



# Esther

Sunday, August 31

## Voices of Wisdom: Esther

lake harriet  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Walking Together the  
Words and Ways of Jesus

# Inclusive, Intergenerational, and In Community

Walking together the words and ways of Jesus. We welcome all God's children whatever their race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, physical or mental ability. Following Christ's example, we open our hearts, minds, and doors to welcome all.

## No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

If you are young or old, you are welcome.

If you have brown skin, black skin, white skin, or any color of skin, you are welcome.

If you are married or single, you are welcome.

If you are gay, straight, transgender-whatever pronouns you use, you are welcome.

If you are sick or well, you are welcome.

If you are a perfect person, then you probably don't need a church, but if you are like us and are imperfect, mistake-making, still-trying, need all the encouragement I can get kind of person, then this is a community for you and you are welcome.

If you sing like a rock star or an opera singer, or you can not sing at all, you are welcome.

Whenever you arrived and however you came here, you are welcome.

If you believe in God some of the time or all of the time, or you're just beginning to explore who God is, you are welcome.

Come with your gifts, your pain, your hope, your fears.

Come with traditions that have helped you and hurt you.

Come with your experiences that have made you and broken you.

Come with a mind, ready to engage, and a heart, open to discern.

Come and listen for the Holy Spirit that calls you to love your neighbor wholeheartedly, seek justice, create peace and practice compassion.

## You are welcome here!

*Adapted from a welcome by Gordon Brown, published in Shaping Sanctuary*



# Connect with Us



## Let Us Know You Are Here

Please register your attendance through the welcome pad.



## Enewsletter

Stay informed by subscribing to our enews and view the latest enews.



## Visit Us Online

Stay informed, register for ministry events, give online, and more.



## Prayer Requests

Let our staff pray for you and others in your life (prayers are confidential).



## Share your talents

The opportunities abound to help your community, find where you fit.



## WiFi

Access the church's WiFi with the password: LHUMCGuest.



## Hearing Enhancement Aids

T-coil hearing assistance is available throughout the Sanctuary. Turn your hearing aid to the T (telephone) position or see a sound team member at the back of the sanctuary for wireless headphones.

# welcome to worship!

## WELCOME

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ↑ CALL TO WORSHIP: Crowned with Mercy

One: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**All: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all God's benefits—**

One: Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

**All: Who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

One: Who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**All: The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

One: God made known God's ways to Moses, God acts to the people of Israel.

**All: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
Amen!**

### ↑ HYMN

My Hope is Built

UMH 368

## SHARE A GREETING

## RAINBOW CHAT

Rev. Bea Mungania

## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS, STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS

## SONG

### On the Road

There's no-where I'd rath - er be than on the road with God. Trav - el-ing where Je - sus leads,  
on the road with God. Oh oh we are gon - na fol - low, oh oh  
all of our days, we'll go where you say to go, we're fol - low-ing where Je - sus leads,  
on the road with God. we're fol - low-ing where Je - sus leads, on the road with God.

## INVITATION TO GENEROSITY



### OFFERING BOX

is found in the back  
of the sanctuary



### GIVE ONLINE

by visiting our website  
at [lakeharrietumc.org](http://lakeharrietumc.org)



### SCAN THE QR CODE

with your  
smartphone camera



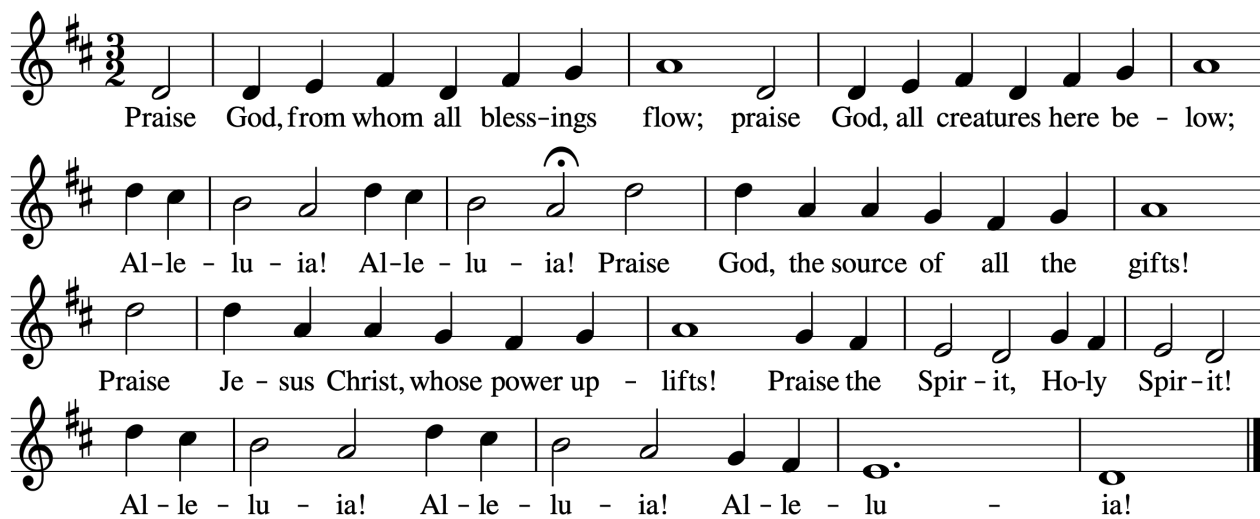
### MAIL IN TO

4901 Chowen Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN  
55410

## OFFERTORY

Esther Round

(Ann Freeman Price)  
Sanctuary Choir Ensemble



## SCRIPTURE

Esther 4: 5-16

Common English Bible

Esther then sent for Hathach, one of the royal eunuchs whose job it was to wait on her. She ordered him to go to Mordecai and find out what was going on and why he was acting this way. Hathach went out to Mordecai, to the city square in front of the King's Gate. Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him. He spelled out the exact amount of silver that Haman promised to pay into the royal treasury. It was in exchange for the destruction of the Jews. He also gave Hathach a copy of the law made public in Susa concerning the Jews' destruction so that Hathach could show it to Esther and report it to her. Through him Mordecai ordered her to go to the king to seek his kindness and his help for her people. Hathach came back and told Esther what Mordecai had said.

In reply Esther ordered Hathach to tell Mordecai: "All the king's officials and the people in his provinces know that there's a single law in a case like this. Any man or woman who comes to the king in the inner courtyard without being called is to be put to death. Only the person to whom the king holds out the gold scepter may live. In my case, I haven't been called to come to the king for the past thirty days."

When they told Mordecai Esther's words, he had them respond to Esther: "Don't think for one minute that, unlike all the other Jews, you'll come out of this alive simply because you are in the palace. In fact, if you don't speak up at this very important time, relief and rescue will appear for the Jews from another place, but you and your family will die. But who knows? Maybe it was for a moment like this that you came to be part of the royal family."

Esther sent back this word to Mordecai: “Go, gather all the Jews who are in Susa and tell them to give up eating to help me be brave. They aren’t to eat or drink anything for three whole days, and I myself will do the same, along with my female servants. Then, even though it’s against the law, I will go to the king; and if I am to die, then die I will.”

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## MESSAGE

“Don’t Miss Your Moment”

Rev. Bea Mungania

## PRAYER SONG

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

The musical notation is written on four staves in a 2/2 time signature with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The lyrics are: Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, Lord, send your Spir - it in this place; Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, send us love, send us power, send us grace.

## PASTORAL PRAYER

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### HEALING PRAYER

*On the fifth Sunday of a five-Sunday month, Lake Harriet sets aside time for prayer. We pray for healing for ourselves, those we love, and our world. If you wish, you may light a candle. You may also choose to be anointed with oil. No one will ask what you are praying for today. We trust that the God who loves and knows us intimately knows your prayer.*

## MUSIC

Peace of Our Praying

(C. David Bolin)

Sanctuary Choir Ensemble

## ↑ HYMN

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

UMH 351

## ↑ BLESSING

Thank You God for every moment you call us to serve,

You are the God who sees deep in our souls.

You are the God who blesses in the open.

As You empowered Esther, we trust your presence and work behind the scenes.

As we disperse from this worship, I pray God's favor goes before us!

To each of you, may God crown you with love, courage, and wisdom.

Go in Peace, Love and Serve God. **Amen!**

## POSTLUDE

Prelude in D

(J. S. Bach)



# Worship Leaders

**Pastor:** Rev. Karen Bruins

**Associate Pastor:** Rev. Beatrice Mungania

**Director of Music Ministries:** Jungjoo Park

**Musicians:** Sanctuary Choir Ensemble

**Sound Technician:** Dave Bruins

**Streaming:** Chris McPartland

**Slides:** Kari Cahn

**Scripture Reader:** Alejandro Sesma

**Greeters:** Jane Kammerman, Ken Larson, Barb LaPolice

**Hospitality:** Norma Bayers

**Table Art:** Katie Schneider Bryan and Chris Kliesen Wehrman

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**Peace of Our Praying** Words: Terry York. Music: C. David Bolin ©2004 Abingdon Press. All rights reserved. Reprint under ONE LICENSE #A-725516.

# This Week at Lake Harriet

## **SUNDAY AUG 24**

9:30am Worship in-person and online - Blessing of the Backpacks and Educators & Healing Prayers Sunday

## **TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 2**

10:00am Crafters (Knitting) Group - Commons

6:00pm LH Players - Fellowship Hall

7:00pm Men's Forum - Wesley Room

## **WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 3**

6:30pm Festival Bells Rehearsal - Bell Room

6:30pm Shout Band Rehearsal - Sanctuary

7:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary

## **THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 4**

7:00pm UWF Book Club - Commons

## **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7**

9:30am Worship in-person and online - Communion Sunday

11:00am Worship at the Waters



SUNDAYS SEPT 7-28

## *Re-Shaped: What We're Made For*

“Change is good... you go first!” Our brains were designed to be suspicious of change, and for good reason—homeostasis in good measure helps us thrive, protecting us from danger. But if we look closely at what the Creator set in motion, we find that change is actually the most constant part of life and necessary for animating our spirits as we find renewed purpose throughout life. Jesus advocated for changes that would keep us moving toward greater goodness!

Join us for our next sermon series: *Re-Shaped*, a worship series about getting animated and embracing change.

- **Sept. 7** - We Were Made for This - Jeremiah 18:1-6
- **Sept. 14** - (Fall Kick-Off) Inside Out - Mark 1:1-15 - Step Two for Change: start with inner change.
- **Sept. 21** - Everything Changes - Step Three for Change: be willing to let old expectations fall away. John 12:20-26
- **Sept. 28** - Be En-Couraged - Matthew 14:22-31a - Step Four for Change: courage to take the first step. Peter sinking in the boat.



REGISTRATION

MONDAYS SEPTEMBER 8-29 7PM

## Re-Shaped Sermon Discussion Group

Join us on Monday nights in September to discuss the sermon series *Re-Shaped*.

- 7pm by Zoom
- Sept 8, 15, 22, and 29

Contact Julie Konrardy [juliekonrardy@gmail.com](mailto:juliekonrardy@gmail.com) for more information or scan the QRcode to sign up.



#### SEPTEMBER MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

## Music Program 2025-26 Season Starts Soon!

Come and join the music groups in the fall! We have a band, a choir, and a bell choir for adults running from September to May. (See the practice schedule below.)

- **Shout Band:** Wednesdays, 6:30pm in the Sanctuary
- **Sanctuary Choir:** Wednesdays, 7:30pm in the Sanctuary
- **Festival Bells:** Wednesdays, 6:30pm in the bell room

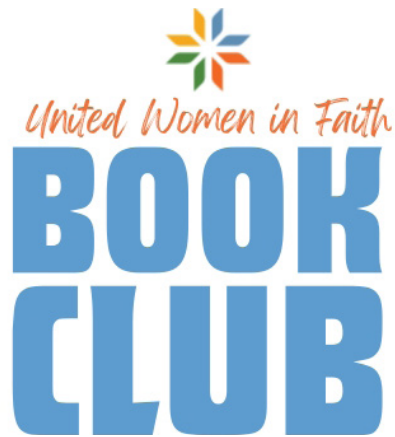
**Our first rehearsal is Wednesday, September 3rd.** If you're interested, just come to try out or contact music director Jungjoo at [jungjoo.park@lakeharrietumc.org](mailto:jungjoo.park@lakeharrietumc.org) for more details. Childcare is provided for all Wednesday rehearsals and Sundays.

## Children & Youth Music Program Opening Night

**Wednesday, September 17th, 5-6:15pm**

Families with children and youth are invited to this fun event to learn more about the music program for the new season. Our music program is open to all so invite your friends. The family meal is offered at 5pm followed by singing, games, and an info session. Mark your calendar and don't miss it!

If you have a question, talk to the music director Jungjoo or send her an email at [jungjoo.park@lakeharrietumc.org](mailto:jungjoo.park@lakeharrietumc.org).



SEPTEMBER 4TH 7PM

## UWF Book Club

Join us at 7pm on September 4, to discuss *While You Were Out* by Meg Kissinger.

You do not have to be an LHUMC UWF member to join us, you can even come if you haven't read the books! Contact Julie Konrardy at [juliekonrardy@gmail.com](mailto:juliekonrardy@gmail.com) for email updates.

- Oct 2 *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett



SEPTEMBER 9TH 7-9PM

## Standing With Immigrants: What Does Allyship Look Like?

In recent months, the federal government has intensified immigration enforcement. Hundreds of undocumented immigrants in Minnesota have been detained by ICE agents, and some have been deported. One executive order reverses a policy that restricts federal immigration agents from arresting migrants at “sensitive locations” like schools, hospitals, and churches.

Many people are asking questions like: What does this mean for our churches and our communities?  
What can I do?

This session, hosted by the Dakota-Minnesota Episcopal Area of The United Methodist Church, is for allies, which includes clergy, laity, and community members who want to stand in solidarity with immigrant neighbors. Participants will learn how to support immigrant communities safely, responsibly, and faithfully.



### REGISTRATION

To register, scan the QR code with your smartphone or tablet or visit

[bit.ly/MNConference-AllyshipZoom](https://bit.ly/MNConference-AllyshipZoom)

**Date:** September 9, 2025

**Time:** 7-9 pm

**Location:** Zoom

**Cost:** Free



SUNDAY SEPT 14 9:30AM

## Kick-Off Sunday

September 14th is Kick-Off Sunday. Come for worship and stay for fun! Join us for lawn games, crafts, snacks and more.

**Do you have a lawn game you can bring from home?** Corn hole? Bocce ball? Croquet? etc. Let Pastor Karen know [karen.bruins@lakeharrietumc.org](mailto:karen.bruins@lakeharrietumc.org).



SUNDAY SEPT 14 1-3PM

## Announcing...

Lake Harriet Players invites you to journey back to simpler times at our fall production of "Our Town", Thornton Wilder's timeless classic about life in the small town of Grover's Corners. There will be a special preview performance on Thursday, November 6, at 7 pm followed by a weekend of performances: Friday and Saturday at 7 pm and Saturday and Sunday at 2 pm.



**Auditions: 1-3 p.m., Sunday, September 14**  
Sign Up by scanning the QR Code or visiting the website below.

[lakeharrietumc.org/lake-harriet-players](http://lakeharrietumc.org/lake-harriet-players)

We hope that you'll consider auditioning to be part of the cast. Auditions will be held from 1-3 pm on Sunday, September 14. Please visit the Lake Harriet Players website for more information and a link to register for auditions.



LAKE HARRIET UMC

## Pastors' Discretionary Fund

This fund is used to assist church members who are experiencing financial hardship. It has been used to help with utility bills, medical bills, and other emergencies.

Might you consider making a donation?  
Scan the QR code to access the site.





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## Connect with Staff

**Rev. Karen Bruins** Pastor [karen.bruins@lakeharrietumc.org](mailto:karen.bruins@lakeharrietumc.org)

**Rev. Beatrice Mungania** Associate Pastor [bea.mungania@lakeharrietumc.org](mailto:bea.mungania@lakeharrietumc.org)

**Søren Bijnagte** Business Administrator & Facilities Manager [soren.bijnagte@lakeharrietumc.org](mailto:soren.bijnagte@lakeharrietumc.org)

**Kay Halverson** Office Administrator [kay.halverson@lakeharrietumc.org](mailto:kay.halverson@lakeharrietumc.org)

**Thomas Johanson** Bell Choirs Director [thomas.johanson@lakeharrietumc.org](mailto:thomas.johanson@lakeharrietumc.org)

**Tami Zvolena** Communications [communications@lakeharrietumc.org](mailto:communications@lakeharrietumc.org)

**Lorrie Sandelin** Volunteer Coordinator [lorrie.sandelin@lakeharrietumc.org](mailto:lorrie.sandelin@lakeharrietumc.org)

**Jungjoo Park** Director of Music Ministries [jungjoo.park@lakeharrietumc.org](mailto:jungjoo.park@lakeharrietumc.org)

**Andrea Wright** LHUM Preschool Director [awright@lakeharrietumpreschool.org](mailto:awright@lakeharrietumpreschool.org)

## Land Acknowledgement

Lake Harriet United Methodist Church is located on the land of the Wahpekute, one of the seven council fires of the Ojibwe (commonly Dakota) peoples. We recognize and pay tribute to the indigenous people who called this land home for centuries before us.



**Address** 4901 Chowen Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55410

**Office Hours** 9a–4p, Tuesday–Thursday

**Connect** 612.926.7645 | [church@lakeharrietumc.org](mailto:church@lakeharrietumc.org) | [lakeharrietumc.org](http://lakeharrietumc.org)