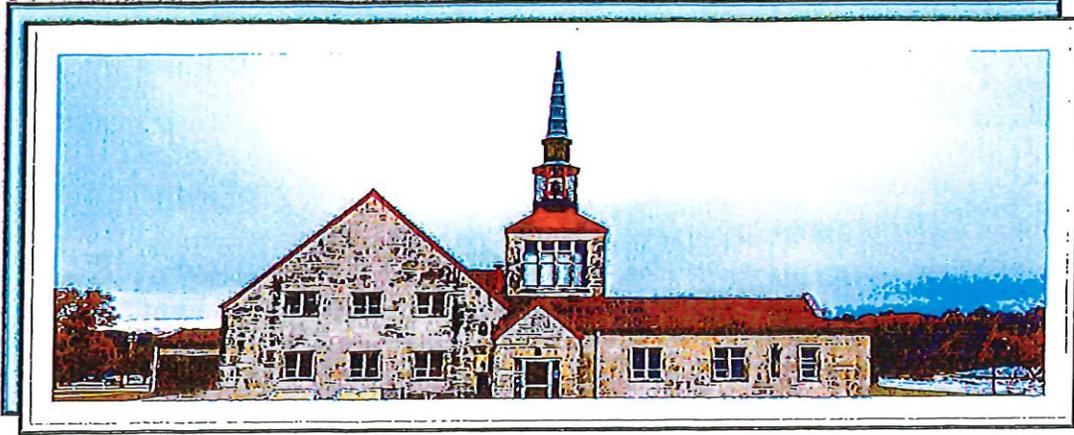


May 2025 Bethel Beacon



2400 Central Ave, Nebraska City
Worship Service: Sundays @ 10AM

Current Series

Series: Heaven & Hell

- Heaven & Hell
- Afterlife in the Old Testament
- Afterlife in the Modern Day (Heaven)
- Afterlife in the Modern Day (Hell)
- Afterlife in the Last Days (Heaven) Part I
- Afterlife in the Last Days (Pit) Part II

Upcoming Events

- **Weekly Wednesday Bible Study @ 6 PM**
- **May 4th, Senior Recognition @ 10 AM**
- **May 18th, Semi-Annual Gratitude @ 10 AM following with Annual Church Potluck Picnic**
- **May 25th, Annual Totenfest @ 10 AM**
- **June 10th Quarterly Women's Fellowship Meeting at noon in Duensing Chapel**
- **June 14th, Gospel Road Concert @ 6 PM**

Anniversaries

May 14th — Natalie & Alex Sevensing

May 21st — Chuck & Shellene Funk

May 25th — Stephen & Christine Luther

May 25th — Kevin & Jan Pummel

Set Weekly Dates

** Sunday Service @ 10 AM**

AA in Fellowship Hall Monday, Tuesday & Thursday @ 12 PM

** Bible Study Wednesday @ 6 PM in Pastor Office**

Sunday, May 4th — Senior Recognition & Reception @ 10 AM Service

Food Pantry Donations

Thursday, May 8th — Food Pantry Truck 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

North Parking Lot; Spiritual Council Meeting 6 PM Duesing Chapel

Monday May 12th - 7PM Bethel Team Meeting

Thursday, May 15th — Homemade Blessing 4:00 PM to 6 PM

(Volunteer delivery drivers needed, contact Michelle Francis)

Sunday, May 18th — Semi-Annual Gratitude Service at 10 AM

Following is the Potluck Annual Church Picnic in Fellowship Hall

(Refreshments are provided)

Monday, May 19th — Church Council Meeting @ 7 PM in

Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 25th — Annual Totenfest Service @ 10 AM in

Remembrance — **Carol Biere, Sharon Kotas, Lousella Hauptman, &**

Virginia Miller

Prayer Requests

Sarah Hotsenpillar

Vera Orton

Gail Lewis (Bonnie Wurtele & Connie Jensen's niece)

Logan Drabek (cousin of Jen Tietz)

Provide prayer requests to:

Pastor Jacob (402) 955-9635 or

Church Office (402) 873-6218 or

Bonnie Wurtele (402) 873-4411

Birthdays

May 4th—Mike Redelfs

May 5th—David Carpenter

May 7th — Rylee Mills & Kizen Adams

May 11th—Katie Chapin

May 12th—Lori Neeman

May 13th—Jason Stukenholtz

May 14th — Grace Siner & Lincoln Cervantes

May 17th—Sandra Livingston

May 18th — Anna Hotsenpillar

May 22nd — Layne Epp

May 24th — Emily Meadows

May 27th — Katheryn Walters

2025	<u>May 4</u>	<u>May 11</u>	<u>May 18</u>	<u>May 25</u>
<u>LAY READERS</u>	Sharon Kluck	Jason Holman	Sue Gripenstroh	Cindy Kreifels
<u>USHERS</u>	Norm & Nancy Brown	Kassi & Jason Holman	Rick & Debbie Shallenberger	Spiritual Council
<u>SOUND SYSTEM</u>	Jason Holman	Kassi Holman	Norm Brown	Jason Holman
<u>ACOLYTES</u>				
<u>MOWERS</u>	Brian Ried	Larry Wieckhorst	Dale & Michelle Francis	Michael Wieckhorst Family
<u>COOKIES COFFEE</u>	Rick & Debbie Shallenberger			

2025	<u>June 1</u>	<u>June 8</u>	<u>June 15</u>	<u>June 22</u>	<u>June 29</u>
<u>LAY READERS</u>	Dean Gripenstroh	Nancy Brown	Kassi Holman	Norm Brown	Cindy Kreifels
<u>USHERS</u>	Cindy Roemer Jane Kreifels	Stan & Peggy Johnson	Dean & Sue Gripenstroh	Rick & Debbie Shallenberger	Spiritual Council
<u>SOUND SYSTEM</u>	Stephen Luther	Kassi Holman	Norm Brown	Jason Holman	Rick Shallenberger
<u>ACOLYTES</u>					
<u>MOWERS</u>	Michael Wieckhorst Family	Rick Shallenberger	Stephen Luther	Brian Ried	Larry Wieckhorst
<u>COOKIES COFFEE</u>	Jane Kreifels Cindy Kreifels				
<u>FLOWERS</u>					

Church Council Meeting Minutes Page 1 of 3

Church Council Meeting

04/21/2025

Nancy Hunt called the meeting to order at 6:59 pm.

The Council Members present were Nancy Hunt, Mike Wieckhorst, Dale Francis, Brenda Wieckhorst, Cindy Roemer, and Brian Ried. Members present: Sue Griepenstroh, Sharon Kluck, Debbie Shallenberger, Tracy Wieckhorst, and Margaret Brust.

Pastor Jacob Colligan opened with a prayer.

Member Comment Time:

- Sharon mentioned that the pastor from Northridge Church stopped by on April 16th and wanted to tour the church. This church is currently in the old Bethel church on 1st Corso. They are not happy with their current facility and are looking at options for using another facility for their services. They have their services on Sunday evenings. Sharon gave a tour but has not heard anything further from them.

Approval of Agenda:

- Motion to approve the agenda by Mike, 2nd by Cindy. Motion carried.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes from March 17th, 2025, Church Council Meeting.

- Motion to approve the Council Meeting Minutes by Mike, 2nd by Brenda. Motion carried.

Approval of the Financial Reports and Bills (Debbie Shallenberger and Tracy Wieckhorst):

- We had \$8425.00 in offerings and tithing. After the transfer of the proceeds from the CD, we are still \$2990.45 short for the year.
- We had a \$72.52 donation towards the landscaping. This donation was from a member of the 1999 confirmation class. We are expecting more donations from this confirmation class soon.
- Reimbursement for \$64.99 to Nancy Brown for Confirmation.
- Reimbursement of \$107.34 for weed and feed for a portion of the lawn. More will be needed to cover the entire lawn at a future date.
- After much time and effort by Christine Parkyn auditing the 2024 Treasurer Church Council reports to bank statements. There was a \$1229.69 (0.006% of total deposits) offage. The offage is believed to be either over-reporting of special funds or differences in reporting methods used by the three separate treasurers in 2024. No money is suspected of being missing; it is simply a reporting issue. It is believed that some of the special funds may have been double-counted.
- Stephen made a motion to pay the bills, 2nd by Dale. Motion carried.

Church Council Meeting Minutes Page 2 of 3

Pastor's Report (Jacob Colligan):

- The pastor issued a written report and discussed the following. Provided Good Friday Service at the Ambassador, which they greatly appreciated. Resumed bible study. Started premarital counseling. Pastoral counseling for a non-member. Started the transfer for the online donation system to the Church card. Performed nine visits, two funerals, and updated the website with the current team. Apologized for the issues with Palm Sunday and Confirmation. The pastor had car issues that caused a delay in the start of the service.

Secretary's Report (Sharon Kluck):

- Sharon issued a written report.
- AA will have their Big Spring event at the church on Saturday, April 27th. They will be using the big kitchen.
- We are still looking for volunteers to candlelight this year.
- Thank you to the Shallenbergers' daughter and granddaughter for candle lighting 3 weeks in April.

Memorial Fund Report (Margaret Brust):

- Current balance in our Memorial fund is \$89,523.31

Spiritual Council Report (Sue Griepenstroh):

- Been busy with Lent and Easter Services.
- Gearing up to have our gratitude board read on May 18th and then Toten Fest on May 25th.
- The church picnic is going to be on May 18th. Spiritual Council is bringing drinks.

Board of Christian Ed. Report:

- No report

Bethel Team Report (Mike Wieckhorst):

- We're looking forward to the Arbor Day Parade. Bethel is planning on having a float. We'll meet at the church between 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. to put the float together.
- On June 14th, there will be a concert.
- Working on getting vendors for the 4th of July event. \$35 for a 10'X10' spot.

Building & Grounds Report:

- The parking lot cracks have been filled. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to do this work. We will try to repaint the lines in June.
- Weed and Feed have been applied to part of the yard. Thank you, Brenda, Brayelen, and Braxton.

Old Business:

- We need to start announcing in the bulletin at least once a month that the financial reports are on the bulletin board.
- Had discussions for the round table, new member, and budget discussions. The Council will have a working session at 5:30 before the next Council meeting on May 19th.
- The pastor distributed an article discussing the "seat" on the cross. The seat has now been removed as it is not historically accurate.

New Business:

- The Spiritual Council has a list of a few pastors who could be called to provide pulpit supply if Pastor Jacob is unavailable.
- Discussed expectations for employees. Expectations are laid out in their job descriptions. Tabled until next month.

Church Council Meeting Minutes Page 3 of 3

- Brenda and Braxton Wieckhorst have applied to be the new custodians. Dale made a motion to approve their hiring. Seconded by Stephen. Motion passed.
- Mike made a motion to put the Apostles Creed in the back cover of the Hymnal. This will reduce the weekly printing needed to put it in the Bulletin. Seconded by Dale. Motion passed.

Nancy motioned to enter Executive Session at 9:10 pm, seconded by Brian. Motion passed.

Exited Executive Session at 9:59 pm.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Mike moved to adjourn, and Brenda seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Luther (Church Council Secretary)

Spiritual Council Meeting Minutes Page 1 of 3

Bethel Church's Spiritual Council
3/6/2025

The March Spiritual Council meeting was called to order by President Sue Griepenstroh and opened with prayer.

Attendance- Sue Griepenstroh, Sharon Kluck, Cindy Kreifels, Tracy Wieckhorst and Pastor Jacob Colligan joined us by phone. Deb Shallenberger was absent.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read- Tracy Wieckhorst made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2025 meeting. Cindy Kreifels seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Jacob gave a verbal report. He reported he did a funeral for a non-member at a different location. He said that Confirmation Class is making plans for the sunrise service. He also reported and Spiritual Council discussed the requirements for Confirmation and if additional memorization will be required. Currently the plan is the reciting of the Aposotle's Creed, a Statement of Faith and their chosen Bible verse. The following written report was also included-

Pastor's Report (Mar 2025)

Preaching

- Began Lent Liturgy
- Began False Series
- Completed Relationship Series
- Completed Ash Wednesday Service

Discipling

- Maintained Bible Study

Administrating

- Maintained website
- Maintained online donation system
- Maintained bulletin
- Maintained beacon
- Maintained Liturgy (including/not limited to: worship, series', sermons, tithing, communion, and special messages)

Pastoring

- 3x visits
- 2x funerals (1 funeral held at Bethel)

Management

- Maintained Confirmation
- Routine meetings with BCE, Spiritual Council and Church Council
- Routine meetings with church secretary
- Maintained and Managed worship team/worship team rotation.

Community Outreach

- Met with Ministerial Association

Old Business

1. Organist- no new information and Peru College does not have anyone.
2. Gratitude Board will be 5/18/25
3. Lent Services

Spiritual Council Meeting Minutes Page 2 of 3

- a) Ash Wednesday- We discussed and practiced the distribution of elements
- b) Palm Sunday is 4/13/25. We will do altar communion- need a basket for communion cups and we need to pick up palms which will also be used for next years ashes. Sharon was asked to print the confirmation certificates.
- c) Maundy Thursday will be at 7pm and will be altar communion.
- d) Good Friday will be at 7pm and will be pew communion- Spiritual Council will usher and serve.
- e) Easter Sunrise service will be at 7am. We will ask a volunteer to light the fire pit. There will also be a 10 am service. No communion.

4. Spiritual Council will meet with the Confirmation candidates on 4/10/25 at 6pm.

New Business

Bethel Church received a request to release Jordan and Aaron Kreifels from their membership. Tracy Wieckhorst made a motion to accept the request. Cindy Kreifels seconded. Motion carried.

The Church picnic is planned for 5/18/25 and Spiritual Council will provide the drinks.

The Celebration of Totenfest is Memorial Sunday 5/25/25

1. We will review those that have past in the past year, we believe two people, and notify the family.
2. The TV and Computer will be provided by Pastor.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Spiritual Council Meeting Minutes Page 3 of 3

Spiritual Council Minutes – April 10, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Sue Griepenstroh at 6pm in Duensing Chapel. Pastor Jacob gave an opening prayer. Council members present were Sue Griepenstroh, Cindy Kriefels, Tracy Wieckhorst, Sharon Kluck and Debbie Shallenberger.

Motion to approve the agenda made by Cindy, seconded by Tracy, motion carried.

The Spiritual Council met with the 2025 Confirmation Class: Brandon Wieckhorst, Bryson Wieckhorst, Braellen Wieckhorst, and Morgan Barrett. Confirmands read their Statement of Faith. Pastor recommended approval of their membership. Debbie made the motion and Cindy seconded to approve their confirmation. Welcome to our four new members!

Minutes from the previous meeting were read. Cindy moved and Debbie seconded to approve the minutes with the following amendments 1) Remove reciting of Aposotle's Creed by confirmands and 2) No communion on Good Friday.

Pastor Report:

Preaching - Began Lent Liturgy, Began False Series, Completed Relationship Series, Completed Ash Wednesday Service

Discipling - Maintained Bible Study

Administrating - Maintained website, Maintained online donation system, Maintained bulletin, Maintained beacon
Maintained Liturgy (including/not limited to: worship, series', sermons, tithing, communion, and special messages)

Pastoring – 7 member visits, 3 non-member visits

Management Maintained Confirmation, Routine meetings with BCE, Spiritual Council and Church Council, Routine meetings with church secretary, Maintained and Managed worship team/worship team rotation.

Community Outreach - Met with Ministerial Association

Old Business

Easter services were discussed:

- Palm Sunday with Confirmation and Communion will be April 13th
- Maundy Thursday services, with communion, April 17th at 7pm.
- Good Friday services April 18th at 7pm.
- BCE and the Confirmation Class will host the Easter Sunrise Service and breakfast.

Gratitude Service is May 18th. The Church picnic is also planned for that day and we are to provide drinks.

Celebration of Totenfest is May 25th. Sharon has put together a nice bulletin insert. Debbie will provide the frames for picture displays on the table.

New Business

There are no inventory needs at this time.

Unless something comes up there will be no Spiritual Council meetings in June or July.

ndy made the motion and Sharon seconded to adjourn, motion carried. Members closed the meeting with The Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be held on May 8th, at 6 pm in Duensing Chapel.

Respectfully submitted by Debbie Shallenberger, Secretary.

Board of Christian ED Meeting Minutes Page 1 of 2

The Board of Christian Education met on March 11, 2025 in the Dunsing Chapel of Bethel Church. Present included President Kassi Holman, Jason Holman, Secretary Nancy Brown.

Meeting opened with President Holman giving prayer. Previous minutes not available at this time.

Old Business -President has been talking with parents regarding their conception of Sunday School. A request was made that we move Sunday School back to 0900 to 0950. Concerns heard include curriculum being too simple and High School students are not interested in Sunday School. Board voted to move the class to 0900. This board feels that if we continue lacking attendance, we will cancel classes.

Need help from the Boards and members to help get a High School Program started. Invite families up to 12th grade to attend. Cindy Roemer will review the material for appropriateness. Council will be filled in on the 23rd.

Looking for additional relief for Cindy Roemer.

Sunrise Service is planned by Confirmation students. An offering will be taken and we will serve breakfast casserole, donuts, Caseys Pizza.

New Business – Confirmation gifts have been ordered.

Cutler Adams and Max Herrera had accepted the invitation for the Senior Recognition May 4th.

Baccalaureate is May 4th and will be planned by Mr. Brian Hoover and the High School students.

Closure- Motion was made to close the meeting by Nancy and seconded by Kassi. Meeting closed after reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Nancy Brown, Secretary

Board of Christian ED Meeting Minutes Page 2 of 2

The Board of Christian Education met April 14th, 2025 in the Dunsing Chapel of Bethel Church. Present included President Kassi Holman, Jason Holman, Secretary Nancy Brown.

Meeting opened with President Holman giving prayer. Previous minutes not available at this time.

Old Business -President Kassi reported that the Sunday School program will be on hold until fall due to lack of participation. We have not had any children for four weeks.

Senior Recognition is planned for May 4th. Kassi verified attendance of Cutler Adams and Max Herrera. Senior Breakfast is planned for their family and the Seniors. This will include Caseys pizza, fruit and donuts. Cake for reception after church will be ordered.

Invitations will be sent out asking Seniors to introduce themselves, give their favorite memory of their time at Bethel and their future plans.

New Business – Teacher Recognition gifts will be obtained.

Next year we will aim at restarting Sunday School. We have 10 middle/high school students and have 2 students in 4th and 5th grade. Will be conducting surveys to evaluate needs.

Next meeting will be May 13th in the Duensing Chapel.

Closure- Motion was made to close the meeting by Jason and seconded by Nancy. Meeting closed after reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Nancy Brown, Secretary