

New Basel Church
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echo
New Basel Newsletter

September 2024

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Is Satan an idiot? Why in the world would he go all in against an omnipotent God? Why oppose Jesus at every turn?

While Jesus was on the earth, he and Satan had an extended conversation. We call it The Temptation of Jesus, and we can read an account of it in Matthew 4:1-11.

Jesus had been fasting for 40 days and 40 nights, and in one of the greatest understatements in human history, the Bible tells us that “he was hungry.” No kidding. I would be too!

So Satan shows up and tells Jesus to make some bread out of the rocks lying around if he is the Son of God. This temptation is easy to identify with, certainly. We’ve all been at least a little hungry, staring into an empty refrigerator, wondering what to snack on!

But the next two attempts seem a little weird on the surface. Jesus goes to the top of the temple, and Satan suggests that he jump off. Not very tempting. Then they go to a mountaintop somewhere, and Satan says that if Jesus would worship him, he would give Jesus all the kingdoms of the world, along with all their splendor. Now think about this: if Jesus was truly present at the creation of the universe (he was) then all the money and power one measly planet could offer would seem insignificant! This is what always confused me: why would Jesus find the kingdoms of earth tempting if he was present at creation?

Well, it turns out that things aren’t quite so simple, and Satan isn’t the idiot we would like him to be. First of all the temptation about bread is not about bread or hunger. That’s just what Satan was using. The real objective is revealed when Satan says “IF you are the Son of God.” He’s

trying to get Jesus to doubt his purpose on earth. He’s trying to get Jesus to doubt his identity. He’s proverbially whispering in Jesus’ ear, ‘Are you sure? Because it kinda seems like God abandoned you here.’ The truly amazing thing is he still does that today! Satan still tries to get us to doubt our identity in Christ, get us to feel bitterness toward God, and to question if we are even called to do anything.

The second temptation wasn’t as dumb as it seems either. It was no mistake that Satan suggested he jump from the temple, instead of any other building / convenient cliff around. The temple was where you were closest to God, and the top of the temple was where you were even closer. Satan was trying to get a human Jesus to doubt his relationship with God, to wonder if God really would protect him. Does he still do that today? Yep.

To understand the third one, ask yourself what Jesus would find tempting about being President For Life of every country on Earth. When I ask myself that question, I have to conclude that if Jesus were truly in control, as opposed to the Prince of the Earth (Satan), there would be no war. There would be no famine. No pandemics. No disease. No sickness. If Jesus had fallen for this, the Earth would be a much better place, yes, but that would have meant literally making a deal with the Devil, actually worshipping him. No dice.

Satan tempted Jesus, and you can bet he will come after you, too. That’s no surprise. The surprise is that like Jesus, you too can resist and beat him! It’s not that you are stronger or smarter than Satan, but that Christ gives us his Spirit. With God’s help, we can stand firm!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jamie

New Basel Church Council

Monday August 5th, 2024

Called to order at 7:03 pm by President Pam O'Neal

Present:

Elders: Pam O'Neal, Jen Reiff, and Chris Bethe

Deacons: Francis Anderson, Judy Barten, and Jennifer Latzke

Trustees: Gary Foltz and Drew Snitker

Pastor Jamie opened with a devotion

M/S/C to approve the July minutes as printed.

Communications: A notification from JC Pregnancy Center stated we collected \$198.65 in the baby bottles.

A notification from the Food Bank that September is our Church Family's month for donations.

Reports:

Financial Secretary: Report was given by Jennifer Latzke

Treasurer's Report: Report was given by Judy Barten

Pastor's Report:

Work Summary for 7/1/24-8/4/24

Worship- Preached and/or led Sunday Worship 4 times, and at Homestead Memory Care

Administration Meetings- 1 Church Council, 1 Trustees, 1 Deacons, 1 Financial, 2 Worship Planning

Pastoral Care- 4 Phone Visits, 5 Home visits, and 1 office visit

Other- 4 CrossTalk Local meetings, 1 Church Movie night, 10-33 Debrief, 1 Premarital counseling

Vacation Days this month 5, YTD 8

Professional Development Days this month 0, YTD 10

Mileage: 112

Elder's Report: Chris Bethe reported no communion was given in July

Deacon's Report: Judy Barten reported that herself, Jennifer Latzke, Francis Anderson, and Pastor Jamie met with the directors of the Irish Den in Chapman to discuss their mission. She also reported herself, Francis Anderson, and Pastor Jamie met with Bryce at Edward Jones.

Trustee's Report: Gary Foltz discussed the ideas for the ramp out front. Will be discussed in front of the congregation August 11th.

Old Business:

Discussed cleaning Parish Hall floors

Special Meeting August 11th in front of the congregation to discuss improvement fund projects

We served 37 at the Church Picnic on July 28th.

Harvest Home September 29th

New Business:

It was M/S/C to pay the presented bills

Discussed to propose changes to the by-laws to raise the Council Expenditure from \$1500- \$5,000 without congregational approval.

Propane Contract- it was M/S/C to contract 4500 gallons from K & R Propane

September is our Church Family’s month to collect donations for the Food Pantry

Announcements

Upcoming Events:

August 25th- Echo Articles Due

September 1- Communion

September 8th – Sunday School Kick off
Movie Night

September 9th – Church Council

September 29th – Harvest Home

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 by praying the Lord’s Prayer in Unison.

Jen Reiff, Secretary



Prayer Requests

Maxine Kauffman
Naoma Foltz
Dwight Meuli
Jane Haney

Judy Lauer
Kelly Schrader
Tony Herman



FoodPantry

September is New Basel's month to collect donation items for the Food Pantry in Abilene. Churches are the backbone of their Christian Ministry to the needy by giving their gifts of food.

The following is a list of immediate needs to the pantry:

Baking Supplies: cake and muffin mixes, frosting, oil, flour, sugar

Canned Goods: fruit, vegetables, soup, condiments, meat substitutes

Cereal: hot cereal, cold cereal, cereal and breakfast bars

Cleaning Supplies: laundry soap, dish soap, hand soap

Paper Goods: toilet tissue, paper towels, napkins, facial tissue

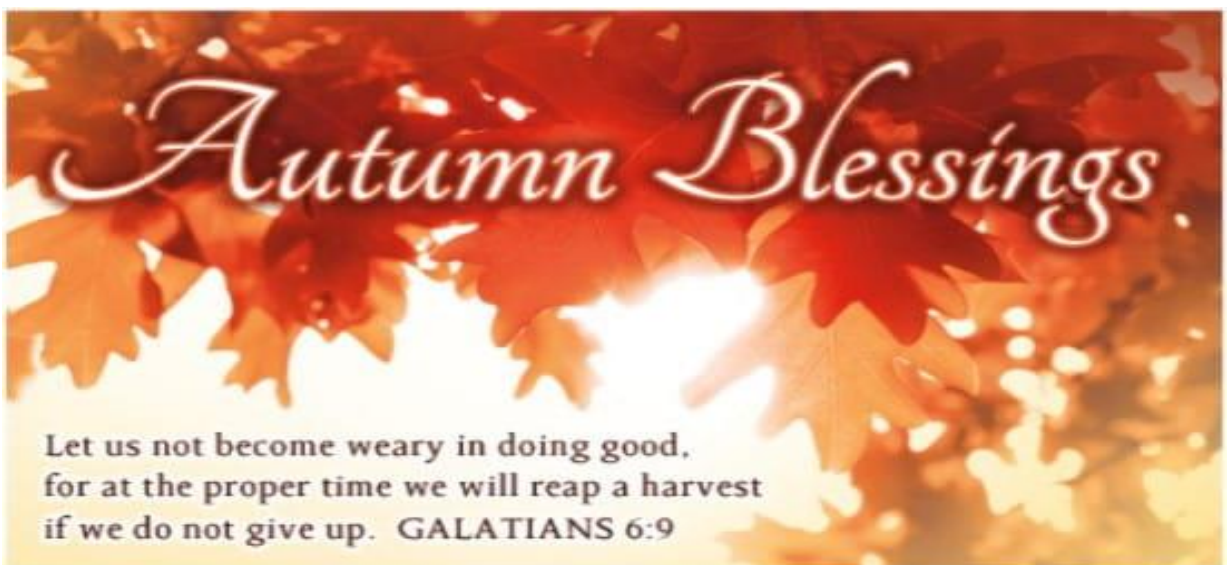
Pastas: macaroni, noodles, spaghetti

Personal Hygiene: shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, women's feminine products, disposable diapers, men's shaving supplies, hand and body lotions and creams

Meats: any kind of canned meat and fish, especially tuna

Miscellaneous: peanut butter, jelly, coffee, tea, ramen noodles, rice, dry beans, crackers, juice, syrup, instant potatoes, hamburger helpers, spices, salt and pepper, jello, and pudding mixes

The Food Pantry expresses their gratitude for our continuing support and interest in the operation of the Food Pantry, and wishes to say 'Thank you.'



September

Birthdays

1st Holly Bethe
 9th Dwight Kamm
 16th Lisa Berggren
 19th Chad Beetch
 25th Axie Shrack
 28th Marcile Parks
 30th Francis Anderson
 Jeremy Reiff



Anniversaries

18th Jim & Deanna Stalder
 24th Scott & Amber Reiff

Upcoming October Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 nd Jessica Murphy	6 th Francis & Clema Anderson
3 rd Ed McAdams	7 th Kenny & Janet Chamberlin
8 th Farah Rothchild	
10 th Sterling Bonnema	



Sunday School Kickoff

Sunday September 8th
 10 am in the Parish Hall

All Sunday School classes are welcome to attend. A light brunch will be served. Regular Sunday School classes will begin for all age groups at 9:30am on Sunday September 15th. Contact Jessica Murphy for more information

MOVIE NIGHT

Sunday September 8th
Hot Lead and Cold Feet
 a Don Knotts Film

Greeters, Acolytes, and Usher for September

	Greeters:	Acolytes:
1 st	Holly and Chris Bethe	Sterling Bonnema
8 th	Bob & Pam O'Neal	Jennesa Latzke
15 th	Jane Haney and Carol Lawson	Jace Latzke
22 nd	Greg & Jolene Beemer	Axie Shrack
29 th		
September Usher: Randy Barten		

Thank you to Gregg Beemer for being the August Usher



Harvest Home will be September 29th and our guest speakers will be from 4:10 Irish Den. Irish Den was established in 2023 to serve as a safe place for youth to go after school to play games, be with friends and just hang out. The organizers of Irish Den also teach the youth valuable job and life skills.

Each Wednesday, the Irish Den serves the evening meal to over 100 youth (at not cost) followed by youth groups. The youth are split in groups by age that are led with several Christian leaders throughout the community.

This is one of the missions New Basel would like to support with our mission. Please come to learn and ask questions. Covered dish dinner will follow the service. Meat will be provided.