



New Basel Church
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echo
New Basel Newsletter

OCTOBER 2025

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Have you ever lost something? Of course you have – we all do. We lose our car keys, we lose our wallets, we lose our phones, and some of us have (temporarily, I'm sure) lost our minds!

But let's, for the moment, imagine we truly lost something important. Like a plane ticket at the airport. Or a kid at the airport. Imagine losing something that, when you realize it's lost, it makes your stomach bottom out.

The real question is what would you do? Would you sort of shrug your shoulders, think to yourself, "Oh well," and let it go? Or would you take a more focused approach to action?

Now let's imagine that you, after searching for hours, find your lost belonging. It isn't hard to picture a parent and child hugging and crying after being reunited after hours of panicked searching. Maybe you've been there personally, and know the feeling. When someone finds what they have lost, there is an emotional release.

In Luke 15, Jesus told a couple of parables using these ideas to make a point. In the first one, a shepherd has a flock of 100 sheep, but finds one of them gone. So he leaves the 99 to go find the one, and when he does, he goes home to celebrate with his friends and neighbors. In the second one, a woman loses a day's wages. She searches until she finds it, and then celebrates with her friends and neighbors.

I'm going to ask an odd question in relation to these two parables. Who cares? And what I mean by that is, in the stories themselves, who is it that cares about what's

going on? In each story, friends and neighbors are invited to a celebration, but how much do they really care that the shepherd found his sheep? How much do they really care that the woman found the money she lost? Not much. Further, while it could be argued that the lost sheep cared whether it was found or not, the same cannot be said about the lost coin. Coins, unfortunately, seem to be perfectly content staying under the seats in our cars or in the cushions of our couches. No, in both stories, the only ones that truly care about that which is lost is the shepherd and the woman. And when we realize that these stories depict how God feels about us, we realize that the one that cares so deeply about the lost *is God himself*. Put another way, these parables are not about the needs of the lost. It is about the need of the finder. The fact that God searches at all, the fact that "the Son of Man [came] to seek and to save that which was lost," (Luke 19:10) comes from the fact that *God needs to search*. That is who He is!

As Christians, God has placed us all in a flock. God has placed us all in a community; a church. God placed us there for our own protection, as well as for the benefit of the rest of the flock. But sometimes we get lost in sin. Some people have strayed far, like the sheep. Some people don't even know they're lost, like the coin. But in either case, God is right there. And if we're willing, God himself will carry us back. And the Bible says that when we repent of our sins, turning from and changing our ways, all heaven rejoices!

Grace and peace from one of the sheep,
Pastor Jamie

New Basel Church

September 8, 2025 Minutes

Council Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Pam ONeal.

Present:

Elders: Pam ONeal and Chris Bethe

Deacons: Judy Barten and Francis Anderson

Trustees: Drew Snitker

Memorial Committee Representative: Janet Chamberlin

It was determined that there was not a quorum present so no business was adopted.

Pastor Jamie opened the meeting with devotions from Hosea 14:8

Communications:

A thank you was read from the Abilene Food Bank

Reports

Memorial Committee: Janet Chamberlin presented the unapproved list of items on the memorial's list.

Financial Secretary: Judy Barten gave report for Jennifer Latzke

Treasurer's Report: Judy Barten presented report

Pastor's Report: Work Summary for 8/4/2025 – 8/31/2025

Worship – Preached and/or led Sunday worship 4 times and at Homestead Memory Care

Administration Meetings – 1 Council Meeting and 1 Christian Education Meeting

Pastoral Care – 8 Phone visits and 4 Home visits

Other – 1 movie night, 4 Cross Talk Local meetings, 10-33 Debrief

Vacation Days this month 0; Professional Development Days, YTD 5

Mileage 146

Elder's Report: Chris Bethe reported 65 took communion on September 7th.

Deacon's Report: None

Trustees's Report: Drew Snitker reported that Rikoric Masonry has donated chemical to clean and seal the limestone on the cross on the East side of the church. Dan Porter has been contacted to say that New Basel is ready for the downstairs ceiling to be fixed.

Other items discussed:

Harvest Home will be October 19th with Marian and Abby Doda presenting information about their ongoing mission and needs.

Christian Ed kick-off was this past Sunday. Sunday School structure has been changed slightly. Church/Sunday School Fall party will be at Randy and Judy Barten's. Everyone is invited to come after 3:30 for fishing and games. Eating will begin around 5:00 with a wiener roast. A bake sale will be held this winter as a fund raiser for Christian Ed.

Funding for the downstairs ceiling was discussed. Consensus was to use all the money donated to the church improvement fund in 2025, with the remainder coming from the mission investment interest. To date the construction fund has received \$4,800 in 2025.

Pastor Jamie reported that there was a false fire alarm that was sent to the fire department. Pastor contacted the alarm company.

Announcements:

Movie night – Sept 15th

Echo Articles Due – Sept 25th

Fall Party – Oct 4th

Communion – Oct 5

Church Council – Oct 6

Meeting was dismissed at 8:10 pm with saying the Lord's Prayer in Unison.

Judy Barten, Acting Secretary



Prayer Requests

Naoma Foltz

Jane Haney

Clema Anderson

Judy Lauer

Bobby Greenwood &

Judith Stevens

Kelly Schrader

Tony Herman

OCTOBER INFORMATION

Birthdays

2nd Jessica Murphy
 8th Farah Rothchild
 10th Sterling Bonnema
 13th Ed McAdams
 14th Alyssa Gantenbein
 15th Rita Gantenbein
 18th Blake Murphy
 21st Deb Foltz
 Ryan Foltz
 26th Jane Haney
 27th Sydney Taylor
 30th Scarlett Murphy
 31st Tristan Meyer



Anniversaries

6th Francis & Clema Anderson
 Brad & Karie Anderson
 7th Kenny & Janet Chamberlin
 14th Gary & Deb Foltz
 18th Gordon & Sara Hunnicutt

Upcoming November birthday

4th Kenny Chamberlin
 9th Kari Beetch

Harvest Home will be October 19th with Marian and Abby Doda presenting information about their ongoing mission and needs. A potluck dinner will follow church in the parish hall.

Sunday School Fall Party

Saturday, October 4th

Randy and Judy Barten's residence

3:30 -5:30 PM fishing at the pond

5:30 PM meal in Randy and Judy's shed.

Christian Ed will provide hot dogs, buns, and drinks.

We ask those attending to bring a side dish or dessert, lawn chairs, and fishing gear if interested in fishing!

call/text Jessica Murphy (785) 479-1394 with any questions

Greeters, Acolytes, & Usher for October

Greeters:

5th Drew & Lindsey Snitker
 12th Larry & Janis Haugh
 19th James & Jennifer Latzke
 26th Brady & Marissa Moddlemog

Acolytes:

Blake Murphy
 Farrah Rothchild
 Janessa Latzke
 Scarlet Murphy and Tinley Moddlemog

Usher: Bob O'Neal

Thank you to Randy Barten for being the September Usher!



Our Sunday School classes are once again gathering items to fill shoeboxes for children in need around the world, and we'd love your help! Just like last year, you'll find a tote beside the table behind the sanctuary for your donations. Ideas of donation items can be found at:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/>

The youth will fill the boxes during Sunday School on **November 16th**. Monetary gifts are also acceptable as they will help to offset the shipping cost of these boxes. Please contact Judy at 785-949-2832 or 785-479-0826 if you have any questions or need more information.

