



New Basel Church  
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785-479-5501  
[www.newbaselchurch.org](http://www.newbaselchurch.org)

**echo**  
New Basel Newsletter

**MAY 2026**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Intimidated or Imitated?

Christians in America today seem to be at odds with modern culture and its many shifts in recent months and years. What's more, Christians seem to be at odds with each other about how best to respond to issues like the exclusive nature of traditional Christianity, the marginalization of the Bible, gay marriage, bathroom inclusion, denominational pride, and government policies and politicians antithetical to Christianity in general. How should we, a little church in a small town in the middle of Kansas, view things? How should we interact with a culture increasingly hostile to the beliefs taught to us by the Bible and by our parents and grandparents?

You know, we are not the first church to struggle with these questions. They have been answered already. In the Bible, even. Paul, the great evangelist and most prolific author of the New Testament, was known for stirring the pot, as it were, from time to time. Chapter 17 of the book of Acts details what happened when Paul preached the Gospel to the Thessalonians, and it was not pretty. Some of the Jewish leaders got some 'bad characters' to start a riot in order to force Paul out of the city. Then, when Paul went to the neighboring town of Berea, those same leaders took steps to have him run off from there as well.

Paul was very concerned about the church founded in Thessalonica, and was overjoyed to hear good news about the church from his faithful assistant Timothy. Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians in response to this good news, in which he thanks God for the Thessalonian church.

It is important, I think, to note the things which Paul thinks important enough to offer thanks. First off, Paul notes the Thessalonians' work. Even though it was

exhausting, those first Thessalonian Christians did more than just listen to first rate preaching. Their actions were modified, personalities changed, and the world *noticed*. And even though it was exhausting work, they were able to endure because of their hope stemming from a faith in Jesus.

Paul also commended the Thessalonians for the model they set. They "became imitators of us and of the Lord, in spite of severe suffering." (1:6) Now this is an amazing thing. Paul, once the greatest scourge of the Church, is comfortable in telling others to be like him. Not imitate his best qualities or even to learn from his mistakes (which I would be much more comfortable saying). He says to be like him and imitate Jesus. I wonder, how comfortable would we be saying that to our church? Or anyone outside the church?

Paul also applauded the Thessalonians for how they told the people around them *why* they were behaving differently than before. They did such a complete job of telling others about the reason for their hope and changed lives that Paul noted that even people living in neighboring cities could "...tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his son from heaven..." (1:9-10) The Thessalonians did such a thorough job in explaining Jesus that people in neighboring towns had begun to do their job for them!

So how do we, a little country church in Kansas, behave in America today? First, we work on ourselves and in our community. Second, we imitate Christ in everything. And third, we tell people about our hope in Jesus. And like Paul, don't be surprised if those in power organize mobs to intimidate us!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jamie

## New Basel Church Council

Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 2026

**Called to order:** 7:02 PM by Jennifer Latzke

### **Present**

### **Elders:**

Chris Bethe, Lynn Kauffman, and Brady Modellmog

### **Deacons:**

Judy Barten, Jennifer Latzke, and Loren Barten

### **Trustees:**

Drew Snitker and Gary Foltz

**Devotions:** Pater Jamie opened with a devotion.

### **Approval of March minutes:**

M/S/C to approve the March minutes

**Communications:** None

### **Reports:**

**Financial Secretary:** Drew Snitker gave the report.

**Treasurer:** Judy Barten gave the report

### **Pastors Report:**

3/3/26-4/5/26

**Worship:** preached and or led Sunday worship 5 times, and at Homestead Memory Care, and Maundy Thursday service

**Administration meetings:** 1 church council meeting

**Pastoral care:** 5 phone visits, and 3 home visits

**Other:** 3 crosstalk local meetings, 4 volunteer reading sessions at Rural Center, 1 game night, interfaith service at St. Andrews Church of Abilene, Christian Women's Fellowship

**Vacation Days:** this month: 1 YTD:0 **Professional Development Days:** this month:0 YTD: 4 **Mileage:**28

**Elders Report:** Chris Bethe reported that 81 people took communion on Easter Sunday.

**Deacons Report:** no report

**Trustees report:** Drew reported that spring workday will be on April 25<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 5:00 PM.

### **Old Business:**

**Old Business:** Bible school supplies are being gathered.

There was discussion on hiring Sterling to trim at the church. A motion was M/S/C to pay Sterling \$15/hour for trimming at the church.

**New Business:**

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

There was discussion on when to have ordination of the new council members.

A motion was M/S/C to for Pastor Jamie to have the time to participate in Crosstalk Global in Nepal. It will be for two weeks twice a year for three years.

**Upcoming Events:**

Echo articles due April 24<sup>th</sup>

Communion on May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Graduation recognition on April 26<sup>th</sup>

Council meeting May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM by praying the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Chris Bethe, Secretary

## Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt 2026



Naoma Foltz  
Judy Lauer  
Kelly Schrader  
Tony Herman

Rachel Prichard  
Bobby Greenwood &  
Judith Stevenson

# MAY INFORMATION

## Happy Birthday

1 <sup>st</sup> Austin Murphy	18 <sup>th</sup> Seth Lauer
8 <sup>th</sup> Andrew Gantenbein	Kyle Chamberlin
13 <sup>th</sup> Stacy Smiley	28 <sup>th</sup> William Graves
	DaLean Barten
	Gordon Hunnicutt

## Anniversaries

5<sup>th</sup> Tim & Jen Reiff  
 15<sup>th</sup> Mark & Holly Bethe  
 26<sup>th</sup> Dwight & Marion Kamm



May 10<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

### Greeters, Acolytes, & Ushers for May

#### Greeters

#### Acolytes

<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Brady & Marissa Moddlemog	Savannah Smiley & Tinley Moddlemog
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	James & Jennifer Latzke	Jannesa Latzke
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	Lynn & Julie Kauffman	Scarlet Murphy
<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	Duane & Ila Beemer	Axie & Stetson Shrack
<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Breakfast	

May Usher: Larry Haugh

*Thank you to Austin Murphy for being the April Usher*



**Vacation Bible School**  
**Tues. May 26 – Sat. May 30**  
**8:30 – 11:45 a.m.**  
**New Basel Church – 1075 1100 Ave.**

Scan QR code to register



For questions phone 785-479-5501 or 479-7322