



New Basel Church
1075 1100 Ave Abilene, KS 67410
785-479-5501
www.newbaselchurch.org

echo
New Basel Newsletter

JANUARY 2024

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

If you were to read Matthew 5:1-12 from the Bibles in our church, you would read the beginning to Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount and what is called The Beatitudes. The "Blessed are the..." statements. But if you were to read that same passage in a translation like the Good News Translation, each statement would start with "Happy are the..."

So which did Jesus mean, blessed or happy? What's the difference between them? Surely, Jesus wants us to be happy, right? Surely, a person that is blessed is happy? Or is it the other way around, that a happy person is blessed?

The issue is clouded even more when we look at our Bible's translation of Proverbs 31:28 and the Godly woman: "Her children rise up and call her happy," whereas most other translations use the word 'blessed' instead.

People want to be happy, of course. And naturally, people want to be blessed. Perhaps it is not so surprising, then, that Jesus started his discipleship program with this very topic, whichever translation you have.

Blessed are the.... Blessedness and happiness are related, to be sure, but they are not the same thing. Happiness is a much more temporary kind of thing, which can come and go at the drop of a hat. A new car, for example, might make us pretty happy for a while. A new job might make us pretty happy. Being able to eat all the Christmas chocolate we have without gaining weight might make us pretty happy!

Blessedness, on the other hand, is more permanent, and is rooted in knowledge and relationship with God, made possible through Jesus Christ. Blessedness reflects a joy; an in-tune-with-God-ness. And in contrast with the world searching for happiness in every conceivable place, *Jesus says it all starts from within.*

Blessed are the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for their righteousness.

Now, just looking at that list, it might be hard to imagine how these things can lead to blessedness, let alone joy and happiness. *After all, isn't mourning sort of the opposite of happiness?* And think about it: if someone is going to be merciful, don't they sort of have to be wronged in some way and have a legitimate claim to justice?

What Jesus was trying to point out here is that blessedness does not come from the things we have, the places we go, or the people we know. It comes from knowing what God has already done for us, and then doing the same sorts of things for the people around us. When we are merciful, when we fashion peace, when seek righteousness in a non-hypocritical way, we demonstrate God's love for us, and Jesus says "great is your reward in heaven."

Permanent happiness does not come from things of this world, but is a gift from God the Father.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jamie

New Basel Church Council
Monday December 4, 2023

Called to order at 7:20 p.m. by President Kenny Chamberlin

Present:

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

Deacons: Francis Anderson, Judy Barten

Trustees: Austin Murphy, Gary Foltz, Drew Snitker

Pastor Jamie opened with devotion.

M/S/C to approve the November 2023 minutes as printed.

Communications:

Requesting donations from: Historical Society – Evangelical & Reformed – Ashby House – Hope of Christmas – Salina Rescue – Samaritan Purse – Christian Women United

Reports:

Financial Secretary and Treasurer:

Financial Secretary & Treasurer’s report were given by Judy

Pastor’s Reports:

Work Summary for 11/6/23 – 12/3/23

Worship: Preached &/or led 4 Sunday worships

Administration Meetings: 1 Church Council meeting, 4 Worship Planning (phone)

Pastoral Care: 11 Phone Visits, 5 Home Visits

Other: 1 CrossTalk Class Session, 3 CrossTalk Local meetings, Church Movie Night, Solid Rock AV, 3 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: 28

Elders-

Jen Reiff reported 52 took communion on December 3rd

Deacons:

None

Trustee:

Austin talked to Mark Larson about fixing the barn roof

Old Business:

- *Children's Christmas Program will be Sunday Dec. 10th during Church Worship
- *Christmas Eve Service will be Sunday Dec. 24th at 7:00pm
- *Bob O'Neal has volunteered to be on the nominating committee
- *Video System Bid will be discussed at the annual meeting in January
- *Council met before the meeting to go over the budget for 2024

New Business:

- *M/S/C to pay bills that were presented
- *Drew explained the increase in insurance renewal
- *Christmas Eve offering will be donated to Hospice of Dickinson County
- *Annual meeting meal will be potluck
- *January Council meeting will be Monday January 8th
- *Benevolence offering will be given to:

St Jude

Salina Rescue

Neighbor to Neighbor

Abilene Food Bank

Church Women United

Upcoming Events:

January 5th – Annual Reports Due

January 7th - Communion

January 8th - Council meeting

January 28th – Annual Meeting

No Other Announcements:

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m. by praying the Lord's Prayer in unison

Pam O'Neal, Secretary



Thanks to the church council and the Music Committee for making a very hard decision into a very special day on December 17th. Having to leave playing the organ and piano for church because of my eyesight was not something I wanted to do. Thanks so much for the recognition, the plaque, the reception and the cake.

I praise and thank God for the 60 years He allowed me to use the talent He gave me.

Blessings to All,
Peggy Meuli



2023 Youth Sunday School Christmas program



Prayer Requests

Elaine Bethe
Maxine Kauffman
Naoma Foltz
Dwight Meuli
Cecil Schrader

Judy Lauer
Kelly Schrader
Bob O'Neal
Tony Herman

JANUARY

Birthdays

2nd Travis Beetch
 19th Carolyn Beetch
 Jen Reiff
 27th Benson Smiley
 28th Adalynn Haynes
 31st Randy Barten



Anniversary

January 25th - Seth & Judy Lauer

Upcoming February Birthdays

2nd Janet Chamberlin 10th Bob O'Neal
 6th Duncan Reiff



Greeters, Acolytes, & Usher for January

	<u>Greeters:</u>	<u>Acolytes:</u>
7 th	Mitch & Kara Cromwell	Scarlett Murphy and Tinsley Moddlemog
14 th	Gordon & Sara Hunnicutt	Wyatt Hunnicutt
21 st	Kevin & Stacy Smiley	Savannah Smiley
28 th	Austin & Jessica Murphy	Bo Rothchild

Usher: Chris Bethé

Thank you to Larry Haugh for being the December Usher

MOVIE NIGHT
 January 14th at 5 pm
 “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang”