



New Basel Church
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echo
New Basel Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2025

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As our nation struggles with how to respond to the violent extremism the world is encountering emanating from the Muslim faith, we are repeatedly reminded that Christianity is not without fault. It is true the Spanish Inquisition was also a religiously motivated travesty, as was the violence perpetrated on the black community by the KKK. Indeed, slavery came to America, so the claim goes, through the actions of Christians.

Alongside this effort to remind Christians of their historic faults, we also hear that the Christian belief that our country was founded and guided by people of great faith is false. Many would have Americans believe that the greatest leaders of our country were either unabashed atheists, or only pretended faith to avoid criticism. One such leader under this revisionist attack is Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln's religious beliefs came under question early on, when a close associate of his, William Herndon, indicated that Lincoln was a closet atheist of sorts. While it is true that this claim was trumpeted far and wide by likeminded folk, it does appear to be fatally devoid of facts.

Take, for example, Lincoln's inauguration speech of 1861. The Confederate States of America had already been formed, and tensions were high. It was here that he said, "I am sure I bring a heart true to the work. For the ability to perform it I trust in that Supreme Being who has never forsaken this favored land, through the instrumentality of this great and intelligent people. Without that assistance, I shall surely fall; with it I cannot fail." At the very least, it would seem that at the outset, Lincoln was aware of God directing the steps of his nation, and expressed reliance upon God for his presidency. But would his faith last through our country's bloodiest war?

Some months and years later, Lincoln's pastor (yes, he regularly attended church) wanted to pay him a visit. Lincoln indicated that at 5am,

they would not be disturbed. When the pastor showed up, however, he heard a conversation on the other side of the door. The attendant present assured the pastor, "There is no one there, Mr. Lincoln always spends this hour in reading the Bible and in prayer."

Lincoln was a firm believer in the Bible. As he told his friend Joshua Speed, "Take all of this book [the Bible] upon reason that you can, and the balance on faith, and you will live and die a better man." What Lincoln is saying here is a slap to the rationalists and intellectuals we still encounter today: believe the Bible when it seems plausible, and if it doesn't, believe it anyway!

While Lincoln's opposition to slavery is widely known, the reasoning for his disapproval may be less so. In a discussion with group of Senators, Lincoln said he believed the Union would prevail, not because God would bless such a noble cause as theirs, but because God wanted to abolish slavery and would compel the Union to act accordingly. This is a true expression of faith: not asking God to bless his cause, but championing God's cause!

Today, we erect statues and monuments so that we might remember. We remember Lincoln's able leadership, his visionary defiance of oppression, and his influence on modern government. But let us not forget his reason. Let us not ignore his motivation. Let us not forget that it was his faith in God that forced him to destroy slavery. Our country's wealth does not lie in money, industry, or government. It lies in the faith of its people.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jamie

New Basel Church Council
Monday January 13,2025

Called to order at 7:04 by President Pam O'Neal

Present

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

Deacons: Judy Barten and Jennifer Latzke

Trustees: Gary Foltz and Drew Snitker

Pastor Jamie opened with a devotion.

M/S/C to approve December minutes

Communications: The following thank you cards were received: Samaritan's Purse, Abilene Food and Clothing Bank, Neighbor to Neighbor and Operation Mobilization for our contributions to their missions.

Reports

Financial Secretary: Jennifer Latzke presented report

Treasurer: Judy Barten went over December's financial reports

Pastor's Report:

Work Summary for 12/2/24-1/6/25

Worship- Preached and/or led Sunday worship 3 times, Christmas Eve

Administration Meetings-1 Pastor Parish, 1 Church Council, 7 Planning Meeting

Pastoral Care- 11 Phone Visits, 8 Home Visits, 1 Hospital Visit

Other- 4 Cross Talk meetings, 1 Church Movie Night, 3 Volunteer Readings sessions at Rural Center books read were Super Narwhal and Jelly Jolt, and Gingerbread Man Loose at Christmas. 1 Cross Talk Global, 1 Parent's Day out.

Vacation Days: This month:6, YTD: 14. Professional Development Days: This month: 0, YTD: 10

Mileage: 326

Upcoming Vacation: Spring Break

Elders Report: No report

Deacons Report: Judy Barten reported that her and Jennifer Latzke's Annual reports are ready to go to Marion.

Trustee's Report: No report

Old Business:

Discussed where we are at on bathroom renovations

Discussed New Basel Sign

Discussed “Church Night Out”- A Valentine’s Day Steak Night for the congregation

New Business:

It was M/S/C to approve and pay bills

Discussed Annual Meeting Agenda

Will have Offering Discussion at Annual Meeting

Announcements: Upcoming Events

Confirmation Class will begin 1-19-25

ECHO Articles Due 1-25-25

Annual Meeting 1-26-25- potluck after worship, meeting to follow lunch

Communion 2-2-25

Council Meeting: 2-3-25 7:00pm

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm by praying the Lord’s Prayer in Unison

Jen Reiff, Secretary



Maxine Kauffman

Tony Herman

Naoma Foltz

Kelly Schrader

Jane Haney

Family of John Meuli

Judy Lauer

FEBRUARY

Happy Birthday

2nd Janet Chamberlin
 6th Duncan Reiff
 7th Owen Gantenbein
 10th Bob O'Neal
 13th Gary Foltz

15th Lynn Barten
 19th Deanna Stalder
 21st Jennifer Barten Leichner
 Austin Smiley
 22nd Ron Pryor
 24th Justin Beetch
 Kayce Reiff
 28th Ila Beemer

Upcoming March Birthdays

2nd Cecil Schrader
 Carolyn Graves
 3rd Marvel Meuli
 5th Clayton Gfeller
 6th Keenan Reiff
 7th Pastor Jamie Bonnema

Super Bowl

Join us for the big game on February 9th, and help cheer the Chiefs to victory! Food, friends, and fun! The parlor will be open at 5 and game time is 5:30.

Attention middle school and high schoolers: Winter Jam is coming to Wichita's Intrust Bank Arena on March 13. Skillet is headlining the concert, and will be joined by artists like Anne Wilson, Micah Tyler, and Newsong. The tickets we want are \$60, and premium seats, discounted merch, and a Jam Nation shirt. Contact Pastor Jamie if interested.

Greeters, Acolytes, & Ushers for February

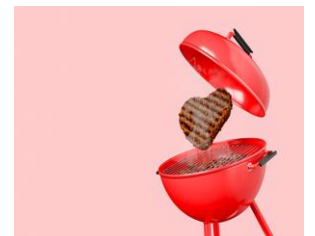
	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>
2 nd	Tony Herman and Doug Pryor	Jace Latzke
9 th	Lynn & Julie Kauffman	Blake Murphy
16 th	Jen and Duncan Reiff	Owen Cromwell
23 rd	Sara & Gordon Hunnicutt	Trinity Peace
February Usher: Mitch Cromwell		

Thank you to Chris Bethe for being the January Usher



Church Night Out

Valentine's Day Steak Dinner



We are so proud of New Basel church, and the relationships and marriages found here, that we'd like to celebrate YOU!

Bring your date/family to New Basel Church on Valentine's Day, and enjoy a steak dinner on us! Look for the reservation sheet at the church or call Pastor Jamie. Seatings at 6 and 6:30.