



New Basel Church
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echo
New Basel Newsletter

September 2021

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Why do natural disasters happen?

As hurricanes bear down on the United States once again, promising widespread damage and destruction, Christians sometimes hear (or ask) the familiar question, “Why did God do this?” or “Why did God allow this?”

Of course, it’s not just hurricanes that elicit questions like this. Tornadoes are common in Kansas, and earthquakes, floods, and droughts are known to bring suffering to our friends and neighbors. At the heart of the question of why God would allow things like this is this thought: If God is truly in control, and God is good, how could he allow so many people to suffer and die?

We will probably never know all of the reasons why a particular disaster occurs, but the Bible does offer us some clues as to where to begin.

First off, can God control the weather? Well, yes. Besides stories like Jesus calming the storm (Mark 4:35-41), there are also God bringing drought and famine (1 Kings 18:1ff). The story of Elijah teaches that that particular drought began and ended with prayer! So, how many natural disasters in our day that have been averted or lessened due to the prayers of God’s people? It is a fair question, but only God knows.

But if God can prevent natural disasters, why doesn’t he? There can be any number of reasons. Again, the Bible gives us clues as to some. God may desire to call humans’ attention to their helplessness against the forces of nature or God, and demonstrate God’s greatness and power. God may also desire to punish a particular sin through natural disasters, such as the story of Elijah tells us, when the people of the Northern Kingdom of Israel repeatedly and stubbornly mixed the worship of God with the worship of Baal. Furthermore, God can intend to use natural disasters in order to bring about greater good. Isn’t that what the 10 Plagues of Egypt were about? Flies, locust, and hail were part of God’s plan to bring the Israelites out of slavery and into freedom!

This discussion must come with a word of warning: as Christians, we must be careful, and guard against the prideful claim of knowing the mind of God. We cannot know for certain why any particular disaster has occurred. To claim an earthquake in Haiti bears the wrath of God, for example, is wild conjecture. It could be that earthquakes happen in Haiti because Haiti lies on a geologic fault line, and the movement of tectonic plates means earthquakes will happen from time to time. Without direct divine revelation rivaling the greatest prophets in human history, you just don’t know.

What you can be sure of, however, is that God wants Christians to show the love of Christ to people suffering here on Earth. Use the opportunity to share the love of God with people at their most vulnerable, and encourage them toward a relationship with God!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jamie

New Basel Church Council

Monday August 9, 2021

Called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Kenny Chamberlin

Present:

Elders: Kenny Chamberlin, Pam O'Neal

Deacons: Holly Bethe, Francis Anderson, Mitch Cromwell

Trustees: Dwight Kamm, Austin Murphy, Gary Foltz

Pastor Jamie opened with story & prayer.

Minutes:

Mitch Cromwell made a motion to approve the minutes. Gary Foltz seconded the motion

Communications:

KVK services the air conditioning unit

Thank you from Joe Foltz family plus they gave a donation for the funeral meal.

Thank you from Marla Forsyth for thoughts and prayers while she has been sick

Salina Rescue asking for donations.

Reports:

Committee Reports:

Financial Secretary and Treasurer:

Pam O'Neal gave the Financial Secretary's report for July.

Holly Bethe gave the Treasurer's report for July.

Pastor's Reports:

See attached report from Pastor Jamie

Elders:

Pam O'Neal reported that 32 people took communion on Sunday August 1st.

Deacons:

None

Trustee:

Discussed window replacement in the parsonage.

Other Reports:

The church served 125 people for Joe Foltz Funeral and 92 for Sandy Reiff Funeral.

Old Business:

Date for Harvest Home – October 24th date is set; plans will follow in the next few months.

Pastor Jamie has booked a guest speaker for Harvest Home.

Birthday and Anniversary Updates – A slip will be put in the bulletin to update information for records committee and ECHO.

Video System – nothing in the near future. Goals for the next few years – still discussing

Electrical in Parsonage needing a new outlet in the basement

Waiting on propane contract from K & R Propane

New Business:

M/S/C to pay bills that were presented. Mitch Cromwell moved we pay the bills; Gary Foltz seconded the motion.

Crock-pot meals for the freezer – date has been set for Sept. 11th.

Piano player options for the future

We have someone willing to donate \$5000 for an AC unit in the Parish Hall, as long as an additional \$5000 can be raised within 6 months for this to happen. This will be discussed with the congregation.

Upcoming Events:

Church Fellowship will follow after every service.

Echo Articles due Aug. 24th

Sept. 5th Communion

Sept 13th Council meeting @ 7p.m.

No Other Announcements

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m. by praying the Lord’s Prayer in unison.

Pam O’Neal, Acting Secretary

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Pastors Report to Church Council – Pastor Jamie Bonnema

Work Summary for 7/12/21 – 8/8/21

Worship – Preached and/or led Sunday worship 2 times, Funeral for Sandy Reiff

Administration Meetings – 1 Church Council

Pastoral Care – 1 Home Visit (R&E Haynes), 4 Hospital Visits (Sandy Reiff, Cecil Schrader), 1 Nursing Home Visit (Joe Foltz), 1 Pastoral Visit (Naoma Foltz), 1 Funeral Planning Meeting (Sandy Reiff), 1 Funeral Home Visitation, 4 Phone Visits (Jane Haney, Don Reiff, Peggy Meuli, Lynette Stanger)

Mileage = 253

Other – Salina Rescue Mission Meeting and Tour, Newsletter

Vacation – 10 days

New Business:

Crock Pot Meals

Funeral Donations

Music Options

Ministry of New Basel Christian Education Committee

The New Basel Christian Education Committee met Tuesday August 17th at 6:00pm in the Church Parlor.

Present were Pastor Jamie and Angela Bonnema, Judy Barten, Sara Hunnicutt, Peg Meuli, Jessica Murphy and Chris Bethe.

Judy called the meeting to order followed by a prayer by Pastor Jamie. Jessica Murphy agreed to serve as Superintendent, replacing Judy Barten. Peg Meuli remains as Secretary/Treasurer.

Discussions were held on several topics: the division of classes and who will be in them, the curriculum, Covid procedures, and the Christmas Program.

Sunday School starting time will remain at 9:30am. It was agreed there would be no “vacation” Sunday the month of September. Sunday School collections will resume during class.

The “Kick Off” celebration for Sunday School will be September 12th at 10:00am. Donuts and juice will be served.

Discussed but tabled for now are the Fall Party and the money raiser.

The next meeting will be in November, time and date to be announced.

The meeting adjourned around 7:20pm.

Peg Meuli, Secretary/Treasurer



Prayer Requests

Eunice Pryor
Elaine Bethe
Naoma Foltz
Harold Provance
Wanda Murphy

Dwight Meuli
Kelly Schrader
Don Reiff
Tammy Anderson
Judy Lauer

September

Birthdays

1st Holly Bethe
 2nd Suzanne Smith
 8th Jim Stalder
 9th Dwight Kamm
 16th Steve Cox
 18th Donnie Provance
 19th Chad Beetch
 25th Axie Shrack
 29th Marcile Parks
 30th Francis Anderson
 Matt Barten
 Jeremy Reiff



Anniversaries

3rd Gene & Cindy Hoffman
 10th Troy & Kim Palenski
 13th Cole & Patricia Stalder
 18th Jim & Deanna Stalder
 22nd Charlie & Dedra Beetch
 24th Scott & Amber Reiff
 25th Eric & Kelly Barten

Life can be busy and making dinner some evenings can add to the stress. Join us in the church kitchen on Saturday, September 11 where we will assemble meals to store in the freezer to be ready to pop into the Crockpot on just such occasions. Sign up in the foyer for the meals you would like to prepare. You pay \$10 per meal, and we will provide the recipes, supplies, and ingredients. If you have questions, talk to Angela Bonnema.

Greeters, Acolytes, and Usher for September

	Greeters:	Acolytes:
5 th	Kenny & Janet Chamberlin	Allie Schrader
12 th	John & Peggy Meuli	Molly Hunnicutt
19 th	Mitch & Kara Cromwell	Owen Cromwell
26 th	Austin & Jessica Murphy	Blake Murphy
September Usher: Dwight Kamm		

Thank you to Gregg Beemer for being the August Usher



Sunday School Kickoff will be **Sunday, September 12th** in the Parish Hall at 10 am. A light brunch will be served by the Sunday School Committee. Regular classes will begin September 19th at 9:30 am. Classes will be grouped as follows:

- PreK – Young Elementary: Ages 3 thru 1st grade
- Older Elementary: 2nd grade thru 5th grade
- Jr/Sr High: 6th – 12th grade
- Young Adults – Meet downstairs
- Adults – Meet upstairs in lounge