

# E.S.T.H.E.R. = Empowerment, Solidarity, Truth, Hope, Equality, Reform

**ESTHER is an interfaith, congregation-based justice organizing group in Wisconsin's Fox Valley.**

## **Congregation Core Teams:**

- 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 promote justice.
- Respond to the social justice concerns of people in communities of the Fox Valley.



***“Who knows but that you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this”  
Esther 4:14***

## **Committee Opportunities**

**Learn...Educate...Advocate...**

### **TIP (Treatment Instead of Prison)**

In support of alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders with underlying substance abuse/mental health issues

### **Civil Rights of Immigrants**

In support of humane policies for immigrants

### **Education Funding Reform**

In support of quality education for all children, including special needs children, children of immigrants and refugees, and children of low-income families

### **Quality Health Care**

In support of universal and affordable quality health care in Wisconsin

### **Affordable Housing**

In support of affordable housing in diverse neighborhoods in our Fox Valley communities.

## **Meeting Schedule**

For information on time and place of committee meetings call:  
(920) 725-2828  
or visit the ESTHER page at  
[www.wisdomwi.org](http://www.wisdomwi.org)

## **E.S.T.H.E.R.**

**Joe Ellwanger**, Organizer  
(414)736-2480  
[www.wisdomwi.org](http://www.wisdomwi.org)

ESTHER is financially supported by committed individuals and congregation core teams with grants from Catholic Campaign for Human Development; East Central Synod of Wisconsin/Evangelical Church of America; Area Ecumenical Network, N.E. Association United Church of Christ and the “Opportunity Fund” within the Community Foundation Fox Valley Region, Inc.



is a statewide network of Faith Community Core Teams working for justice. It is comprised of nine faith-based justice organizations:

CUSH	Kenosha
ESTHER	Fox Valley
JOB	Beloit/Janesville
JONAH	Eau Claire
JOSHUA	Green Bay
MICAH	Milwaukee
AMOS	LaCrosse
RIC	Racine
SOPHIA	Waukesha

**At the national level, the WISDOM organizations, including ESTHER, are affiliates of the GAMALIEL FOUNDATION.**



For more information about our national work, visit [www.gamaliel.org](http://www.gamaliel.org).

## Participating Core Teams

Emmanuel United Methodist, Appleton  
First Congregational UCC, Appleton  
First English Lutheran, Appleton  
First United Methodist, Appleton  
Fox Valley Islamic Society, Neenah  
Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist,  
Appleton  
St. Bernard Catholic, Appleton  
St. Gabriel Catholic, Neenah  
St. Margaret Mary Catholic, Neenah  
St. Mark's Lutheran, Neenah  
St. Mary's Catholic, Omro  
St. Paul Lutheran, Neenah  
St. Therese Catholic, Appleton

## Friends of ESTHER

Appleton Conference—ELCA  
East Central Synod of Wisconsin—Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America  
Fair Housing Center of Northeast Wisconsin  
First Congregational, Oshkosh  
Fox Cities Rotary Multicultural Center  
Green Bay Catholic Diocese  
NE Wisconsin Association United Church of Christ  
Sacred Heart Catholic, Oshkosh  
St. Andrew Lutheran, Oshkosh  
St. John's Lutheran, Saxeville  
St. Paul Catholic, Combined Locks  
Hmong American Partnership  
Winnebago Interfaith Needs Response, Inc.

### ESTHER

c/o Emmanuel United Methodist Church  
740 E. College Avenue  
Appleton, WI 54911  
(920) 731-3288

## For More Information:

Rev. Maynard Beemer, President  
(920) 738-9566  
First Congregational UCC, Appleton

Mohammed Rashid, Vice President  
(920) 749-0311  
Fox Valley Islamic Society, Neenah

Joan Jensen, Secretary  
(920) 733-5090  
First Congregational UCC, Appleton

Diane Putzer, Treasurer  
(920) 749-0228  
First English Lutheran, Appleton

Mary Jo Widener  
(920) 725-1156  
St. Gabriel Catholic, Neenah

Lyle Verstegen  
(920) 830-7963  
St. Bernard Catholic, Appleton

Marcia Lee  
(920) 725-2828  
St. Mark's Lutheran, Neenah

Rev. Jim Seim  
(920) 725-3961  
St. Paul Lutheran, Neenah

Carlos Herrera  
(920) 733-8568 #6  
St. Therese Catholic, Appleton

Rev. Mark Geisthardt  
Gwen Gibson  
(920) 954-8923  
Emmanuel United Methodist, Appleton

Rev. Joe Mattern  
(920) 685-0315  
St. Mary's Catholic, Omro

Rev. Grace Cajiua/Rev. Doyle Blanton  
(920) 734-2677  
First United Methodist, Appleton

Gloria Grandone  
(920) 729-1273  
St. Margaret Mary, Neenah

Nicole Hull  
(920) 213-1925  
Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist

## Fox Valley Interfaith Justice Ministry

## United to Work for Justice



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Empowerment, Solidarity, Truth, Hope, Equality, Reform

**Drawing together people of faith  
in the Fox Valley  
to build community and  
work in the public arena for the  
common good of all**