



New Basel Church
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echo
New Basel Newsletter

DECEMBER 2025

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Third and fourth century Christians knew of persecution.

A boy named after his uncle was born in the city of Patara, on the southern coast of modern-day Turkey, and he lived to see some of the most *amazing* historical events in post-Resurrection history. Born to wealthy parents, he was taught by his parents Epiphanius and Johanna about the Christian faith and following the instructions of Jesus. His parents, however, died in an epidemic when he was still very young, so he was obliged to move in with his uncle Nicholas, bishop of Patara. Nicholas taught the young lad, who eventually became a reader and in due course came to be a priest himself.

As this young lad grew into his role as a priest, he took to heart Jesus teaching to ‘sell what you own and give the money to the poor.’ Indeed, it seems he spent his entire inheritance this way, selling his worldly goods and distributing the money to those in need.

For example, one story tells of a poor man with three young daughters. As these daughters grew older, the father lacked the money to provide a dowry to help attract a good and wealthy husband, and (as was often the case in such situations) slavery for the girls was a distinct and distasteful possibility. On three separate occasions, however, this generous priest is said to have tossed a small bag containing a few gold coins in through an open window, which landed in the girls’ shoes that had been left by the fireplace to dry. Needless to say, the girls’ lives were changed due to his generous nature.

Things began to change, however, in the year 299. Emperor Diocletian took part in a ceremony designed to reveal to him the future. The ritual involved killing animals and then reading their

entrails, but the pagan priests were not able to interpret the signs. The excuse these fortunetellers gave was that there were too many ‘impure’ people within the Emperor’s house. These obstructions to success, as it were, were of course the Christians, and soon Christians everywhere were being purged.

The persecution of Christians continued for the next several years, a fact that would directly impact the generous priest. Diocletian imprisoned and exiled him. It is said that the prisons were so full of Christians that would not renounce their faith that there was no room for other rule breakers, like murderers and thieves.

Diocletian’s persecutions did not last forever, though, and soon Emperor Constantine assumed power. The course of Christianity changed in 312 when Constantine himself became a Christian. The generous priest not only outlasted Diocletian’s persecution, but saw Christianity become the professed faith of the emperor!

History remembers these three, the two emperors and the priest, but each for different reasons. Diocletian is remembered for his opposition to Christianity, and Constantine for his conversion. But the generous priest, named for his uncle Nicholas, was given a sainthood by the Catholic Church for his outstanding Christian generosity, even during persecution. **Saint Nicholas**, as he would come to be known as, demonstrated just how much the world can change by doing what Jesus taught. One way we still celebrate his generosity is by hanging stockings by the fireplace to be filled with goodies, an echo of the three daughters’ story.

Live as Jesus taught us to, and see what God can do! And have a very Merry Christmas!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jamie

New Basel Church Council

Monday November 3rd, 2025

Called to order at 7:06 pm by President Pam O'Neal

Present

Elders: Pam O'Neal and Jen Reiff

Deacons: Jennifer Latzke, Judy Barten, and Francis Anderson

Trustees: Gary Foltz and Drew Snitker

Pastor Jamie opened with a devotion

Approval of Minutes:

M/S/C to approve the October minutes

Communications: We received a letter from Church Women United asking for donations for their "Christmas Aid Project"

Reports

Financial Secretary: Jennifer Latzke gave report

Treasurer's Report: Judy Barten gave report

Pastor's Report: Work summary for 10/6/25-11/3/25

Worship- Preached and/or led Sunday Worship 4 times and at Homestead Memory Care, 2 Funerals

Administration Meetings: 1 Church Council, 2 Funeral Planning, 1 Education

Pastoral Care- 2 Phone Visits, 5 Home Visits

Other- 1 Movie Night, 3 Cross Talk Local meetings, 3 Volunteer Reading at Rural Center (101 Dalmatians, Fortunately, The Sneaky Beagle), Harvest Home Potluck, 1 Site Council (Chapman Middle School)

Vacation Days This Month: 0, YTD:10 Professional Development Days: This month 0, YTD:5 Mileage: 84

Elders: Jen Reiff reported 40 people took communion 11/02/25

Deacons: Judy Barten reported the Deacons met 11/3. The Deacons reviewed last year's donations and discussed potential recipients for this year.

Trustees: Drew Snitker reported that the next basement project will focus on updating the lighting. Pastor Jamie shared the lighting options he researched for the space.

Old Business: It was M/S/C to purchase and install new lighting downstairs

Mark Larson inspected the church and determined that a new roof will be needed in the future, likely next summer. The council agreed to have them return after storm season to reevaluate the church and parsonage.

The Thanksgiving Service will be 11/23 at New Basel at 7:00 pm. Cookies and Coffee will be served.

5th Sunday Brunch (Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share) will be 11/30 at 9:30

Hanging of the Greens will be 11/30

Kids Christmas Program will be 12/14/25

New Business:

It was M/S/C to approve bills

M/S/C to transfer the budgeted \$24,000 from the Edward Jones account to the checking account. This amount will be used to pay for the repairs to the basement ceiling and support various missions.

The annual budget meeting will be held on 12/1/25, in conjunction with the regular council meeting, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Jamie will coordinate the Advent candle lighting for each December service.

Christmas Caroling will be 12/21/25

The Christmas Eve Service will be 12/24 at 6:30 pm

It was decided that the Christmas Eve offering will be designated for the Food Bank.

The council discussed the need to recruit members for the Nominating Committee.

Announcements

Upcoming Events

November 9th- Movie Night

November 23rd- Thanksgiving Service at New Basel 7:00 pm

November 23rd- Echo Articles Due

November 30th –5th Sunday Brunch (everyone bring dish to share)

November 30th- Hanging of the Greens

December 1st- Budget Meeting and Council Meeting at 6:30 pm

December 7th - Communion

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16pm

The Lord's Prayer was said in Unison

Jen Reiff, secretary

The Hanging of the Greens 2025



Naoma Foltz
Judy Lauer
Kelly Schrader
Tony Herman

Bobby Greenwood & Judith Stevens
Rachael Pritchard
Family of Clema Anderson

DECEMBER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

17th Molly Hunnicutt
25th Terry Reiff
27th Justin Latzke
29th Parker O'Neal

Upcoming January Birthday

2nd Travis Beetch

The Children's Sunday School Christmas program will be during regular Church Service on Sunday December 14th.

There will be no youth Sunday School classes December 21st – January 4th.



Greeters, Acolytes, & Usher for December

Greeters:

Acolytes:

7 th	Kenny & Janet Chamberlin
14 th	Ed & Jan McAdams
21 st	Jen Reiff and Joan Reiff
24 th	Mark & Holly Bethe
28 th	Randy & Judy Barten

Blake Murphy

Scarlett Murphy

Axie and Stetson Shrack

Devin Kamm

Sterling Bonnema

December Usher: Larry Haugh

Thank you to Gary Foltz for being the November Usher



**December 14th: Children's Christmas Program
Movie Night at the Church (A Christmas Carol)**

December 21st: Annual Christmas Caroling

December 24th: Christmas Eve Service at 6:30

