



New Basel Church
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echo
New Basel Newsletter

DECEMBER 2022

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I love Christmas surprises. Who doesn't? When I was a kid growing up in Wisconsin, the days and weeks leading up to Christmas were nearly unbearable. I would sneak off to the living room, where the presents were piled under the tree, and examine all my presents. I would feel them, weigh them, shake them, and compare them to my sister's (I always hoped the biggest was mine.) I didn't open them, mind you, just examined them very closely. Until Christmas morning, that is. Then I would tear through them all and see if my guesses were close.

Some years later, after Angela and I were married, we decided to surprise my parents by driving all night and showing up on their doorstep on Christmas morning. Talk about surprised!

But Christmas surprises are nothing new. In fact, the first Christmas, the birth of Jesus, was full of surprises, each one bigger than the last. Even beyond the idea that Jesus would be born of a virgin, which is pretty surprising in and of itself.

For example, God's very choice of Mary is kind of surprising. After all, she was not from a powerful family, or in a position to influence people at all. Kind of like Esther, who wasn't really in a position to influence anything when God wanted to free the Jews from captivity in Babylon. Esther was a powerless captive herself, but God put her in a position where she could influence the King. But not so with Mary. Mary wasn't super pretty, like Esther, or at least Luke doesn't care about it enough to comment on it. Mary was just an ordinary girl, which is both surprising and important. God chose the ordinary to accomplish the extraordinary. He did then, and he still does, all the time.

Another thing I find surprising is Mary's response to God's messenger. The Bible is full of stories of what happens when God says "I want you to do something." The usual response is something like, "Who, me?" while looking over the shoulder. Shock, disbelief, and outright rejection are usual responses. Moses is a great example. When God appeared in a burning bush and told Moses what to do, Moses' response was, "Who, me?" Again, in Judges 4, we see that Deborah informed a man named Barak that God chose him. "Who, me?" And of course, Jonah, who tried to run to the end of the world. "Who, me?"

Mary's response, though, is surprising. After the obvious question of "How can this be," she submits in faith. And because she did, because this surprising young girl did the surprising thing, she experienced joy that few have known. Mary's song, in Luke 1:46-55, shows that she knew the purpose for her life and glorified God.

And that, my friends, is what God wants for us, too. He wants us to experience the joy that comes with faith and obedience.

The true surprise of Christmas is not presents or family visits. The true surprise of Christmas is that we can have the same amazing joy that Mary showed us by submitting to God's will for our lives and responding in obedience.

Grace and peace, and Christmas Joy!

Pastor Jamie

New Basel Church Council

Monday November 7, 2022

Called to order at 7:09 p.m. by President Kenny Chamberlin

Present:

Elders: Nicole Shrack, Pam O’Neal, Kenny Chamberlin

Deacons: Holly Bethe, Francis Anderson, Mitch Cromwell

Trustees: Austin Murphy, Gary Foltz, Drew Snitker

Pastor Jamie gave a devotion before the business meeting.

Pam O’Neal made a motion to approve October minutes. Gary Foltz seconded the motion.

Communications:

St. Jude’s asking for donation

Salina Rescue Mission asking for donation

TCT advertising contract to continue being in the phone book

Reports:

Memorial Committee

None

Financial Secretary and Treasurer:

Pam O’Neal gave the Financial Secretary’s report for October.

Holly Bethe gave the Treasurer’s report for October.

Pastor’s Reports:

Work Summary for 10/3/22- 11/6/22

Worship- Preached and/or led Sunday worship 4 times

Administration Meetings- 1 Church Council, 1 Women’s Fellowship, Christian Education, 1 Pastoral Relations

Pastoral Care- 5 Phone visits, 3 Home Visits

Other- 1 Crosstalk Video conference, 3 Volunteer Reading (RCGS), Fall Party, A/V Consultation and Work Day

Vacation Days

This Month: 2

YTD: 14

Milage: 17 miles

Professional Development Days

This Month: 0

YTD: 10

Elders-

Pam O'Neal reported 40 took communion on November 6th.

Deacons:

None

Trustee:

None

Pastor Parish:

The committee met Tuesday October 25th.

Annual Pastor Performance Evaluation for 2022 was completed. Items that were discussed: preaching and worship, personal and family life, pastoral care and discipleship, leadership and administration.

The committee also discussed salary and benefits for 2023.

Christian Education Committee:

Bierock fundraiser in February 2023- more information to come after the first of the year.

Confirmation Class starting January 15th (education materials were decided on and approved by the committee).

Hanging of the Greens will be organized by the Women's Fellowship.

December 11th will be the Children's Christmas Program.

Spring Semester will continue on with the same curriculum.

Budget:

New Basel Church 2022 budget was reviewed. Mitch Cromwell moved we approve the 2023 budget. Francis Anderson seconded motion.

Old Business:

Stain Glass repair- Pastor Jamie has not started on it at this point.

Fall work date- there will not be one this year.

Sound and video system maintenance- Dale Henderson was contacted by Pastor Jamie. He and Dale had a work date and fixed a few issues.

Nominating Committee- we are needing 2 church members to serve on the nominating committee if anyone is interested, please let someone on council know.

New Business:

M/S/C to pay bills that were presented. Pam O'Neal made a motion to pay the bills. Mitch Cromwell seconded.

Christmas Decorating date to be announced.

Thanksgiving Service refreshments- Women's Fellowship is asking for members to donate treats.

Advent Candle Lighting families to be announced.

Christmas Eve Service will be held Saturday December 24th.

Upcoming Events:

November 20th Thanksgiving Community Service 7pm

November 22nd ECHO articles due

November 27th Hanging of the Greens

December 4th Communion

December 5th Council meeting 7pm

December 11th Children's Christmas Program

December 24th Christmas Eve Service

No Other Announcements:

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m. by praying the Lord's Prayer in unison

Nicole Shrack, Secretary



Elaine Bethe
Naoma Foltz
Harold Provance
Dwight Meuli
Cecil Schrader

Judy Lauer
Kelly Schrader
Tammy Anderson
Rodney Anderson
Judy Barten

Women's Fellowship

New Basel Women's Fellowship met in the church lounge on November 16th, 2022 at 2:00 PM with Jan McAdams as hostess. There were eight ladies present. Janis presided over the meeting.

Ila opened the meeting with devotions about Thanksgiving; based on Psalms 100.

The October 19th minutes were read and approved.

Peggy gave the treasurer's report. It was moved and seconded to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

For old business, Jan reported on some prices for a popcorn machine. After much discussion, Ila moved we hold off on purchasing a popcorn machine at this time. Motion seconded and carried.

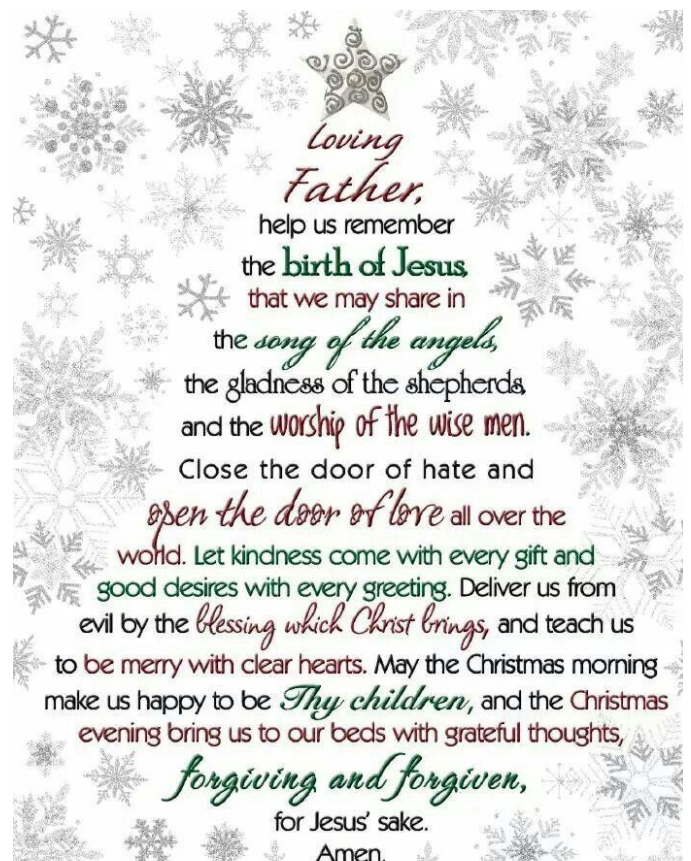
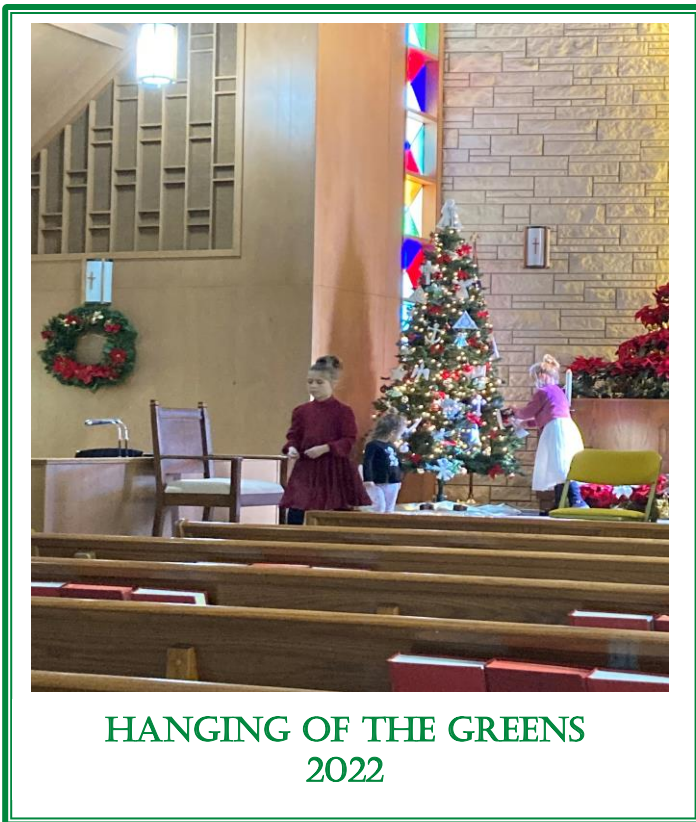
Clema moved we give \$100 to Church Women United. Motion was seconded and carried.

Ila gave a lesson on Thanksgiving.

The next meeting will be a covered dish luncheon on December 14th at Janis Haugh's. The meeting closed by repeating the Mizpah benediction.

Refreshments were served.

Carolyn Beetch, Secretary



DECEMBER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

7th Casey Barten
9th Robby Haynes
10th Janis Haugh
Brett Koster

17th Molly Hunnicutt
14th Cindy Hoffman
21st Kabreyan Anderson
25th Terry Reiff
29th Parker O'Neal

Upcoming January Birthday

2nd Travis Beetch

The Children's Sunday School Christmas program will be during regular Church Service on Sunday December 11th. During the Christmas Eve Service, the youth will be singing a Christmas song.

*There will be a youth Sunday School Christmas Party on December 19th during normal Sunday School. Classes will resume on **January 15th**.*



Greeters, Acolytes, & Usher for December

Greeters:

Acolytes:

4 th	Kenny & Janet Chamberlin	Bo Rothchild
11 th	Ed & Jan McAdams	Larissa Cromwell
18 th	Jen Reiff and Joan Reiff	Devin Kamm
24 th	Mark & Holly Bethe	Scarlett Murphy
25 th	Randy & Judy Barten	Sterling Bonnema

December Usher: Larrv Haugh

Thank you to Gary Foltz for being the November Usher



December 11th: Movie Night at the Church (*The Bishop's Wife*)

December 24th: Christmas Eve Service

December 25th: Sunday Worship Service celebrating the birth of Christ!

