



New Basel Church  
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**echo**  
New Basel Newsletter

## FEBRUARY 2026

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Have you ever had to do some repair work on an older house? Maybe a pipe started to leak somewhere, or your electricity wasn't working right. But even though you knew repairs needed to be made, you also knew getting started on a project like that, in an older place especially, can be risky because you know the chances of finding *other things* needing to be addressed are pretty high. Once the wall is open, you can see lots of other problem areas too!

Reading the book of Romans can be a little like beginning repair work on your house. What I mean is this: if we read the book of Romans openly and honestly, it can explain a lot of what we currently see, not only in our own lives and families, but also in our country and headlines.

One thing that Paul tells us is that our sin is much worse than what we fear. Much like repairing old plumbing, when we open up our lives and start to address problems, other areas needing attention show up. Problems we aren't even aware of right now are still lurking in the dark! The first chapter in Romans shows just how bad things really are, and Romans 3:23 says, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." This means that we're all unholy, and *if we disagree with anything named as sin in the Bible, it's because we're unholy!* The problem is much worse than we fear.

But if the problem is worse than we fear, then the solution is also much better than we could ever hope. God loves us more than we know. In fact, we are loved more than we dare to even hope! Paul minces no words in declaring sin to be a problem. But God dealt with that problem in a way that no one ever

saw coming, and in a way that no one had ever hoped or dreamed was possible. Consider Romans 5:8

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Paul goes on, then, to say that people don't just willingly die for people every day. Sometimes, if a person is exceptionally good, a brave person might think about dying in somebody's place. But Jesus died for bad people! More than that, Paul actually uses the word enemies a couple of verses later! Jesus died for his enemies! If he's willing to do that, what would he not be willing to do for us, who are his friends?

So although our sin condition is worse than we ever feared, so to is our hope in Jesus Christ more than we ever dared to hope. And that is, in a nutshell, the message of the book of Romans, and a good summation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

It's always a good idea to know the true condition of your house, even if opening it up and looking at it is a little nerve wracking. And it's always a good idea to know the true condition of your soul, even if it is sobering. Maybe you would like to pause for a few moments and think. What kind of person were you without Jesus, before you became a Christian? How did you become a Christian, or, at what point were you no longer an enemy of God? And lastly, how have you changed since Jesus gave his life to save you?

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jamie

## **New Basel Church Council**

Monday January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Called to order at 7:00pm 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

### **Approval of Minutes:**

M/S/C to approve the December Minutes

**Communications:** Thank- you notes were received from the Hope Center, Hospice of Dickinson County, Samaritan's Purse, The Salina Rescue Mission, and the Doda family in appreciation of our donations.

### **Reports**

**Financial Secretary:** Jennifer Latzke gave report

**Treasurer's Report:** Judy Barten gave report

**Pastor's Report:** Work summary for 12/1/25-1/4/26

**Worship-** Preached and/or led Sunday Worship 4 times, and 2 times at Homestead Memory Care, 1 Funeral, and Christmas Eve Service

**Administration Meetings:** 1 Church Council, 1 Funeral Planning, 1 Substack Video (which provides information about an app that can be used for church communication).

**Pastoral Care-** 2 Phone Visits, 2 Home Visits, 3 hospital visits, and one Funeral Visitation

**Other-** 1 Movie Night, 3 Cross Talk Local meetings, 3 Volunteer Reading at Rural Center (Gingerbread Man Loose at Christmas, Santa Duck), and Christmas Caroling

Vacation Days This Month: 5, YTD:15

Professional Development Days: This month 0, YTD:5 Mileage: 198

**Elders:** Chris Bethe reported 43 took communion on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 37 on January 4<sup>th</sup>

**Deacons:** Judy Barten reported that we will serve a meal at the Irish Den on January 14<sup>th</sup>. The Irish Dent asked us to plan on serving 100 people. She also informed us of the members who are helping serve and those who will be bringing cookies to share.

**Trustees:** Drew Snitker reported that he and Gary Foltz will meet with Ron Pryor Wednesday to troubleshoot the basement lighting and determine why some of the lights aren't working.

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**Old Business:** Joleen Beemer and Janis Haugh, representing the Nominating Committee, were able to find replacements for members stepping down from council. Loren Barten will replace Francis Anderson as Deacon. Lynn Kauffman and Brady Modellmog will fill the Elder positions vacated by Pam O'Neal and Jen Reiff.

Annual Meeting reports are due by January 11<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business:**

It was M/S/C to approve bills

Pastor Jamie said he will be meeting with Lynette Steiner from Mt. Pleasant to discuss the curriculum for VBS 2026. He also mentioned Winter Jam will be January 30<sup>th</sup> in Wichita.

Pastor Jamie reported that there were two leaking faucets- one in the handicap restroom and one in the parsonage. The Council recommended that a plumber be contacted.

We also discussed the possibility of hosting another Valentine's Steak Dinner this year. Based on council members' schedules, Friday, February 13 was identified as a better option than February 14, which presents several conflicts. It was noted that last year's event was very well received, and there was positive interest in offering it again.

There was discussion regarding the recent decline in church attendance, and questions were raised about what steps or initiatives could be taken to address and improve engagement.

**Announcements**

Upcoming Events

January 11<sup>th</sup>- Annual Reports are due to Marion Kamm

January 11<sup>th</sup>- Church Movie Night

January 25<sup>th</sup>- Echo Articles Due

January 25<sup>th</sup>- Annual Meeting

February 1<sup>st</sup>- Communion

February 2<sup>nd</sup>- Church Council 7:00 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm

The Lord's Prayer was said in Unison

Jen Reiff, acting secretary



Naoma Foltz

Judy Lauer

Kelly Schrader

Tony Herman

Bobby Greenwood & Judith Stevens

Rachael Pritchard

# FEBRUARY



15<sup>th</sup> Lynn Barten  
 19<sup>th</sup> Deanna Stalder  
 21<sup>st</sup> Jennifer Barten Leichner  
         Austin Smiley  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Ron Pryor  
 24<sup>th</sup> Justin Beetch  
         Kayce Reiff  
 28<sup>th</sup> Ila Beemer  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Janet Chamberlin  
 6<sup>th</sup> Duncan Reiff  
 7<sup>th</sup> Owen Gantenbein  
 10<sup>th</sup> Bob O'Neal  
 13<sup>th</sup> Gary Foltz

### Upcoming March Birthdays

2<sup>nd</sup> Carolyn Graves      6<sup>th</sup> Keenan Reiff  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Marvel Meuli        7<sup>th</sup> Pastor Jamie Bonnema  
 5<sup>th</sup> Clayton Gfeller

### New Basel Sunday School Fundraiser

#### **Bake Sale**

**Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**New Basel Parish Hall**

**9:45 AM- 1:00 PM (or until sold out)**

Community members welcome!

Both sweet and savory items available.

*Cash and checks accepted.*

### *Super Bowl*

Join us for the big game on February 8<sup>th</sup>.  
Food, friends, and fun! The parlor will be open  
at 5 and game time is 5:30.

### Greeters, Acolytes, & Ushers for February

#### Greeters

#### Acolytes

**1<sup>st</sup>**

Tony Herman and Doug Pryor

Jace Latzke

**8<sup>th</sup>**

Lynn & Julie Kauffman

Blake Murphy and Stetson Shrack

**15<sup>th</sup>**

Jen and Duncan Reiff

Janessa Latzke

**22<sup>nd</sup>**

Sara & Gordon Hunnicutt

Sterling Bonnema

February Usher: Mitch Cromwell

*Thank you to Chris Bethe for being the January Usher*

## **New Basel Annual**

### **MEETING**

#### **Sunday February 15<sup>th</sup> (rescheduled date)**

*The meeting will take place after church service and will be followed by a potluck meal.*

#### **\*Notice of Proposed Bylaw Change\***

This is to inform the congregation that at the annual meeting on January 25, 2026, we will present a **proposal** to amend the church bylaws. The proposed change affects **Article IX, Section 9** regarding expenditures:

- The threshold requiring congregational approval for expenses to increase from **\$1,500** to **\$5,000**.