

The Pink Link

Thursday, May 28, 2009

2009 New England Synod Assembly

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

Parliamentarian hours

Our parliamentarian, *E. Marie Wilson*, PRP, CPP, is available to all members of the Assembly any time she is not on the dais. She can help with choosing the appropriate motion for the situation, writing a motion for clarity and effect, or answer a procedural question. If you would like to talk with her, please stop in the synod office outside the plenary hall and ask a staff person to contact her for you.

Tonight's Big Story

The School of Lay Ministry
graduates its first class
at 8:30 p.m.

in the context of a special liturgy
written by a Lutheran student
at Yale University, Linnéa K. Clark.
Learn about Clark p. 3

**Ask
Me!**

Got a question? Look for the friendly faces wearing an "Ask Me!" button.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Who's Who at this Synod Assembly



Kelly Fryer
Author
Keynote Speaker



*Jonathan Reuning-
Scherer*
Assembly Musician



E. Marie Wilson
Parliamentarian



*The Rev. Gemechis
Buba*
ELCA rep

Read bios p.2

Come to a global mission team breakfast

Once again, the Global Mission Team of the New England Synod is hosting two breakfasts at the annual synod assembly, one on Friday and one on Saturday, both at 7 a.m. These buffet breakfasts (\$17) will focus on pilgrimages and short-term mission trips to our companion churches to give you an opportunity to learn about these relationships and how you can participate. At breakfast tomorrow (Friday), participants will discuss the synod's work with the **Lutheran Church in Honduras and the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras** with Pr. Jim Hazelwood, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Charlestown, R.I., and Pr. Michael Bastian, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, North Easton, Mass. On Saturday, Pr. Tim Keyl, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Nashua, N.H., will speak about the synod's work with the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land**. To make a reservation, speak with Wendell Beckman at the global mission display in the Abbington Room or look for him with the Vermont/New York Conference.

Deadlines

- 5 PM, Resolutions
- 5:30 PM, Nominations

**Get your paperwork to the
Synod Assembly Office
outside the plenary hall.**

Who's Who Bios

Kelly Fryer ...

our keynote speaker, will focus on vocation in terms of unleashing the extraordinary power we all have for ministry – God's extraordinary power in our clay jars (2 Cor. 4:5-7).

Fryer is eager to be with us to learn “what you're up to these days ... where you're stirring things up, seeing the Spirit at work, feeling gratified in life and ministry.” She prays that her two presentations tomorrow will help “build momentum for some new things to happen!”

Fryer is a theologian with nearly 20 years of experience leading people, congregations and organizations into renewal. After working for an environmental group and serving as a Lutheran pastor, she co-founded *A Renewal Enterprise, Inc.* (ARE), a Chicago-based firm which helps people engage work and world with purpose and passion by equipping them to live out their decisions to become renewable organizations, leaders and communities (<http://arenwalenterprise.com/>). Fryer is also an adjunct member of two graduate school faculties – Spertus College and the Lutheran School of Theology, both in Chicago, Ill. – where she teaches leadership and organization. She is a member of the National Speakers Association.

Her books in the “Lutheran Voices” series of Augsburg Fortress, the publishing ministry of the ELCA, include *Reclaiming the 'L' Word: Renewing the Church from Its Lutheran Core* (2003); *No Experience Necessary: Everybody's Welcome* (2005), *Reclaiming the 'C' Word:*

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Jonathan Reuning-Scherer, PhD ...

our assembly musician, has been director of music at Emanuel, Hartford, Conn., for the past month. Prior to that, he spent 13 years as music director at Emanuel, Manchester, Conn.

Reuning-Scherer is a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory and of the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, where he studied conducting with Marguerite Brooks and Martin Jean. Reuning-Scherer is also a lecturer in statistics at Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

In 2002, he founded *GODSONG*, an ecumenical auditioned choir dedicated to the performance of great sacred choral works in the context of Christian worship. Since its founding, *GODSONG* has performed for bishops of the Lutheran and Episcopal churches and has been the featured choir at synodical events.

A native of Southern California, Reuning-Scherer likes to cook, play with his kids (eight and six) and do house projects. He is married to Pr. Julie Reuning-Scherer, transitional pastor at Salem, Naugatuck, Conn.

The Rev. Dr. Gemechis D. Buba ...

our representative from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), serves as the director of African National Ministries for the ELCA. Originally from Ethiopia, East Africa, he currently lives in Chicago, Ill., with his wife Nassisse Baro Tumsa.

The African National Ministries office of the ELCA strategically works on planting new African immigrant churches, renewing and expanding African national ministries, developing leaders, offering stewardship and economic empowerment trainings, developing and distributing ministry resources and enhancing global connections of African national churches.

Dr. Buba was in New England last October to begin a partnership with the synod in raising leaders among African nationals.

Dr. Buba received a Bachelor of Theology with high distinction from Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary, where he served as a professor for two years. After working on a Master of Theology in Church History in the Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology, he moved to the United States for further studies. In 2003, he received a Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Christian Education from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Ga. In May of 2006, Dr. Buba earned a Doctorate Degree from Columbia Theological Seminary, specializing in missional leadership.

Ordained in 2001, he has served as a seminary professor, mission developer, senior pastor, vice president of Southeastern Black Lutheran Pastors' Conference, an assistant to the bishop of Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA, and president of the world wide union of Oromo Evangelical Churches, Inc. He also has participated in multiple international ministries through revivals, leadership development conventions and evangelical mission events.

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E. Marie Wilson ...

our parliamentarian, is a member of St. Paul, Old Saybrook, Conn. She has earned the Certified Professional Parliamentarian credential from the American Institute of Parliamentarians and the Professional Registered Parliamentarian designation from the National Association of Parliamentarians. Wilson is available to all members of the Assembly any time she is not on the dais. She can help with choosing the appropriate motion for the situation, writing a motion for clarity and effect, or answer a procedural question. If you would like to talk with her, please stop in the synod office outside the plenary hall and ask a staff person to contact her for you.

Evening prayer uses new liturgy written for campus ministry by Lutheran senior at Yale

The first class of the synod's School of Lay Ministry – 22 strong – graduates tonight at 8:30 within the context of an Evening Prayer liturgy whose music has been written by a gifted young woman, **Linnéa Clark**, a member of Zion, Pittsfield, Mass. Clark, 21, is a senior at Yale University, New Haven, Conn., and active in Lutheran campus ministry at Yale.



Linnéa Clark

The service will use *Glory to God*, a setting of Psalm 103, the Prayers for the People, and the Sending Song from *With Bright Alleluias*, a liturgy with Eucharist that Luther House, the Lutheran campus ministry at Yale, commissioned Clark to write last summer as an alternative to customary liturgies.

After studying many liturgies, Clark compiled the results and wrote a survey for the Luther House community, soliciting feedback. The finished product is a hybrid of evening prayer and Sunday morning worship – Luther House holds its Sunday service in the evening, but Clark intended the liturgy to fit naturally with almost any time of day.

One of the written comments she received from the survey changed her understanding of liturgy entirely, “probably in a way other than what its writer intended,” she said. “One student responded along the lines of ‘It’s the pastor’s job to preach, not the liturgy’s.’ Yet this is not true at all, as I quickly discovered. Liturgies take the basic concepts of our faith practice that we take for granted, both the academically theological aspects of our beliefs and the more emotionally spiritual ones, and frame them in a way that the entire community can use to approach the practice of worship – and our God – together.

“In constructing such a framework, a liturgist must make choices and formulate interpretations. Of course, the end product must get out of the way entirely. Perhaps this is what led the student to comment that liturgies don’t preach. I also learned that what liturgy can do – and could do, particularly in the Luther House community of students – is to

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Important committees

Reference and Counsel Committee

- **The Rev. Elizabeth Krentz-Wee**, chair (Southern Conn. Conference);
- **The Rev. Edward Dufresne** (Southeast Mass. Conference);
- **The Rev. Kimberly Van Driel**, Immanuel, Naugatuck, Conn. (Naugatuck Valley Conference);
- **Judy Converse**, seminarian, Shepherd of the Valley, Groton, Mass., intern at St. Paul, Arlington, Mass. (Boston Metro Conference);
- **Dane Krampitz**, Shepherd of the Valley, Groton, Mass. (Northeast Mass. Conference)
- **Charlene Wright**, Immanuel, Oxford, Conn. (Naugatuck Valley Conference).

Elections Committee

- **Richard Johnson**, chair, Gloria Dei, Providence, R.I. (Rhode Island Conference);
- **Ruth Nunnally**, Our Saviour, Dorchester, Mass. (Boston Metro Conference);
- **Charlene Wright**, Immanuel, Oxford, Conn. (Naugatuck Valley Conference).

Credentials Committee

- **Steve Converse**, Shepherd of the Valley, Groton, Mass., synod secretary (Northeast Mass. Conference);
- **Pr. Ed Voosen**, Bethel, Auburn, Mass., assembly registrar (Central Mass. Conference).

Assembly Office: Outside Plenary Hall

Assembly Office Phone: 508-347-7393
Internal extension: 696

Follow the assembly action on the Web at
http://www.nesynod.org/events/synod_assembly.php

Updates will be posted each night by 10.

Why isn't this 'Link' Pink?

Well, four years ago, when *The Link* made its debut at the Synod Assembly, the headlines and coloring in the issue came back from the printer “pink,” instead of Ascension red. (Well, at least our faces were red!) The editorial staff saw the humor in the situation and decided to call the daily Assembly editions “The Pink Link.” This year, to honor the synod’s commitment to care for creation, we’ve gone green. Let us know what you think at sisterv@nesynod.org.

CLARK, *continued from page 3*

welcome newcomers and familiar faces alike, to include the range of personal views and spiritual journeys of all who are present, to define ‘us’ as a community, and to act as a conduit for group prayer, reflection, and praise,” said Clark.

“The experience of working on this liturgy has been challenging and sometimes exhausting, but it has also been exhilarating, and it continues to be joyful. It also has been exciting to see the liturgy take root at Luther House, becoming an important part of what defines the community.”

Clark is majoring in music and history. A gifted flutist and pianist, she plays flute in the Yale Symphony and in small chamber groups with friends. This past year, she worked for Luther House as a combination of a peer minister and an office assistant, helping to plan worship and events, set up and clean up, and coordinate music. She also plays flute and provides service leadership for the ecumenical University Church at Yale. After graduation, she plans to study theology. She has received a 2009 Fund for Theological Education Undergraduate Fellowship, a grant that provides financial and personal support to undergraduates considering ministry.

Read more about Clark at http://www.nesynod.org/events/synod_assembly.php.

Foot washing: servant ministry in action

Did you know that there are four rostered ministries in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

In addition to pastors, who are ordained to Word and Sacrament, there are also three rosters of servant ministry – associates in ministry, deaconesses and diaconal ministers. And there are lay professionals, as well.

God gives us different gifts to serve as God’s hands, doing God’s work.

During this assembly, those rostered as deaconesses and diaconal ministers in the New England Synod will be offering foot washing in the main corridor as a symbol of their servant ministry, while an associate in ministry will lead a workshop tomorrow to help you discover your spiritual gifts.

Do you feel called to public ministry, but aren’t sure if you want to be a pastor? Speak with one of the synod’s servant ministers or visit <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Vocation.aspx> to learn more.

Footwashing schedule:

Today, 6:30-7 p.m.

Friday, 1-2 p.m.

Saturday, 8:30-9 a.m.

FRYER, *continued from page 2*

Daring to be Church Again (2006); *Reclaiming the ‘E’ Word: Waking up to Our Evangelical Identity* (2008), and *Reclaiming the ‘V’ Word: Renewing Life at Its Vocational Core*, scheduled for August release.

Reclaiming the ‘V’ Word: Renewing Life at Its Vocational Core

Centered in a definition of vocation that flows from Luther’s conviction that all Christians share the same vocation but live it out in various occupations and roles, *Reclaiming the “V” Word* challenges readers to see themselves as instruments of God’s mission-as church- wherever they are. From a strong foundation of Lutheran theology (reframed for twenty-first century application), Fryer uses real life stories and thoughtful exercises to help readers discern what this means for Christian life in today’s world. The aim of the book is to inspire readers with a renewed sense of purpose and clarify guiding principles that will help them shape their work and relationships in the world God loves.

GEMECHIS BUBA, *continued from page 2*

He has traveled extensively and ministered across the nations of Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, Germany, England, Norway, the United States, Australia and New Zealand. In his journey across this globe, he has ministered the Gospel of Jesus Christ in three languages: English, Oromo and Amharic. He has authored numerous articles, booklets and produced materials for Christian educational use.

Above all, he is proud to be called a Child of God, which is the highest privilege and authority in the Kingdom of God.

Pillows, bedding for LSS

1,000 pillows! That’s how many new pillows Lutheran Social Services (LSS) gives away each year to newly arrived refugees from Iraq, Burundi, Burma, Somalia and many other countries. LSS is accepting your donations of pillows, bedding and towels at its display in the Abbingdon Room. Gift cards from Walmart and Target also are needed to purchase these and other items for the more than 5,000 people in need LSS serves every day through your partnership, in response to Christ’s love. Learn more about the synod’s social ministry organization at www.lssne.org or email mmann@lssne.org or call toll free 1-877-500-8263 x814.

