

The Pink Link

Friday, May 29, 2009

2009 New England Synod Assembly

**Welcome back
to the 22nd Annual
Assembly of the
New England Synod**

**Tonight's Big Story
Festive Assembly Eucharist**
features four ordinations plus
consecration of diaconal minister
and commissioning of associate
in ministry at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity
Lutheran Church, 73 Lancaster
St., Worcester, Mass.
Check bus, van schedule.

'Tweet' from assembly reaches
Red Sox fans, p.2

Got some great assembly
photos? Could you email them
to sisterv@nesynod.org
for a special Saturday
presentation?

Resolutions

►09-01 (A Memorial Concerning
Human Sexuality from the New
England Synod to the 2009 ELCA
Churchwide Assembly (a combina-
tion of memorials published in pre-
assembly material as 09-07 and 09-
09) – **Approved**. A request to vote
by paper ballot was defeated.

►09-02 (A Memorial Concerning
Human Sexuality from the New
England Synod to the 2009 ELCA
Churchwide Assembly (a combina-
tion of memorials published in pre-
assembly material as 09-09 and 09-
17) – **Approved**.

*Ten more resolutions await action
today and tomorrow.*



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.



*Pillows "burst forth" from the car of Pr. Jennifer Hitt – a generous donation from the youth and other members of **Grace, Needham, Mass.**, for Lutheran Social Services (LSS). Each year, LSS gives away 1,000 pillows to newly arrived refugees from Iraq, Burundi, Burma, Somalia and many other countries. LSS is accepting your donations of new pillows, bedding and towels at its display in the Abington Room. During the assembly yesterday, LSS presented its annual "Hands of LSS" award to **St. James, Southbury, Conn.**, for the congregation's generous support. Visit the LSS display to learn more about the synod's social ministry organization or visit www.lssne.org or email mmann@lssne.org or call toll free 1-877-500-8263 x814. Oh, yes, and THANKS!*

Buba uplifts our partnership as servants

By Phoebe Morad, House of Prayer, Hingham, Mass.

On behalf of the churchwide
office of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America
(ELCA), the Rev. Dr. Gemechis D.
Buba welcomed the New England
Synod Assembly and presented a video
message from ELCA Presiding Bishop
Mark S. Hanson.

The point was clear: we are at a
pivotal place in our role as a church in

the world – "the intersection of fear
and hope." Through our hands, as a
community working through Christ,
we have the courage to push past the
immobility of apathy to respond with
witness, wisdom and generosity.
Bishop Hanson reminds us to "be
mindful of what our fear can do to
ourselves."

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The Synod Council yesterday honored **Katherine A. Duffy** (right), “whose generous ministry of hospitality and loving presence with many of God’s children embodies the serving love that Jesus taught and strengthens the community of faith.” Duffy, a member of Trinity, Worcester, Mass., is one of two recipients who are receiving this special citation at this assembly.



BUBA, *continued from page 1*

Dr. Buba, originally from Ethiopia, East Africa, serves as director of African National Ministries for the ELCA. Among his many titles, however, he is most proud of being a child of God.

Dr. Buba shared the good news as to how well the ELCA’s Global Mission work is responding to the world’s many needs as one of the largest organizations of its kind. Where there is conflict and need, our church is able to respond locally and far beyond our borders. Within our borders, relationship building with immigrant populations has led to a stronger church overall. African National Ministries have developed 100 new congregations within this year alone, welcoming 8,000 new members.

As we wrestle patiently and prayerfully over complex social issues, the church family is quick to respond to each other’s essential needs. More than half of the offering that our congregations share with the synod goes to the work of the ELCA’s Global Mission: equating \$1,225,400. Dr. Buba thanked all congregations for their support, which bears witness that there is no better time than now to be in service to humanity.

Assembly ‘tweet’ reaches Red Sox fans

During the opening session of the assembly, there were more than two dozen “tweets” (messages posted on **Twitter**) tagged #nesynod that followed the progress of our work together, reports Bill Petersen, vicar at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Nashua, N.H.

Twitter is a free Internet service for friends, family and co-workers to communicate and stay connected through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: **What are you doing?**

Petersen’s opening tweet – “#nesynodBishop Payne rocks! Using Boston Red Sox / Fenway Park images in her report (much to the chagrin of the Yankees fan next to me)” – was picked up by BOS RedSox, who re-tweeted it to their followers.

If you tweet, check-out #nesynod throughout the assembly. If you have questions about Twitter, see our “rogue” New England Synod tweeters: Pr. Keith Anderson, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Woburn, Mass.; Heidi Jakoby; Bill Petersen, or Lisa Teichmann during the remainder of the assembly.

As of 1:32 p.m. Thursday, 603 people were registered for the 22nd Annual Assembly of the New England Synod: 554 voting members (326 lay and 228 clergy) and 49 non-voters.



The staff of the Office of the Bishop works long hours during synod assemblies. Here, Barbara Lamson, executive secretary, has her tired feet washed by Sister Carol M. Weaver, a parish deaconess serving at Pilgrim, Warwick, R.I. Members of the synod’s servant ministry rosters are washing feet during the assembly. Stop by their station in the corridor.

Hungry? We encourage you to purchase your snacks from the Sturbridge Host concession stand in the hallway near our plenary hall to help support our event. Food also will be available tomorrow for lunch after the assembly closes.

Suggestions from the synod’s **Health and Wholeness Team:**

- Don’t try to do everything yourself. Seek help from God and others.
- Pray frequently for guidance, and you’ll be able to plan better.