



The Echoes

June 2024

A monthly publication of the
East Martin Christian Reformed Church



A View from the Pew

But God...

There's no doubt about it: Life can be hard. In fact, a well-known hymn pleads with the Lord, "Refresh Thy people on their *toilsome* way." Questions may pummel us. If God is good, why did _____ die? If God is kind, why does He let me suffer so? If God is love, why do I feel so very unloved? Even the Psalmist cries out, "How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?" (Psalm 13:1a)

Well, we could fixate on such questions, or, we can heed the Lord's reminders, encouraging us to find our hope in Him. "But God" and "but I trust in God" appear repeatedly throughout His Word, underscoring God's faithfulness. Let's explore a sampling of these.

For the wages of sin is death, **but** the gift of **God** is eternal life in Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man, **but God** is faithful. He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able... (I Corinthians 10:13)

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, **but God** made it grow. (I Corinthians 3:6)

When they had carried out all that was written about Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb. **But God** raised Him from the dead... (Acts 13:29-30)

Jesus looked at them intently and said, "With man [humanly speaking] this is impossible, **but** with **God** all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26)

My health may fail, my heart grow weak, **but God** remains the strength of my heart and is my portion forever. (Psalm 73:26)

You intended to harm me, **but God** intended it all for good... (Genesis 50:20a)

To the roots of the mountains I sank down [in trouble, deep trouble]; the earth beneath barred me in forever. **But You God** brought my life up from the pit [from the belly of the grave]. (Jonah 2:6)

You killed the Author of Life, **but God** raised Him from the dead. (Acts 3:15a)

Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. **But God** was with him and rescued him from all his troubles. (Acts 7:9-10a)

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man some might possibly dare to die. **But God** demonstrated His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6-8)

David stayed in the desert strongholds [hideouts] and in the hills [backcountry wilderness] of the Desert of Ziph. Day after day, Saul searched for him **but God** did not give David into his hands. (I Samuel 23:14)

But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark... (Genesis 8:1a)

But because of His great love for us, **God**, Who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:4-7)

But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows who are His," and "Let everyone who names the Name of the Lord depart from iniquity." (II Timothy 2:19)

But [God] said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." (II Corinthians 12:9a)

This collection of verses by no means offers an exhaustive list of "But God" instances. However, these (**But God**) might become two of the sweetest words, as we find them scattered throughout both the old and new testaments. Feel free to search for more. Hopefully, at least one resonates with us, especially if we insert our own name. (Think about selecting one or more to memorize.)

Additionally, each of us could write out a *personal But God* statement, recording God's actions in our own lives. Perhaps we could even bless someone else by sharing it (or any of these from scripture). Then, with the psalmist, declare

But I trust in God's unfailing love; my heart rejoices in Your salvation. (Psalm 13:5)



Congregational Meeting

Our congregational meeting was held on May 19.

Opening devotions were led by Bruce Tiemeyer reading from Proverbs 3.

Minutes of the previous congregational meeting were read for information.

Presentation of the budget for 2024-2025 was made by Scott Tuinstra. A motion was made to vote by voice. Passed. Budget passed.

Election of elders: Dave Misner and Cameron Tuinstra were elected. Dave Mejeur and Keith Smit are retiring.

Election of deacons: Vern Klaasen was elected. Ryan Tucker is retiring.

Discussion took place on the repairs on the parsonage.

Discussion on search committee took place. Continue to pray for God's leading.

A motion to adjourn was made, supported and passed.

Don Wubben closed in prayer.

Election of officers:

Chairman— Don Wubben
Vice president— Tom Rook
Clerk—Wayne Leep

Pulpit supply was reviewed.

Looking for host family for Joel and JC next weekend.

Deacons' report:

4.6% behind for general fund
1.8% ahead for ministry shares

A motion was made to accept the offering schedule as presented: Approved.

Council liaisons:

Worship committee—Scott Tuinstra
Education committee—Don Wubben
Evangelism—Scott Tuinstra
Building and grounds—Bruce Tiemeyer
Finance committee—Tim Westendorp
Church security—Dave Misner
Search committee—Wayne Leep

One council visit was made.

Ladies' Bible study wants to have an email sent out every week to share testimonies among whoever wants to share God sightings so we can share and encourage each other. Motion made, supported and passed.

Jen Tuinstra would like to start love lasagna to make and deliver lasagna to anyone in need. Motion made, supported and passed.

Twelve kids have been sponsored to go to SON-Life camp this summer.

Motion was made to adjourn, supported and passed.

The next meeting is July 9. Tim Westendorp closed in prayer.

In Contact With Council



The Council meeting of June 11 was opened with devotions and prayer by Scott Tuinstra. Scott read from Daniel 1:8-14 and a devotional on how to be a Christian at work.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.



Check Out What's New in the Library this month

HIDDEN IN THE NIGHT—ELIZABETH GODDARD (MISSING IN ALASKA #3)
 FOUNDATION OF LOVE —AMY CLIPSTON (AMISH LEGACY #1)
 THESE TANGLED THREADS—SARAH LOUDON THOMAS (Historical)
 THE BERLEN LETTERS —KATHERINE REAY (Cold War Novel)
 WHILE THE CITY SLEEPS —ELIZABETH CAMDEN (Historical)
 THE YEAR OF JUBILEE—CINDY MORGAN (Historical)
 ONE LAST SHOT—SUSAN MAY WARREN (ALASKA AIR ONE RESCUE #1)
 ONE LAST CHANCE—SUSAN MAY WARREN (ALASKA AIR ONE RESCUE #2)
 ROCKY MOUNTAIN JOURNEY—MISTY M. BELLER (SISTERS OF THE ROCKIES #3)
 TOWARD THE DAWN—MARY CONNEALY (A WESTERN LIGHT #1) (Historical)

A note from our Librarian

There are many books that have been out for some time. Could you check if you have a book or DVD at your home?

Fanning the Flame

The Monday Night Ladies Bible Study has been encouraged through the sharing of testimonies of various ways God has encouraged us in day to day life.

Due to our being encouraged, starting July 3 we would like to make opportunity for such testimonies to be shared by and with other members of the congregation. To that end we have set up a way we can share this via email. There is a sign-up sheet available in the back of the church. To share ways God has encouraged you in your day to day life, send testimonies to

em.fanningtheflame@gmail.com by 5:00 pm Tuesday evening. These can be shared with your name or anonymously.

If you have questions contact Sue Tiemeyer, Denise Leep, Jen Tuinstra or Libby Dendel.

The Bible League Conference for men and women will be held on Friday, September 6, at Friendship CRC in Byron Center from 9 to 3.



The invitation is in your mailbox today.

Don't forget to feed the Paper Gator. He gets kinda hungry in the summer time.



The accepted materials are:

- School/office paper
- Newspaper
- Junk mail
- Hard and soft cover books
- Magazines
- Shredded paper (in a bag please)
- Paper board (cereal type boxes)
- Cardboard (12" x 12" or smaller)
- Wrapping paper (no foil or sparkles)

Love Letter Campaign

Each year Bible League Volunteer Ambassadors share a special fundraising letter. Together we are equipping Christians and churches all over the globe to engage in the Word of God. As a result, God's Kingdom is growing! Look for this letter in your mailbox next week, and as you read it sincerely pray for God's Word to change lives. Contributions you provide will supply Bibles for the nations.

Love Letter contributions are due July 28.



GEMS is open to girls in 1st-8th grade. We meet the 1st and the 3rd Wednesday of the month, during the school year, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the church basement. Our GEMS theme for this year was Act, Love, Walk based on the Micah 6: 8 verse and we studied Women of the Faith. We learned from women like Ruth and Hannah, what it means to put our faith into action and how to be world changers.

Thank you to everyone who helped, made donations, attended events, prayed and supported our GEMS program. Thanks to you, our year was a huge success!



Throughout the year we had 15 girls and 5 leaders attend our meetings. A BIG thank you to Amy Kalkman, Jen Tuinstra, Rebekah Westendorp, Sara Denzel, and Violet Tuinstra for being GEMS leaders.



In March, we held our annual Cadet/GEMS Pinewood Derby. Congratulations to Kevin Suk, Arian Leos, Mani Smit, Brianna Timmer and Emily Kalkman.

We wrapped up our 2023-2024 season with a GEMS/Cadet trip to Craig's Cruisers on June 5, 2024.

The ladies are encouraged to work on badges over the summer and to memorize the Books of the Bible.

Our 2024-2025 GEMS season will kick-off on Wednesday, September 18 from 6-8. Our GEMS theme for this year will be Clothes Designed by Jesus. We will learn about godly characteristics outlined in Colossians 3. We will look at what it means to take off old habits and ways and let Jesus clothe us with things like kindness and compassion.

If you have or know girls going into 1st-8th grade, please have them contact Amy Kalkman for more information about joining GEMS this fall. Have a blessed summer!



One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure

During the springtime each year Martin Township leadership arrange for an event called Martin Trash Day. The residents of the township can bring their trash items to the Martin JC Wheeler Library parking lot where the residents can dispose of their unwanted items in the proper way.

During this event members of our congregation with a desire to raise money for East Martin Missions volunteer to help residents unload their trash but with a special eye out for items that can be recycled.

During the one-day event recyclable metal is sorted from the trash and loaded onto trailers to be sent for reclamation. This year 8,530 pounds of metal was collected and the proceeds amounted to \$696.29.

Truly God uses many people's trash to be a treasure for His children.

May Tithes and Offerings

General Fund	\$25,980.00
Ministry Shares	4,445.00
Faith Promise	
East Martin Missions	40.00
Shaarda	267.00
Smit	167.00
Tiemeyer	117.00
Walker	137.00
Guatemala Orphanage	102.00
East Martin Christian School	1,402.00
Kalamazoo Christian High School	226.00
Martin Resource Center	776.00
Christian Neighbors	244.00
Project Hope	247.00
Bible League Intl	362.00
Total	\$34,512.00
General Fund behind	4.6%
Ministry Shares ahead	1.8%

Offering Schedule for July

July 7: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares;
PM—Martin Resource Center
July 14: AM—East Martin Christian School;
PM—Gideons
July 21: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares;
PM—Back to God Ministries
July 28: AM—East Martin Christian School;
PM—Resonate Global Missions

Nursery

July 7: Riley and Addison Tuinstra
July 14: Mary Bouman
July 21: Rebekah Westendorp
July 28: Jen, Violet and Willow Tuinstra

Library

July 7: Ida Westendorp
July 14: Rena Lynema
July 21: Nancy Tuinstra
July 28: Carolyn VanderMeulen



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.

White Chocolate Raspberry Poke Cake

1 box of white cake mix

Make according to package directions except:

- ◆ Use only egg whites
- ◆ Sprinkle 1/2 cup white chocolate chips over the cake

Bake in a 9x13 pan.

Wait about 15 minutes and then poke with wooden spoon every inch or so.

Pour raspberry syrup over top.

Set cake aside.

Melt 2/3 cup white chocolate chips in microwave.

Once melted, incorporate 1 can sweetened condensed milk. Pour mixture over top of cake.

Let set to cool completely.

Once cool spread buttercream frosting over the top or whipped cream.

Spread a thin layer of the frosting then place in freezer until hardens slightly. Then finish frosting.

Sprinkle remaining white chocolate chips on top.

Navy Timeline for Jonah Wubben

- December 16, 2019: Began bootcamp at Great Lakes, Chicago.
- February 14, 2020: Graduated Bootcamp and went into a temporary holding division for 2 weeks.
- February 29, 2020: Arrived at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. This is where I met Mathews. He was my first roommate at DLI.
- Early March, 2020: Covid began causing lockdowns and isolation.
- March 14, 2020: First day of class for Chinese.
- March 14 - July 2021: Spent the next year and a half struggling to keep up with the strict studying and testing for Chinese while also enduring Covid lockdowns.
- July 2021: Took the Final Chinese language test called the DLPT and found out I did not score high enough on the comprehension portion of the exam. I was then moved to an out-processing division where I learned I would be sent to Correy Station in Pensacola, Florida to become a CTT (Cryptologic Technician Technical). It was around this time I met my close friend King. I also found out Mathews would be coming with me to Pensacola.
- November 2, 2021: Arrived in Pensacola.
- December 2021 - February 2022: Learned how to be a CTT at "A" school where I was in the same class as King and Mathews. (I had a graduation ceremony where I got a picture with some of my friends and my chief that I posted on Facebook. You can check my Facebook account for that photo.)
- March 2022: I started "C" school called ship-board ops. However, I learned that I wouldn't be in the same class as Mathews and King. I was kind of bummed out but I made some new friends with my new classmates.
- May 2022: I got my orders to go to Buckley Space Force Base in Aurora, Colorado and also learned that Mathews had gotten the

same orders I did. However, King had gotten orders to the USS Abraham Lincoln in San Diego, California.

- June 3, 2022: I arrived in Aurora, Colorado and was put in the barracks. I waited a few weeks and I was moved into the top secret facility to begin my training.
 - August, 2022: I finished my training and was sent to do my job inside the facility.
 - August 2022 - May 2024: I spent the next few years doing my job. I can't talk about most of the stuff that I did due to it being classified information but overall, I had a lot of good experiences.
 - June 2023: This is when I moved out of the barracks and moved into a house with Mathews.
 - March 2024: This is when I learned I had gotten my orders to Yokosuka, Japan and would be sent to the USS Blue Ridge. I currently don't really know what I will be doing but it is sure to be an adventure.
 - June 14, 2024: I received my warfare pin. To get this I needed to take a 100-question written test, followed by an 8-hour board exam where several of my superior officers asked me questions regarding information warfare.
- I also wanted to say thank you for all the letters that you guys have sent as well as the care packages. They meant a ton to me and I am truly thankful.



And to you, Jonah, we, your church family, are truly grateful for your dedication and service to our country. Thank you for serving us in the United States Navy.