



JULY 2023

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It's that time of year again! In just a few days, Americans from coast to coast will invest heavily in celebratory explosives. It is a strange phenomenon when you think about it: commemorating the country's independence by blowing up their yard and watching their hard-earned paychecks literally go up in smoke. But the reason we do this is because we are free to do so. Freedom is what we celebrate. We celebrate with food, family, and fireworks, and we reflect upon the freedom we have that comes as a result of living in the United States, where so many have sacrificed so much to pass that freedom down to us.

Yet even as we reflect upon our freedom as Americans, we must also realize that we also have freedom from being Christians that outshines our national, and seemingly impermanent, freedom. When talking about our freedom as Christians, John 8:31-32 puts it like this: "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Those listening were confused and offended, wondering why Jesus said they needed to be freed, and He answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin."

You see, even though Americans are free to pursue happiness and determine for themselves their relationship with God, neither the Founders of the country, nor the soldiers who defended her ever since, could free us from our enslavement to sin. They could do nothing to help us to stop sinning, nor could they protect us from the consequences of our sin. That has to be Jesus, and just as John continues, we read, "if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (36) The people listening to Jesus that day thought they were free, just as Americans do today. But it is Jesus, and only Jesus, that truly liberates.

This means that if you are a Christian, you have been liberated! It doesn't always feel like it at first, but hang in there. Through Jesus, we have already been forgiven! The consequences of our sin are only temporary. If you drive down the highway at twice the speed limit, the police officer is going to give you a ticket and you will lose a lot of money, yes. But the everlasting consequences of your sin, eternal separation from God in Hell, are not a possibility.

Two types of freedom. As you celebrate your holiday this month with your friends and loved ones, take a moment to express your gratitude for those Americans that made these freedoms possible in the first place. But the story doesn't end there. The greater freedom lies in Christ. How might you express your gratitude for your freedom from sin to your loved ones? Even more important, how can you use the freedom you enjoy as an American to help release others from their bondage to sin, as Jesus described it? How can you help others live in the freedom of Christ?

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jamie

New Basel Church Council Monday June 5th, 2023

Called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Kenny Chamberlin

Present:

Elders: Kenny Chamberlin, Jen Reiff, Pam O'Neal,

Deacons: Judy Barten, Francis Anderson, Mitch Cromwell

Trustees: Drew Snitker, Gary Foltz,

Pastor Jamie opened with a devotion and prayer

M/S/C to approve the May 1st minutes

Communications:

*Thank you cards from: the ONeal's & Vacation Bible School kids

Reports:

Financial Secretary and Treasurer:

Mitch gave the Financial Secretary report for May

Judy gave the Treasures report for May and also suggested thinking about organizations to donate to.

M/S/C to approve the Financial Secretary and Treasurer's reports

Pastor's Reports:

Worship: Preached 5 Sunday worship services; Led 2 worship services at Abilene Place

Administration Meetings: 1 Church Council meeting & 8 Planning Meetings

Pastoral Care: 3 Phone Visits, 5 Home Visits

Other: 5Days of VBS, 5 CrossTalk Class Sessions, 3 CrossTalk Local Meetings,

1 Volunteer Readings (RCGS), VBS set up 8 hours, 1 Phone Consultation (Tri Co Tele)

Professional Development days: 5

Miles: 163.6

291 (Cross Talk Class)

454.6 = total miles

Elders:

Jen Reiff reported 54 people took communion on May 1st

Deacons:

Judy discussed about the special meeting that was held to pay for camp scholarships and was approved.

Trustee:

Drew gave quotes that he got for HVAC repair. M/S/C to approve Wuthnow Heating & Air to do the repairs.

Old Business:

*Church Picnic will be July 30th – Council will grill hamburgers after church.

* Harvest home has been set for October 1st

* \$300 Scholarships have been awarded to Travis Beetch & Kieryan Anderson.

*Church improvement fund with be collected on Sunday July 16th.

New Business:

*M/S/C to pay bills that were presented

*M/S/C to pay for other kids this year to go to Church camp who are not members.

* M/S/C to purchase more Hymnals for Abilene Place Worship services.

* Discussed donating a piano to take to Abilene Place

* It was discussed that all new members joining the church must be approved by council.

* Discussion of adding a Video screen at the front of the sanctuary. Anonymous donor willing to pay for a portion of it.

Upcoming Events:

June 18th – Father's Day

June 23rd – Echo Articles Due

July 4th – Independence Day

 $July \ 10^{th}-Council \ meeting - 7pm$

July 16th - Church Improvement Fund offering

July 30th – Church Picnic in the Parish Hall

No Other Announcements:

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm by praying the Lord's Prayer in unison

Pam ONeal, Secretary

In Our Prayers...

Elaine Bethe Naoma Foltz Dwight Meuli Cecil Schrader Bob O'Neal

Kelly Schrader Tammy Anderson Rodney Anderson Judy Lauer Ed McAdams

JULY INFORMATION

Church

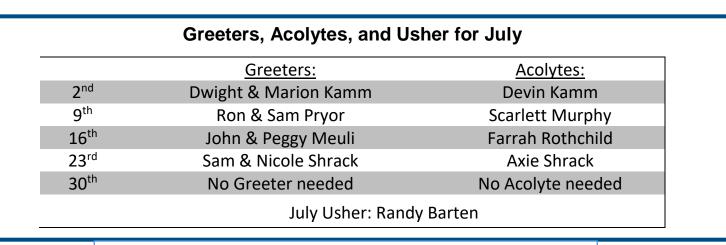
You're Invited

July 30th

the Wardrobe

Anniversaries 17th Ed & Jan McAdams 10th Robby and Emily Haynes 28th Greg & Kari Beetch 12th Bob & Pam O'Neal 29th Austin & Jessica Murphy 14th Kenneth & Rita Gantenbein **Birthdays** 6th Sara Hunnicutt 9th John Meuli After Church Service 11th Arlee Snitker 29th Tim Reiff 31st Chris Bethe **IIII** July 9th at 5pm Glenna Dautel **Upcoming August Birthdays** 1st Maxine Kauffman 7th Elaine Bethe The Lion, the Witch & 2nd Joleen Beemer 8th Stephanie Gfleller 5th Diane Loftness 10th Stetson Shrack

5th Deborah Lathan



Thank you to Kevin Smiley for being the June Usher

