



JUNE 2024

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Where did Jesus go after he died?

We all know the story of Easter. He was arrested on Thursday, died on Friday, and came back on Sunday. But what was going on on Saturday? If Jesus is the Son of God and conqueror of death, if Jesus' body was in a grave, where was Jesus' spirit? Was he just hanging out in that grave, waiting for his cue to rise from the dead?

Perhaps you are familiar with the Apostle's Creed, written somewhere in the 300s, which states that **Christ "was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell."** This creed has been uttered by thousands of churches for hundreds of years.

Wait a minute...Jesus went to hell?

The biblical support for this idea comes from an obscure text found in 1 Peter 3:18-19, which states, (italics mine) "For Christ also died for the sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit; *in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison*, who once were disobedient when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is eight persons, were bought safely through the water."

This passage has brought many a theologian agony and dismay over the years. In fact, Martin Luther once said, "A wonderful text is this, and a more obscure passage perhaps than any other in the New Testament, so that I do not know for a

certainty just what Peter means." According to one author, it has been estimated that there are over 180 different interpretations of this text, each of them as unlikely as the last!

One possibility is that Jesus went to hell to give people there a second chance to repent. This idea seems to contradict other Scripture that indicate decisions need to be made in this lifetime (Lk 16:26). So what then? What's the prison? Who are the spirits?

Another possibility, and one that I like, is that Jesus went to a place described in Luke 16 as "Abraham's side." Not heaven, yet not hell, this is where all those saints from the OT were until Jesus made it possible for heaven to be opened to them.

This view is not without its own problems, of course. That's why there are 180 different interpretations!

There are some passages in the Bible that are just unknowable. There's a certain mystery. What do we do when we come up against texts like this, though? Some of the best advice I ever received when going into the ministry was to learn to say 'I don't know.' A lot. And so here it is. I don't know what Peter meant. Just like Martin Luther, or any number of other theologians. What's more, we probably won't know this side of heaven. But it's still fun to talk to others about it!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jamie

**New Basel Church Council**

**Monday May 6, 2024**

Called to order at 7:08 p.m. by President Pam O'Neal

**Present:**

**Elders:** Pam O'Neal, Jen Reiff, and Chris Bethe

**Deacons:** Francis Anderson, Judy Barten and Jennifer Latzke

**Trustees:** Drew Snitker

Pastor Jamie opened with a devotion.

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

**Communications:** None

**Reports:**

**Financial Secretary and Treasurer:**

Financial Secretary report was given by Jennifer Latzke.

Treasurer's Report was given by Judy Barten.

**Pastor's Report:**

Work Summary for 4/1/24-5/5/25

**Worship-** Preached and/or led Sunday Worship 4 times, 2 Funerals

**Administration Meetings-** 1 Church Council, 4 Funeral Planning, 1 Worship Planning, 1 AV system training.

**Pastoral Care-** 6 Phone Visits, 7 Home Visits, 1 Pastoral Visit, 1 Premarital Counseling Session.

**Other-** 1 Cross Talk Class Session, 4 Cross Talk Local meetings, 4 Volunteer Reading Sessions a Rural Center, 1 Church Movie Night, Assisted in Homiletics Class at Sterling College, assisted with funeral at church, assisted in AV installation, Church Workday

Vacation Days This month: 1; YTD 3

Professional Development Days this month: 0; YTD: 5

Mileage: 0

**Elders:** Chris Bethe reported that 51 people took communion May 5<sup>th</sup>

**Deacons:**

**Trustees:**

**Old Business:**

Bible School 5/28-6/1

Men's Restroom, no new report

Church Camp

**New Business:**

M/S/C to pay presented bills

Scholarship Update- Applications were accepted until 5/10

Discussed possible steak night in the future in place of church night out

**Announcements:**

**Upcoming Events:**

May 12<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day/Tim Johnson doing Sermon

May 25<sup>th</sup>- ECHO Articles Due

May 28<sup>th</sup>- Bible School Starts

June 2<sup>nd</sup> Communion

June 3<sup>rd</sup>- Church Council

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm by praying the Lord's Prayer in Unison

Jen Reiff, Secretary



Thank you to all that volunteered their time and contributed to make Vacation Bible School 2024 a success!!



Maxine Kauffman

Judy Lauer

Naoma Foltz

Kelly Schrader

Dwight Meuli

Tony Herman

# JUNE

## BIRTHDAYS

13<sup>th</sup> Allie Gfeller  
14<sup>th</sup> Nathan Kamm  
15<sup>th</sup> Bo Rothchild  
20<sup>th</sup> Doug Pryor  
29<sup>th</sup> Tony Herman



## ANNIVERSERIES

7<sup>th</sup> Bill and Carolyn Graves  
11<sup>th</sup> Kevin & Stacy Smiley

## Upcoming July Birthdays

6<sup>th</sup> Sara Hunnicutt      9<sup>th</sup> John Meuli



## Greeters, Acolytes, & Ushers for June

### Greeters

### Acolytes

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kenny & Janet Chamberlin	Jace Latzke
9 <sup>th</sup>	Gordon & Sara Hunnicutt	Sterling Bonnema
16 <sup>th</sup>	Francis & Clema Anderson	Trinity Peace
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Randy & Judy Barten	Devin Kamm
30 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Breakfast	

June Usher: Kevin Smiley

Thank you to Drew Snitker for being the May Usher.

# MOVIE NIGHT

“The Chosen” Episodes 3 & 4  
Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm