

# What We Believe

Bethel Church of Nebraska City, NE

**VISION:** We come together and grow closer by learning and applying the Word of Jesus Christ.

**MISSION:** Our mission is to create more awareness of Jesus Christ for the local communities by sharing positivity, and providing outreach to the community with events, studies, and services.

1. What we believe is summarized within the Bethel Church By-Laws. Specifically, By-Law I – Faith and Covenant which is quoted below.

A. **FAITH:**

*The Bethel Church acknowledges as its sole HEAD, JESUS CHRIST, the SON of GOD and the SAVIOR of MAN. It acknowledges as brothers and sisters in Christ all who share in this confession. It looks to the Word of God in the Scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to fulfill its creative and redemptive work in mankind, it claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds, the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed, and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers. It affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own in accordance with the teaching of our Lord as presented through the Holy Bible. It recognizes two sacraments: Baptism, and the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion. One expression of this faith is:*

*"We believe In God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to His deeds we testify: He calls the worlds into being, creates man in His own image and sets before Him the ways of life and death. He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. He judges men and nations by His righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, He has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to Himself. He bestows upon us His Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the Church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races. He calls us into his Church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be His servants in the service of men, to proclaim the*

*gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at His table, to join Him in His passion and victory. He promises to all who trust Him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, His presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his Kingdom which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto Him. Amen."*

*(Approved by the Second General Synod of the United Church of Christ held in Oberlin, Ohio, July 5-9, 1959, .... submitted to the Churches for their approval and use.)*

**B. COVENANT:**

*We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the Word and Will of God. We propose to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known to us in His word the Holy Bible. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshipping God, and striving for truth, justice, and peace. As did our fathers, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.*

2. Baptism is the first of the Sacraments recognized by Bethel Church. The Bethel Church standard for Baptism is by means of sprinkling (Aspersions) on the head. Other forms of Baptism may be considered acceptable as long as water is involved. Other forms of Baptism can be performed offsite (full immersion) if a member of the congregation so desires. It is the responsibility of the member to arrange for said Baptism with the pastor of Bethel Church.

Baptism of an infant is the parents, god-parents, and congregation dedicating the infant to Christ and committing to raise the child in the church and the Christian way of life. One of the acts of Confirmation is the individual confirming their Baptism by professing their faith with their personal statements of faith.

3. Holy Communion the second Sacrament recognized by Bethel Church, will be made available as specified by the Spiritual Council of Bethel Church in consultation with the Pastor.

#### 4. Confirmation:

- a. First, as stated above, confirmation is the intentional act of the individual confirming their Baptism by professing their faith with their personal statements of faith.
- b. Second, children can be received into the membership after completing the rite of confirmation upon completion of a course of instruction in the Christian way of life and the standards of faith and doctrine of the Church according to the Holy Bible.
  - i. Confirmands shall be instructed in the basic beliefs of the Christian faith as affirmed by their statements of faith.
  - ii. Confirmands shall attend class regularly with prepared lessons and attend both the Church School classes and worship services.
  - iii. Confirmands shall meet regularly with their chosen mentors to work on assignments.
  - iv. Confirmands shall be taught the Apostles Creed.
  - v. Confirmands shall be taught the Ten Commandments and the meaning of each commandment.
  - vi. Confirmands shall be taught the meaning of the lord's prayer.
  - vii. Confirmands shall be taught importance and meaning of giving to the church.
  - viii. Confirmands shall be taught how the church works.
  - ix. Confirmands shall be taught what it means to be a Christian.
- c. Confirmands must be at least in the sixth grade in school, or the equivalent, at the time they begin their instruction.

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