



New Basel Church
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echo
New Basel Newsletter

September 2026

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Questionable statements. They seem suspicious from the start. “I don’t know who broke the lamp!” “It’s better than new!” “Free, with subscription!” “Well, when the president does [something], that means that it is not illegal.” “Three weeks to flatten the curve!”

But here’s another: “No one who abides in [Christ] sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him.” But wait! That’s in the Bible! 1 John 3:6 How can the Bible claim that Christians don’t sin, and that if someone *does* sin, they aren’t actually a Christian? If we were ever suspicious of a child that got caught, a salesperson shading the facts, or of a politician, we absolutely should be suspicious of a Christian leader claiming to be sinless! Or anyone else, for that matter. But how can that statement possibly be in the Bible?

The secret is to keep reading. If you read the rest of 1 John, you’ll see that it also says, “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us” – 1 John 1:8. So it seems, then, that 1 John is *not* actually trying to claim that Christians never sin.

So, is this a contradiction in the Bible? First, if we claim to be without sin, we’re wrong. But then Christians don’t sin? How does that work?

The point that 1 John is trying to make is that a true Christian will work toward righteousness. What is that? Working toward righteousness is becoming more and more like God in our actions, thoughts and attitudes. It begins with a

Christian confessing their sins (1:9), which then leads to Jesus speaking on our behalf to the Father (2:1) A Christian’s righteousness is the result of the work of Christ, not our own, and leads to change. The Christian then desires to discontinue those sinful practices. John can therefore say with confidence that a true Christian does not continue to sin, and that anyone that does isn’t a true Christian.

The implications of this book for us today are enormous. How many people do you know that turn a blind eye toward their own sin because “It’s not that bad. After all, I’m not hurting anyone!” It’s easy to see the sin someone else is accommodating, but it’s much harder to see our own. Even so, 1 John is clear: “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” [1:8]

Don’t deceive yourself, and don’t continue in sin. Ask God to show you the thoughts, attitudes, and actions that He would have you discontinue, and then work toward righteousness. And as you do, you prove, to yourself and to others, that you are a true Christian!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jamie

New Basel Church Council

Monday August 3rd, 2026

Called to order: 7:00 PM by Jennifer Latzke

Present

Elders:

Chris Bethe, Lynn Kauffman, and Brady Modellmog

Deacons:

Judy Barten, and Jennifer Lattzke

Trustees:

Drew Snitker and Gary Foltz

Devotions: Pastor Jamie opened with a devotion.

Approval of July minutes:

M/S/C to approve the July minutes

Communications: A newsletter came from Abilene Food Bank. Duncan Reiff sent a thank-you for the scholarship he received. A thank-you also came from the Felbush's for Bible School.

Reports:

Financial Secretary: Drew gave the report.

Treasurer: Judy gave the report.

Pastors Report:

7/6/26-8/2/26

Worship: preached and or led Sunday worship 4 times, and at Homestead Memory Care, 1 funeral(Bob Greenwood)

Administration meetings: 1 church council meeting, 1 Funeral Planning, 1 Membership

Pastoral care: 2 phone visits, 8 home visits, and 3 office visits

Other: 1 CrossTalk Global Apprentice meeting(zoom), 1 CrossTalk Local meeting, 1 game night

Vacation Days: this month: 0 YTD:4 **Professional Development Days:** this month:0 YTD: 4 **Mileage:**196

Elders Report: 40 took communion on August 2nd

Deacons Report: no report

Trustees report: Drew reported that the wood floors in the sanctuary need scrubbed. Drew also reported that handrails will be installed in the sanctuary going up to the pulpit.

Old Business: 55 people attended the Church picnic.

New Business:

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

It was M/S/C to contract 4500 gallons of propane at \$1.60 per gallon.

It was M/S/C to recommend the Shouse's for Church membership.

Harvest Home will be on November 1st.

September is food pantry collection month.

Upcoming Events:

August 25th- Echo articles due

September 6th- Communion

September 8th- Church Council

September 13th- Family Night

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM by praying the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Chris Bethe, Secretary



Prayer Requests

Naoma Foltz

Judy Lauer

Kelly Schrader

Tony Herman

Kelly Schrader

Lynn & Suzie Barten

Judith Stevenson

September is New Basel Church's month to gather donations and funds for the Abilene Area Food Pantry.

Here's a list of current needs:

Baking Supplies: cake and muffin mix, frosting, oil, flour, sugar, baking powder, soda, yeast, vanilla

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

Cereal: hot, cold, 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, feminine products, disposable diapers, shaving supplies, lotion, skin cream

Meat: canned meat and fish, especially tuna

Misc.: peanut butter, jelly, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, ramen noodles, rice, dry beans, crackers, juice, syrup, instant potatoes, hamburger helpers, spices, salt & pepper, jello & pudding mixes

Fresh Produce: Extra items from your garden. These items will be delivered on Monday following the Sunday of donation.

If you wish to make a monetary donation, please make your checks to: Abilene Area Food Pantry

September



Birthdays

1st Holly Bethe
Margaret Shouse
7th James Latzke
9th Dwight Kamm
16th Lisa Berggren
19th Chad Beetch
25th Axie Shrack
28th Marcile Parks
30th Francis Anderson
Jeremy Reiff



Anniversaries

10th Ron & Margaret Shouse
24th Scott & Amber Reiff

Upcoming October Birthdays & Anniversaries

2nd Jessica Murphy
4th Loren Barten
8th Farah Rothchild
10th Sterling Bonnema
7th Kenny & Janet Chamberlin



Sunday September 14th

“A Great Awakening” follows the inspiring true story of the friendship between Benjamin Franklin and preacher George Whitefield during a pivotal era in American history, set against the backdrop of the first Great Awakening religious movement. The film blends political and spiritual themes, highlighting how belief and liberty intertwine.

Greeters, Acolytes and Ushers for September

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>
6 th	Holly and Chris Bethe	Janessa Latzke
13 th	Loren and Linda Barten	Savannah Smiley
20 th	Bob and Pam O’Neal	Stetson Shrack
27 th	Greg and Jolene Beemer	Sterling Bonnema
September Usher: Randy Barten		

Thank you to Gregg Beemer for being the August Usher

Sunday School

Sunday School Kickoff on Sunday, September 13th at 10 AM in the Parish Hall. Light brunch will be served. All Sunday School classes are invited to attend.

This semester, we are offering the following classes which will start at 9:30 AM each Sunday morning:

- **preK/elementary** - taught by Stacy and Sara
- **middle school** - taught by Stacy and Sara
- **high school**- led by Angela and Jessica
- **young adults**- led by Judy
- **adults**- in upstairs adult classroom: led by Chris

All Sunday school classes will be **every Sunday morning**, unless special events are planned including 5th Sunday brunches. Stay tuned for more info on new digital content access used in the fall curriculum and available to all congregation members- launch date September 13th!