

ESTHER Core Teams' Gathering

September 20 ~ 8:30 to 11:30 am

Continental Breakfast

St. Paul Lutheran Church
200 N. Commercial Street, Neenah

Agenda to include:

1. Report from each Core Team sharing a success and challenge
2. Break-out! Question: What will help a Core Team be more effective?
3. Discussion on how to strengthen Core Teams
4. Introduction of New Organizer
5. Announcements & Events
6. Teams plan strategy for October 11 turn out
7. Wrap-up

We encourage all Core Teams to bring as many Core Team Members as possible

Note: 8:30—9:00 will be
Breakfast and Reception
for Stephanie Gyldenvand

RSVP to Jean Maas-Pike
920-969-1683 or jm236@aol.com

Common Destiny

A Public Meeting

Sponsored by ESTHER
an inter-faith justice ministry in the Fox Valley

Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008, at 7 p.m.
St. Therese Church, 213 E. Wisconsin Ave., Appleton, WI

You're invited to attend a Public Meeting to learn more about the political stands of Wisconsin and national legislators on key issues. Congressional and state candidates will be present to discuss three of ESTHER's principle areas of concern:

***Comprehensive immigration reform**

***Treatment instead of prison**

***Quality health care for all**

ESTHER is one of nine congregation-based justice ministries in Wisconsin affiliated with WISDOM as well as the national Gamaliel Foundation. Eighteen congregations in the Fox Valley region participate and help support ESTHER's efforts.

Appleton: Emmanuel United Methodist; First United Methodist; First Congregational UCC; First English Lutheran; St. Bernard Catholic; Sacred Heart Catholic; St. Therese Catholic; St. Thomas More Catholic, Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist. **Neenah:** St. Paul's Lutheran, St. Mark's Lutheran, St. Gabriel Catholic; St. Margaret Mary Catholic; Fox Valley Islamic Society. **Menasha:** St. Patrick Catholic; **Omro:** St. Mary Catholic, Casa ESTHER; **New Holstein:** Gloria Dei Lutheran.

We, the undersigned, support ESTHER's principles and the Common Destiny Public Meeting:

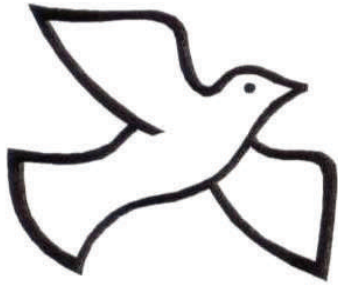
Rev. Maynard Beemer
Luis Bello
Nancy Bourassa
Sara Companik
Dave, Jean Conover
Gary Crevier
Rev. Joseph Ellwanger
Dora Fabian

Maria Fabian
Tom Galica
Marcelo Garcia
Peter Geniesse
Ernesto Gonzales
Jack, Gloria Grandone
Richard Harris
Carlos Herrera

Roland Klug
Rev. Joe Mattern
Barbara Mittlestadt
Sr. Barbara Pfarr
Mohammed Rashid
Penny Robinson
Michele Rupp
Rev. Joel Schlachtenhaufen

John Stone-Wilms
Yolanda Tesch
Lyle Verstegen
Mary Jo Widener
YOUR NAME
YOUR NAME
YOUR NAME
YOUR NAME

[illegible]



ESTHER

Empowerment, Solidarity, Truth, Hope, Equality, Reform

140 S. Green Bay Road Neenah, WI 54956

From the Desk of the Organizer

Joseph W. Ellwanger

September 1, 2008

ESTHER Core Team Assembly

September 20 at St. Paul Lutheran, Neenah

Each ESTHER congregation is asked to send its core team to the Core Team Assembly, Saturday, September 20, 8:30 am to 11:30 am, St. Paul Lutheran Church, 200 N. Commercial Street, Neenah. The assembly is designed to strengthen core teams in each congregation and to prepare for a powerful ESTHER Common Destiny Public meeting on Saturday, October 11, at St. Therese Catholic Church, Appleton.

ESTHER's new Organizer (starting date of September 15), Stephanie Gyldenvand, will be welcomed during the continental breakfast fellowship hour, 8:30 am to 9:00 am.

From 9:00 to 11:30, core team members will share with the group the strategies they have used to build their core team, followed by a presentation on basic principles of building strong core teams. Core team members will be asked to set a goal of how many persons they plan to bring to the ESTHER public meeting on Saturday, October 11, 7:00 pm, at St. Therese Catholic Church, Appleton, and then they will present their plans for reaching their goal.

ESTHER congregations without active core teams, as well as non-member congregations, are welcome to attend the Core Team Assembly, to learn the value and the methodology of building core teams. For more information contact Maynard Beemer, 738-9566.

One-on-One/Core Team Training

Saturday, September 13

A One-on-One/Core Team Training will be held on Saturday, September 13, 9:00 am—noon, at St. James United Methodist Church, 100 W.

Capital Drive, Appleton, with Joseph Ellwanger, ESTHER Organizer, serving as the trainer.

The training will give participants the opportunity to witness a one-on-one conversation carried out by the trainer, followed by an opportunity for trainees to do a one-on-one. A basic tool of congregation-based organizing. The one-on-one conversation not only reveals people's deep-felt concerns and passions, but also helps to deepen relationships in a congregation and in ESTHER.

In addition to one-on-one training, the September 13 workshop will also assist congregational leaders in forming and maintaining an ESTHER Core Team in their congregation. A well-functioning core team will assist a congregation in reaching out to its neighborhood sharpening the vision of justice in the congregation, and assisting ESTHER in the implementation of justice initiatives.

The September 13 training will also have a Spanish track, led by David Liners, WISDOM lead Organizer. The Spanish track will give Hispanic persons from St. Therese Church, Appleton, from St. Mary Church, Omro, from Casa ESTHER, and from elsewhere in the Fox Valley, an opportunity to gain skills in building a core team and in learning how to "cut an issue." Four persons from this Hispanic training will be given the opportunity to attend Gamaliel week-long leadership training in Techny, Illinois (north of Chicago), November 9-15.

Members of all ESTHER congregations, as well as non-ESTHER congregations, are welcome. For more information, or to sign up

For the training, contact Mark Klaisner, Pastor of St. James United Methodist, 739-1445, or Joseph Ellwanger, ESTHER Organizer, 414-736-2480.

Spanish-speaking persons seeking more information are asked to contact Carlos Herrera, 739-0794.

**ESTHER Common Destiny Public Meeting
Saturday, October 11 ~ 7:00 pm**

The 2008 ESTHER Common Destiny public meeting is set for Saturday, October 11, 7:00 pm, at St. Therese Catholic Church, 213 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Appleton. The ESTHER Leadership Board has set an attendance goal of 500 for the meeting, with each congregation asked to bring 25 persons.

The purpose of the public meeting is to build solidarity among ESTHER congregations, to raise consciousness in the larger community about ESTHER's position on key justice issues, and to get responses from key public officials regarding their position on those issues.

The three issues to be lifted up at the October 11 meeting are: Treatment Instead of Prison (TIP); civil rights of immigrants; quality health care for all.

All Fox Valley public officials are invited to attend the ESTHER public meeting, as well as concerned citizens from non-ESTHER congregations and from the larger community.

Choirs from First Congregational UCC Church, Appleton, and from St. Therese Catholic Church, Appleton, will sing before the start of the meeting and midway during the session.

Simultaneous translation equipment will be available for Spanish-speaking participants.

For more information contact Maynard Beemer, 738-9566.

**Stephanie Gyldenvand to Start as
ESTHER Organizer September 15**

Stephanie Gyldenvand will start as full-time ESTHER Organizer on September 15. She will be welcomed and introduced to ESTHER leaders at the ESTHER Core Team Assembly, Saturday, September 20, 8:30 am, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Neenah.

Born and raised in the rural Dorchester, Wisconsin area, Stephanie Gyldenvand graduated from UW Oshkosh in 2002, with a major in human services and a minor in music. Since graduation, she has worked in the Oshkosh

area. As a VISTA worker—directing a program at Jefferson Elementary School that developed partnerships between family, school, and community. More recently she has worked at UW Oshkosh to develop the Service-Learning and Engagement program, involving students in the life of the community as part of their learning experience.

Gyldenvand completed the Gamaliel week-long training in August and is eager to get started in her new role as ESTHER Organizer. "As a VISTA volunteer at a school in Oshkosh," she stated, "I saw the changes that took place when we organized and connected parents, teachers, and people in the community. Now I'm looking forward to the changes we can make by organizing and connecting people of faith to work for justice in the larger community."

Building & Sustaining an Organization

August 13, the Leadership Caucus met at St. Patrick's in Menasha. The theme of the discussion was "Building & Sustaining an Organization." According to Dennis Jacobson, the following characteristics are essential:

- 1. Meticulous organization
- 2. Militant mass action
- 3. Willingness to sacrifice
- 4. Trained leaders
- 5. Network of relationships
- 6. Solid financial base

Leaders present were asked, are you now engaged and where will you invest in the future leadership of ESTHER:

<u>Current</u>	<u>Future</u>
Board Member	Prioritize
Issue Committee	Issue Committee
Leadership Caucus	Build membership
Core Team	Learn more
Public Relations	Raise funds
Community building	Sell Ads
Advocating for issues	Invite others to events
Circles of support	Go to training
ESL	
Casa ESTHER	
Voter registration	
Citizenship classes	

Summary submitted by Maynard Beemer

P.S. My own assessment is we need more trained leaders.

Newsbytes

- Fox Valley Community Foundation has announced that ESTHER will receive a \$59,000 capacity-building grant, to be distributed over a three-year period, starting in September, 2008. Special thanks to Maynard Beemer, Steve Hirby, Marcia Lee, and all the leaders of ESTHER who worked hard to develop the three-year business plan and very detailed proposal. The grant makes it possible for ESTHER to hire a full-time Organizer, starting September 15.
- ESL classes at St. Therese Catholic Church, Appleton, will start up on Wednesday, September 10, 6:00 to 7:00 pm, and Saturday, September 13, 4:00 to 5:30 pm. If you want to help tutor, or if you have questions, contact Peter Geniesse, 725-6702. This outreach to the Latino community is sponsored by the ESTHER Immigration Committee. Special thanks to the 11 tutors who participated in the ESL tutoring program in the spring of 2008.
- ESTHER Core Team Members are reminded to put ad-selling on their September agendas. For ad order forms, or for more information, contact Nicole Hull, 734-7160/213-1925/nhull@yahoo.com or Sara Companik, 731,0663. Deadline for ads is October 4. Remember: When you sell an individual or business an ESTHER ad, you're not asking for a donation. You're asking people to invest in justice work and community building in the Fox Valley.
- A lively gathering of 18 religious leaders in the Fox Valley gathered on August 9 for the monthly ESTHER Religious Leaders Caucus. The September meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 10, noon, at St. Therese Catholic Church, 213 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Appleton.

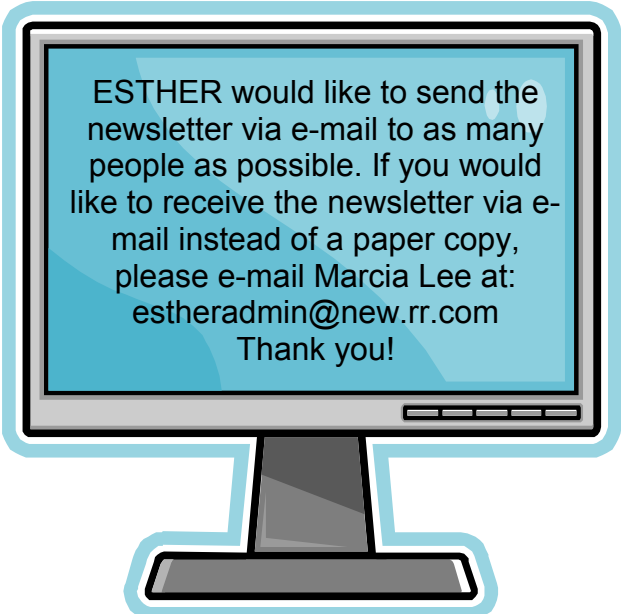
Strength For the Journey

Steve Hirby has a certain glint in his eyes and smile on his face these days—ever since August 27. That's the day we got the word that ESTHER had been awarded a \$59,000 grant, to be distributed over three years, from the Fox Valley Community Foundation.

Steve has reasons to smile. He and Maynard Beemer met again and again and again, to put the detailed three-year business plan and committee-by-committee prospectus together.

And all ESTHER leaders have reason to smile. They all helped put together the voluminous proposal. The visioning and the hard work will result in hiring a full-time Organizer, stabilizing communications, expending of relationships and outreach, and ultimately, more effectively doing justice and building community.

Thank you, Steve and Maynard and leaders of ESTHER, for faithful visioning and nitty gritty work on producing a winning proposal. The folks at the edges, especially, thank you—for giving them reason to hope that change is possible and that there are people who are willing to work to make it happen.



ESTHER would like to send the newsletter via e-mail to as many people as possible. If you would like to receive the newsletter via e-mail instead of a paper copy, please e-mail Marcia Lee at: estheradmin@new.rr.com
Thank you!

ESTHER

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
140 S. Green Bay Road
Neenah, WI 54956

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ESTHER

September 2008

The ESTHER Calendar		
Monday, September 8	5:30 pm	Health Care Committee @ St. Mark's Lutheran, Neenah
Tuesday, September 9	6:30 pm	Immigration Committee @ St. Mark's Lutheran, Neenah
Wednesday, September 10	noon	Religious Leaders Caucus @ St. Therese Catholic 213 E. Wisconsin Ave., Appleton
Saturday, September 13	9:00 am	One-on-One Training @ St. James United Methodist, Appleton
Monday, September 15	6:30 pm	Housing Task Force @ S. Mark's Lutheran, Neenah
Tuesday, September 16	6:30 pm	TIP Committee St. Mark's Lutheran, Neenah
Saturday, September 20	8:30 am	ESTHER Core Team Assembly @ St. Paul Lutheran, Neenah
Wednesday, September 24	noon	Leadership Board @ 1st Congregational UCC, Appleton