



New Basel Church
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echo
New Basel Newsletter

DECEMBER 2023

Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

There is no time like the holidays! It is at this time of the year that families frequently travel in order to be with their closest relatives. People all across the country will gather together once again, spend way too much on presents, eat waaayyyy too much, and generally figure out how to drive each other crazy. With all the disrupted schedules, massive preparation efforts, and budgets stretched to the breaking point, it is no wonder that alcohol consumption skyrockets this time of year!

But we have an opportunity here as well. Christmas is more than just a time to get together with family you haven't seen in a while to swap expensive presents. It is a chance to reunite with the people you love. It is an opportunity to reexamine the miraculous story of Jesus' birth. And it is a time to teach.

I think that, like it or not, the world is a changing place in respect to its relationship with Christianity. What's more, I think it is becoming more and more pronounced as the years go by. For example, a couple years ago we would have been shocked beyond belief to hear of a Christian inner-city mission that was not allowed to serve food to the homeless simply because they were a religious organization. But no longer. A couple years ago, the idea of atheists banding together to form their own mega-churches would have been laughable and strange, but today people that deny the existence of any god gather together once a week to sing, discuss morality, and then hang around for cookies and coffee afterward! (These are primarily on the West coast, but still....)

The world, it seems, is telling Christians more and more that we are no longer needed. And our kids are already being confronted by it every day.

Our kids need to be in church every week, of course. We need to communicate to

them the importance of intentional and committed participation throughout a lifetime, and of the importance of regular worship. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." This means that when we carefully teach a child, those instructions will always be a part of their life. When they are challenged by opposition to Christian morals, they will have that sense of right and wrong ingrained in their psyche. Even if they are swayed for a time by these arguments, their Bible training will not leave them.

But Christmas is a chance for us to teach those that don't normally come to church. Like Christians used to do a long time ago, use Christmas to teach. 'You want to talk about how light returns to a dark world around Winter Solstice? Let me tell you about Jesus, and what he's done for me!' 'You want to give presents? Let me tell you about when kings traveled to give incredible gifts to a baby! Let me tell you about Jesus, and what he's done for me!'

Christmas is a time to, once again, retell the story of how God became a man, came to earth to live a sinless life, died for the sins of the world, but ultimately overcame death and the power of sin by rising up from death on the third day. Christmas is a time to share the basis for a moral code based on something more than current popular opinion. Christmas is a time to show kids the importance of family, of love, and of giving.

Share the story of Christmas with the young ones in your family. Share the story of why you became a Christian so that they will understand when you are no longer able to explain. Train your children, and they will be unable to turn from it!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jamie

New Basel Church Council
Monday November 6, 2023

Called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Kenny Chamberlin

Present:

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

Deacons: Francis Anderson

Trustees: Austin Murphy

Pastor Jamie opened with devotion.

M/S/C to approve the October 2, 2023 minutes as printed.

Communications:

No Communications

Reports:

Financial Secretary and Treasurer:

Financial Secretary & Treasures report were handed out.

Pastor’s Reports:

Work Summary for 10/2/23 – 11/5/23

Worship: Preached &/or led 4) Sunday worships and at Abilene Place

Administration Meetings: 1 Church Council meeting, 1 Education, 1 Worship Planning, 2 Baptism Planning, 1 Tech Support (Century Business Computer)

Pastoral Care: 2 Phone Visits, 7 Home Visits

Other: 1 CrossTalk Class Session, 5 CrossTalk Local meetings, Church Movie Night, Fall Party, 4 Volunteer Reading Session at RCGS

Vacation Days: 1 This month, 9 Year to date

Professional Development Days: 0 this month, 10 Year to date

Mileage: 50

Elders-

Jen Reiff reported 41 took communion on November 5th.

Deacons:

None

Trustee:

None

Old Business:

*Stain Glass Windows: Kenny has found someone from Hutchinson to come and give us an estimate for repair.

*Barn Roof: We have a quote from Mark Larson for repair.

New Business:

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

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

*2023 Budget will be next Council Meeting which will start at 6:30pm.

*Thanksgiving Service will be at Mt Pleasant at 7pm on Sunday Nov. 19th.

*Christmas Decorating committee has been contacted & will need to decorate before Hanging of the Greens which will be Sunday Nov. 26th.

*Advent Candle Lighting families to be announced

*Children's Christmas Program will be Sunday Dec. 10th during Church Worship.

*Christmas Eve Service will be held Sunday December 24th at 7pm.

*Membership for James & Jennifer Latzke approved.

*M/S/C Special meeting with the congregation on Sunday Nov. 26th after the church service for repair of the barn roof.

*Discussion of purchase of a TV for one of the classrooms downstairs

Upcoming Events:

November 19th - Thanksgiving Community Service at Mt Pleasant 7pm

November 22nd - ECHO articles due

November 26th - Hanging of the Greens

December 3rd - Communion

December 4th - Council meeting / Budget meeting **6:30pm**

December 10th - Children's Christmas Program during the Church Service

December 10th – Movie Night

December 24th Christmas Eve Service

December 31st – 5th Sunday Brunch

No Other Announcements:

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. by praying the Lord's Prayer in unison

Pam O'Neal, Secretary



Elaine Bethe
Maxine Kauffman
Naoma Foltz
Dwight Meuli
Cecil Schrader

Judy Lauer
Kelly Schrader
Bob O'Neal
Tony Herman



Sunday School classes pack boxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. The boxes are then shipped to children in need around the world.



Sunday School youth decorate the tree and point to the Star during the Hanging of the Greens Service.

DECEMBER

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

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

17th Molly Hunnicutt
25th Terry Reiff
29th Parker O'Neal

Upcoming January Birthday

2nd Travis Beetch

The Joy
of CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATE THE SEASON

Greeters, Acolytes, & Usher for December

Greeters:

Acolytes:

3 rd	Kenny & Janet Chamberlin	Blake Murphy
10 th	Ed & Jan McAdams	Farah Rothchild
17 th	Jen Reiff and Joan Reiff	Axie Shrack
24 th a.m.	Randy & Judy Barten	Sterling Bonnema
24 th	Mark & Holly Bethe	Sterling Bonnema
31 st	5 th Sunday Church Breakfast	

December Usher: Larry Haugh

Thank you to Gary Foltz for being the November Usher



December 10th: Youth Sunday School program during Church Service.

December 10th: Movie Night at the Church at 5pm: *The Nativity Story*

December 24th: Christmas Eve Service at 7:00pm. The Sunday School youth will sing a song during the Service.

