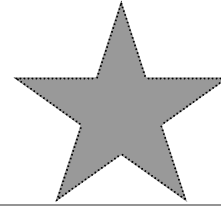


Bethlehem Star



November 2011
Issue 350

The Monthly Newsletter of the Bethlehem Covenant Church

from Pastor Eikenbary-Barber

Sing A New Song To the Lord

The best music ever written was composed during the years that I was in high school and college. At least that's the impression you might get if you flipped through my book of CD's. Oh sure, you'll find some Beatle albums that were released before I was born. You'll also discover a couple of discs that were produced in the last five years. But the bulk of my music collection spans from 1986-1994. Perhaps because we were so impressionable when we first heard the music; perhaps because we are comforted by the music of the past, but we all tend to have a bias towards the music of our youth.

"O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth." Psalm 96:1

I try to keep up with new music. If you handed me a high school student's iPod, I would probably know a fraction of the music. Some of it I would genuinely like, most I would be indifferent to, and anything employing auto-tune is bound to drive me nuts. If I took the iPod home and gave it a fair shot, I might find that there were some great new musicians worth listening to. But I'm not likely to do that. I tend to lean on my old familiar playlists.

"I will sing a new song to you, O God; upon a ten-stringed harp I will play to you." Psalm 144:9

I grew up worshipping at a congregation where we preserved the great hymnody of the Church. Worshipping with traditional Church music is my default setting. We sang the old Covenant classics. We borrowed from the Anglicans and the Lutherans and other high church denominations to sing the finest music ever composed in the name of God! At least that's the impression you would have if you flipped through our hymnbook. To be published, all hymnbooks must stop collecting hymns, but the production of good music never ceases.

"O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things." Psalm 98:1

I spent four summers working at Christian camps. Sometimes I stood up front with a borrowed mandolin to help lead the songs. The music was simple, memorable and gave glory to God. The campers loved it! I have a soft spot for that music too because it was the soundtrack playing as I first led someone else to Christ. Those songs were the greatest songs ever written...at least as far as the campers were concerned.

"He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God." Psalm 40:3

The moment the Christian Church stops composing new songs to the Lord is the moment we lose all relevance to the larger world. We must continually write new lyrics, sing new melodies, find new choral and organ arrangements, and utilize new instruments and technology in worship. God's glory is on display when we try new things. We are not done learning; we are not done trying; we are not done singing yet! *"Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts."* Psalm 33:3

In the New Year we are going to sing a new song to the Lord. Once a month in February, March, April and May we are going to have a second worship service featuring newer music. We are looking for at least ten households interested in singing a new song to the Lord to commit to those four Sundays. I would like to encourage everyone to attend at least one of these four services and make a fresh, joyful noise to the Lord. While you may not be ready to trade in your favorite music for what's new, perhaps for one Sunday you can join your voice with someone younger and glorify God in a brand new way.

Dear Bethlehem Family

Thank you to Pastor Ryan and our friends at Bethlehem. Your concern and prayers are much appreciated.

After the installation of a new pacemaker, I can start resuming my regular activities again. The doctor approved going to Florida. Again, thank you.

With appreciation,
Elizabeth Swanson

Hospitality Requested

A home stay beginning in January is needed for a Minnehaha Student from China. He is a junior and a very bright student involved in Orchestra and Math team. Ideally a home within walking distance from school would be best. There is a \$500 stipend per month for the host family. If interested, call Wendell Carlson, a long-time employee of Minnehaha who is handling his home stay arrangement, Cell: 952-250-8448.

Thank You!

Operation Christmas Child

Bethlehem is again participating in Operation Christmas Child, an effort to gather shoe boxes full of gifts for either a boy or a girl. Gifts could include toys, school supplies, hygiene items, candy, and a personal note.

Both empty shoe boxes and gift items can be dropped off in the church office *by November 10th*.
Collection week for OCC is Nov. 14-21.

If you have any questions please visit www.samaritanspurse.org or contact Pastor Derek at Derek@bethlehemcov.org. Please also pray for those children who will receive the shoe boxes as well.

Sunday Morning Assignments

Refreshments:

November 6 Marj Ramgren
13 Vanji Bratt
20 Ruth Johnson
27 Mary Ann Smith

Scripture Readers:

November 6 Caitlin Hunstock
13 Linda Solie
20 Ed Spohr
27 Liz Compton

November Ushers: Clyde and Theresa Lund, Marj Ramgren and Kaarina Kotkavuori

November Greeter: Norm Morris

Child Care:

November 6
13
20
27

Nursery at 9:30 a.m.

The Christiansen family
Ruth & Sue Johnson
Paul & Liz Compton
Ruth Dahlgren & Jan Norman

Nursery at 10:30 a.m.

Matt & Rachel Ridenour
Jim & Lynette Clausen
the Hunstock family
the Hutchinson family

Please find your own substitute and notify all who need to know about the change.
Don't forget to inform the church office also. Thank you!

Staff Lines

Jo Anne Taylor
Director of Music and Worship
joanne@bethlehemcov.org

In the final chapter of his letter to the Philippians, Paul urges two women who have been arguing with each other to “be of one mind in the Lord.” He writes, “*Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life*” (Phil 4:3). Paul recognizes that Euodia and Syntyche cannot be reconciled to one another without a little help. So he asks another dear friend, whose name we don’t know, to help these women. Reading this verse, I am struck by that word, “you.” It seems that Paul is talking directly to me, saying, “*You help them. Yes, I mean you.*”

We are about to embark on an important expansion of our worship ministry here at Bethlehem. The church council recently voted to begin offering a second worship service once a month, beginning in February, 2012. This is a bold step, and one we dare not attempt without the power of the Holy Spirit moving us forward. We must be “of one mind in the Lord” to fulfill the mission we have been given.

I’d like to ask you to consider how you can be part of that mission, as Bethlehem Covenant Church prepares to step out in faith to reach more people with the good news of Christ’s saving grace. Paul writes, “*Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God*” (Phil 4:6). **Could you be part of the New Worship Prayer team?** I invite you to join with me in purposeful prayer for the next several weeks, as we seek God’s will and direction for the worship we offer at Bethlehem.

Maybe prayer isn’t your spiritual gift. Perhaps you feel called to help plan all the aspects of adding to our worship offerings here at Bethlehem. We already have in place a team of people who meet regularly to plan our existing worship services, but we need people who can think of all the details that go into starting something new. Paul writes, “*Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things*” (Phil 4:8). **Will you consider becoming part of the New Worship Planning team?**

Or maybe you are one of those talented musicians who has yet to find a way to use your musical gifts in our traditional worship format. You would like to participate, but you don’t feel like you ‘fit’. Paul writes, “*Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen*” (Phil 4:9). In other words, “Practice, practice, practice.” **Will you join the New Worship Musicians team?**

These are not the only options for ministry at Bethlehem, but they are three ways you can answer Christ’s call to discipleship. For those of you who feel called to pray, plan, or play, each of these teams will require setting aside regular time to come together with others of like mind and purpose. It is quite a commitment. If you – *yes, you!* – feel God calling you to help, please contact me.

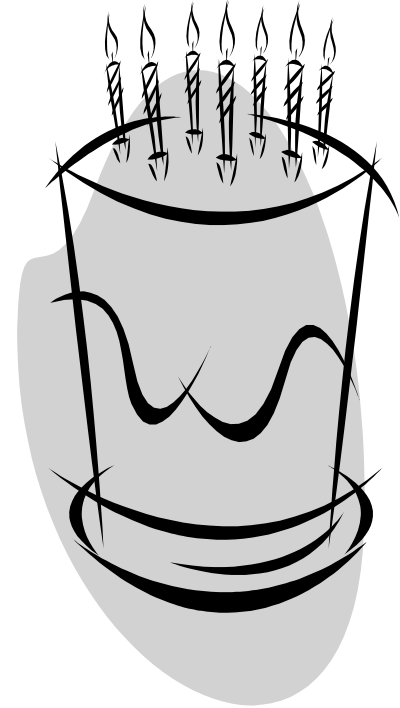
There is a fourth way you can join in this new ministry. Pastor Ryan has asked for ten households (whether a family or a single person) who will commit to attending these new worship services, and bring someone along who is new to Bethlehem. **Will you be a New Worship Participant?** Whatever you hear God calling you to do, may the God of peace guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus as we join together, in unity, to worship our Lord in spirit and truth.

Save the Date

Christmas Caroling on December 18th at 4 p.m. Meet at church.
Sing to the home-bound friend and, new this year, also our “neighbors”.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Irene Olson | 19 | Maddie Howland |
| 2 | Katie Kerl | | Joan Peterson |
| 4 | Roger Tamte | 20 | Hannah Hutchinson |
| 6 | Peter Koontz (Mpls.) | | David Ryding |
| | Ethan Fong | 21 | Talia Simon |
| 7 | Carolyn Forsell | 22 | Carla Monson |
| | Nancy Lindquist | | Natalie Kauls |
| | Bill Milbrath | 23 | Leah Hunstock |
| 9 | Eunice Milbrath | 24 | Duane Johnson |
| 10 | Barbara Johnson | 25 | Isak Kane |
| 11 | Letha Kerl | | Louise Kosek |
| 12 | Jim Johnson | 27 | Jessica Proskin |
| 14 | Lynette Clausen | 28 | Mitty Johnson |
| 15 | Reuben Carlson | | Cindy Bergstrom |
| | Cathy Bruening | 29 | Juliann Swanson |
| 16 | Eric Trygstad | 30 | Adam Hansen |
| 17 | Greg Kauls | | Hannah Williams |
| 18 | Becky Anderson | | Matthew Ridenour |
| | Judy Solie | | |



Youth Calendar—From David Johnson, Director of Youth Ministries

(Postcards, phone calls and emails to the youth will follow-up as the dates approach.)

Cell 952 994-2213 ~ Email dsjohnson2@gmail.com

High School

www.six12.org

Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

November 2, 9, 16 and 30

Middle School

www.crossroadyouth.org

Fridays at 6 p.m.

November 4, 11, and 18

Sunday November 6th

MEGA RALLY ~ Cost is \$8

For Middle School and High School Youth

Gather at Bethlehem at 5:15 p.m. to commute to Bethel (Benson Great Hall) — concludes at 8 p.m.

Sunday, November 20th

House of Bread—Worship in the Youth Room at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, November 23rd

Give Thanks in Fellowship Hall at 7 p. m.

(No Wonderful Wednesday Meal; NO Confirmation)

Missionary Moment

The Missions Commission periodically gets requests from missionaries who need financial aid. While our first responsibility is to our special interest missionaries and those from our immediate congregation, we *do* look at other requests.

Recently, a young man, Jamie Rose, needed to raise support for his call to be Director of Arigaa (means "sweet" in Unupiaq), a ministry of outreach and discipleship at the University of Alaska in Anchorage. It is a campus of 14,000 students. He will especially serve students coming from remote villages to study. After thoughtful consideration, the Commission voted to give a generous one-time gift to help him and his wife get settled in Anchorage.

Jamie grew up in Alaska but his parents attended Bethlehem for a year before he was born while his father was teaching at Minnehaha Academy. Paul Swanson, who is serving as a chaplain at Alaska Christian College this year, recommended him and this ministry highly.

We hope to continue to hear from Jamie and this ministry and display his newsletters on the Missions display area across from the church office. Keep Jamie and this ministry in your prayers.

Pat Koontz
Missions Commission

Advent Readings Begin Sunday, November 27th

The 2011-2012 Advent Devotional is in progress and on the road to successful completion, but it could not have happened without the help of many dedicated and industrious participants.

I want to express a huge **Thank You** to everyone who participated, be it writing one of the daily entries, contributing artwork, running off the innumerable copies of each page and then collating and stapling the booklet together. Each year I am so grateful for the willingness of many adults and children who make this collaborative effort a successful and meaningful part of our personal worship throughout the season of Advent.

Again this year I especially want to thank Maddie Howland for her beautiful drawing used on the cover. I also want to thank Bennie and Jan in the church office for ordering paper supplies and helping to run off all the copies of each page. And lastly, I want to thank the STAR assembly crew who will collate and staple the booklets on November 18th.

I pray this year's edition will be a blessing to all who read it and savor the richness of each writer's insights from the daily texts which intertwine to inspire us to intentional and Christ-inspired action of spreading His saving message while we wait for the eagerly anticipated second coming of our Triumphant King on that great and glorious day!

Deb Shold
Celebration Commission

Reading Scripture Together

In order to help deepen our spiritual walk and build community, the Spiritual Life Commission would like to invite the congregation to study the same Bible passages each week. Just as some communities read the same book together, we will be reading the Bible together.

The verses will be listed in the STAR for each Sunday of the month. November and December follow the lectionary. The verses chosen for January will help prepare us for the Winter Seminar; the February and March readings will enhance our Lenten journey.

If you would like to gather on Wednesday evenings for an informal discussion of the passages for the following Sunday, please join us starting Wednesday, November 2.

Nov. 6 (for Nov. 2)
Rev. 7:9-17, Ps. 34:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matt. 5:1-12

Nov. 13 (for Nov. 9)
Zeph. 1:7, 12-18; Ps 90:1-12; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; Matt. 25:14-30

Nov. 20 (for Nov. 16)
Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24; Ps. 95:1-7; Eph. 1:15-23; Matt. 25:31-46

Nov. 27 (for Nov. 23)
Isa. 64:1-9; Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19; 1Cor. 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37.

Carrie Hokanson
Spiritual Life Commission



Lucia Fest

Saturday, December 10, 2011

Once again we will celebrate the joy of Christmas as we share in our Lucia Fest. We invite family and friends to join us for our traditional morning of festive music —the joyous message of “Jul” and good food.

No other event at Bethlehem involves the participation of the entire church family as the Lucia morning does. This is the only fund raiser for Bethlehem Covenant Women whose budget includes many projects—international, national and conference as well as local endeavors. Suggestions follow as to how you can be involved.

MEN AND WOMEN ARE NEEDED BOTH FRIDAY AND SATURDAY!

Tickets

Ticket order blanks are available in the atrium. Return them with payment on Sunday, Nov. 6. Tickets may be picked up on Sunday, Nov. 20. There will be three seatings: 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Adult tickets are \$7.50 and children under 12 are \$2.50. This year, again, your ticket is for a seat at a table named for Swedish provinces and cities. This insures that there is a reserved seat for you; it is important that you keep your ticket until you are seated.

Snip Candy

Have you ever wondered how the “Snip Candy” that is sold at Lucia is made? Come and join Charlotte Sjoberg and her crew on Monday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. in the church kitchen.

Singers

We welcome new and former singers to two rehearsals. Nov. 29 and Dec. 5, both at 7 p.m. Jerry Erickson will direct and Julie Peterson will accompany. Men and women: come and sing these traditional carols with us.

Tomtes (K thru 3rd grade)

Dancers (4th thru 6th grade) Rehearsals begin Sunday Nov. 13 and continue Nov. 20, 27 and Dec. 4 during the Worship Hour. Children will leave the sanctuary after the children’s sermon—tomtes to the Community Room dancers to Fellowship Hall.

These activities have provided a collection of great childhood memories (and photos) for Bethlehem’s kids over the years. Be sure to encourage your child to participate!

Boutique

Many people in the Bethlehem family do fine handwork and make beautiful handcrafted items. Donations would be greatly appreciated in the Boutique.

Please put a suggested price on your donation and bring it to the church office, labeled for Beth Dahl, during the week preceding Lucia.

Older Treasures Table

Again this year we will be selling nicer used gift items and collectibles. Please bring these items to the church office or to the Community Room on Friday morning, Dec. 9 by 10 a.m.

Bake Sale

A popular table features our baked items: breads, cookies, candy, lefse, Krumkake, rosettes, whatever you’d like to contribute.



Report Card *For Our Food Shelf*

For the first time in recent memory, we have letters of receipt from the Salvation Army for nearly an entire year of our donation history:

| Month | Pounds of Food |
|---------------|------------------|
| November 2010 | 376 |
| December | 137 |
| January 2011 | — |
| February | 151 |
| March | 85 |
| April | 108 |
| May | 25 |
| June | — |
| July) | |
| August) | 187 |
| September) | |
| October | to be determined |

Food Shelf Shopping List

Canned and Jar Food Items:

Tuna, canned fish, canned meats, chili, beef stew, canned pasta products, Enfamil formula, fruits, juices, tomato sauces, tomato paste, spaghetti sauces, peanut butter, jelly, cooking oil.

Boxed and packaged Items:

Cereal (hot and cold), powdered milk, tuna helper, hamburger helper, macaroni, rice, pasta products, crackers, instant potatoes, pancake mix.

Hygiene Items:

Toilet tissue, toothpaste, tooth brushes, bar soap, paper towels, feminine products, facial tissue, shampoo, deodorant, shavers, shaving cream.

Baby items:

Disposable diapers (all sizes), formula (especially Enfamil with iron), baby wipes, baby powder, jar baby foods.

Not only does Bob Merriam deliver the food but he makes sure that a good supply of items stay at Bethlehem for a number of “our own” who sometimes need a bit of assistance. Community Emergency Services reports serving 1,378 households and 4,340 Food Shelf Recipients during the month of August 2011 when 35,483 pounds of food went out.

The question that begs to be answered:
can we *become more consistent* in supplying the Food Box in the atrium?

This month food donations and the presentation of soup can banks and checks is the “Response” that we offer as we gather to give thanks in Fellowship Hall on **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD AT 7 P.M.**

Please Mark Your Calendars!

Twin Cities Covenant Women

The Leadership Connection will be meeting at Brookdale Covenant on Saturday, Nov. 12 (9 to 11:30 a.m.). This is an informational and brainstorming workshop held twice a year for the leaders of Women Ministries and their teams in all of the Twin Cities area Covenant churches. A continental breakfast is served. Deb Shold will be going and welcomes anyone who would like to join her for the morning.

Dear Bethlehem Covenant

Please accept our sincere thank you for your October 17th donation of \$750 to the South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels program. This contribution is very much needed and appreciated and will greatly help to assure the continued delivery of hot, nutritious meals to homebound individuals throughout our community.

We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the many ways that faithful supporters and volunteers from your congregation help to keep this vital program in operation. Thank you SO MUCH!!!

Dianne Smedstad, Corresponding Secretary, SMMOW

Healthy Body, Healthy Spirit Bethlehem Stewardship Drive—2011

“Christ is like a single body, which has many parts; it is still one body, even though it is made up of different parts. In the same way, all of us, whether Jews or Gentiles, whether slaves or free, have been baptized into the one body by the same Spirit, and we have all been given the one Spirit to drink.” I Corinthians 12:12-13.

“As it is however, God put every different part in the body just as he wanted it to be. There would not be a body if it were all only one part! As it is, there are many parts but one body.” I Corinthians 12:18-20.

Like Christ, Bethlehem Covenant is a single body with many parts. Each member of our congregation combines with the others to make the spirit of our church. In 2012, our congregation will continue exercising our body and spirit through:

- Hosting worship services throughout the year.

- Providing meals to those in need through Wonderful Wednesdays, Loaves and Fishes, and our Meals on Wheels program.

- Instructing young and old in the way of Christ through our outreach and education programs.

- Supporting our missionaries, the Ekstrands and Kerls, and Reverend Paul Swanson at the Christian College in Soldotna, Alaska.

These congregational gifts of time and talent are not possible without our continued financial stewardship to support them. As our congregational body is made up of many parts, big and small, young and old, we are inviting both adults and children to support our stewardship drive with a financial commitment for the coming year. Pledge cards are available at the church office for everyone in your household. If you have children, please take this opportunity to share the purpose and value of stewardship with them. Reading scripture together is another good way to teach the gift of giving (*II Corinthians 8:2-9 is but one suggestion*).

To keep a healthy body and healthy spirit, Bethlehem will be starting our annual Stewardship Drive. During this year's Stewardship Drive, we will feature lay witnesses and special sermons. On Stewardship Sunday, November 13th, congregational members of all ages will be invited to walk down the aisle and place their pledge cards in the basket by the altar. Blessings to you, the body and spirit of our congregation. Through our commitments and financial stewardship, we forge a healthy Bethlehem Covenant Church!

Kevin Legler
Leadership Commission

Important to You... (or not so much?)

Ed Spohr, Dan Cummings and others are working diligently to update our website to the point where it is the go-to place for all general information and calendar of events.

In order to be good stewards of our resources and reduce the volume of paper generated by the office, we are keeping more and more files and information in an online format.

In view of this goal, we have decided to make an effort to reduce the waste in the printing and bulk mailing of the Bethlehem STAR. If we do pare down our list, we would cut costs by saving in postage, paper, and ink.

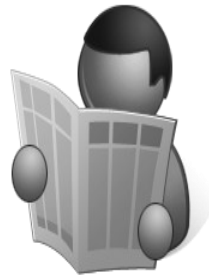
Since you are reading this, obviously you do utilize your “hard” copy of the STAR and most likely appreciate the money spent each month. If so, please take a moment to **contact the church office** (612-721-5768), send an email, **OR write a notation when you sign the sheet inside the attendance rosters in each pew**. We will note the responses received in order to make a careful evaluation of the options we have for our STAR publication policies. We’d like to verify that the **350+** copies *run* are copies that are *read*!

(For those who do not respond to this request, we will continue to use the bulletin to highlight upcoming events and important information and our website will have complete information as well.)

Thank you. Jan Norman and the STAR Crew

Tree-huggers: Please Read!

Second Request: We continue to search for a real Christmas tree to grace our sanctuary during Advent. If you happen to have (or know of) an evergreen that is approximately 12 feet tall and has outgrown its space, please call Ralph Anderson to discuss its removal and transfer to Bethlehem in December.



Faith, Fun and Fellowship

WHAT:

“The Dear Finder”, a dramatic play about the Holocaust. This will be a very moving experience.

WHEN:

Saturday, November 12th, 2:30 p.m.
After the matinee, there will be a discussion led by Nicolas Freeman, the director.

WHERE:

Minnehaha Academy’s North Campus

COST:

Instead of tickets, donations will be accepted at the door.

If you are interested in going to Baker’s Square afterwards, please contact Carrie Hokanson at (612) 721-7134.

Dine With Nine

November 4, 5 and 6

Join us for a friendly evening of fellowship and hospitality. This is a small group dinner party of about nine people in our homes. Call the church office if you would like to attend. We will assign you to one of the gatherings on the evening of your choice and let you know your contribution to the meal and other details. All are welcome, including children.

STAR ARTICLES FOR DECEMBER

Please submit to the office by
Monday, November 14.

Articles for the
Longfellow Messenger
are due on Nov. 11th.

VITALITY TEAM REPORT #7

November 2011

In the October issue of the Star both Pastor Ryan and our president, Charlotte Sjoberg, wrote about the workshop on September 10th. This workshop dealt almost entirely with the need to develop a Strategic Plan for Bethlehem to move from being a STABLE church to becoming a HEALTHY MISSIONAL church. Once we started to understand the Strategic Planning process it became apparent that the nine member Vitality Team didn't have enough members, or the special talents needed to complete the project by May 31, 2012.

Roles may get a little confusing since the Vitality Team has added the Long Range Planning commission and some other church members who have a special interest and talent in strategic planning. But the process should be more effective.

At the Adult Sunday School class on October 2nd Charlotte Sjoberg and Liz Compton made an excellent Power Point presentation that summarized the results of the PULSE survey. This analysis helped us determine where our church is today. At our bi-monthly September Vitality Team meeting we also discussed:

- Our strengths
- Our weaknesses
- Our opportunities
- Our barriers.

At our October 16th Adult Sunday School Dick Sundberg and Lori Frasch presented information about "Understanding our Community". The information comes from "MissionInsite" and addresses the following:

- The demographics within a half-mile radius of Bethlehem.
- Defining the attitudes, values, and religious preferences of our community.
- Identify needs our church can address.
- Trying to understand the profile of our neighbors.

The Vitality Team meets on the first and third Thursday of each month. A summary of each meeting will be put on large Post-It sheeting in the community room. Feedback and comments are needed to validate the process.

At the Vitality Team meeting on October 6th we previewed the presentation that was given at the October 16th Adult Sunday School. The talent, expertise, and dedication this Vitality Team has assembled to represent the congregation and help write Bethlehem's Strategic Plan is impressive.

The next tasks of the Vitality Team are to help develop Bethlehem's MISSION STATEMENT, OUR VISION STATEMENT AND IDENTIFY OUR CORE VALUES.

Our goal is to have these tasks completed by December 1st.

Members of the Vitality Team are: Bev Adamson, Jim Carlson, Liz Compton, Charlotte Sjoberg, Cheryl Hunstock, Mary Ann Smith, Mary Morris, Pastor Ryan, Linda Solie, Lori Frasch, Alyssa Isaacs, Duane Johnson, Dick Sundberg, Phil Swanson, Matt Ridenour, and Lowery Smith.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Telephone 612-721-2290
Website www.bethlehemkids.org
Email bethlehemchildcare@yahoo.com



Chocolate and vanilla ice cream smiles were everywhere at our Ice Cream Social. 163 children and families along with 13 staff were in attendance. A special “Thank You” goes out to Marge, Evie & Derek who volunteered their time to help serve ice cream. This year’s weather was perfect and we were able to host the event on the newly improved playground. Children laughed, ran and climbed around as families spent time connecting with the friends their children play with while at BCCC. In case you wonder how much ice cream it takes to feed that crew: 6 gallons, 176 cones and a few bowls!

The children have been taking walks around the neighborhood to investigate the signs of fall and have identified a list of the changes they notice. Do you recall the loud sounds your shoes made as they marched over the fallen leaves? Most of the children enjoy that activity as they go out for a walk or venture off on their field trips. Ms. Sue’s class was easily able to gather 3 large bags of leaves off of the sidewalk down the street. They have been busy inspecting the leaf shapes, colors and textures.

All of the preschool children went on a tour of the Fire Hall Museum in NE Minneapolis, next door to Edison High School’s athletic field. The children learned about bucket brigades, steam pumpers, the reason for the firehouse dog (to keep track of the horses while the fireman put out fires), how people notified the fire stations before there were telephones and so much more. The firemen demonstrated home safety, allowed the children to use hand pumps to shoot water into holes, and the highlight, sitting in a fire truck, some in front and others in back, for a little tour around the neighborhood. They ended their trip with a short walk and a picnic lunch at the Jackson Street Park.

The school-age children had three release days in October: the GreatRiver Water Park in St. Paul, an in-house field trip (organized by the Children’s Museum) and a day making puppets with our own master puppeteer, Ms. Rosemary. In addition to the Release Days the staff always has a variety of activities planned for the children to do each day. They go to Cooper Park each week, have homework, snacks, crafts, games & play in Fellowship Hall. This year is one of our busiest as far as school age numbers, we have 51 children enrolled!

We are all looking forward to participating in Operation Christmas Child along with the church. It is a wonderful opportunity for our children to learn of children whose needs are much greater than their own, to practice the gift of giving and packaging up the shoeboxes from the donations the families bring to the center.

Our staff does not take lightly the unique opportunity we have to share in the lives of each of these children. We pray that this “investment” plays an important role for the children and their families. Who knows what God has purposed for these individuals?

Blessings,

Jill Ravensborg, Director
www.bethlehemkids.org



Bethlehem Covenant Church
 3141 43rd Avenue South
 Minneapolis, MN 55406

Rev. Ryan Eikenbary-Barber
 David Johnson, Dir. of Youth Ministry
 Derek VanderMolen, Dir. of Children's Ministry
 Jo Anne Taylor, Dir. of Music and Worship

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Contact the church at:

Telephone: 612-721-5768
 Web Address: www.bethlehemcov.org
 Email: office@bethlehemcov.org

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|------------|--|
| W | SUNDAY | 9:30 A.M. | Sunday School for all |
| | | 10:45 a.m. | Worship |
| E | MONDAY | 7:00 p.m. | Community activities evening |
| | TUESDAY | 8:00 a.m. | Breakfast at Bridgeman's (2nd and 4th Tues.) |
| E | | 9:00 a.m. | Properties Work Day at church |
| | | 6:30 p.m. | Gathering for Prayer—Church Community Invited |
| K | WEDNESDAY | 9:30 a.m. | Women's Bible Study |
| | | 12:30 p.m. | Staff Meeting |
| L | | 4:00 p.m. | Hosanna Choir* |
| | | 4:45 p.m. | Alleluia Choir* |
| Y | | 5:45 p.m. | Wonderful Wednesday Meal * |
| | | 6:30 p.m. | Adult Choir*, Confirmation*, Sr. High*, Children's activities* |
| | | * | No event on Wednesday November 23 due to Thanksgiving |
| | THURSDAY | 9:45 a.m. | Bible Encounter |
| | FRIDAY | 6:30 a.m. | Men's Breakfast and Bible Study |
| | | 9:00 a.m. | Walk and coffee at Mall of America |