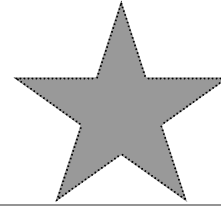


Bethlehem Star



October 2011
Issue 349

The Monthly Newsletter of the Bethlehem Covenant Church

from Pastor Eikenbary-Barber

Strategic Planning

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11

On Saturday, September 10th twenty-eight leaders from Bethlehem Covenant Church spent the day studying at Minnehaha Academy. We were joined by leaders of Edina Covenant Church and Rice Creek Covenant Church to learn about strategic planning. John Wenrich, the Director of Congregational Vitality for the Evangelical Covenant Church, flew in from Chicago to teach us about the Biblical foundation for strategic planning. John didn't just give us a business model for thinking strategically about the church. He gave us a Biblical perspective on planning.

Joseph was a strategic planner. When Pharaoh revealed his dream about seven fat cows being devoured by seven emaciated cows, Joseph did more than just explain that the riddle was about years of abundance and famine. Joseph gave Pharaoh a strategic plan to save grain during the seven years of plenty to sell during the seven years of hunger. God used Joseph's strategic plan to rescue his estranged family and to save the known world from starvation. (see Gen. 41)

Jethro was a strategic planner. Moses was a great leader and prophet, but he needed his brother Aaron to do the talking and his father-in-law Jethro to manage the organizational details. Moses tried to serve as the judge for all the people, but Jethro told him that what he was doing wasn't good. Jethro explained to Moses the power of delegation, teaching him to select capable leaders for groups of tens, fifties, hundreds and thousands. After giving Moses a great strategic plan, Jethro went home to his own country and God's people wandered forward towards the Promised Land. (see Ex.19)

David was a strategic planner, stockpiling materials for his son to build a Temple to God. He also wrote the song lyrics "May [God] give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed." (Ps.24) Nehemiah was a strategic planner; he rebuilt the walls around Jerusalem. Zerubbabel was a strategic planner; he laid the foundation for the Second Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus was most certainly a strategic planner. First Jesus sent out the 12 disciples two by two and then he sent out seventy-two more followers two by two. From the dawn of creation in Genesis to the final judgment in the book of Revelation, the Bible is filled with strategic planning.

What separates a church's strategic plan from a secular business plan is reliance on God. Believers have a Companion to guide us through the strategic planning journey. As we begin the re-visioning process at Bethlehem Covenant Church, I am reminded that Jeremiah's prophecy doesn't just end with a hope and a future. Immediately following those famous words of scripture, Jeremiah reveals these intentions of God:

Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord...

Jeremiah 29:12-14a

Let's discover together where God is leading Bethlehem Covenant Church.

Baby Arrived!

Congratulations to Jackie Kingsley and Kurt Karbowski on the birth of Maguire Andrew Shelby Kingsley on August 26th, weighing 7 lbs. 6 ozs, 19 1/2 inches long. A baptism is planned for Sunday, October 30th. May God bless each of you as you begin this new chapter of your lives.

New Members Classes

Oct. 23 and 30

Nov. 6 and 13

If you have been gathering with us in worship for awhile now and would like to learn more about the history and future of our congregation, please speak to Pastor Ryan about joining the class which meets informally in his study at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

Welcome!

Coffee, Conversation & More —

Save The Date!!!

WHAT: Adult evening out to enjoy coffee, cookies (+other munchies), conversation, and/or competition (friendly, of course!) in cribbage, trivial pursuit and more... an opportunity to just spend time together and enjoy one another's company.

WHEN: Friday, October 21 7-9 pm

WHERE: Bethlehem's Fellowship Hall (lower level)

WHO: All are welcome—feel free to invite your neighbors and co-workers

We hope to see you there!!!

If you have questions, contact:
Phil & Juli Swanson (612-724-1318)
Rhonda Isaacs (651-646-1790)

Sunday Morning Assignments

Refreshments:

October 2	Theresa Lund
October 9	A volunteer is needed
October 16	A volunteer is needed
October 23	Mary Jones-Morris
October 30	Marge Ramgren
<u>October Ushers:</u>	Jean and Kevin Legler, Jeff Hutchinson; Betty Hall/Joyce Hanson
<u>October Greeters:</u>	Ruth Dahlgren
<u>Children's Church:</u>	Jenny and John Hokanson

Nursery at 9:30 a.m.

October 2	Jim & Lynette Clausen
October 9	Paul & Liz Compton
October 16	Nancy Lindquist, Carrie Hokanson
October 23	Matt & Rachel Ridenour
October 30	Matthias & Lori Frasch

Scripture Readers:

Bill Hunstock
Bruce Taylor
Becky Ramgren
Joanne Hansen
Vanda Niemi
<u>Nursery at 10:30 a.m.</u>
Steve & Becky Ramgren
Ruth Johnson, Sue Johnson
Cheryl Hunstock & family
Derek & Laura VanderMolen
Mary Ann Smith & Becky Anderson

Staff Lines

Notes on Music and Worship



What is your theology of music? How does God sing into your life through his Word, and through the music that weaves together our corporate worship experiences?

My theology of music comes from the beautiful five-part blessing in Zephaniah 3:17: “The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.”

I remember the first time I read these words and realized, “God sings!”

In worship, we do a lot of singing *to* God and *for* God. If we are made in God’s image, and *we* sing, then doesn’t it make sense that our voices must be an echo of God’s voice?

Singing is sound we make during the process of *respiration*. As we *inspire* breath to sustain a singing tone and *expire* that breath in a stream of sound, we *conspire* with others who sing alongside us. What *transpires* has the power to transform us, as we sing praise, prayers, scripture, and the poetry of hymns that stay with us long after the song ends.

There are over 150 references to singing in the Bible. Only this verse has God doing the singing, and when God sings, he is rejoicing, loving, and protecting his people. That means you and me. Singing is a pleasant endeavor for God.

So, what is your theology of music? How does it shape your attitude toward worship?

Jo Anne Taylor
Director of Music and Worship
jataylor54@gmail.com

JAM SESSION: 7 pm Sunday, October 16!

Bring your instrument and a music stand
if you have one!

In the final stages....

The collection of household goods for the benefit of the 245 immigrant families arriving this fall has been generously supported this summer by Bethlehem. The families will be arriving soon —

The list of needed items follows:

Pillows, towels, silverware, can openers, cleaning items, laundry detergent, toilet paper, shampoo, light bulbs, chef’s/kitchen knives, shower curtains with hooks, kitchen tables with chairs, dressers, beds, trash bins, brooms, spatulas/spoons, both twin and/or full bedding (comforters, flat and fitted sheets) bake ware, mixing/serving bowls and pots and pans.

The address to deliver larger items is near Franklin and Nicollet — not far from church. To make a drop-off contact Kristin Zoellner at Minnesota Council of Churches—Refugee Services (phone 612-230-3219). They do have space in their building to store donations. If you have small contributions, we are able to collect those things in the boxes inside the hallway (near the restrooms) on the main level at church. They will be delivered as the boxes fill up.

Loaves and Fishes

Thanks to everyone who helped us serve a meal at River of Life on August 29: Jim Johnson, Jon Hokanson, Pat and Peter Koontz, Ruth Koontz and Ivey, Clyde and Theresa Lund, Maddie Howland, Amy Eikenbary-Barber and Cheryl Hunstock. We served over 200 on a beautiful day.

We were able to see the new kitchen—almost complete—and it was beautiful! A new stove and dishwasher will complete the project.

Our next serving dates are as follows:

October 31, 2011

January 30, 2012

April 30, 2012

July 30, 2012

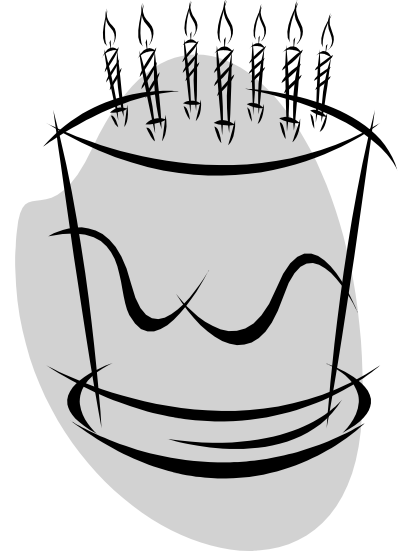
October 29, 2012

December 31, 2012 (to be confirmed later)

Our assigned serving dates fall in the months which have a *fifth* Monday.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Cindy Hefferan	18	John Bratt
3	Stig Benson		Sarah Howland
4	Bodil Enderton	19	Larry Johnson
5	Bill Hunstock	20	Alyssa Isaacs
	Joyce Hanson	22	Ian Taylor
6	Ruth Johnson	23	Ted Larsen
	Bella May	27	Ruth Dahlgren
10	Vincent Hopwood	28	Stan Bratt
12	Mary Simmons		Elizabeth Fong
13	Bob Sjoberg		Ann Kauls
15	Adam Sokolski		Madison Zieper
	Bette Vetvick		Deb Shold
		29	Jerry Erickson
		30	Alex Kauls
			Shannon Hopwood



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](mailto:djohnson2@gmail.com)

Attention!!! Register for MEA retreats !

~~High School~~

www.six12.com

“Recharge” retreat at Covenant Pines:

October 21-23

~~Middle School~~

www.crossroadyouth.com

“Breakaway” retreat at Covenant Pines:

October 19-21

Covenant Pines’ MEA Retreat provides an excellent opportunity for your camper to take a break with God. School, sports and after school activities can consume a teenager’s time. However, Covenant Pines provides a great atmosphere to step back, breathe and thank God for the things He has provided all while having tons of fun! This fall, help your camper encounter God at Covenant Pines. Check online links to register.

~~High School ~ SIX12 ~ at 6pm~~

Wednesday: October 5, 12 and 26th

~~Middle School ~ Cross Roads ~ at 6 p.m.~~

Friday: October 14th and 28th

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Greetings,

We're off and running in another year of children's ministries this fall; here are a few highlights from our various ministries. In Sunday School, while the children are all together before breaking into their classes, the children are learning Psalm 8, and learning about the majesty and grandeur of God's creation and how God takes care of creation. We'll learn a verse per month, adding up to all nine verses of Psalm 8. We continue to support a child in Africa through Compassion Child. We receive letters, pictures, and updates occasionally and the children respond with their own written notes. It's a great way for the children to learn about missions on a global scale.

On Wednesdays we've begun using Pioneer Club for children Pre K – 6th grade.

Pioneer Club uses Bible-based lessons, games, songs, scripture memory, and activity badges to produce a well-rounded mid-week program in which children learn the gospel message and earn badges by learning a variety of skills.

For children's church this year we build a lesson from the same text Pastor Ryan preaches during worship in order to develop continuity in what children and their parents are receiving on Sundays. The children hear the Bible text, hear a story that applies it, and then participate in crafts or activities that build upon the lesson learned. A big thanks to the many people who serve these various ministries. Please invite friends and neighbors to join us on Wednesdays and Sundays for some great fun and fellowship.

Blessings,

Pastor Derek

Children's Choir

Wednesdays in the Community Room

3:45-4:30pm Hosanna Choir
4-years-old — 1st Grade
4:45-5:45pm Alleluia Choir
2nd Grade and up

Contact Cindy Bergstrom for more information.

Human Trafficking Forum

(register on-site at the event)

Protect Minnesota's Youth!

Friday, October 28 7-8pm
Prayer Walk the Mall of America (meet at the Best Buy Rotunda on the 1st floor near Starbucks). The MOA has been identified by law enforcement as an area of abduction and recruitment for traffickers.

Saturday, October 29th 9am to 12:30pm
Bloomington Covenant Church
10150 Xerxes Avenue South
Bloomington, MN 55431
(952-831-8339)

Get the facts and hear the stories from experts in trafficking—a Federal Agent, homeless youth advocates and survivors. Enjoy original music and spoken word. Browse exhibits and visit a boutique featuring items from local and global artisans.

Suggested donations: \$10 (\$5 for students)
daybreakforum@gmail.com

See Poster on the kiosk at church

Sunday, October 30th 10:30am
Dr. Boaz Johnson, Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies at North Park University will preach about Justice and the Gospel during morning worship at Bloomington Covenant Church.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW MEMBERS

Stephanie Blado

Stephanie was born in Tucumcari, New Mexico and is married to James Steven Blado. They have a son, Lucas, who is six years old. Stephanie works at the 3M Center in St. Paul .

Gloria Tamte

Gloria attended Cooper, Sanford, Minnehaha Academy, North Park and the U of M. Roger and Gloria have three adult married children (Peter, Kristi and Michael) who also graduated from M.A. and North Park. They lived in the Longfellow neighborhood and were a part of Bethlehem Covenant for about 20 years. Priscilla played for their wedding more than 45 years ago. Gloria is retired now, works hard but doesn't make any money. The Tamtes now live in a condo in Bloomington, not far from their children and grandchildren. Two of the many things that Gloria enjoys are singing a cappella hymns in parts and playing games.

Roger Tamte

Roger was born in Cloquet, Minnesota (in the Covenant parsonage where, in the small Covenant world, Paul Swanson had been born a year or so earlier). Roger grew up in Red Oaks, Iowa (with Deanna Carlson) and Des Moines and graduated from Iowa State University and the U of M Law School. He retired in 2008 after 34 full-time and 12 part-time years with 3M. His main avocation/vocational interest at present is a history research project—don't ask the subject! Roger and Gloria are transferring from Excelsior Covenant.

Eric Trygstad

Eric was born in Minneapolis. He and wife, Linda, have two adult children who attended Minnehaha Academy. Daughter, Christina, is married to Provençal-born David Dorival. They live in Toulouse, France with their two children, 2 1/2 year old Logan and 5 month old Lucie. The Trygstad's son Nicholas lives in Golcar, England with his Scottish wife Anne and their daughter, Rose. Eric and Linda are transferring their membership from Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Eric is a physician (OB-GYN) with Health Partners. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota.

Linda Trygstad

Linda was born in Seattle, Washington and raised in the Twin Cities. A Suzuki method viola and violin instructor at MacPhail Center for Music in downtown Minneapolis, Linda's hobbies include reading (especially mysteries and English history), walking, and playing chamber music. Linda received her musical training at Indiana University and the University of Minnesota. She and Eric have been married for 36 years.

Derek VanderMolen

Derek has recently assumed the responsibilities of Director of Children's Ministry here at Bethlehem. He commutes to church from home in Chanhassen. His office is in the old Pastor's Study on the south side of the chancel. When he is not at Bethlehem Derek keeps busy hunting, fishing and enjoying spectator sports. He is a Bethel graduate (Biblical and Theological Studies) and is pursuing his Master's of Divinity at Bethel Seminary. Derek has an "inbox" for personal mail in the office on the desk at the secretarial station.

Laura VanderMolen

Laura and husband, Derek, are transferring their membership from Salem Covenant Church in New Brighton. Derek and Laura are "newlyweds", marking their 4th anniversary on August 17th. Laura is employed by Chanhassen Family Dentistry as an office assistant. Her hobbies include the equestrian arts (western), appreciating Minnesota nature and photography. She was born in Robinsdale, MN and graduated from Bethel University with a degree in History.

Covenant Women

The Twin Cities Covenant Women Ministries (TCCWM) Executive Board is looking for women to fill some positions that have been open or will be vacated as women will be leaving the board. The Executive Board meets at least 2 times a year and twice with the Women Ministries board leaders from the Twin Cities area Covenant churches. The Executive Board is also responsible for organizing the two main area-wide events held in the spring and fall. Positions needing to be filled are vice president, treasurer, financial secretary and recording secretary. If you would like to know more about the board or are interested in sharing your talents and ideas by serving on the board, please contact Deb Shold at 612-729-4598, Emily Douglass at 651-483-6207 or Carol Zelle at 651-778-1102.

The TCCWM Fall Gathering will be *Oct 29th from 9 to noon* at First Covenant in St. Paul. The brunch will follow a presentation by Wendy Larson. Wendy currently lives in River Falls, WI with her husband, Dan, and their 2 children. The cost for the event is \$12. Sign up in the office for carpooling and payment. Questions: contact Deb Shold.

Saturday, November 12 The Leadership Connection : Workshop at Brookdale Covenant in the morning.

December 10th: Save the Day for Our Lucia Fest!

It's time to put LUCIA FEST on your calendar. Once again we will share the joy of Christmas with our neighbors, friends and families. Ticket order blanks will be available after worship on Sunday, October 23rd and should be turned in on or after Sunday, October 30th. The church office will take reservations after November 7th but those tickets will not be processed until payment is made.

The November *STAR* will have additional information about specific dates of rehearsals. For the past several years we have been grateful for the participation of several "alumni" singing and serving in various ways. We would again welcome you to join us—even in donating cookies.

While you have your calendar out—circle Friday, Dec. 9th (9 a.m.). We need lots of help (both men and women) to prepare for the Saturday celebration. It is a fun day of fellowship during our working but we do take time for coffee and goodies!

Lucia Choir Practices Announced

Mark your calendars for 7 p.m.

Tuesday, November 29

Monday, December 5

All singers are invited and appreciated!

Working Ahead

Deb Shold has agreed to coordinate the assembly of our **Advent Devotional**. The first Sunday in Advent will be November 27th. Sign up to complete a writing during the month of October (in order to give Deb plenty of time to edit, copy and collate our devotional during November).

For those who are new to Bethlehem, there are four texts presented each day during the Advent season. We ask that you choose a date and write a short response to one or all of the texts from a personal standpoint. Sign up at a table in the atrium where you can see a copy of the previous devotional and get more detailed instructions. There is extreme flexibility; creativity is encouraged and appreciated! Please *DO* contribute!

From the President

Did you know having a strategic plan is biblical? Acts 4:32 states: “The whole congregation of believers was united as one—one heart, one mind!”

On September 10th, 25 leaders of the congregation attended a workshop entitled “ONE - A Unified Approach to Strategic Planning”. The workshop was sponsored by the Department of Church Growth & Evangelism and is yet another step in the Veritas process. Rice Creek and Edina Covenant Churches were also in attendance. Representatives from each congregation were directed to define the congregational culture of their church. By the end of the day, each church group went home equipped to move forward in creating a strategic plan. We were told this would potentially take 6 to 9 months.

The Long Range Planning commission is joining with the Vitality Team to create this plan. A few additional people who attended the workshop have also volunteered to join the group. The team will be defining items such as mission, vision, and core values to be included in the plan. Expect to hear more as the document is being created.

The results of the PULSE survey and the Neighborhood Insite evaluation will be used during the strategic planning process. I would encourage you to attend Sunday School sessions planned to discuss the results from these two processes. These sessions will take place Oct. 2 and Oct. 16.

As the strategic planning team meets during the coming months, we hope to use large post-it notes to document our process. These notes will be left on a wall for all of you to read. Look for these to start appearing soon.

During the workshop we received detailed steps defined to take us through the strategic planning process. Proposed end dates for each step have been established with the hope of having a finished product by May 31, 2012. This seems like a long time from now but we will be working hard on the 38 steps defined during the workshop.

After getting an understanding of where we are currently and discerning where God would have us be in the future, we will then be able to define the specific steps to reach that goal. Think of God starting from a void with the vision of a full creation as the goal. Each day of creation was carefully planned and ordered to lead to the final goal. Additionally for us, specific measurements will be established to help us evaluate our progress along the way.

Please pray for this team as we work together to sense where God is directing us.

In Christ,

Charlotte Sjoberg

Eat Your Soup

Each fall we put empty soup cans on our dinner tables, our dressers, or wherever we accumulate change. The (smaller) soup cans are the right size to accept the white plastic slotted lids that are available in the narthex at church. There are also new labels to paste onto the cans which say "Covenant World Relief". Together the lid and the label make a small bank to collect pocket change or folded paper money.

On the eve prior to Thanksgiving we gather together to give thanks, present food for our local food shelf and the soup can banks for help in distant places. This is particularly meaningful for the children as they can see the bank every time they eat at home and remember to pray for those who don't have enough to eat and other benefits we take for granted.

The labels and lids will be distributed during October. Watch the church bulletin for the announcement.

Tree-huggers: Don't Read!



As in the past, we have begun our search for a real Christmas tree to grace our sanctuary during Advent. If you happen to have an evergreen that is approximately 12 feet tall and has outgrown its space in your yard, please call Ralph Anderson to discuss its removal and transfer to Bethlehem in December.

Faith, Fun and Fellowship

WHO: Jim Johnson will lead us in a wonderful old-fashioned "Singspiration"

WHEN: Monday, October 17th at 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Community Room (at Bethlehem)

As always, we'll enjoy warm, welcoming fellowship and delicious pie!

Looking Ahead

WHEN: Saturday, November 12th—2:30 p.m.

WHAT: "Dear Finder"

A dramatic play about the Holocaust. (There will be a post-show discussion for those interested).

WHERE:

Minnehaha Academy's North Campus
Nicolas Freeman, the director, said he would give us a "group rate" — \$5.00 a ticket.

Dine With Nine

Plans are underway ~ check the Bulletin for dates, times, more information and a sign-up sheet.

Maximum Marriage

Discover the full potential of your marriage by attending the October 15th and 16th Marriage Encounter. Visit www.marriages.org for a listing of retreats and locations or call 651-454-3238.

STAR ARTICLES FOR NOVEMBER

Please submit to the office by Monday,
October 17th.

Articles for the
Longfellow Messenger
are due the same day.



Did You Know?

...that **FAMILY CAMP** is for the entire church? Reservations are being finalized for our retreat October 7th through 9th at Covenant Pines. You do not need to be present for the entire weekend (you can plan to participate in any portion that your schedule will permit).

Registration forms are available from the church office with full information, including costs.

Call us at 612-721-5768 if you wish to attend and need a ride.

...that two kitties are in need of a good home? They are 1-year-old shorthair female litter-mates, spayed and declawed with all vaccines and flea treatments, raised in a household with children. The family has moved back to Japan ~ the cats are the pets of a missionary family who were on home assignment. More details are posted on the kiosk. Contact Deb Shold.



“Autumn” and “Keiko”



2011-2012 BCC Directory

Over the summer, Liz Compton created a new church family directory. The directories were placed in the BCC mailboxes prior to September 11th. If you would like to have yours mailed, please call Jan or Lorraine. Additional copies are available in the church office. Please make every effort to help us keep this information current—call the church office with any changes. There is one addition to the directory: Please add Linda Solie's Phone: 952-545-0305
...and a big *Thank You* to you, Liz!

Adult Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. in the Community Room

The Adult Sunday School class schedule is set for fall with a variety of learning and discussion opportunities. The following topics/presenters will be offered October—December:

October 2—Long Range Planning and Vitality Team Report on the Results of the Pulse Survey
 October 9—No Class—Covenant Pines Family Camp
 October 16—Long Range Planning and Vitality Team: Where Do We Go from Here?
 October 23—The Mission Field Comes to Us/Jim Carlson
 October 30—Summer China Experience/Ian Taylor

November 6—China Outreach Ministry/Glenn Kenadjian
 November 13—Panel Discussion of Christianity and China
 November 20—A Basic Approach to Bible Study/Jim Johnson

November 27 A four-part Interactive Bible Study led by Joanne Hansen:
 December 4 “The Christmas Spirit,” based on Dickens’ A Christmas Carol.
 December 11 (There’s a Scrooge in all of us to be repented of.)
 December 18 ~With Clyde Lund reading from A Christmas Carol.~

December 25—No Class—Christmas Day
 January 1—No Class—New Years Day

CONTACT INFORMATION

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



Fall has brought, along with a few chillier mornings, the sounds of children laughing, singing, a few loud shrieks when one child forgets to use their words to ask before reaching over and grabbing another's playdough, a teacher's gentle reminder of how friends talk to each other, and quiet feet as they pass by the office window trying not to be noticed because they are SO quiet in the hallways.

In the fall we always experience our own season, of sorts: field trip season. All of the field trips are fun but unless you've lead one you would be amazed at how much prep work there is before actually going on the trip itself. The staff is intentional about preparing the children for walking while holding on the rope rings, discussing what to do if a shoe falls off while crossing the street, how we ride a city bus and where we wait when we exit the bus. By the time this goes to print the preschool children will have started their monthly field trips to the Imagination Theater, a favorite of the children's, which features a black light puppet theater. There may be a whole preschool field trip to the Fire Hall Museum located in NE Minneapolis in mid-October, details are in the works.

If you were to peek into Fellowship Hall between 1:00 and 3:00 you'd be amazed to see the entire space full of cots with napping, well at least quiet, children. Four days a week we have between 29 and 32 children in the afternoon so we split them into two groups and do different activities. Since this is now our third year with the split we've been able to get even better at the planning for afternoon, for both staff and children. Things are going quite nicely for everyone.

The school age classes are another wonderful group ranging in grades K - 5. This year is the largest enrollment we have had that I can remember, 54 students come after school throughout the week. The staff for both groups, K-2 and 3 - 5, is excited about how well all is going this year. The buses are, for the most part, arriving on schedule, the children are treating each other with kindness, new friendships are beginning and others continue to grow. This year there are no Release Days until mid-October, but then there are five within five and a half weeks. The staff will be planning fun field trips for the children to participate in while they are here at BCCC for those Release Days.

On October 6 BCCC will host an Ice Cream Social for our families. We are hopeful that this year the evening will be pleasant so we can hold our social outside and let the families join their children in exploring the new play area. Additionally, it is much easier for families to move and mingle outside. It can be tricky estimating how many buckets of ice cream we'll go through with the 103 families that could potentially come. If you feel like joining us, please do as it is always nice to have church families getting to know the childcare families.

Blessings,

Jill Ravensborg, Director



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 E E K L Y	SUNDAY	9:30 A.M.	Sunday School for all
		10:45 a.m.	Worship
	MONDAY	7:00 p.m.	Community activities evening
	TUESDAY	8:00 a.m.	Breakfast at Bridgeman's (2nd and 4th Tues.)
		9:00 a.m.	Properties Work Day at church
		6:30 p.m.	Gathering for Prayer—Church Community Invited
	WEDNESDAY	9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
	12:30 p.m.	Staff Meeting	
	3:45 p.m.	Hosanna Choir	
	4:45 p.m.	Alleluia Choir	
	5:45 p.m.	Wonderful Wednesday Meal	
	6:30 p.m.	Adult Choir, Confirmation, Sr. High, Children's activities	
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	