



**August 2022**

A monthly publication of the  
East Martin Christian Reformed Church

# The Echoes



## **A View from the Pew**

### **Thy Word Is a Lamp Unto My Feet**

Just a year ago, late August 2021, Josh Shaarda challenged us to read through the Bible in a year, by reading three chapters a day. I don't know about you, but I didn't make it! However, in my attempt to reach the goal, something special occurred in my devotional life. I choose to read chronologically, which really "puts things into perspective."

I also employ two "techniques," taking notes on each chapter as I read. The first step involves writing down repeated words. Sometimes a word appears just twice, earning it the "right" to appear in my journal; however, occasionally a word or phrase shows up three or more times. No matter the number, the significance lies in the repetition.

Second, I go back through and scan the passage for God's attributes and write these down. They may actually be stated, like He is Almighty, merciful, compassionate, angry, Sovereign. Alternately, they can be construed from the text. God is Creator, judge, holy, omnipotent, omniscient, etc. In this way we take time to learn more about Him.

Psalm 119:103-104 reads "How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! I gain understanding from Your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path." Probably today, perhaps more than ever, it's difficult to get into the Word. We're busy, and we're tired. Everything out there fights for our time and attention. Realistically, we are in a spiritual battle, so none of us is free from Satan's attacks. To equip ourselves, we must know Scripture as well as correct application. The Bible is the living Word. Therefore we need to pause, to cherish it, to "eat" it. Do those around us "catch" us in Scripture, especially our children, grandchildren, neighbors and friends? The truth is, "Children Learn What They Live," and whatever we're "caught" doing impacts others, as we saw in the April Echoes. "Whether we realize it or not, we make waves, which directly affects" others, for years to come.

You didn't make it through the Bible in twelve months? Well, you could double up on reading, or, better yet, you could simply keep reading! It's never too late to begin...or to continue. Catch and taste the blessings God provides in His Word.

## Children Learn What They Live

Dorothy Law Nolte

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.  
If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.  
If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.  
If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.  
If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.  
If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence.  
If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.  
If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.  
If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith.  
If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.  
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world.



### Coffee Break

Coffee Break will begin on Wednesday, September 14. We meet at church from 9:45-11:00. We have a snack and talk time for 15 minutes and then get into a Bible study at 10. This year will be looking at the book "Questioning Evangelism" by Randy Newman. It's a study of how Jesus engaged people by asking them questions and getting to know them and their needs. A great evangelism approach. We'll be in this study until the Christmas break, then do another study from January to May, which is yet to be determined. We would love to have you join us, it's a great time of fellowship and Bible study. If you have any questions talk to Deb Smit or Denise Leep.

### Ladies' Evening Bible Study

Ladies' evening Bible study will be on Elijah by Priscilla Shirer. This study will renew your faith and kindle a fresh fire in your spirit. The fall Bible study will be starting in September on the 2nd and 4th Monday evenings at 6:30. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you are interested.

### Sunday School and Catechism

The new Sunday School and Catechism year is upon us once again. Our Sunday School year begins Sunday, September 18th after the morning service. We are excited for the opportunities this year provides. Note that this year, Sunday School and Catechism will NOT meet on Sundays we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

This year the lead teacher for Pre K through 1st grade will be Amy Kalkman. She will have a helper to assist her each week. Libby Dendel will be the teacher for 2nd grade through 4th grades. The two groups will meet for singing. Pre K through 1st grades will be learning their lessons using felt to tell the story. The 2nd graders through 4th grades will be learning the same stories but will be going back to the Bible to read and hear the stories directly from God's word. Each group will be doing worksheets that follow their story for the week. There will be a Christmas Program December 18th during the morning service.

The Catechism aged kids from 5th through 8th grade will be taught by Bruce Tiemeyer. They started a unit on Hebrews through Revelation which studies Christ the Messiah, Christ as the King of

Kings, and Christ as the judge of the universe at the end of last year, and will pick that up this fall. After which they will return to the beginning of the Bible and pick up a study of Genesis where they will learn about the Creation, the Fall, the Flood, the Abrahamic covenant, the Patriarchs, that ends with Joseph. The 9th through 12th graders will be taught by Jonathon Kalkman. Last year they learned about the Reformed faith through Lewy VanderMeer's study entitled, "What we Believe". This year, they will revisit the Heidelberg Catechism, and study the first half of this important catechism of the Reformed faith.

Schedule is as follows:

Sept 18—December 4: Class

December 11: No class Communion

December 18: Sunday School Christmas Program/Last classes for 2022

December 25—Jan. 1: Christmas Break/No SS or Catechism

## Guatemala Mission Team Update

During the past few weeks, the leaders of One Heart Ministries, Antonio and Manuel, have been in our area staying with Chase and Laura DeMaagd and Glenn and Nancy Leep.

During the time here, they were able to meet team members from our church and others who have worked at the orphanage, Fundacion Salvacion in Huehuetenango, Guatemala. During Antonio and Manuel's stay members of the team organized a potluck for all past members who have served at the orphanage.

Antonio and Manuel shared about the work at Fundacion Salvacion. The rules and laws governing orphanages in Guatemala have changed dramatically. Due to covid and financial issues in the local community the orphanage is not receiving the community support that it used to. The orphanage needs support to provide repairs to maintain a safe and positive environment for the kids. The Guatemala team asked the deacons of our church to use funds raised for the orphanage to be transferred to Fundacion Salvacion. The deacons have approved that request.

When the next trip to Guatemala will be is still unknown. Please pray that God will bless the

orphanage and all the staff as well as the kids. Pray that He will give wisdom to the team as they seek to do His will in caring for the kids as well.



## Look What's New in the Library

LONG WAY HOME—LYNN AUSTIN

A must read book. A young man returned from WWII with

PTSD. He saw so much that he lost his belief in a Loving God. We need to be reminded of the terrible things that happened. Jim was a medic. How Jews were treated. It was a terrible war.

SUNRISE—SUSAN MAY WARREN

(Sky King Ranch #1) Alaskan Story

SUNBURST—SUSAY MAY WARREN

(Sky King Ranch #2) Suspense

A HUNDRED CRICKETS SINGING—CATHY GOHLKE

In wars eighty years apart, two young women living on the same Appalachian estate determine to aid soldiers and fight for justice. Civil war issues still not resolved for Brown and White in WWII military's divisions of race. Very worthwhile book to read.

THE ELEMENT OF LOVE—MARY CONNEALY

(The Lumber Baron's Daughters #1)

INVENTIONS OF THE HEART—MARY CONNEALY

(The Lumber Baron's Daughters #2)

BEYOND THE DESERT SANDS—TRACIE PETERSON

(Love on the Santa Fe #2)



## Live in Concert

Come and enjoy an evening of music.

Kalamazoo Bible League Volunteers presents the Forester Family singing group on Thursday, September 22, at Westwood CRC. Light refreshments begin at 6:30 pm, with the concert at 7:00 p.m.

An offering will be received with all proceeds going directly to Bible distribution by Bible League International.

## **A word of appreciation from the EMCRC Cadets**

Thanks to the congregation for a fast response to the need we had regarding the five furnaces in The Anchor! The furnaces were replaced between August 8 and 12. The process went smoothly and they are up and running.

We look forward to being able to use The Anchor again without worrying about how we'll stay warm this winter.

We ask that God will be glorified through the use of the building and praise Him for the generosity of His Church.

## **A word of appreciation from Amanda and Cole**

Thank you to everyone that came to the grocery shower and for all the groceries, cards, and recipes. We can't wait to try all of the new recipes. Thank you again!

## **A word of appreciation and praise from Don and Nancy**

This post is long overdue but wanted to give everyone an update on Reed and Don. Yesterday was an exciting day around here. Reed finished his last chemo therapy. Yay! PTL. After 26 months our courageous little man has BEAT cancer. Now he still has a port in his chest that needs to come out. He'll still be on meds for awhile and monthly blood tests to keep an eye on things but at this point we are done with the yucky part—CHEMO is finished.

Don completed another segment of therapy at Mary Free Bed. After 14 months he is walking, talking and doing terrific. He still has some limitations. No driving, no work, he tires easily yet and he'll continue with his doctoring and appointments. He congestive heart failure is stable. PTL. And if he forgets your name

just remind him. :) That short term memory — we all have that—right? We're just so thankful for all of our family, Facebook friends, neighbors and church family who have prayed with us faithfully, cried with us, helped us out in so many ways with gift cards, meals, a soup supper and so many blessings over the last 2 years — for our family and Reed's family. Our life will be different now but we are so thankful to God for healing and HIS many blessings. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



## **Martin Area Resource Center**

When grocery shopping please remember Martin Area Resource Center. In September they need Back to School "stuff".



Peanut butter and jelly; mac and cheese; tuna, healthy snacks, graham crackers, cracker packs, puddings and jello, juice boxes.

Thanks in advance for helping those in our community who are in need.

## Zucchini Casserole

1/4 cup chopped onion  
6 cups unpeeled, shredded zucchini (can remove the seeds)  
1 cup shredded carrots  
1 cup sour cream  
1 can cream of chicken soup  
1—8 oz Stove Top stuffing (herb)  
1 stick of melted butter or margarine  
1 pound of bacon or hamburger (cooked)

Boil onions, carrots, and zucchini for 5 minutes in salted water. Drain.

Add 1 pound fried, crumbled bacon or 1 pound cooked hamburger. Mix with soup and sour cream.

Melt butter and mix with stuffing mix. Put 1/2 of the stuffing on the bottom of a 9x13 baking dish. Put vegetable mixed with soup and sour cream on top. Sprinkle the rest of the stuffing mix on top. Bake at 325 degrees for about an hour. Can put shredded cheese on top when it is served.

## Greeters

September 4: AM—Jim and Cindy Mejeur, Keith Smit; PM—Henry and Nancy Tuinstra  
September 11: AM—Elders; PM—John and Merrie Beth DenBoer  
September 18: AM—Doug and Mary VanDerMeulen, Tom Rook; PM—Westendorp family  
September 25: AM—Ron and Lorraine Vandenberg; Glenn Leep; PM—Randy and Mary Bouman

## Ushers

September 4: Sam DeYoung, Henry M. Tuinstra, Dennis DeYoung  
September 11: Dan Wubben, Dean Wubben, Bruce Tiemeyer  
September 18: Jonathan Kalkman, Joel and Jacob DeYoung  
September 25: Bob and Bram Katje, Ryan Tucker

## Nursery

September 4: Riley and Addison Tuinstra  
September 11: Rebekah Westendorp  
September 18: Jen, Violet and Willow Tuinstra  
September 25: Laura DeMaagd

## Library

September 4: Rena Lynema  
September 11: Nancy Tuinstra  
September 18: Carolyn VanderMeulen  
September 25: Linda DeYoung

## July Tithes and Offerings

General Fund	\$14,413.04
Ministry Shares	2,201.00
Faith Promise	
Shaarda	282.00
Smit	702.00
Tiemeyer	127.00
Walker	272.00
Guatemala Orphanage	252.00
Benevolence	1,271.00
East Martin Christian School	1,382.00
Youth Unlimited	228.00
Right to Life Education Fund	315.00
Guatemala Mission Trip	40.00
Martin Resource Center	330.00
World Renew — DRS	150.00
Youth for Christ	390.00
Wycliffe Bible Translators	222.00
Total	\$22,577.04

General Fund behind	34%
Ministry Shares behind	34%

## Offering Schedule for September

September 4: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Elim Christian School  
September 11: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—Rehoboth Christian School  
September 18: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Forgotten Man Ministries  
September 25: AM—Martin Resource Center; PM—World Renew-DRS