



New Basel Church
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echo
New Basel Newsletter

MAY 2024

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One of the most amazing and baffling choices God ever made was when he decided to use Christians and the Church Militant to reach out to those that do not yet know God. Why doesn't God choose to speak to people through dreams and visions most frequently? Why not strike people dead when they insult God, and reign by using fear and terror? I mean, from an efficiency standpoint, it would at least be more of an attention getter! Churches, pastors, and the people that attend are so inconsistent, unreliable, susceptible, and corrupt that it's a wonder we ever get anything done! Even within the pages of the Bible, the stories are about people that make colossal errors in judgment and deed. If even they couldn't get it right, how can we ever be good enough to be entrusted with so great a task as representing God to a world that is lost?

To address one of God's most amazing and baffling choices, God chose to give us an amazing and inspiring Bible passage. Hebrews 11, sometimes called the Faith Hall of Fame, is one of the most interesting passages in the Bible. It lists several people from Israelite history whom we can look to as examples of faith, and what God can do through people of faith. What caught my attention the other day is that the people on this list were by no means 'perfect'. God presents these inspirational examples to us, 'warts and all,' as it were.

Take, for example, Noah. True, he obeyed God and built an ark, through which his family and the animals of creation were saved. But another part of his story is that

when he first set foot off that boat, the first thing he did was to get slobbering drunk. (Genesis 9:18ff) Not a great example of God.

And what about Abraham? There's a Jerry Springer episode if there ever was one. He actually told his wife to pretend to be his sister so the king would take her as a wife and *not* kill Abraham! Twice!! Not only does God choose to use this guy and his insane family, but Abraham is the grandfather of Jacob, who is the father of the 12 tribes of Israel!

And then there's Samson. Samson was chosen by God before birth to be a Nazirite, set apart for God. What is absolutely remarkable is that the life he lived was one of complete selfishness and rebellion, and he seemed determined to break every Law there was. It's difficult to find a single praiseworthy word, deed, or thought in his entire life, right up to the moment of his death. But when his choices finally and utterly ruined his life, THAT'S when he completely surrendered to God, and God was able to use him! (Judges 13-16)

And that's just the thing. That's the kind of God we serve. God doesn't choose to use churches, pastors, and people, because of their perfection. He uses us to show it's never too late to turn to Him, and you're never too screwed up for God to accept and love you.

And that, my friends, is Good News!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jamie

New Basel Church Council

Monday April 1, 2024

Called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Pam O'Neal

Present:

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

Deacons: Judy Barten and Jennifer Latzke

Trustees: Gary Foltz and Drew Snitker

Pastor Jamie opened with a devotion.

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

Communications: Received thank you notes from Abilene Food and Clothing Bank and Hospice of Dickinson County for our donation.

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 3/4/24-3/31/24

Worship- Preached and/or led Sunday Worship 4 times, 1 Funeral, Maundy Thursday Service

Administration Meetings- 1 Church Council, 1 VBS Planning(phone), 1 Funeral Planning (via zoom), 3 Maundy Thursday Planning.

Pastoral Care- 5 Phone visits, 4 Home Visits, 1 Office Visit, 2 Hospital Visits, 1 Premarital Counseling Session.

Other- 1 Cross Talk Class Session, 2 Cross Talk Local meetings, 1 Volunteer Reading Session at Rural Center Grade School, 1 Church Movie Night, Assisted in Homiletics class at Sterling College, Course Title: Assisting Individuals in Crisis and Group Crisis Intervention (27 hours)

Vacation Days This month: 2, YTD 2 Professional Development Days This month: 0, YTD: 5

Mileage 145

Elders: Chris Bethe reported 41 people took communion at Maundy Thursday Service 3/28 and 79 on 3/31 service.

Deacons: Deacons met March 4th and discussed future mission donations. They would like to choose Missions that spread the word of God through their work.

Drew Snitker has a list of jobs needing done for Church Workday 4/20 @ 3:00 pm

Old Business:

Church Workday - 4/20 Discussed items needing done

Lawn Mowing Signup sheet is up front on bulletin board

Graduation Recognition will be Sunday May 5th w/ hospitality committee hosting reception

Bible School: 5/28-6/1

New Business:

M/S/C to pay presented bills

Discussed Spring Cleaning inside the church

Michael Davidson came to the meeting to discuss donating his time to give the upstairs men's restroom an upgrade

Upcoming Events:

May 5th- Communion

May 6th- Church Council

May 12th- Mother's Day

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm by praying the Lord's Prayer in Unison.

Jen Reiff, Secretary



Maxine Kauffman

Naoma Foltz

Dwight Meuli

Judy Lauer

Kelly Schrader

Tony Herman

Congratulations!

Riley Hunnicutt - daughter of Gordon & Sara Hunnicutt is graduating from Hope High School and will be attending Kansas State University.

Wyatt Hunnicutt – son of Gordon & Sara Hunnicutt is graduating from Hope Junior High School and will attend Hope High School.

Bo Rothchild – son of Andrea Koster and Marcus Rothchild is graduating from Chapman Junior High School and will attend Chapman High School.

Belated Congratulations to Adam and Alyssa Gantenbein on the birth of their son, Owen Daniel Gantenbein, on February 7, 2024. He was welcomed home by big brother Lincoln Drew, who turned 2 on March 23rd. Congratulations to the entire family, including Grandparents, Kenny & Rita Gantenbein!

Youth Camp, for ages 12 and up, starts June 10. Kids Camp, ages 11 and under, starts June 23. The church thinks it is important enough that we are willing to cover most of the \$200 registration fee, so parents only need cover the \$20 down payment.



MAY INFORMATION

Happy Birthday!

1 st Austin Murphy	18 th Seth Lauer
4 th Dwight Meuli	Kyle Chamberlin
7 th Clema Anderson	28 th William Graves
8 th Andrew Gantenbein	DaLean Barten
13 th Stacy Smiley	Gordon Hunnicutt

Anniversaries

5 th Tim & Jen Reiff	26 th Dwight & Marion Kamm
15 th Mark & Holly Bethe	31 st Dwight & Marvel Meuli



May 28th - June 1st

Please contact Pastor Jamie if you are able to help.

Greeters, Acolytes, & Ushers for May

Greeters

Acolytes

5th	Brady & Marissa Moddlemog	Savannah Smiley & Tinley Moddlemog
12th	James & Jennifer Latzke	Jennesa Latzke
19th	Ron & Margaret Shouse	Blake Murphy
26th	Duane & Ila Beemer	Axie & Stetson Shrack

May Usher: Drew Snitker

Thank you to Austin Murphy for being the April Usher



Movie Night

May 12th at 5pm
“The Apple Dumpling Gang Rides Again”