

# BETHEL **FAMILY** CO-OP

Discipling Our Kids Together

<b>Vision, Mission, Values.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Statement of Faith.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>General Information.....</b>	<b>4</b>
Day   Time.....	4
Arrival.....	4
Financial Responsibility   Payment.....	4
Membership   Participation.....	5
Communication.....	5
Safety.....	6
Attendance.....	6
Tardiness.....	6
Sick Policy.....	6
Media.....	7
Photo Release.....	7
Parents will be asked to sign a photo release so that pictures can be taken of their children and put into the yearbook and an end of year video.....	7
Allergy Policy.....	7
Dress Code.....	7
<b>Meetings   Gatherings.....</b>	<b>7</b>
Worship.....	7
Explore Classes.....	8
Gym Class.....	9
Preschool.....	9
Snack   Social.....	9
Open Gym.....	9
Celebrations.....	10
Service.....	10
Field Trips   Pop-up Field Trips.....	10
Park Dates.....	10
Project   Presentations.....	10
Book Club.....	11
Workshops.....	11
Yearbook.....	11
<b>Code of Conduct.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Discipline Policy   Enforcement.....</b>	<b>12</b>
Disciplinary Standards.....	12
Parent   Teacher Expectations.....	12
Student Expectations.....	13

Enforcement.....	13
<b>Daily Schedule.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Participation Agreement.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Child Photo Authorization.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Clean-Up.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Worship Song Schedule.....</b>	<b>20</b>

## Vision, Mission, Values

**Vision:** Raising up the next generation of committed, faithful disciples.

**Mission:** Establishing a community of believers committed to discipleship through Godly, encouraging, and fun group-learning that consistently points back to Christ and supports and compounds the work being done at home and in the church.

**Values:**

***Committed to Discipleship*** - Growing a knowledge, affection, and relationship with Jesus lived out in the community of believers and on display for unbelievers.

***Genuine Community*** - Caring for one another by spending time together to support each other's needs, investing in each other's children, and creating friendships for both parents and students.

***Worship as a Lifestyle*** - We worship through singing, sharing testimonies of God's goodness, celebrating God's faithfulness and generosity--giving God glory for everything we study and learn.

***Service Oriented*** - Serving inwardly to the co-op through high parent and child participation. Serving outwardly to others through service opportunities.

***Fun group learning*** - Developing a love of learning through play, discovery, and exploration while enjoying the comradery of friends.

## Statement of Faith

We adhere to the same beliefs as Bethel Church. Those core beliefs as well as a full doctrinal statement can be found at <https://bethelweb.org/what-we-believe>.

## General Information

### Day | Time

Two Fridays a month\*, 1-3pm, with a snack and social time following every meeting from 3-3:30pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with friends! It's also a time occasionally reserved for presentations.

\*Please note in the schedule that there may be some exceptions to this due to holidays.

### Arrival

Bethel Cedar Lake Student Center Entrance doors will be open 12:40-1:00pm. Please arrive on time, we will begin promptly at 1:00pm. The doors will lock at 1:00pm and will remain locked during co-op. Please have students use the bathroom before the meeting begins. There are no scheduled bathroom breaks.

### Financial Responsibility | Payment

The total cost for each Kindergarten–8th grade student is \$100 with an additional *Adventure Fee* of \$25 per family for the 2025-2026 school year September-May. This helps cover all twice-monthly co-op gatherings as well as our scheduled *Adventures* throughout the year for each registered student and one parent.

Children ages 2–4 will have access to a dedicated and engaging childcare space, separate from the Kindergarten classroom, and a separate gym time for \$45 for the full year.

Infants under 2 years old are welcome and may use the childcare room if needed, but there is no charge for their participation.

If additional parents or siblings would like to join us for specific field trips, they can easily be added later for each Adventure.

We're grateful to partner with your family this year!

However, if at any time you feel this group is not a good fit for your family, please contact leadership to cancel your registration. Refunds will not be given.

- Students will not be permitted to attend their classes until membership fees are paid.

- If for any reason a family is unable to attend due to financial hardship please contact Brittany Rae to discuss assistance.
- Payments will be made to Brittany Rae via PayPal or Zelle at [wolfie607@hotmail.com](mailto:wolfie607@hotmail.com) or by cash/check.
- There will be a variety of optional costs for extracurriculars throughout the year including: workshops, pop-up field trips, Co-op gear, or yearbook.

## **Membership | Participation**

Bethel Family Co-op is open to Bethel Church homeschooling families. An interview and recommendation letter are required to get to know each family better and hear about how family discipleship looks in their homes. Class offerings are for students Kindergarten-8th grade. Pre-K students will be provided with a dedicated childcare space and gym time.

Membership demonstrates a willing heart to serve the group. Parents are expected to stay and participate the entire time 1:00-3:30pm. This is not a drop-off event.

Parents are expected to volunteer their time and talents in service to the group. This may include, but is not limited to: teaching or facilitating lesson plans as a cooperative teacher, planning celebrations, organizing field trips, workshops, or service projects, assisting with events, and helping with supplies, set-up, and clean-up. The success of our co-op depends on the willing cooperation and participation of each family, following our Savior's example of humility and service. As members of one body in Christ, we each have different gifts to offer, and when we serve together in love, the whole body is strengthened (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). Your presence and contributions are deeply valued, and together we create a vibrant, Christ-centered community.

## **Communication**

- Meeting dates and semester calendars will be provided for families.
- You will receive emails from [BethelFamilyCoop@gmail.com](mailto:BethelFamilyCoop@gmail.com) (please add this address to your contacts) providing information for meetings and events as needed.
- A Bethel Family Co-op text thread will be created and reminders will be sent out from this weekly.
- Perfect Potluck, an online meal tool, will be used for food sign-ups for celebrations and events.

## **Safety**

Waivers (supplied by Bethel Church, Crown Point) must be signed for all students.

## **Attendance**

- Attendance is necessary for the co-op to run smoothly and be effective.
- Attendance is expected for each meeting but we understand that illness and unforeseen circumstances arise.
- Please inform a member of the leadership team at least two weeks in advance in the case of a planned absence like a family vacation.
- Please consider your commitment to the co-op when scheduling non-emergency appointments.
- In the event of an absence, please contact Brittany Rae via text 708-228-4563 as soon as possible.
- Failure for any members to not show up without calling ahead of time more than two times will result in a review of your membership.

## **Tardiness**

At Bethel Family Co-op we seek to honor each other's time. Doors open at 12:40 and promptly shut at 1:00. We are very limited with the time that we have and would like to make the most out of our welcome + worship time. By being prompt, we are establishing a culture of worship with our students. Repeated tardiness will result in a review of your membership.

## **Sick Policy**

- Please do not bring yourself or your child to the co-op if you are sick.
- Please do not come to the co-op if your child has had a fever for any reason or yellow/green mucus in the last 24 hours.
- Please do not come to the co-op if anyone in your family has had the stomach flu in the last 48 hours.
- If you or your child develops any of these symptoms while at co-op you will be asked to leave.
- We understand that allergies exist. If you know your child and believe their symptoms are allergy related, they are welcome to attend.

**Media**

Please keep classrooms cell phone and media free. Only media used by teachers, and approved by the leadership team, will be allowed for educational purposes. However, parents are welcome to take photos and videos for their own memories and the yearbook.

**Photo Release**

Parents will be asked to sign a photo release so that pictures can be taken of their children and put into the yearbook and an end of year video.

**Allergy Policy**

We understand that food allergies are a regular part of the lives of many families. Although we are unable to tailor menus to individual allergen needs, we will do our best to support these and all families the best we can. Most importantly, if your child has an airborne food allergy please contact us so we can try to take all measures possible to ensure the safety of that child. For any co-op class where food is provided, you can view the snacks via the Perfect Potluck link before the meeting. The responsibility will be upon parents to provide additional food options for their child. Also, we will do our best to save packages and nutritional information with allergen information. However, we are unable to guarantee a completely allergen free environment.

**Dress Code**

Please be considerate of cleanliness, neatness, and modesty. Attendees of all ages should avoid being a stumbling block to others by being sure their outfit is modest at all times. Clothing should not be tight, revealing, or inappropriate. Keep in mind, students, teachers, and classroom helpers may be using the gym for active lessons or may be exposed to outside elements such as wind or cold.

## **Meetings | Gatherings**

**Worship**

Each meeting will begin with a time of worship (2 songs) led by homeschool dad Jon Wenzel. A schedule and playlist of songs will be provided. Students are invited to sign-up each week and assist in the worship leading through singing.



## Explore Classes

Explore classes are at the center of Bethel Family Co-op. This is where we spend the majority of our time developing a love of learning through the exploration of a variety of topics with our friends at our side. These classes take place within the Kids Ministry wing of Bethel Cedar Lake. Please have students bring a Bible, pencil, glue stick, scissors, crayons or washable markers, and notebook with lined paper (6th-8th) to each meeting.

Our leadership team has committed to creating this year's lesson plans because we believe that Christ-centered education should be intentional, unified, and rooted in both biblical truth and thoughtful exploration. By writing the lessons ourselves, we ensure that each activity, teaching point, and discussion reflects our core values—pointing students to the Gospel, encouraging wonder, and honoring God through learning.

These lessons are designed to introduce students to meaningful ideas across subjects, sparking curiosity and laying a strong foundation for further discovery. This approach allows us to maintain consistency across classrooms, support our volunteer teachers with clear and ready-to-use resources, and build a cohesive learning experience for all ages.

It also allows parents to serve in other areas of co-op where their God-given gifts and strengths can be used—whether in hospitality, planning, administration, or hands-on help—so that the Body of Christ can function as it was designed: again, many members working together as one (1 Corinthians 12:12–27). A healthy co-op thrives when each family is both supported and invited to serve in meaningful ways. Ultimately, our desire is to partner with families in discipling children not only in knowledge but in wisdom and faith.

- *Explore Teacher 1:* Responsible for facilitating the provided lesson in their assigned classroom planned by leadership. .
- *Explore Teacher 2 or 3:* This person will be a support teacher, primarily responsible for classroom order, encouragement, and enforcement. They will assist Teacher 1 with any media or supplies. Additionally, they will gather supplies for any of the optional extensions that their classroom chooses to do from the lesson plan.
- At least one teacher must be present in the room at all times, students may never be left alone in the classroom.

## **Gym Class**

Students will have the opportunity to participate in gym class in the Bethel Cedar Lake gym at each Explore co-op meeting. Gym class will be led by homeschool dad Jim LaRue for kids 3rd -8th grade and a homeschool mom for kids K-2nd. A variety of games and activities will be offered to provide exercise and team/sportsmanship situations. The goal of gym class will be to promote lifelong healthy living, exercise, and leisure through movement and fun.

- Please wear gym shoes and comfortable clothing keeping in mind both modesty and ease of movement.
- Also, bring a water bottle and make sure it is filled up before entering the gym.
- Whenever possible gym class will take place outdoors as weather permits.
- Students are not allowed in the gym except during gym class with the teacher.

## **Preschool**

Preschool students will have their own engaging, age-appropriate free play, gym, story, and slide time. Families with children under the age of five are welcome to have their children attend this classroom.

## **Snack | Social**

An unprogrammed time of fellowship will be provided from 3:00-3:30pm in the Student Center each co-op meeting. On certain days, this time will be used for presentations, celebrations, or demonstrations.

- Please bring snacks and table games and activities.
- The gym is not available during this time.
- Parents must be present and students may never be in a room alone.

## **Open Gym**

We have the privilege of using the Bethel Cedar Lake gym additionally on some Fridays that we do not have a regularly scheduled co-op. It's a great time to hang out with friends and burn up some energy.

- Please bring your own ball or activity.
- This time is optional and unprogrammed.
- Parents must be present and children are never to be left in the gym alone.
- A variety of other activities (puzzles, legos, card games) will be offered for those not interested in the typical open gym fare.

## **Celebrations**

With Jesus as King, there's always a reason to celebrate! We will gather together to celebrate Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Easter. Parents and students will be asked to assist with any planning, decorating, games, and food that may be needed. The online meal sign-up tool, Perfect Potluck, will be used to coordinate the food that's brought in.

## **Service**

One of Bethel Family Co-op's values is to serve. Much of this occurs in an outpouring to one another, but additionally the desire is to serve outside of the co-op community as well. Each December we visit the Cedar Creek Health Campus in Lowell to sing carols and share the joy of our Savior with the residents. An additional TBD service opportunity will most likely be offered during the year. It is our hope to grow in this area for the 2025-2026 school year.

## **Field Trips | Pop-up Field Trips**

- There is one main field trip planned per semester.
- The parent-led field trip team will choose these trips and inform parents of what is planned.
- There will be a variety of "pop-up" field trips offered throughout the year. As fun opportunities arise, we will pick a date and send out the details. You will hear about this via the text thread. Cost varies. Families are encouraged to create their own "pop up" field trips and invite others along with them in their adventuring as well.

## **Park Dates**

Throughout the year there are park dates scheduled on the calendar for outdoor socializing and play. These are optional.

## **Project | Presentations**

To encourage public speaking, research, and creative skills, Bethel Family Co-op asks students to participate in one independent project per semester. Some projects are 1st-8th, but others may be just 3rd-8th depending on the scope of the project.

- All work will be done at home and then presented to their peers at co-op.
- Instructions and/or templates will be provided outlining the requirements for these projects, but please feel free to be creative and make this a delight-directed learning experience for your students.
- Projects will be determined by the parent-led Presentation team.

## **Book Club**

Students in 3rd -5th and 6th- 8th grade are invited to participate in their own book club this Spring semester. Students will each read the chosen book independently and gather together to share a short book report (style of their choosing) and participate in a teacher-led discussion with their peers regarding the details, themes, and literary elements of the book. This will occur directly preceding a regular co-op meeting.

## **Workshops**

Each semester students will have the opportunity to participate in different workshops directly proceeding or following the regular co-op meeting time for approximately 60-90 minutes.

- This will be at an additional cost per student and will require sign up ahead of time.
- Workshops will vary in what age groups they are offered to based on teacher discretion.
- Workshops will be led by a parent or teacher from outside the co-op community coming in to share a particular skill.
- Workshops will be chosen and planned by the parent-led Workshop team.

## **Yearbook**

Photos will be taken documenting all of the fun and learning throughout the year and will be compiled into a full color yearbook. This will be handed out at the annual field day in May. Yearbooks will be offered at an additional cost per student.

# **Code of Conduct**

## **Behavior**

*1 Peter 3:8 - Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.*

Please refrain from any careless, unkind, foolish, or rude behavior. Bullying, physical aggression, recklessness, abuse of property, or violent behavior will not be tolerated.

## **Speech**

*Ephesians 4:29 - Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only that which is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

Speak in a way that uplifts others, is constructive, truthful, and spoken in love. Speak with grace, blessing, and pleasure to all who hear, even if what is being said is not meant for their ears.

## **Property**

*Matthew 7:12 - So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and Prophets.*

Show respect for others' property by using only what you have permission to use. Keep inappropriate personal items (phones, devices, toys, etc.) at home or stored away. Take care to leave every place in a better condition than you found it. Restitution for the abuse or neglect of others' property, including the church, will be the responsibility of the member causing damage.

## **Conflict Resolution**

*Matthew 18:15-16 - If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But, if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.*

If you have a concern please bring it first to the person who you disagree with. If this cannot solve the problem, bring it to the attention of the co-op leadership team.

# **Discipline Policy | Enforcement**

Participating in the Bethel Family Co-op community is a privilege. All participants, parents and students alike have the opportunity to represent Christ well in their actions and behaviors. The standards and expectations for parents and students alike are outlined below.

## **Disciplinary Standards**

1. Respect for those in authority.
2. Personal responsibility for one's own actions.
3. Consideration of others.

## **Parent | Teacher Expectations**

*Be well prepared and organized.* Read through and review your lesson. Be structured and well paced. If you are prepared and organized, it increases the likelihood that class will run smoothly.

*Give clear expectations.* Make instructions clear, and repeat them. Model gentleness, and use a firm tone when necessary. Do not move on to a new instruction until the first is obeyed.

*Be consistent.* Follow the same rules and same schedule every week, and repeat the rules every week. Week to week consistency helps children to feel safe and secure. All parents are asked to use the following language: Look, Listen, Love (see below) .

*Model the way.* Children are great imitators. Joyfully share information and ideas. Encourage students regularly and praise them for Christ-like, servant behavior.

*Employ the enforcement policy.* Parents and teachers must use the enforcement policy consistently in the steps outlined below. It can be uncomfortable to discipline other people's children, but Bethel Family Co-op is built on the idea that we are "discipling our kids together" and one part of that discipleship is upholding the disciplinary standards. Please be faithful in this task.

## **Student Expectations**

*Look:* Look at your teacher. Eye contact shows respect and attention.

*Listen:* Listen and obey. Give attentive listening and cheerful obedience the first time.

*Love:* Your words and actions must be truthful and kind to both students and adults.

- The following behaviors will not be accepted at co-op: foul language, gossip, interrupting, lying, bullying, teasing, rough housing, running in the church, disrespecting personal space, and general disobedience.
- Students are not allowed in the gym except during gym class with the teacher.
- The slide is reserved for preschool and kindergarten students to use and a special time will be allotted for it. A teacher must be present.

## **Enforcement**

If a minor behavioral issue occurs (chatting, interrupting, not following directions, etc), teachers and parents will be expected to employ the following actions while reminding the student to Look, Listen, and Love.

1. Verbal redirection + encouragement to Look, Listen, and Love
2. Verbal redirection + encouragement to Look, Listen, and Love
3. Physical redirection (sit in chair next to student, move student to a different table)
4. Escort student out of classroom and give final warning

5. Escort student out of classroom to sit with Brit Rae or Heidi Wenzel for remaining class period

Upon the first removal from the classroom, any student 3rd grade and older will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own actions by bringing their removal from the classroom to the attention of their parent. Parents of younger students will be informed by leadership. Parents (regardless of student age) will be informed after a student has had to be removed from the classroom two times. Students that are removed from the classroom three times will result in the parent being asked to accompany their child in the classroom in the future or being dismissed from the co-op.

Student to Student conflict:

Teachers and parents will be expected to encourage or facilitate the following interaction

1. Confess the offense
2. Repent of one's actions (I'm sorry for...and next time I will...)
3. Offer restitution (fix or help)

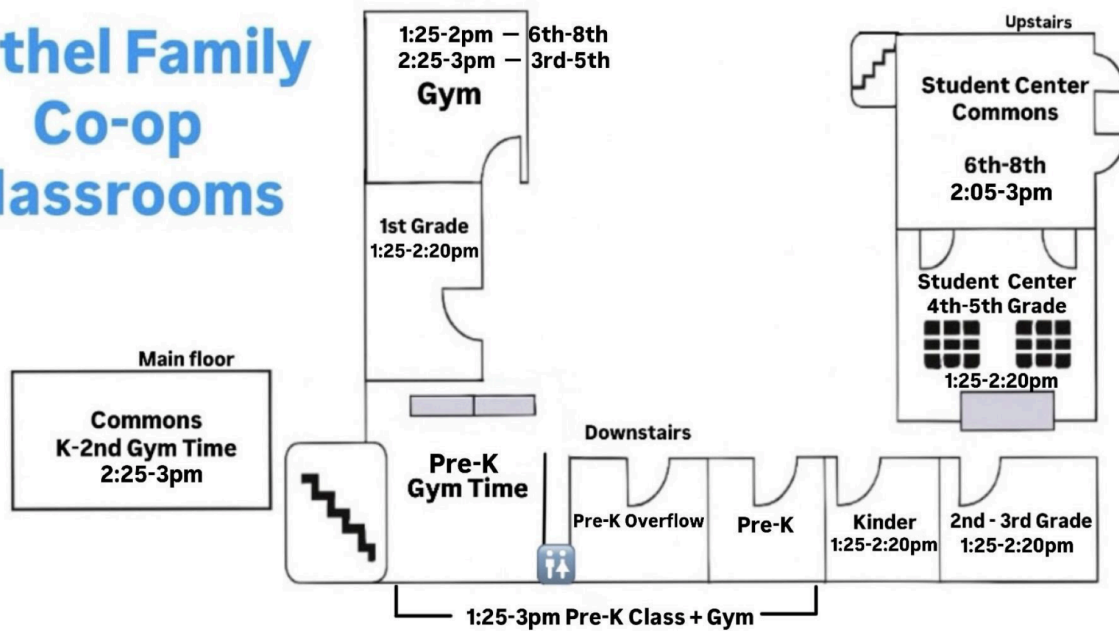
There is zero tolerance for children physically harming other students. Zero tolerance means:

1. Student will be brought to their parent immediately and the parent is expected to address the incident with the other family before leaving the co-op that day.
2. This or additional incidents may forfeit the privilege of being able to attend co-op.

The Bible clearly indicates that parents are responsible for the discipleship of their children including, but not limited to behavioral discipline. Bethel Family Co-op does not seek to assume the task which God gives to parents, but rather support parents in this God-given responsibility and therefore any major behavioral disciplinary issues will be brought directly to the parents.

## Daily Schedule

### Bethel Family Co-op Classrooms



Policies, guidelines, and requirements set forth have been put together for the benefit and safety of all involved in the Bethel Family Co-op. We seek to glorify God in all that we do and faithfully steward all that He has given us.



# BETHEL FAMILY CO-OP

## Participation Agreement

In connection with Bethel Family Co-op, I have received and reviewed all of the following:

- Vision, Mission, Values
- General Information
- Code of Conduct
- Disciplinary Policy + Enforcement
- Parent + Child Expectations

I have thoroughly read, understand, and agree to abide by all of the terms, policies, and information in the preceding policies and procedures in connection with my child(ren) and my own participation in Bethel Family Co-op at Bethel Church.

I understand that participation in the co-op is a privilege, and that the leadership team is entrusted with maintaining a safe, unified, and Christ-centered environment for all families. I acknowledge that the leadership team reserves the right to ask a family to leave the co-op at any time and for any reason, should it be deemed necessary for the health, safety, or unity of the group.

With humility and a spirit of cooperation, I commit to supporting the mission of the co-op and honoring the authority God has placed within its leadership.

Participating Child #1 (PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_

Participating Child #2 (PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_

Participating Child #3 (PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_

Participating Child #4 (PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_

Participating Child #5 (PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# BETHEL FAMILY CO-OP

## Child Photo Authorization

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (PRINT NAME), specifically authorize photos of my child taken when participating in the Bethel Family Co-op to be used in the Bethel Family Co-op Yearbook, end of year video, and shared among Bethel Family Co-op families.

Please list (PRINT) below names of each child participating.

CHILD 1: \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD 2: \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD 3: \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD 4: \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD 5: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# BETHEL FAMILY CO-OP

## Clean-Up

### Gym:

- ☐ Close all gym doors
- ☐ Return gym equipment to third floor storage area
- ☐ Pick up any garbage or lost items
- ☐ Turn lights off

\*Do not use any kids ministry or Verge sports or game equipment\*

### Classrooms:

- ☐ Pick up all supplies and garbage
- ☐ Push in chairs
- ☐ Turn lights off
- ☐ Wipe off tables with disinfecting spray
- ☐ Check, clean-up, and return as found any kids ministry items\*

### Student Center:

- ☐ Pick up all garbage or lost items
- ☐ Return any tables or chairs to where they belong
- ☐ Return any Verge items as they were found\*
- ☐ Turn lights off

### Bathrooms:

- ☐ Check each toilet and urinal
- ☐ Turn water faucets off
- ☐ Pick up and throw away any garbage
- ☐ Turn lights off

### Final Check:

- ☐ Re-Check all classrooms, bathrooms, and meeting areas
- ☐ Make sure lights are all turned off
- ☐ Make sure church doors are locked

\*It is extremely important that Bethel Church items are meticulously cared for so that we can continue to use the space)

# BETHEL FAMILY CO-OP

## Worship Song Schedule

Coming Soon!

--- END OF DOCUMENT ---

Last update: 7/23/25