaboration with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Japan Lutheran Church and the two parent bodies, the ELCA and the LCMS.
- 7) Collaborate in ecumenical ministry with the other English-speaking congregations in Tokyo: St Alban's Episcopal; Franciscan Chapel, Roman Catholic; Tokyo Union, Non-denominational; West Tokyo Union; Yokohama Union; Tokyo Baptist