

*Bulletin for the Ordination  
and Installation of  
Lura Naomi Groen  
July 26, 2008 2:00 p.m.*



**Acting and Speaking Christ Fearlessly  
Transforming Relationships with God –  
Each Other –  
And Our Community**

**Welcome** to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church of Houston.

**Communion:** All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If parents wish younger children to receive communion, they may do so. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of communion, please tell the pastor distributing the bread. We will be communing by intinction (dipping the bread into the wine or grape juice). There will be two communion stations at the head of the aisle, each with wine and grape juice. Ushers will direct you to a communion station and back to your seats.

**Stole:** The stole used in today's service was presented to The Rev. Anita Hill by Pastor Lynne Lorenzen, at her ordination on April 28, 2001. She had received it from Pastor Rebecca Hostetler, a member of St. Paul-Reformation and a lesbian woman who left the ELCA roster at her bishop's request when he learned she was in a committed relationship. Pastor Lynne is an ally. She passed along the stole to Anita with the request that she pass it along to the next ordained from the ECP roster. Anita never had the chance to wear that red stole, because she presented it to Pastor Sharon Stalkfleet who was ordained roughly a month later. Since that time it has been placed upon the shoulders of seven ELM pastors upon their ordination: Pastor Jay Wiesner, Pastor Erik Christensen, Pastor Megan Rohrer, Pastor Dawn Roginski, Pastor Jen Rude, Pastor Jen Nagel, and Pastor Lionel Ketola. Lura hopes that she will soon pass on the stole at the next extraordinary ordination!

**Celebration Dinner:** All individuals who are attending the Celebration Dinner this evening are asked to greet Lura at that time rather than during the reception following the service. Also, we have a limited number of complimentary tickets still available. If you'd like to attend this event this evening at 7:00 pm, please find a Grace member (they're the ones with the name badges), and we'll be delighted to provide you with a ticket.

**PLEASE** respect this worship space and the importance of this occasion by **turning off** cell phones, pagers or anything else with an alarm or beeper. Please refrain from using flash photography during the service. Thank you..

The stole is laid upon Lura's shoulders by her mother, Connie Otto. Lura's family, Jos Groen, Marijke and Eric Sütter, Jim and Annelies Sizelove, and Wanda Otto will read her the charges. Members of Grace's Call Administration Team, presenting the symbols of ministry, are René García, Robert Wittliff, Carol Strawn, and Steven Walker.

### **Today's Worship Leaders**

Presiding Minister Rev. Arnold Tiemeyer

Lura's Mentor, and Chair of her Candidacy Committee

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Stephen Ray

Lura's Professor and Mentor

Assisting Minister: Carol Strawn

Lectors: Laura Bourdo, Hal Core

Crucifer: Scott Harbers

Bible Bearer: Ed Jossens

Ushers: Bridget Jensen, Steve Walker, David Snyder, Karen Grubbs

Greeters: Barbara Carroll, Shawn Lasley

Communion Servers: Laura Turner, Renee Rodriguez, Robert Wittliff

Minister of Music: Bob Olsen

Choir Participants are from:

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church

Celebration Lutheran Church, Cypress

St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Sugar Land

Salem Lutheran Church, Houston

New Hope Lutheran Church, Missouri City

Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Austin

First English Lutheran Church, Austin

### **About today's Preacher:**

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr. is the Neal F. and Ila A. Fisher Professor of Systematic Theology at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Prior to joining the faculty at Garrett-Evangelical he was Associate Professor of African-American Studies and Director of the Urban Theological Institute at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Associate Professor of Theology and Philosophy at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and lectured at Yale Divinity School and the Hartford Seminary. Dr. Ray received his Ph.D. in Theology and African-American Studies from Yale University and his M.Div. (*summa cum laude*) from the Yale Divinity School. He has written numerous articles and lectured on African American religion, human rights and the intersection of religion and politics. Dr. Ray is the author of several published works including: *A Struggle from the Start: The Black Community of Hartford, 1639-1960*; *Do No Harm: Social Sin and Christian Responsibility*. In addition to his own monographs he is co-author of *Black Church Studies: An Introduction*; and a contributor to the books, *Constructive Theology: A Contemporary Approach to Classical Themes*, *Who Do You Say That I Am: Christology and Identity in the United Church of Christ*. *Human Rights: Christian Influences and Issues*. In 2002 he was the recipient of the Kentuckiana Metroversity Distinguished Teacher of Adult Learners Award. He is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ and has served as the pastor of churches in Hartford and New Haven, CT. and in Louisville, Kentucky.

