



# GethsemaNews

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2011





## *Pastor's Cup...*

The Samaritan woman, whom Jesus met at the well, was overwhelmed and moved to faith and invited her neighbors to "come and see" and hear for themselves. They came, saw and heard and came to faith, not so much by her invitation but by coming into the presence of Jesus and hearing for themselves. This experience went beyond her fondest imagination.

Gethsemane Lutheran has dreamed of affordable housing for some time. That dream is coming into fruition. But, it goes beyond just affordable housing. It is magnified with the dramatic expansion of community services that will take place in the basement level, currently called "The Hope Center."

Our own Community Services programs, Soup and Movies will be sharing space with Mary's Place, which provides a day shelter and services for homeless women and their children. What a wonderful dream becoming reality!

But this dream is reaching well beyond the corner of 9th Ave. and Stewart St. The Samaritan woman said, "Come and see!" Her neighbors came and saw for themselves and made their own faith statement. Gethsemane's dream and story has been shared through the printed media and by word of mouth. As a result, I have had at least a dozen contacts from individuals and congregations who want to know more, who have given financial gifts to the project, who have come and seen for themselves. I have had phone conversations and email correspondence across the country with fellow clergy, not all Lutheran, who want

"...and we know that this is truly the  
Savior of the world."

John 4:42c

to know more about what we are doing and how it came about. Comments: "Our congregation has been thinking about this for some time and want to know how you got started." ... "We are wondering how you thought about this project and what made you decide to do affordable housing on your property?" ... "What a bold and brave step you are taking! It has inspired us to be thinking about what we can do to better serve our community." ....Etc. etc.etc.

We serve Christ by serving others; we love Christ by loving others, especially those whom society deems least and unworthy. That story is spreading and is being shared by others who have heard Gethsemane's story.

We are on the threshold of Easter, which proclaims Christ risen. The timing is so serendipitous because, come late April there will be something rising up out of the hole in the ground, at 9th Ave. and Stewart St., where the old building used to be. A new structure filled with new hope and promise is rising with the message, "We know that this is truly the Savior of the world!"

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!

Blessings.

Maynard Atik, interim pastor

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# February Council Highlights

By Doris Rolander, Council Secretary

Because of a conflict with Ash Wednesday the Council met after worship Sunday the 13th of March. foll Pastor Atik reported that some members attended Ash Wednesday noon services at the Aspira location, others attended the supper and service at Immanuel Lutheran Church where they were warmly received. Pastor and Darlene will have a break during which time they will go to Lake Chelan. Rev. Penelope Guntermann will preach March 20th. Kaaren Black will represent Gethsemane at the Greater Seattle Council of Churches meeting.

Vito Tiberio has been hired to replace Sara Williams as a part-time accountant. Sara Williams has been in poor health and has resigned. The audit for 2010 financial records was approved as presented by the Finance Committee. As plans proceed with the renovation/building plans the finances become more involved with new accounts being formed and other adjustments making for a more involved audit.

Nancy Sutter reported that a new sound system is now in use on Sunday mornings for our worship service. A specially designated gift from the estate of Judy Liden made it possible to purchase a new keyboard for worship services. A more traditional service is being used for Lent. Special thanks were expressed for Evie Bang's work providing artificial or fresh flowers on Sundays.

The Parish Life Committee consisting of Jan Anderson, Kaaren Black and Kris Okerlund has been studying the detailed plans for the kitchen for the renovated building and has been making suggestions.

During this transition period it was decided not to have an Education or Archives/Property Committee. These committees will be activated when the need arises. All Council members function on a committee or two. New member Jens Eysteinsson will serve as Chair of the Finance Committee and new member Robert Reeley will serve on the Social Ministry Committee. Rachel Segerhammer will now serve on the Communications Committee.

Jean Anderson reported that one group from the GROW committee will be soliciting individuals capable of giving at least \$10,000. Other GROW members will bring information to the congregation about funding different projects with naming opportunities. Jonathan Hensley from Regence Blue Shield is offering Gethsemane office furniture for our new facility when we need it. He will also give Acumen (the fund raisers) an opportunity to meet with CEO's from down-town businesses.

Pat Champion, Robyn Townsend and Elizabeth Steele are going to Olympia on March 17th with other church representatives to advocate on various social issues. When the congregation has its next meeting there will be an opportunity to vote on joining other congregations in Washington which are involved in advocacy. Information will be available at that time.

Chris Kneser brought the good news from the Call Committee that Bishop Boerger will be meeting with them on March 15, 2011 in order to present them with the names of three candidates for their consideration. They may accept the possibility of interviewing all three of those whose names are presented or they can decide if they wish other names to be suggested that they feel would be a better match. Funds were included in the 2011 budget so that all candidates can be interviewed in person by the committee.

Gethsemane is heavily committed to providing social services to the disadvantaged as well as supporting the long-standing Soup and Movies program. A prolonged discussion was held about registering a nonprofit corporation which could accept funding from foundations and corporations who do not give to churches. A committee consisting of Elizabeth Rene, Lucile Townsend and Elizabeth Steele has been meeting with Immanuel Lutheran, John Swartz and lawyers to learn about registering for a 501c3 accountded that such a corporation could be titled "9th Avenue Community Services". Plans are underway to apply for registration in the State of Washington. This will separate the finances for Gethsemane Community Services and Saturday Soup and Movies from the regular budget of Gethsemane. Since we can no longer anticipate getting the income to support these services through our offerings and resources it will mean being able to continue these ministries in our renovated space with funds procured through the 501c3 nonprofit corporation "9th Avenue Community Services".

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## Notes from Acumen

This is the first in a series of monthly reports we will be forwarding to the Council and congregation as we direct and manage the campaign for Gethsemane. The campaign has slowly evolved over the last 17 months as the building design and details of the project were completed. As the campaign has progressed, several adjustments have been made to the campaign goal to accommodate the cost of the project. The current challenge in front of all of us is to raise \$3.5 million in cash and pledges within the next fifteen months, and includes the majority of the costs of construction for the three floors that Gethsemane is responsible to fund. Additionally, we have adjusted our fundraising strategies, as well as the structure of the campaign, to accommodate this changing scenario.

To date, the following tasks have been completed over the course of the campaign as of March 15:

- 1) The necessary framework of the campaign program has been completed, including the preparation of a Case Statement and a donor prospect packet; gift acceptance policies; campaign timeline; communication plan; and campaign budget.
- 2) 65 grants and funding requests totaling over \$5.3 million for Hope Center capital funding have been submitted to granting institutions and corporations across the nation as well as Seattle-based organizations. These were submitted largely in the second half of 2010, at which point required budgets and construction design were far enough along to include in proposals.
  - a) Responses were uniformly complimentary of the project and Case Statement.
  - b) Several declined our proposal because their focus for giving had changed and no longer includes homelessness.
  - c) Many declined because they do not give to religious organizations.
  - d) More than one third of the institutions replied with the request that we re-file our request for funding in 2011. Those responses were characterized by the following comments:
    - (1) Many indicated that because of the state of the economy and the level of need, direct *program* (rather than capital) funding had become the focus of their giving.
    - (2) Many indicated their interest in the clarification of the relationship of the Hope Center collaborators as among themselves and Gethsemane.
    - (3) Specific concerns were also expressed with regard to the limitation of funders as they related to funding faith-based projects. (This has been the basis for our encouragement to form a 501c3 organization to oversee the Hope Center structure).
    - (4) Interestingly enough, in all cases organizations with which we discussed the Hope Center project expressed solid support for the merits of the case and

endeavor. In fact, most were seeking a way to participate within their respective governing restrictions.

We have identified 25 foundations and corporations to which we will re-submit proposals as soon as the 501c3 organization is formed and the lease to confirm the relationship with Mary's Place is signed. In addition, we will continue to research other national, regional and local organizations to determine the extent of their interest and potential in supporting the project.

- 3) We have had initial interviews with Seattle-area business leaders regarding their participation in a leadership and funding capacity, and look forward to following up with them over the next 90 days. Specific areas of designated giving are developing.
- 4) A Campaign Cabinet is in place, including representatives from Gethsemane, Compass Housing Alliance, Mary's Place, and the community. We have identified 75 individual major donor prospects, and Acumen and the Campaign Cabinet for Gethsemane is currently involved in making contact and visiting with each one. Acumen has initiated an in-depth prospect research effort using online database resources.
- 5) We have recently bifurcated the \$3.5 million campaign into branches – one for funding the Hope Center, and the other for funding the sanctuary and Kindred Center. The initial campaign had focused on the Hope Center. Funding for the sanctuary and Kindred Center has now been added as a focus.
- 6) We are identifying members of the congregation with the capability to provide significant support for the project. Members of the Campaign Cabinet are available to visit congregation members and offer the opportunity to give either unrestricted or designated funds. A list of designated gifts and naming opportunities is now available for those interested.
- 7) Acumen has held numerous meeting with committees, individuals, and the Campaign Cabinet over the past year.
- 8) We have recently provided direction to the church leadership relating to the formation of a new tax-exempt entity.
- 9) We have worked with Regence to procure good-quality used furniture and equipment to furnish three floors of offices and gathering spaces.

To date, the Norcliffe Foundation has committed \$150,000, to be distributed in the next month with the completion of some construction documents. We were recently also advised that Gethsemane may re-submit a further request for funding from them in 2012.

At the early stages of the individual major donor campaign, we have either received or have been advised of commitments totaling \$181, 250. Therefore, the total campaign funds and commitments to date are \$331,250.

# *This and That*

## **Annual Assembly**

The Church Council invites you to our Annual Assembly on Thursday, March 31st at Saint Mark's Cathedral (Bloedel Hall), 1245 10th Ave. E., Seattle 98102. The reception with hors d'oeuvres begins at 6 p.m. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. and will conclude by 8:15 p.m.

At the Annual Assembly we will outline recent accomplishments, report on our plans for the rest of 2011, share ideas on increasing our presence and visibility as church in the public square, invite feedback on Church Council priorities, and take suggestions about where best to focus our energies in building up the "shalom of the city." We will also review the budget, elect new board members and recognize the officers of the board.

## *Holy Week at Gethsemane*

Gethsemane will be having a different Holy Week worship experience this year due to our living in the "diaspora" while we are undergoing the building project. The Worship, Arts and Music Committee is recommending the following worship schedule for this year's Holy Week:

### *Maundy Thursday, April 21st:*

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1215 Thomas St. (behind the REI building)

Light supper of Mediterranean foods, followed by affirmation of forgiveness and foot washing, to be concluded in the sanctuary with holy communion and the stripping of the altar, 6:30 p.m. (A sign up sheet will be available in order to plan for enough food); or

A local congregation in your own neighborhood;

### *Good Friday, April 22nd:*

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 7:30 p.m.; or

A local congregation in your own neighborhood;

Easter Vigil, April 23rd:

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 7:30 p.m.

## *Easter Sunday at Gethsemane*

### *The Resurrection of our Lord, April 24th:*

Festival Worship, Children's Research Institute, 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship 11:15 a.m.

# *EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI IN JAPAN*

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is responding to a massive earthquake and tsunami March 11 that caused considerable loss of life and property in Japan. The earthquake was centered near the city of Sendai, a city in north-central Japan with a population of 1 million.

According to media reports, hundreds of people have died and hundreds more are missing. Tsunami waves as high as seven feet struck Hawaii, but there were no reports of significant damage there.

The ELCA has 22 missionaries serving in Japan, working in partnership with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church. Many of the ELCA's missionaries in Japan have communicated that they are safe, said the Rev. Y. Franklin Ishida, ELCA program director for Asia-Pacific Continental Desk.

Ishida, who is attending a conference in Malaysia, said in an e-mail he was seated next to the Rev. Sumiyuki Watanabe, president of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, when news of the earthquake and tsunami reached them. He said Watanabe's "first concern was for Sendai Lutheran Church," but there was no immediate communication because of power and cell phone outages in the area.

According to Ishida, the ELCA has missionaries serving at a Christian seminary in Tokyo, and pastors serving a Lutheran congregation in Tokyo. ELCA missionaries serve on the southern island of Kyushu, providing chaplaincy

and parish services, as well as teaching at Kyushu Lutheran College.

The Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church operates schools and other programs that provide English language instruction as part of the church's ministry. There are 10 ELCA missionaries serving in the local church's "J3" program, to teach English and to serve in local congregations, Ishida said. "J3" references the program's three-year commitment.

He said five of the J3s were in Tokyo when the earthquake and tsunami struck.

"Within the first hour we heard requests for prayer from our partner churches. If you'd like to stand with them through your financial support, I would encourage you to give through ELCA Disaster Response. Gifts designated to the Pacific Earthquake and Tsunami fund will be used entirely -- 100 percent -- in response to this disaster," said the Rev. Daniel Rift, director for the ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal.

The ELCA Disaster Response is receiving funds to help the victims in Japan. If you wish to make a donation, make the check out to Gethsemane and memo the check "Pacific Earthquake & Tsunami". We will issue a single check to the ELCA Disaster Response. Thank you for your ongoing support for victims beset by tragedy.



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



# The Spirit

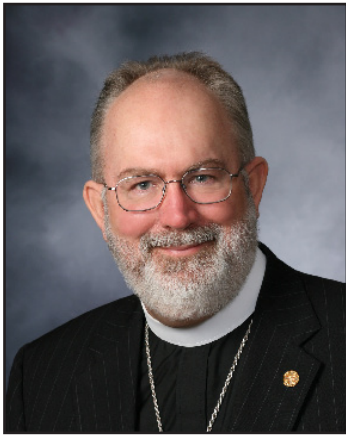
Volume 28, Number 4

News for the congregations of the Northwest Washington Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

April 2011

## Ministry Together

by The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop



Increasingly the Northwest Washington Synod and Compass Housing Alliance are working together to accomplish the ministry of both organizations in the Pacific Northwest.

Four joint ministries are:

† The Renton

Veterans Center building houses our new ministry, *Luther's Table*.

- † Our new ministry in Columbia City is working out of property given to Compass Housing when Bethlehem Lutheran Church closed.
- † Gethsemane Lutheran Church has partnered with Compass Housing Alliance in the redevelopment of their property.
- † The Church of Steadfast Love is our congregation in Compass Housing Alliance's downtown facility. It is the only mainline church offering regular worship in the Pioneer Square neighborhood on a weekly basis.

This is the way it should be. The church is property rich. Congregations have buildings that are not fully utilized. Congregations that close without distributing their property turn it over to the Synod. We are not equipped to be property managers. Compass Housing Alliance has been a faithful partner in helping us use the property we own in ways that expand the ministry of the church.

We have a number of social ministry organizations in this synod. I do not want to

speak of one at the expense of the others. With that understanding I want to thank Rick Friedhoff and the staff of Compass Housing Alliance for being a faithful and loyal partner in ministry.

When the ELCA was formed through merger, the expectation was that congregations would continue to support the larger church at the same level it had supported our predecessor church bodies. That assumption was wrong. Congregations still gave money to the synod, but often at a lower level than before the merger.

Compass Housing Alliance as a merged organization is facing the same dilemma. Congregations that supported the Compass Center and the Lutheran Alliance to Create Housing (LATCH) are now supporting the merged organization at the same level that they support one of the earlier organizations.

The ministry of the merged organization is the same as the two organizations supported previously. It would be my hope and request that the new organization be supported at the same level the two organizations were supported previously, if not at a higher level. I know that the financial realities we face will have an effect on the support you can provide.

It is important for me to say that Compass Housing Alliance is an important Lutheran ministry in serving the homeless, veterans and those in need of transitional housing. They are also a good partner in assisting us in our ministry of outreach with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## Here ‘n There

- **Josephine Sunset Home** invites the public to attend the dedication of the new Memory Care Unit at 2 pm on Sunday, March 27, 2011. The afternoon will begin with a short worship service in the Josephine Chapel followed by a dedication and tour. The new secure unit includes 16 beds, a private courtyard, refurbished common areas and specially trained 24-hour caregivers. Please RSVP to Becky at 360-629-2126, ext 146 by Friday, March 25.
- In April **St. Luke’s in Bellevue** will be sending dress lengths of donated fabric worldwide. To make sure that the recipients can make their own clothes, members will also include, thread, needles and buttons. Do you have a button collection? Contact Roselyn Olson, Associate in Ministry, at 425-822-7907 or email at [roselynonson@slukes.org](mailto:roselynonson@slukes.org).
- In February members of **Mount Si in North Bend** assembled 11 goody bags for college students filled with caramel popcorn, hot chocolate, fruit bar, candy, devotionals and a special Valentine card made by their youth groups.
- Seniors at **First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach** will be holding their third Senior Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 20, in the Fellowship Hall. The guest speaker is Kirsten Larson who will share her experiences of growing up as a teenager in Nazi-occupied Denmark during World War II. She was a runner of secret communications among members of the Danish underground. Kirsten and her husband, Leif, lived in Denmark until 1955.
- The senior high youth group from **Salem in Mount Vernon** served dinner at the Compass Housing Alliance on March 20.
- Members of **Our Savior’s in Everett** received a letter from Operation Bootstrap Africa thanking them for their support. The letter mentioned that recent gifts have allowed them to help villagers build six new classrooms at Ilboro Primary School, pay teachers’ salaries in Madagascar and support 270 students at the MaaSae Girls Secondary School.
- Jill Peterson, member of **Gloria Dei in Alderwood Manor**, traveled with her father to Tanzania to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro. She also visited the Masama Girls School delivering solar-powered calculators and pens to the school.
- Members of **Edison in Bow** received a thank you from the Warm Closet at Burlington Lutheran Church in Burlington. Edison donated 42 men’s coats, 33 women’s coats, 26 children’s coats, 23 pairs of gloves, nine pairs of warm socks and eight hats. Edison also received thank you’s from Camp Lutherwood, Josephine Sunset Home, Friendship House and Alger Food Bank.
- 2011 marks the 83rd Annual “Blessing of the Fleet”. Through the decades members from **First in Ballard** have blessed the men and women who harvest the seas, praying for their safety. This year members gathered on March 13 at the Fishermen’s Memorial Site at Fishermen’s Terminal praying for this community.
- Members at **Luther Memorial in Seattle** are once again dreaming of home grown carrots, tomatoes and green beans. All grown in the church’s garden plots. The neighborhood community is also invited to plant fruits and vegetables in these plots.
- Seven members from **Kent in Kent** are participating in the Kent Academy of Lay Preachers. Participants are exploring the development of a sermon and worshippers will receive the proclamation from these preachers during the next year.

**The Spirit**, a publication of the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), is intended for members, leaders, and clergy of synod congregations and organizations. Congregations are encouraged to copy **The Spirit** and include it in their own newsletters. **The Spirit** can be downloaded from the Synod website.

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Information for the May/June 2011 issue of *The Spirit* is due to the Synod Office by Wednesday, April 5.

## APRIL 2011

### 3 SUN FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

9:00 am Adult Forum

10:00 am Holy Communion

-Pr. Maynard Atik

11:15 am Coffee Hour

5 Tue 12 pm Community Services

6 Wed 12 Noon Holy Communion, Aspira

-Pr. Maynard Atik

1:30 pm Office Staff

7 Thu 12 pm Community Services

7:00 pm Stamp Club

### 10 SUN FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

9:00 am Adult Forum

10:00 am Holy Communion

-Pr. Maynard Atik

11:15 am Coffee Hour

11 Mon 8 am Newsletter Deadline

12 Tue 12 pm Community Services

6:30 pm Finance Committee

13 Wed 12 Noon Holy Communion, Aspira

-Pr. Maynard Atik

1:30 pm Office Staff

6:30 pm Parish Council

14 Thu 12 pm Community Services

### 17 SUN PALM SUNDAY

#### EMERGENCY FEEDING PROGRAM SUNDAY

9:00 am Adult Forum

10:00 am Holy Communion, Aspira

-Pr. Maynard Atik

11:15 am Coffee Hour

19 Tue 12 pm Community Services

20 Wed 12 Noon Holy Communion, Aspira

-Pr. Maynard Atik

1:30 pm Office Staff

21 Thu 12 pm Community Services

7:00 pm Stamp Club

### 24 SUN EASTER DAY

9:00 am Adult Forum

10:00 am Holy Communion

-Pr. Maynard Atik

11:15 am Coffee Hour

26 Tue 12 pm Community Services

27 Wed 12 Noon Holy Communion, Aspira

-Pr. Maynard Atik

1:00 pm Endowment Committee

1:30 pm Office Staff

28 Thu 12 pm Community Services

**EMERGENCY  
FEEDING PROGRAM**  
SEATTLE  KING COUNTY  
SINCE 1927

April Food of the Month

# Baby Shower!

Share your gifts of:

- 28-oz iron-enriched powdered infant formula
- Jars of baby food: squash, peas, peaches, pears, chicken & beef (*No "junior" food please*)



or your donation of \$28 will buy a week's supply of iron-enriched baby formula.

If you prefer, you can donate on-line with our Virtual Food Drive.  
Just log on to [www.emergencyfeeding.org](http://www.emergencyfeeding.org) to start shopping.

The Emergency Feeding Program  
of Seattle & King County

(206) 329-0300 Seattle  
(425) 653-1652 Eastside  
email: [info@emergencyfeeding.org](mailto:info@emergencyfeeding.org)  
web: [www.emergencyfeeding.org](http://www.emergencyfeeding.org)

## GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Jean Anderson

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**GethsemaNews** is a publication  
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Editor: Charles Cadwallader

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March issue. Please e-mail articles  
and announcements to:  
ccadwallader@urbanfaith.org.

Happy April  
Birthday to . . .

4/6 Daniel Ritter  
4/7 Wayne Sneva  
4/13 Evie Bang  
4/14 Lee Mattson  
4/14 Sue McLaughlin  
4/17 Angela Shannon  
4/26 Jenna Ray

### *Prayers are asked for...*

- ... our home bound – **Robert Hull Nelson**;
- ... those in need of prayer for strength and healing – **Mike Callahan, Betty Casey, Pat Champion, Marie Cress, Alfhild Ellison, Rep. Gabrielle Giffords; Irene Haven, Stan Haven, Gail Hendrickson, Louise Hintz, Karen Jackson (GCS client), Marian Johnson, Ann Melander, David Melander, Rose Mary Pendergast, Ruth Pipe, Evelyn Pittman, and Basil Stolen**;
- ... for the victims of the New Zealand earthquake;
- ... our call committee – **Elizabeth J., Christine, Lee, Anita, Jacob, Wayne, Elizabeth S.**;
- ... our staff – **Charles, David, Greg, Kareen, Pr. Maynard, Sara, and Shawnrene**;
- ... our Bishops – **Wm. Chris Boerger and Mark S. Hanson**;
- ... **ELCA Domestic and International Disaster Response**;
- ... our companion congregation the **French Speaking Lutheran-Protestant Church in Moscow**;
- ... **The Rev. Dorcas Wang**, ELCA Missionary to Beijing
- ... peace in **Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq**; peace in **Bahrain, Egypt, Lybia, Morocco, Yemen** and in places in our world where there is unrest and strife.

A PUBLICATION OF



911 STEWART STREET, SEATTLE, WA 98101-1492

## April 2011

Sundays at Seattle Childrens  
Research Institute  
1900 9th Ave.

9:00 am Adult Forum  
10:00 am Holy Communion  
11:15 am Coffee and Fellowship

Wednesdays at Aspira  
Storefront next to Gethsemane's  
911 Location

12 noon Holy Communion

## Welcome Vito!

Vito Tiberio joined the Gethsemane staff team in March as a part-time Accountant reporting administratively to Pastor Atik and functionally to Bill Fovargue, Treasurer. Vito graduated from Loyola University with a B.S. in Accounting. He impressed the Personnel Committee with his vigor, computer skills and commitment as well as a remarkable recommendation from the Dean of the Business School at Loyola where he served as an assistant. Vito comes from a large Italian Catholic family in the area who own or operate several businesses. He has worshiped with our Gethsemane congregation and said he felt right at home with the only major difference being "Lutherans sing everything!"

Vito completed post-graduate studies at the University of Bologna, Italy and is fluent in both Italian and Spanish. He has a lifelong love of food and works part-time evenings as a chef.



We are saddened by Sara Williams' resignation after several years of service to Gethsemane. The pressure of having a full-time accounting position at a local company in addition to the 20 hours each week devoted to Gethsemane, plus the significant challenge of raising three boys were in conflict with her desire to do the best possible job at Gethsemane.

Sara was responsible for bringing Gethsemane's accounting into the 21st Century. She single-handedly converted our old system to the ACS

accounting system which is preferred by the Regional Synod and the ELCA. This has resulted in significant improvements in oversight reporting to the Finance Committee and the Church Council. The independent audit reports for 2008, 2009 and 2010 concluded that Gethsemane's internal controls and financial reporting were now in compliance with GAAP requirements and that there were no findings or material differences, due in large part to Sara's efforts.