

news from the

St. Philippa Lutheran Church

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Bishop Robert Midway of Worcester to Preside

ST. PHILIPPA TO HOST FESTIVAL ORDINATION SERVICE

(Nashua, NH) St. Philippa Lutheran Church of Nashua, NH will host a festival Holy Eucharist at which two Lutheran seminarians will be ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament Sunday afternoon, 4pm.

Bishop Robert Midway will preside at the service, overseeing the ordination of Ms. Sharon Hockensmith, 26, of New Haven, Conn., and Mr. Glenn Palmyra, 27, of Baltimore, MD. The Rev. Hockensmith has been called to serve as pastor of St. Ansgar Lutheran Church of Portland, Maine. The Rev. Palmyra will serve as pastor of Nativity Lutheran Church in Rockland, also in Maine.

Bishop Midway is the chief pastor of the 200 congregations and mission communities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) New England Synod, covering the six state area of New England. The ELCA is a 4.9 million member church in the United States and a member of the 70 million-member Lutheran World Federation.

Ordination is a solemn rite for Lutherans who, following college degrees, have prepared for ministry with four additional years of seminary training, including a one year practicum in a congregation. Those eligible for ordination are "called" to ministry through the Church, a process represented by a certification by the church's candidacy process, an election by a specific congregation and authorization by a bishop. In the ordination rite, candidates receive the apostolic mantle of pastoral work, a set of responsibilities summarized by the call to preach the Gospel and administer the sacraments of the church.

Bishop Midway of Worcester, Mass. will preside over the rite of ordination which will include the historic gesture for the conferral, the laying on of hands and prayer. The Rev. Kathleen Waymark, assistant to the bishop, will preach. Waymark supervises the candidacy process for ordination in the New England Synod. The service takes place within the service of Holy Communion, with the Rev. John Smith, pastor of St. Philippa's assisting.

Mr. Palmyra is a graduate of Concordia College, Pittsburgh, Penna., and more recently the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Ms. Hockensmith, originally from Burlington, Vermont, graduated from the University of Massachusetts and Yale University Divinity School.

Members from Palmyra's and Hockensmith's congregations, and their family and friends will attend the 4pm service. St. Philippa's Lutheran Church is located at Lutheran Drive and River Street in Nashua. The service is open to the public.

More information is available at the Congregation's web site: www.stphilippa.org, or by email at info@stphilippa.org or by calling (888) 555-6326.