



With One Voice

An **ESTHER** Publication

October 2008

*The Inter-Faith
Justice Ministry in
the Fox Valley.*

Highlights:

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EMPOWERMENT SOLIDARITY TRUTH HOPE EQUALITY REFORM

Common Destiny: Public Meeting

Saturday, October 11th - 7:00 PM St. Therese Catholic Church
213 E. Wisconsin Avenue; Appleton, WI

The Fox Valley community is invited to participate in a public meeting focused on three key social justice issues; Treatment Instead of Prison, Civil Rights for Immigrants, and Affordable Health Care for All.

The purpose for this public meeting is to raise consciousness and create dialogue within the community at large, develop a sense of unity with ESTHER congregations, and to get response from our elected officials.

A goal of 500 community members has been set for attendance, each congregation is asked to bring 25 people. Some tips to help with attendance include; making phone

calls, announcements during services, getting information into the bulletin and newsletter, offering carpooling, or arranging a fellowship dinner prior to the meeting.

Translation equipment and materials will be available to Spanish-speaking participants. We will have a signer at the front of the church for deaf participants. Voter registration will also take place after the program.

We are expecting elected officials to be in attendance. Guests include Bishop Robert Morneau and Bishop James Justman. We look forward to seeing you at the event!

Fall Gathering: Annual Banquet

Sunday, November 23rd – 5:00 PM
Liberty Hall, 800 Eisenhower Drive, Kimberly

Celebrating ESTHER's fourth anniversary, you are invited to attend our annual banquet! Keynote speaker will be Wisconsin Chief Justice, Shirley Abramson of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Judge Michael Gage will be in attendance to receive a community award for his accomplishments with Treatment Instead of Prison (TIP).

Christine Schaefer will be accepting a community award on behalf of the

Valley Home Builder's Association for the work they have done in the area of workforce housing.

The evening begins with a silent auction followed by the dinner and program. Ticket cost is \$25, for more information contact Maynard Beemer at 920-738-9566.

We are accepting donations for silent auction items. If you would like to donate, contact Stephanie Gyldevand at 920-216-0891.

Organizer News



Stephanie
Gyldenvand

Introducing our new organizer, Stephanie Gyldenvand. In the future, this section will be reserved for news that ESTHER's organizer will be able to bring to the table from her involvement with local, state and national meetings and events.

Stephanie has worked in the Fox Valley for the past ten years with organizations in the social justice field focused around community resource collaboration and civic engagement. Stephanie also worked with local organizations to assist AIDS patients in northeastern Wisconsin, coordinated volunteer efforts at a pregnancy crisis shelter, developed programs for Alzheimer's care. She was the first student in the college of Education and Human Services to be awarded the Student and Faculty Collaborative Research Grant where she studied human rights violations locally and throughout the United States. She has worked on poverty issues through two terms of service with AmeriCorps*VISTA, and graduated with a degree in Human Services from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

Some interests she has include hiking, camping, reading and knitting. Perhaps we can look forward to an ESTHER knitting group? Stephanie and her husband, Jesse enjoy taking long walks with their frisky golden retriever, Lucas.

Joe Ellwanger: Preaching in the Valley!

Sunday, October 5th 8:00 and 10:30 Services

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



Rev. Joe Ellwanger

Do you want to see passion in action? Come and hear Rev. Joe Ellwanger preach on social justice! Joseph W. A retired ELCA urban pastor who served parishes in Birmingham, Alabama from 1958-1967 and Milwaukee 1967-2002, he currently serves as the expansion and campaign consultant from WISDOM, the state-wide affiliate to ESTHER.

Ellwanger will be preaching at both the 8:00 and 10:30 services. A forum will be held from 9:15-10:15 regarding information on ESTHER and issues in the greater Fox Valley. All are welcome to attend.

Ellwanger Quoted:

"I think that all churches, faith communities, black and white, need to truly walk with people at the edges. How many have any kind of a ministry reaching out to people who are in prison, who have addictions, who are dropping out of school? And when we walk with people, we discover that even though people do make bad choices, the reality is that, with few exceptions, every individual has the possibility of change and transformation. That's at the heart of almost every faith and religion."

Judicial Independence: Public Forum

Monday, October 6th – 7:00 PM at the Appleton Public Library



*Shirley
Abrahamson*

The League of Women Voters welcomes you to attend a public forum. Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Shirley Abrahamson and James Alexander, Director of the judicial Commission will be speaking on the topic of judicial independence.

The forum will focus on protecting the independence and impartiality of Wisconsin's judicial system. An emphasis will be on the importance of ensuring a fair and impartial

court proceeding as well as the system in place to investigate and prosecute judicial misconduct.

Abrahamson will point out that cases should not be decided on the basis of personal agenda or ideology, or on the basis of outside special interest groups. Underlying issues include campaign finance and ethics, voting rights, judicial independence and redistricting.

For more information, contact Shirley Strange: 920-730-8774.

Week-long Leadership Training: Techny, Illinois

November 6th – 15th



Several members of ESTHER have attended past Weeklong Leadership Training events. What can you expect? This seven day residential training event that presents the basic concepts and tools needed to be an effective leader. It affords a person the opportunity to reflect on his/her present and future potential roles in the public arena. If you are interested in expanding your passion into action, consider attending weeklong training. The leadership skills learned are easily transferred into all areas of life. Contact Stephanie Gyldenvand if you have any questions.

ILA: International Leadership Assembly

Faith and Democracy – Making the Promise Real

December 3rd – 5th in Washington D.C.

ESTHER together with other WISDOM affiliates will be taking a bus over to Washington DC for the assembly. This leadership assembly brings together five hundred of the leaders and staff within the Gamaliel network to gather and learn from each other. Opportunities will be available to participate in workshops conducted by academic, religious, political and labor leaders. Take advantage of this assembly to learn from and be inspired by new people sharing the same passion. If you or a group from your congregation is interested in attending, contact Stephanie Gyldenvand.

JOIN A COMMITTEE!

With Once Voice



Health Care Committee: Affordable for All

1st Monday of the Month; 5:00 pm; St. Marks Lutheran, Neenah



Health care is working on creating awareness and developing educational forums to inform the public of the Fox Valley's health care issues and growing concerns with affordable and accessible health care for all in Wisconsin. We will be discussing the referendum on ballot in some of the Fox cities. Dr. Mike Madden from the Fox Cities Community Clinic will be guest speaker at our next meeting.

Immigration Committee: Civil Rights

2nd Tuesday of the Month; 6:30 pm; St. Marks Lutheran, Neenah



The Chief of Police, David Welch, from the Appleton Police Department was guest at our past meeting. He assured our community that the police force does not take an active role in asking for legal status papers of immigrants and has no partnership with ICE. The Mexican Consulate visit is on October 2nd – 5th which allows immigrants to apply for a passport or matricula, volunteers and lunch donations for workers are needed.

Treatment Instead of Prison Committee: TIP

3rd Tuesday of the Month; 6:30 pm; St. Marks Lutheran, Neenah

We are very excited to announce that the Drug Treatment Court has been approved of and \$400,000 of forfeited bail money has been set to fund the program (\$100,000 each year for the next four years) in Outagamie County! The next committee meeting will be focused on learning the differences between parole and extended supervision. We will also learn more about the services of Circles of Support, a group that assists with the transition from prison into the community.



Workforce Housing Committee:

October 27th; 6:30 pm; St. Marks Lutheran, Neenah



Workforce housing aims to ensure that there is affordable housing for working families in the Fox Valley. Wisconsin Partnership presented facts related to our specific area in regards to average household salary and the cost of a new home. Along with the Fox Valley Builders Association and Wisconsin Partnership, ESTHER is planning a special presentation to lay out measures available to our region to keep building and overall costs down so that homes can be made and sold more affordably within our community.

Reflections: How Did it Go?

One-on-One Training

We had over twenty people in attendance at our training on September 13th at St. James church in Appleton. Having a Spanish and English track, members learned more about how to deepen relations with those in their congregations. Because of the training, five people have committed to attend a week-long leadership training in Techny, Illinois. An interest was raised in learning more about growing the core teams within their congregation. Participants were very pleased at the depth of learning they received in building strong relations through listening to others' stories.



Core Team Gathering

A big thank you goes out to the ladies that prepared a delicious breakfast feast for the participants of our first annual gathering of the core teams! With over 40 participants, over half of our member congregations were represented. Some accomplishments listed by core teams were surveying, one-on-one campaigns, and education. Challenges facing core teams mentioned by our participants included recruiting new members, communication, and fundraising. We look forward to planning a similar event next year as the feedback was positive and the gathering helped build solidarity within the ESTHER community.

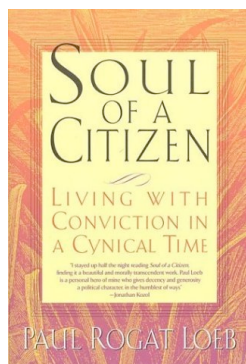


List of Upcoming Dates and Events

You are welcome to join us in a talk on Human Trafficking and Federal Resources at FVTC (Rm C190, Rooms A&B) on Tuesday, October 14 from 8:15-12:00PM. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will discuss their roles in the prevention, enforcement, and prosecution of human trafficking violations. The public is invited. After lunch, there will be a roundtable discussion with the six Russian delegates sharing their experiences and observations concerning human trafficking also in Rm C190 Rooms A&B.



Event	When	Where
Mexican Consulate Visit	Oct. 2-5	Appleton Library
Rev. Joe Ellwanger Preaching	Oct. 5, 8:00 & 10:30	St. Paul Lutheran, Neenah
Health Care Committee	Oct. 6, 5:30pm	St. Mark Lutheran, Neenah
Judicial Impartiality	Oct. 6, 7:00pm	Appleton Library
Common Destiny: Public Meeting	Oct. 11, 7:00pm	St. Therese Catholic, Appleton
Human Trafficking: FBI and ICE	Oct. 14, 8:00-Noon	Fox Valley Tech, Rm C190
Immigration Committee	Oct. 14, 6:30	St. Mark Lutheran, Neenah
Treatment Instead of Prison Comm.	Oct. 21, 6:30	St. Mark Lutheran, Neenah
Workforce Housing Committee	Oct. 27, 6:30	St. Mark Lutheran, Neenah
Weeklong Leadership Training	Nov. 6-15	Techny, IL
Fall Gathering, Annual Banquet	Nov. 23, 5:00pm	Liberty Hall, Kimberly
International Leadership Assembly	Dec. 3-5	Washington D.C.



A Good Book

What does it take for a person to look at major community issues and decide to create change and take action? How do you look with love on the lost and not turn cynical? If you are wondering why people choose to not become involved or want to find out what it takes to involve people in justice work, grab *Soul of a Citizen* by Paul Rogat Loeb! This is a spiritual book, full of real life stories.

Author's Overview: This book explores what leads some people to get involved in larger community issues while others feel overwhelmed or uncertain; what it takes to maintain commitment for the long haul; and how community involvement and citizen activism can give back a sense of connection and purpose rare in purely personal life.

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About ESTHER: Empowerment Solidarity Truth Hope Equality Reform

We are an interfaith congregation-based organization of the Fox Valley committed to doing justice. Our goal is to call forth congregations and organizations that will:

- Identify and address root causes of poverty and injustice.
- Bring about a greater measure of justice through relationships with community leaders and one another.
- Be agents of change linked to other organizations to empower people.
- Work at local, state and national levels to establish justice.
- Respond to the social justice concerns of laity and clergy in the Fox Cities.



CONSERVE!

Choose to have this newsletter sent via email. This also makes it easy to forward our information on to others in the community. Contact us; esther.foxvalley@gmail.com.



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Non-profit
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