



New Basel Church
1075 1100 Ave Abilene, KS 67410
785-479-5501
www.newbaselchurch.org

echo
New Basel Newsletter

August 2024

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

If you tell your boss, “I was here before you, so I don’t see why I should have to ask your permission,” you might be in trouble.

If you ask a woman when her due date is, and she isn’t pregnant, you might be in trouble.

If your parents use your middle name when calling you, you might be in trouble.

If you pull over a cop and ask him how fast he was going, you might be in trouble.

If you ask your wife, “Have you gained some weight in your rear end?” you might be in trouble.

There are so many things we do that might get us into trouble. But if we start believing that we are better than other people because of what they have done, we *will be* in trouble.

I read an article the other day that was challenging not because it claimed anything new or radical, but because of how far it went. It was called *The Gospel According to Jeffrey Dahmer*. Dahmer, if you remember, was the guy from Milwaukee that killed 17 people through the 1980s and early 1990s, dismembered their bodies, and stored some of the pieces for later consumption. He was arrested, convicted, and sentenced to prison for the rest of his life.

As challenging as his story is, the next part is where it gets hard for Christians.

While Dahmer was in prison, he asked for a Bible. He also met Roy Ratcliff, pastor of a

local church. Ratcliff led Dahmer to Christ and eventually baptized him in the prison whirlpool. Dahmer, it seems, became a Christian! If this is true, then when we die and go to heaven, one of the people we meet there will be this horrifying mass murderer!

I don’t know about you, but that kind of freaks me out a little. And this is why this type of thing gets us into real trouble. It is *really* easy to think that we are better than other people because of what they have done. It is really easy to forget what *grace* truly is. And it is really easy to forget that we need God’s grace just as much as Dahmer did.

God’s grace is arguably the most remarkable thing we will ever encounter. As the article mentioned earlier states, “Grace is incomprehensibly comforting yet incomparably devastating. Grace kills the human made economy of performance and merit.” Jeffrey Dahmer, Mother Teresa, you, and I all carry the exact same amount of worthiness to Judgment Day – precisely zero. It goes against everything we know about life, against everything we feel about justice, and against everything we hope about ourselves. “Surely,” we say to ourselves, “I am better than _____ is!”

There are so many ways for us to get into trouble in life. But it is when we try to argue our way into heaven based on our own merit that we get into real trouble. Take care that you don’t focus on yourself, and don’t take your eyes off what Christ did for you.

Grace and Peace (and stay out of trouble!),
Pastor Jamie

New Basel Church Council
Monday July 8th, 2024

Called to order at 7:03 pm 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, Drew Snitker

Pastor Jamie opened with a devotion.

M/S/C to approve the June minutes as printed.

Communications: Thank you note from The Pregnancy Service Center

Reports:

Financial Secretary Report was given by Jennifer Latzke.

Treasurer's Report was given by Judy Barten. Judy will transfer funds from the endowment fund and from the scholarship fund to reimburse for VBS and Scholarship given. A motion was made, seconded and passed for this.

Pastor's Report:

Work Summary for 6/3/24-6/30/24

Worship-Preached and/or led Sunday Worship 4 times

Administration Meetings-1 Church Council, 1 Deacons

Pastoral Care- 8 Phone Visits and 5 Home Visits

Other- 2 worship planning- phone, 4 CrossTalk Local meetings, 1 Church Movie Night, 5th Sunday Brunch

Vacation Days This month: 0 YTD: 3

Professional Development Days This month: 0, YTD:10

Mileage: 58

Elders Report: Chris Bethe reported 39 took communion on July 7th

Deacons Report: Judy Barten reported deacons met with Abby Kitchener of the Operation Mobilization Mission Group.

Trustees Report: Gary Foltz and Drew Snitker reported on church improvements needing done. They will present these items to the congregation so the congregation knows what is needed for the Church Improvement Offering.

Old Business:

Discussed cleaning the parish hall floors

Discussed cutting off stumps and planting new shrubs out front

Discussed Improvement Fund Projects

Men's Restroom, no new report

Discussed having smoked meat instead of grilling burgers for Church Picnic

New Business:

M/S/C to pay presented bills

Discussed what will be displayed on screens in the Sanctuary

Francis Anderson announced he has resigned from the Advisory Board at Enterprise Estates. New Basel needs a new member to volunteer for this position. It consists of attending approximately 2 meetings per year.

Announcements

Upcoming Events:

July 25th - Echo Articles Due

July 28th- Church Picnic in Parish Hall

August 4th- Tim Johnson preaching- No communion

August 5th- Church Council

August 11th – Communion
Special business meeting
Church movie night

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm by praying the Lord's Prayer in Unison

Jen Reiff, Secretary



Thank you to the New Basel Scholarship Committee for awarding me with a scholarship to help with my future at Kansas State University. Also, thank you to the congregation for your thoughts, prayers and well wishes.

Thanks again,
Riley Hunnicutt



Maxine Kauffman

Naoma Foltz

Dwight Meuli

Judy Lauer

Kelly Schrader

Tony Herman

AUGUST INFORMATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1 st Maxine Kauffman	22 nd Mark Robson
2 nd Joleen Beemer	23 rd Judy Barten
5 th Diane Loftness	Darren Haney
Deborah Lathan	26 th Pam O'Neal
8 th Stephanie Gfeller	
10 th Stetson Shrack	<u>Anniversaries</u>
12 th Eric Kamm	9 th Gregg & Joleen
13 th Peggy Meuli	

Upcoming September Birthdays

1 st Holly Bethe	9 th Dwight Kamm
-----------------------------	-----------------------------

BE STRONG *and*
COURAGEOUS!

DO NOT *be* AFRAID
OR DISCOURAGED.

FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD
IS WITH YOU
WHEREVER YOU GO.

▶▶▶▶▶▶ *Joshua 1:9*

Greeters, Acolytes and Usher for August

Greeters:

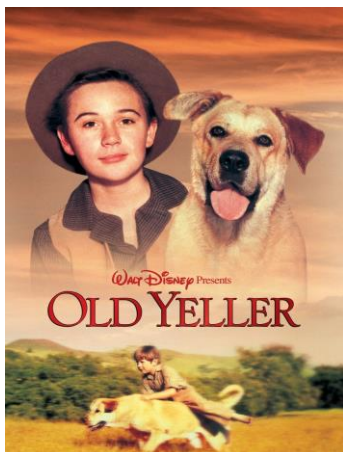
Acolytes:

	Greeters:	Acolytes:
4 th	Gary & Deb Foltz	Sterling Bonnema
11 th	Adam & Alyssa Gantenbein	Savannah Smiley
18 th	Mitch & Kara Cromwell	Owen Cromwell
25 th	Austin & Jessica Murphy	Blake Murphy

August Usher: Gregg Beemer

Thank you to Dwight Kamm for being the July Usher

Movie Night at the Church



August 11th at 5:00 pm

Special Business Meeting
August 11th
following Worship service to
vote on installing a new
handicap ramp.

