

**Godspeed  
as you travel  
home today**

## Election results

**Synod Council Youth – At Large**  
Kirsten Bredvik, 15, Christ the King, Wilbraham, Mass.

## Resolutions

- ▶**09-03** A memorial calling for a super majority to change ministry policies (published in pre-assembly material as 09-05) – **Failed.**
- ▶**09-05** A resolution on health care (published in pre-assembly material as 09-14) – **Postponed.**
- ▶**09-07** A memorial calling for an ELCA social statement on disability (published in pre-assembly material as 09-01) – **Approved.**
- ▶**09-08** A memorial on support for a program to make ELCA materials available in braille and large print (a combination of memorials published in pre-assembly material as 09-02, 09-03, 09-04 and 09-06) – **Approved unanimously.**
- ▶**09-12** A resolution on working to stop genocide in Darfur (published in pre-assembly material as 09-11) – **Approved unanimously.**
- ▶**09-13** A memorial on working to stop genocide in Darfur (published in pre-assembly material as 09-12) – **Approved.** This memorial calls for our national church to do as our synod just voted in 09-12.

## CORRECTION

In the Friday edition, we incorrectly reported that the ELCA's African National Ministries has welcomed 1,000 new members this year. That figure should be 8,000. We apologize to Dr. Gemechis Buba for this error.



## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

## Fryer: 'Jesus has left the building'

*By Pr. Joel Neubauer, Christ, Middletown, Conn.*

In her two keynote addresses on Friday, Kelly Fryer – speaker, author and theologian – assured the 22nd Annual Assembly of the New England Synod that “Jesus has left the building.”

Proclaiming the truth that God has graciously come down to us in Christ Jesus *so that* we are free to give our lives in service to one another, Fryer reminded the assembly that Jesus meets us at



*Kelly Fryer*

“the crossroads of the nations” and says to us, “Be who you are; see what you have; do what matters.” And in this walk with our God-come-down Christ, Fryer adds, “Expect to be surprised.”

Fryer discussed the tragedy of losing passion. Though we are children of a God with whom nothing is impossible – even when all logical evidence points to the contrary – we often

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## Ordinations + consecration + commissioning

At last night's Festive Eucharist, Bishop Margaret G. Payne told the three men and three women being set apart to public ministry that “you have been called to assist the Holy Spirit in the business of heart transformation.”

Touching on the assembly theme (2 Cor. 4:7-12) in her sermon, Payne urged the six “clay jars” to honor their limitations as a way to point toward God instead of “yourselves as the extraordinary power.”

Four were ordained as pastors, while one woman was commissioned as an associate in ministry and another was consecrated as a diaconal minister,

representing three of the four public rosters of the ELCA. The other roster is deaconess.

Set apart were:

**Natalie Bloomquist**, commissioned as an associate in ministry to serve as director of Christian education at Emanuel, Hartford, Conn. Her husband Gary is an engineer in the Nuclear Services division of Westinghouse Electric Co.

**The Rev. Jeffrey Goodrich**, ordained to serve as associate pastor at Good Shepherd, Westborough, Mass. He is married to the Rev. Hannah C. Brown, a pastor in the United Church of Christ.

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*We think that's all 16 graduates, plus a few others, exuberantly embraced in a tight group hug following their graduation Thursday as the first class of the synod's School of Lay Ministry. Three were unable to be at the service.*

## **Emotions run high for grads of lay school of ministry**

*By Arlene Creswell, St. Andrew, Bristol Conn.*

**T**he first class of the New England Synod's School of Lay Ministry graduated Thursday night with many emotions – honored to be recognized for two years of hard work, yet, saddened to be finished with the program.

**Christine J. Fredericks Mitchell**, St. Andrew, Bristol, Conn., said, "Not only did the School of Lay Ministry broaden and deepen my faith, I also made a lot of very good friends. I will miss them."

"Graduating during the assembly acknowledges the program and honors the time and effort we've put in over the last two years," said **Charlene M. Wright**, Immanuel, Oxford, Conn., also a member of the Synod Council.

Through studying in small groups, **Phillip A. Krakowiak**, First, West Haven, Conn., believes his participation at the school has made it easier to share God's love with people around him without being hesitant or afraid. He believes graduating at assembly is "a new beginning" as he pursues further discernment of his spiritual gifts.

Some School of Lay Ministry students have utilized fellow parishioners as study group partners. **Wendell R. Beckman**, Good Shepherd, Rutland, Vt., the only student from Vermont, has a group of parishioners that study with him. The curriculum has provided him with the tools to "better prepare for service to the church."

The desire to continue the learning and discerning process is a common theme with many of the graduates. For **Debra M. Brown**, Our Savior, South Hadley, Mass., her faith journey has not ended at graduation, as it has "affirmed for me my journey toward seminary by awakening the call for ministry."

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## **Yale student's liturgy speaks deeply to assembly goers**

*By Pr. Theresa A. Bianchi, Chaplain  
Dana Farber Oncology Hematology, Londonderry, N.H.*

**W**hen a young person speaks in our church, we often sit up and listen – amazed! When Jesus was 12 years old, his parents lost track of him. After searching far and wide, they found him in the temple surrounded by all the leaders of the spiritual community who were – yes – amazed! When his parents asked him, "What was he thinking!" he non-challantly responded, "Didn't you know I would be in my Father's house?" In other words, "What's the big deal?"

That was how **Linnéa Clark** responded to my question Thursday night about what led her to (write the liturgy within which the first class of the synod's School of Lay Ministry graduated). It was an experience of musicianship



*Linnéa Clark sings her liturgy Thursday*

for her. But it was borne from the seeds of her upbringing; and it spoke deeply to us as the community of faith. Like those persons surrounding Jesus, the young person in the temple, we were amazed by the spirit and insight of her liturgy. This was reflected in two interactions I witnessed after our worship.

Emerging from the assembled community came the people of Zion, Pittsfield, Mass. This is the congregation where Linnéa was baptized, made her first Communion, affirmed her faith, and where she first heard the Word of God. This

community of faith surrounded and embraced her with warmth and a deep pride to see how she had blossomed among them. Someone suggested, "Let's mark this moment with a picture." And gathered around Linnéa, were her pastor, the Rev. Peter D. Boehringer; her parents Philip and Marianne Clark, and those many persons she had grown up in the midst of. Everyone smiled for the camera.

The second interaction I had was with a woman from Bethesda, New Haven, Conn. – "just down the hill from Yale and Luther House." Her name is Barbara Stark and this is her first synod assembly as a voting member. She shared how this first day at her first assembly was intense

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Newly appointed dean of the school, **Judy Ann Armelin**, St. Paul, Gloucester, Mass., feels her time as a student has “instilled a deepening of knowledge and building of community” in her own journey.

A few things are very apparent – whether students committed to the school for their own personal journeys, or are looking to serve the larger church, they have enjoyed their time at the school and will miss the fellowship. We look forward to seeing all the grads as they continue to grow in faith and service.

This is a two-year program. The 2009-10 academic year will begin with a retreat weekend Oct. 23-25 at Calumet Lutheran Camp and Conference Center, Freedom, N.H. Want to learn more about the School of Lay Ministry? Visit [http://www.nesynod.org/resources/school\\_of\\_lay\\_ministry.php](http://www.nesynod.org/resources/school_of_lay_ministry.php) or call 508-791-1530.



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and overwhelming – and she was in information overload. Having experienced this liturgy, written by a young college student from “just up the hill at Yale,” she felt comforted.

And that is why we are amazed at what God is doing through our young people.

**A** new Yahoo group for spouses and families of rostered leaders in the New England Synod is being sponsored by the Health and Wholeness Team of the New England Synod. Join the group, “Lutheranclergyfamilies,” to stay in touch and share your life with others scattered all over New England who know the joys and challenges of the life of a rostered leader. Keep in touch with old friends and find new ones. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/Lutheranclergyfamilies/>, tell who you are, and you’ll be able to post messages within a day or so.

## Women receive synod’s highest award, council citation

**T**wo women – **Betty Fairchild**, Emanuel Lutheran Church, Hartford, Conn., and **Paula Rosenbeck**, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Torrington, Conn., Friday received the **Soli Deo Gloria Award**, the synod’s highest honor given to a lay person. The award honors those who have “proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ and magnified the ministry of Christ’s Church by distinguished service through the synod.”

The plaques were presented by Mark Winzler, synod vice president.

Winzler praised Fairchild, a former member of the Synod Council, remarking that he “never heard her say ‘no’ to service.” In recalling the years they had served together, Winzler called Fairchild “open, honest and fair.” She also is deeply involved at Emanuel, he said, and in other synod ministry.

Marci Sharp, president of the New England Women of the ELCA, praised Rosenbeck for her years of service to the women’s group, as well as for all the ways she volunteers at St. Paul, from assisting minister to teaching confirmation and singing in the choir.

A second **Citation from the Synod Council** was awarded posthumously to **Maria del Carmen Perez**, who died earlier this year. She was praised for her work with the synod’s Healing the Wounds of Racism process and in other areas of servant ministry.