

Esther 4, New Living Translation

⁴ When Mordecai learned about all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on burlap and ashes, and went out into the city, crying with a loud and bitter wail. ² He went as far as the gate of the palace, for no one was allowed to enter the palace gate while wearing clothes of mourning. ³ And as news of the king's decree reached all the provinces, there was great mourning among the Jews. They fasted, wept, and wailed, and many people lay in burlap and ashes.

⁴ When Queen Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her about Mordecai, she was deeply distressed. She sent clothing to him to replace the burlap, but he refused it. ⁵ Then Esther sent for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs who had been appointed as her attendant. She ordered him to go to Mordecai and find out what was troubling him and why he was in mourning. ⁶ So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the square in front of the palace gate.

⁷ Mordecai told him the whole story, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. ⁸ Mordecai gave Hathach a copy of the decree issued in Susa that called for the death of all Jews. He asked Hathach to show it to Esther and explain the situation to her. He also asked Hathach to direct her to go to the king to beg for mercy and plead for her people. ⁹ So Hathach returned to Esther with Mordecai's message.

¹⁰ Then Esther told Hathach to go back and relay this message to Mordecai: ¹¹ "All the king's officials and even the people in the provinces know that anyone who appears before the king in his inner court without being invited is doomed to die unless the king holds out his gold scepter. And the king has not called for me to come to him for thirty days." ¹² So Hathach gave Esther's message to Mordecai.

¹³ Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: "Don't think for a moment that because you're in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. ¹⁴ If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. **Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?"**

¹⁵ Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ "Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. **And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die.**" ¹⁷ So Mordecai went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

Deep Sheet

What on earth are you here for?

What are your current roles that can help you uncover your purpose?

What did you find surprising in the story of Esther?

Other Notes:

June/July Weekly Bible Readings

Date	Day	New Testament	<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Prayer	Old Testament	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	Su	Matthew 27	<input type="checkbox"/>		Hosea 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	Mo	Matthew 28	<input type="checkbox"/>		Hosea 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
30	Tu	Mark 1	<input type="checkbox"/>		Hosea 4	<input type="checkbox"/>
1	We	Mark 2	<input type="checkbox"/>		Hosea 5	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Th	Mark 3	<input type="checkbox"/>		Hosea 6	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Fr	Mark 4	<input type="checkbox"/>		Hosea 7	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Sa	Mark 5	<input type="checkbox"/>		Hosea 8	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Su	Mark 6	<input type="checkbox"/>		Hosea 9	<input type="checkbox"/>



Laketon Bethel's Core Values:

A. ACCEPTANCE:

Everyone, regardless of who they are, what they have done, or what they are doing, will be accepted here. Laketon Bethel will be a safe place to explore your relationship with Jesus.

B. BIBLE:

The teachings of Jesus, contained in the Bible, are the final authority for faith and practice. We will study these teachings with open minds and the best scholarship available.

C. CONNECTION:

We invite people to connect with Jesus and with each other in all that we do.

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Membership Information Meeting

Are you interested in what church membership is all about?

Or perhaps you're considering becoming a member here at Laketon Bethel?

Join us for an informal informational meeting. We will answer your questions and—if you feel ready—provide an opportunity to officially become a member. There is absolutely no pressure; it's simply a space to learn how it all works.

Meeting Details:

-  **Date:** Wednesday, July 15
-  **Time:** 7:00 PM
-  **Next Step:** A sign-up sheet is available on the table in the entryway.

Special Senior: Ruthann Hoff

Please sign the card located on the table in the entryway

Today's Volunteers

- 1st Service Coffee Server: Kathy Young
- 2nd Service Coffee Servers: Colby Beckstrom/Kelly Andry
- 1st Service Nursery: Joann Petroski
- 2nd Service Nursery: Kaylah Lassow

Announcements

Illumination VBS 2026 was an incredible week filled with worship, laughter, games, crafts, and learning that Jesus is the Light of the World! Thank you to every volunteer, family, and church member who donated, served, prayed, and encouraged our ministry. Your love and support helped make this week unforgettable for our kids!.

Laketon Bethel Kids We have concluded the 2025-2026 School Year and can begin the registrations for 2026-2027. Pick up a form at the Check-In Station or register online at laketonbethel.org and look for **Children's Ministry** under the **Ministries** tab to find the link for the registration page.

Laketon Bethel Students – Lake Day! Join us on Saturday, July 19th as the DeBoer family hosts Laketon Bethel Students for an afternoon of summer fun and fellowship at the lake! Come and enjoy swimming, games, food, and time together as we grow in friendship and faith.



Service Opportunities

Ways to Serve If you would like to serve Laketon Bethel but don't know how, there is a list on the two kiosks by the doors with short descriptions and contact numbers for many ways to volunteer. You can call the leaders or the office for more information.

Sacred Suds (Helping Every Living Person Survive)

With warmer weather finally here, T-shirts, short sleeve shirts, light jackets etc. will be appreciated. ***There is a special need for new or used men's small and medium underwear along with socks.*** Towels, toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, soap or body wash are always welcome donations also.

Order of Worship - 9:00am

Gathering Song

“You're Worthy of My Praise”

Call to Worship

“We Have Come Into His House”

“Holy Ground”

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”

“I Surrender All”

Crosstalk - “Made For This Moment”

Offering

“Lead Me to the Cross”

Benediction

“Take My Life and Let it Be Consecrated”

Order of Worship - 11:00am

Gathering Song

“Good God Almighty”

Call to Worship

“Only a God Like You”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“Surrender”

“I Surrender All”

“Let It Rise”

Crosstalk - “Made For This Moment”

Offering

“Be the Center”

Benediction

“God Be With You”