

**June 2022**

A monthly publication of the  
East Martin Christian Reformed Church

# The Echoes



## **A View from the Pew**

### **How Can It Be**

Mention the four-letter word *June*, and our minds immediately plumb associations. One idea that may come to mind is weddings. The father of the bride watches the bottom line while the ladies contemplate colors, fabrics, flowers, the venue. Then on the day—the happiest day of their lives—the young couple pledge themselves to each other. The bride and the groom may pray, “Lord, may I never lose the breathless wonder that exclaims, ‘out of all this world, you have chosen me!’”

What joy! What excitement! Those in attendance may think back to their own wedding day or muse about ancestors who model lifelong commitment. Or, the event prompts us to recall that for the first miracle, Jesus chose a wedding. All this pales in comparison, however, as an earthly wedding pictures for us the most beautiful wedding of all, the marriage of Christ and the church. Jesus chooses to call those who belong to Him through faith *His bride*.

Beyond the obvious analogy, Jesus *died* for us sinners! The Word clearly shouts (I John 3:16), “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us.” Jesus looks at us sinners (we who caused His bitter death) and exclaims, “I’d rather die than lose you!” A love like this we cannot ignore! Those in Christ experience His unmistakable, unconcealable, unrestrained love. Our Father counted the cost, the death of His one and only Son. And he clothes and adorns us, His children, making us the beneficiaries of this incredible union.

How can we know this? God declares in Isaiah 62:5b, “As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.” The Lord *rejoices* over you, over me! A love we must embrace, accept. Even if we cannot wrap our heads around the depth of such (agape) love.

Moreover, the wedding of the Lamb with His bride, us, is not reserved for just one day of the year or for one month, June. No! Daily and for a lifetime let’s be overwhelmed in breathless wonder by this

Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

## In Contact With Council



1. Ryan Tucker opened the June 14 Council meeting with prayer and devotions from Phil.4:1-3.
2. The new members of Council were welcomed. The election of new office bearers was as follows: President: Glenn Leep, Vice President: Bruce Tiemeyer, Clerk: Dave Mejeur.
3. Deacon's Report: Offering schedule approved.
4. Education Committee: Met on May 23. Cadet leader is Scott Tuinstra, GEMS leaders are Amy Kalkman and Jen Tuinstra. The Youth Group is discussing a mission trip with Martin Reformed Church.
5. Building and Grounds: Jen Tuinstra is our new janitor. The window at The Anchor has been replaced. The carpets in church are cleaned.
6. A motion was made and supported to rent the parsonage to EMCS for a new teacher. A 30-day notice will be given if we get a pastor. Passed.
8. The following new names will be added to the church bank account: Amy Kalkman, Scott Tuinstra, Jonathan Kalkman.
9. Bruce Tiemeyer closed in prayer. He has devotions next month.



### What are our graduates doing?

Sam graduated from Zion Christian School. He graduated with the Presidential Award for Education Excellence (3.5 gpa or higher) & with Honors. Sam worked for Mejeur Brothers Construction, many jobs for the residents of Pine Lake and on the farm. His junior year he played soccer. And he just returned from a service trip to North Carolina. He is currently working for Alamo Valley Ag.

Thomas graduated from Zion Christian School. His junior and senior year he did half days at ACAETC in Allegan for AIS heavy equipment operations, maintenance and repair. He received an award for Excellence in Employability for achieving excellence in his Career Technical Education Program. During high school, he worked part time at DeMann Farms LLC. He is now working at Mac Donald's plumbing in Grand Rapids.

## Grocery Bridal Shower



To all ladies and girls of East Martin: There will be a grocery bridal shower for Amanda Klaasen, Amber Leep and Kari (Mejeur) Zhou on Thursday, July 14. Check your mailbox for your invitation. Please sign in the narthex if you can come.

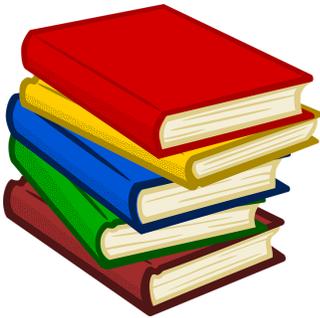


## MARC

When grocery shopping please remember Martin Area Resource Center. In August they need condiments:

Ketchup, mustard, mayo/salad dressing, dressings (French, Ranch, etc), pickles, olives.

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



## What's New in the Library

THE WINTER ROSE—MELANIE DOBSON  
(A WWII story of refugee children who were rescued

but had lasting effects of war horrors and loss of families. War destroys families. Men and women sacrificed their lives to transport children of all ages.)

SHADOWS IN THE MIND'S EYE—JANYRE TROMP

(Historical—Sam went to serve his country and returned a very different person)

DARK INTERCEPT—ANDREWS & WILSON  
(Shepherds Series #1)

DARK ANGEL—ANDREWS & WILSON  
(Shepherds Series #2)

A WOMAN OF WORDS—ANGELA HUNT  
(Jerusalem Road #3)

BEYOND THE TIDES—LIZ JOHNSON  
(Prince Edward Island Shores #1)

TO TAME A COWBOY—JODY JOHNSON  
(Colorado Cowboys #3)

UNFAILING LOVE—JANETTE OKE & LAUREL OKE LOGAN

(When Hope Calls #3)

MULBERRY HOLLOW—DENISE HUNTER  
(Riverbend Romance #2)

FATAL CODE—NATALIE WALTERS  
The Snap Agency #2)

FREE FALL—NANCY MEHL (Kaely Quinn Profiler Series #3)



Save the Date for the Michigan Bible Conference. It will be held on Friday, September 16, at Friendship CRC. The Keynote speaker will be Sarah Schieber. Sarah was widowed at 33. She is an acclaimed singer, songwriter, and author and shares her story of healing through God's unfailing love.



## American Red Cross

The American Red Cross will conduct a blood Drive on Tuesday, June 28, at Martin High School from 10 am to 3:45 pm. Reservations are required. Call 1 800 red cross for an appointment.

## Lovely Lemon-Blueberry Bread

Prep time: 15 minutes; Cook time: about 55 minutes; Yield: 12 servings

1 2/3 cups all-purpose flour  
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon unrefined mineral sea salt  
1 1/4 cups fresh blueberries  
1 cup granulated sugar  
1 tablespoon lemon zest  
1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened  
3 large eggs  
1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract  
1/2 cup sour cream, or substitute  
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

### Glaze

3/4 cup powdered sugar  
1 1/2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease or line an 8 1/2 by 4 1/2 inch or 9 by 5 inch loaf pan and set aside. In a medium mixing bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder and salt then set aside. Rinse blueberries, and drain very well, then transfer to a bowl of the flour mixture, tossing to coat berries well, then set aside. In a bowl of an electric stand mixer fitted with paddle attachment, whip together sugar, lemon zest and butter until mixture is pale and fluffy. Mix in eggs, one at a time, then blend in vanilla. Add sour cream and lemon juice and mix just until combined. Remove bowl from mixing stand and add blueberry flour mixture, stirring gently with a wooden spoon until mixed and no flour remains visible. Pour batter into the prepared loaf pan, spread evenly, then bake until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out with a moist crumb or two, about 50-60 minutes. Let cool for about 5 minutes then run a knife around the edges on the pan to ensure it has loosened. Invert onto a wire rack. Cool for an hour before icing. To ice, in a small mixing bowl, whisk together powdered sugar and lemon juice then spoon over loaf. Let glaze set before slicing.



## Conservation Agriculture Easier on Aging Farmers

Joseph joined a Farmer Field School despite other men saying it was “a waste of time.” He ended up mulching a small piece of land just to please the staff. And then ...



“I never at all believed in this,” he admits, but his mulched maize remained green even when the rains stopped. When he harvested maize from the plot without putting much effort into it – no digging or weeding – he was won over.

Joseph’s farm is constantly improving as he adopts more Conservation Agriculture practices. He finds they lessen the burden of work on him as he ages, even as his productivity goes up. This year, he harvested 1,765 lbs. of maize and 1,102 lbs. of beans from the 1.5-acres of zai pits he sowed them in. After learning about post-harvest management, he built a new grain storage shed to reduce losses from pests and weather.

He’s diversifying his fields to include cassava, millet, sweet potatoes, mung bean and cowpeas; producing kale, amaranth and onion in a new kitchen garden; and expecting to harvest papaya, mango, avocado and passion fruit from his newly-planted trees in the next couple of years.

“I couldn’t have imagined I’d be growing fruit in my old age,” he reports, never in his life having seen anyone nurturing native fruit trees. When he was a boy, people only collected fruit from the forest. A newly-dug farm pond helps him keep his orchard watered against encroaching drought. He’s also been rearing chickens, and has 10 local goats and sheep now. In addition to eggs, meat and milk, the animals provide an income, and manure for fertilizer.

Says Joseph with conviction, "Sure enough, knowledge is power, just like they say." Even though he didn't believe it at first.

Kenya Igembe Program  
Led by World Renew and Local Partner Anglican Development Services - Mt. Kenya East

### **Greeters**

July 3: AM—Dan and Gerda Wubben, Tom Rook; PM—Stan Leep and Earl Wykstra  
July 10: AM—Roger and Dawn Anderson, Glenn Leep; PM—Pat Fenton and Libby Dendel  
July 17: AM—Ida Westendorp, Joan Kammeraad, Ryan Tucker; PM—Joel and Jennifer DeYoung  
July 24: AM—Vern and Joanne Klaasen, Scott Tuinstra; PM—Keith and Deb Smit  
July 31: AM—Joe DeKoekkoek and Harold Wykstra, Earl Wykstra; PM—Wes and Darlene Leep

### **Ushers**

July 3: Bob and Bram Katje, Ryan Tucker  
July 10: Henry Tuinstra, Tom Rook, Scott Tuinstra  
July 17: Cameron and Caleb Tuinstra, Wayne Leep  
July 24: Dave Mejeur, Vern Klaasen, Tim Westendorp  
July 31: Earl Wykstra, Jared Westendorp, Dave Misner

### **Library**

July 3: Ida Westendorp  
July 10: Rena Lynema  
July 17: Nancy Tuinstra  
July 24: Carolyn VanderMeulen  
July 31: Linda DeYoung

### **Nursery**

July 3: Rebekah Westendorp  
July 10: Jen, Violet and Willow Tuinstra  
July 17: Laura DeMaagd  
July 24: Hailey and Kaylee Tuinstra  
July 31: Riley and Addison Tuinstra

## **Tithes and Offerings for May**

General Fund	\$18,188.38
Ministry Shares	3,397.00
Faith Promise	
East Martin Missions	10.00
Shaarda	240.00
Smit	160.00
Tiemeyer	85.00
Walker	130.00
Guatemala Orphanage	210.00
Building Construction Fund	4,000.00
Memorial Fund	640.00
World Renew—DRS	614.00
World Renew—Ukraine	1,733.00
Growing Hope Globally	290.00
Guatemala Mission Trip	880.30
East Martin Christian School	1,065.00
The Luke Society	448.55
Forgotten Man Ministries	267.00
Pine Rest	306.00
Martin Resource Center	25.00
Don and Nancy Smith	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 32,789.23</b>

General Fund	5% behind
Ministry Shares	19% behind

### **Offering Schedule for July**

July 3: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Martin Resource Center  
July 10: AM—Benevolence; PM—Youth Unlimited  
July 17: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Right to Life  
July 24: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—Youth for Christ  
July 31: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Wycliffe

