

# The Pink Link

Saturday, June 7, 2008

2008 New England Synod Assembly

***Godspeed  
as you travel  
home today***

## **Election results**

### **Synod Officers**

Vice President – **Mark Winzler**

Secretary – **Steve Converse**

Treasurer – **Jeff Swanberg**

### **Synod Council**

Clergy CT – **James Debner**

Clergy Maine – **Marian Marks**

Clergy VT/NY/NH – **Sharon Hughes**

Clergy Rhode Island – **Dana Reardon**

Lay Female CT – **Charlene Wright**

Lay Female MA – **Kathy Read**

Lay Male / Color – **Lloyd Smith**

Lay Male MA – **Ossie Rambarran**

Lay Male VT/NY/NH –

**Jeff Herman-May**

Lay Male Maine – **Joe Hakanson**

Youth – **Ali Canino**

### **Discipline Committee**

Clergy – **Sara Anderson**

Lay Female at Large – **Carol Kearns**

Lay Male at Large – **Harry Schuh**

### **Consultation Committee**

Clergy at Large – **Edward Dufresne**

Lay at Large – **Michael Scott**

### **2009 CWA**

Clergy/Color – **Gladys Moore**

Lay Female Never Attended (two) –

**Nancy Hallberg-Emerson**

**Elaine Ramshaw**

Lay Female at Large –

**Sister Virginia Strahan**

Lay Female/Color –

**Carmen Rodriguez-Rivera**

Lay Male/Color – **Lloyd Smith**

Lay Male Never Attended (two) –

**Steve Converse**

**Ronald Gustafson**

Lay Male at Large – **Brad Cook**

Lay Person under 25 –

**Rebecca Krentz-Wee**



## **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**God's work. Our hands.**

*Dody Matthias receives a hug from Mark Winzler, vice president of the New England Synod, after receiving a special citation from the Synod Council for her work in the synod with the Healing the Wounds of Racism process. Matthias' life reflects a commitment to bringing good news to the poor, proclaiming release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind and setting free the oppressed. She is a member of Gloria Dei, Providence, R.I.*



## **Two set apart to public ministry**

*By Pr. Dennis Kohl, Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Warwick, R.I.*

**G**od's work. Our hands. The focus of the 21st Annual Assembly of the New England Synod was made visible last night in the ordination of two new ministers of Word and sacrament, and in the breaking of bread, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Worcester, Mass. By the laying on of hands, God's work of equipping the Church with these young pastors – **the Rev. William Kroeze** and **the Rev. Joshua Rinas** – was celebrated and affirmed by those gathered for the assembly Eucharist.

Pr. Kroeze has been called to serve as associate pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church, Stamford, Conn., while Pr. Rinas has been called to serve as pastor at Zion Lutheran Church,

Waterbury, Conn., and as port chaplain for Seafarer's & International House, a Lutheran mission for seafarers and sojourners in New York City.

In her sermon, Bishop Margaret G. Payne reminded those gathered to look for the signs of God's Kingdom present in the world, as well as in each of us. She also spoke of how God is at work training us to be co-workers with God. God is doing this by calling us to observe a sabbath of rest and relaxation, to pray more, to laugh more, to read the Holy Scriptures, to imagine and to walk with others as a process of mutual growth and sharing. But ultimately it is God who brings in the kingdom, using

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Bishop Margaret G. Payne and Bishop Lloyd Allen of the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras, one of our companion relationships, stand with the two new pastors ordained last night at the annual Assembly Eucharist – the Rev. William Kroeze (left) and the Rev. Joshua Rinas (right). Pr. Kroeze has been called as associate pastor to his internship site, St. John’s Stamford, Conn. Pr. Rinas, the son of Pr. David and Doreen Rinas of Chelmsford, Mass., will serve as pastor of Zion, Waterbury, Conn., and as port chaplain for Seafarer’s & International House, New York City.

Our bishop, **the Rev. Margaret G. Payne**, has a “thing” about listening, and briefly donned a pair of ears at the opening of her report to the assembly yesterday to emphasize the synod’s key verse of scripture for the coming year: Revelation 2:29 (“Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to our church.”) Our year will concentrate on prayer as listening. The complete text of Bishop Payne’s address will be posted to the synod Web site this weekend.



**TWO SET APART**, *continued from page one*

the work and layers of rich material left behind by those who occupied our places before us.

Our hymns came from many traditions and were sung in both English and Spanish, music was provided by the choir and musicians of Trinity, led by Donald Meinike. The organist was the minister of music at St. John’s, Stephen Rapp.

As part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, representatives of other church communities worshipped with us. Bishop Lloyd E. Allen of the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras served as celebrant and participated in the laying on of hands, along with other Episcopal bishops from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The assembly was blessed with the creativity of the Holy Spirit in gathering the Church for this celebration.

God’s work. Our hands. God’s people were sent to “go in peace and remember the poor.” In this, God’s work continues to be done by our hands, to the glory of God through Jesus’ body in the world today.

■ **The Rev. Joshua Rinas**, 28, was born in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, where his father, Pr. David Rinas, Trinity, Chelmsford, Mass., was then serving. He grew up in Connecticut and Maine before attending Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minn., earning a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in psychology and religion. Rinas worked at Camp Calumet and served as director of Christian education at Ascension Lutheran Church, South Burlington, Vt., before matriculating at Yale Divinity School (YDS), New Haven, Conn. He worked at Luther House, the Yale campus ministry, while pursuing his Master of Divinity degree. He completed his internship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Monroe, Conn.

At YDS, Rinas met his wife, the Rev. Amanda Kucik Rinas, who serves as an Episcopal priest at The Church of the Incarnation in Manhattan (New York City). His sponsors were his wife and parents, Pr. David and Doreen Rinas.

■ **The Rev. William Kroeze** was raised in Modesto, a small city surrounded by rich agricultural lands in the heart of California. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in history in 2003 from California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, Calif. He received his Master of Divinity degree last month from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, where he was co-president of his graduating class.

He completed his internship at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Stamford, Conn., where he has been called as associate pastor. His sponsor was Pr. Scott Harris, St. John’s.

Kroeze has held a variety of jobs, including selling fine china, being a “gopher” at a winery and working as a substitute teacher at a middle school. Professionally, his interests lie primarily in liturgy and music, the ecumenical movement and globalization, vocational discernment and youth ministry.

Look for more synod assembly coverage on the synod Web site:  
[http://www.nesynod.org/events/synod\\_assembly.php](http://www.nesynod.org/events/synod_assembly.php)  
 and on the synod blog:  
<http://www.nesynod.org/blog/>  
 (with photos posted by Pr. Jim Hazelwood)