

**January 2022**

A monthly publication of the  
East Martin Christian Reformed Church

# The Echoes

## **A View from the Pew**



### **Worship and Worry**

What do these two words have in common beside the first three letters? I believe absolutely nothing. In fact the worship of our Heavenly Father should eliminate worry in my life. When I lose my focus on who God is and what He has done, I begin to focus on my life, my troubles, and what could happen.

Matthew 6:25-34 is a great passage to turn to when worry sets in. There I'm told in verse 26, God cares and supplies the needs of the birds, and Jesus says "I'm much more valuable than they". He says in verse 27 I can't add a single hour to my life by worrying. Then he talks about the beautiful way God clothes the flowers and gives them the color and splendor that sometimes last only a day, verses 28-30. Jesus makes it very clear that the Father knows my needs in verse 33, in fact in verse 8 of this same chapter Jesus says "the Father knows what I need before I even ask Him".

So that's where I believe worship comes in. Verse 33 tells me to seek God's Kingdom first, and He will take care of me. When I see God as the great "Creator God" who made all things, and rules all things, and has all things under His control, and I know Him as my loving Heavenly Father who tenderly cares for me, I can totally trust Him to take care of me day by day and meet my needs as He sees fit. So I take my eyes off me and worship and praise my dear Heavenly Father!

### **In Contact With Council**



Keith Smit read from I Corinthians 1 and opened with prayer.

Minutes of the December 4 meeting were read and approved.

Deacon's Report:

- A. General Fund receipts of \$30,409.11 leave us \$12,501.62 over ideal.  
Ministry Shares receipts of \$3,090 leave us \$3,755.93 short of ideal.
- B. The offering schedule for February was approved.

Education Committee reported that Libby Dendel is working with Laura Westendorp in leading the Youth Group. (Editor's Note: Sue Tiemeyer and Libby are meeting with the youth twice monthly for a meal and Bible study, Laura and Nancy Smith are working on activities, and Randy and Sue are working on a spring break serve trip.)

Building and Grounds was made aware that snow plowing for The Anchor needs to be done the first and third Wednesday of each month (Cadets) and also when the Youth Group meets there.

Search Committee has sent out several church profiles and are praying for the pastors who view them that their hearts may be touched to consider East Martin. The next meeting will be January 20.

Old business:

- A. Keys for Kids devotionals will be put in the narthex for anyone that would like one.
- B. Request from Julie Grevenstuk to transfer her membership to Prairie Edge CRC was approved.

New business:

- A. Looking to start a Profession of Faith class for those interested. Randy Bouman and Glenn Leep will set it up and lead it.
- B. J.D. Chamberlin from Gideons will speak on February 27.
- C. Sue Tiemeyer is getting the church phone switched to a different service.
- D. A motion was made to cancel the parsonage phone, passed.

Council visits: 9 were made.

Meeting was adjourned. Ryan Tucker closed with prayer.

The Council will be offering a Profession of Faith class in the near future. If you are interested in making profession of your faith or just want to know what would be involved, please sign the sheet in the back of church or talk to an Elder.



The following changes took place in our membership in 2021.

Sadie DeYoung and Madison Tucker were baptized.

Kelly and Kendra Leep, Riley Tuinstra and Sara DeYoung were welcomed into our membership through profession of faith.

Betty Pekelder, Anne Katje, Eunice Williams, Linda Wykstra, Carl Haveman, Marion Visser and Tom Tuinstra were taken from us by death.

The memberships of the Shaardas, Josh Anderson, April Wubben, and Julie Grevenstuk were transferred to other churches.

## Hannah said “Yes”!!!

Brian and Laura Westendorp are happy to announce the engagement of their son, Jared, to Hannah Sikkema. Hannah is the daughter of Bob and Brenda Sikkema, of Hopkins, and the granddaughter of Lynn (and the late Kathy) Huff and Roger and Sharon Sikkema. Hannah goes to Martin Reformed Church. She is a graduate of Dordt College, and she works for Nutrien Ag in Wayland. Jared is employed by Buist Electric. A September 2 wedding is being planned.

Congratulations Jared and Hannah.



## Amanda said “Yes” too!

Congratulations to Amanda Klaasen and Cole Wnuk on their engagement. Amanda is a daughter of Vern and Joanne Klaasen. She is a graduate of Martin High School and is employed by Tuinstra's Greenhouse. Cole is the son of Brian and Tracy Wnuk of Wayland. He is a graduate of Wayland High School and is employed by Circuit Electric as an electrician.

The happy couple are planning a September 23 wedding.



## A New Baby

Congratulations to Chris and Marlene on the birth of their son. Malachi C. Bontrager was born on Saturday, January 15, at 4:11 am at Bronson Hospital. He weighed 8 pounds, 13 ounces and was 22 inches long

Eliseus was excited to meet his baby brother.

May God richly bless your family.



## Congratulations Chandler!!

After two challenging auditions, Chandler Denzel secured a spot on the snare line for the Bluecoats in Canton, OH. The Bluecoats are a professional corp in the DCI (Drum Corp International) circuit. Chandler will spend the spring and summer traveling and competing, and will return to his WGI (Winter Guard Indoor) drumline, Redline, in the fall and winter. Chandler began playing snare in 6th grade and has been actively involved in marching, pep, and jazz bands throughout school.

Thank  
You



## New Library Books

We would like to thank the congregation for helping us celebrate our 70th wedding anniversary. We feel blessed.

Dick and Hazel Kroon



### Martin Area Resource Center

When you are grocery shopping in February, please purchase some of the items below for the Martin Area Resource Center.

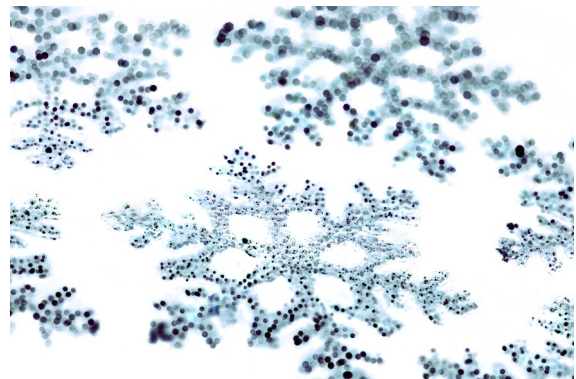
Breakfast items: Cereal, Pop-tarts, cereal/breakfast bars, oatmeal and instant oatmeal flavors, pancake mix and syrup.



Please join us for East Martin Christian School's Wild Game Dinner and Coyote Hunt! Silent and Dutch Auction featured along with guest speaker Jenny (Olsen) Ciolek from Michigan Out of Doors.

Check on our Facebook page for more information. The doors open at 4pm on Saturday, February 12, with the dinner served at 5pm. RSVP for numbers only at: [emcswildgamedinner@gmail.com](mailto:emcswildgamedinner@gmail.com)

*THE LINES BETWEEN US* — AMY LYNN GREEN Historical  
*RELATIVE SILENCE* — CARRIE PARKS Suspense Fiction  
*FREEDOM'S SONG* — KIM VOGEL SAWYER Historical  
*WALNUT CREEK WISH* — WANDA E. BRUNSTETTER Amish Fiction  
*PRESENT DANGER* — ELIZABETH GODDARD (Rocky Mt Courage #1)  
*DEADLY TARGET* — ELIZABETH GODDARD (Rocky Mt Courage #2) Suspense  
*POINT OF DANGER* — IRENE HANNON (Triple Treat #1)  
*LABYRINTH OF LIES* — IRENE HANNON (Triple Treat #2)  
*A SEASON OF CHANGE* — BETH WISEMAN (Amish Inn Series #3)  
*AN AMISH BARN RAISING* — AMY CLIPSTON, KELLY IRVIN, KATHLEEN FULLER (Three Stories)  
*RIVERBEND GAP* — DENISE HUNTER (Riverbend Romances #1)  
*A PICTURE OF HOPE* — LIZ TOLSMA (Heroines of WWII) Good book!!!  
*A DEEP DIVIDE* — KIMBERLEY WOODHOUSE (Secrets of the Canyon #1)  
*YOU WERE MADE FOR THIS MOMENT* — MAX LUCADO



## December Tithes and Offerings

General Fund	\$30,409.11
Ministry Shares	3,090.00
Faith Promise	
East Martin Missions	20.00
Shaarda	4,250.00
Smit	4,210.00
Tiemeyer	4,110.00
Walker	14,180.00
Guatemala Orphanage	4,260.00
Memorial Fund	325.00
Sr. High Youth Group	35.00
Guatemala Mission Trip	40.00
East Martin Christian School	1,234.00
Pine Rest	186.00
Resonate Global Missions	10,108.00
Bible League	5,000.00
Kalamazoo Gospel Mission	5,000.00
World Renew—DRS	2,701.00
World Renew—General	12,500.00
Growing Hope Globally	5,020.00
Wycliffe Bible Translators	5,000.00
Talking Bibles	5,000.00
The Luke Society	5,000.00
Forgotten Man Ministries	5,000.00
Moody Radio	5,000.00
Haven Today	5,000.00
Martin Resource Center	10,201.00
Right to Life Education Fund	10,556.00
Don and Nancy Smith Fundraiser	500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$157,935.11</b>

General Fund           12% ahead  
 Ministry Shares       15% behind

## Offering Schedule for February

February 6: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Kalamazoo Christian High School  
 February 13: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—Christian Neighbors  
 February 20: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Elim Christian School  
 February 27: AM—Gideons; PM—Martin Resource Center

## Greeters

February 6: AM—Don and Julie Wubben, Ryan Tucker; PM—Scott and Becky Rillema  
 February 13: AM—GEMS, Keith Smit; PM—Joel and Jennifer DeYoung  
 February 20: AM—Vern and Joanne Klaasen, Kevin Bouman; PM—Keith and Deb Smit  
 February 27: AM—Joe DeKoekkoek, Harold Wykstra; PM—Wes and Darlene Leep

## Ushers

Feb 6: Brian Westendorp, Scott and Nate Rillema  
 Feb 13: Kevin DeKoekkoek, Steve DeMann  
 Feb 20: Glenn Leep, Bruce Mejeur, Preston Rillema  
 Feb 27: Adrian VandenAkker, David Rillema, Justyn Rillema

## Nursery

February 6: Riley and Addison Tuinstra  
 February 13: Rebekah Westendorp  
 February 20: Jen, Violet and Willow Tuinstra  
 February 27: Laura DeMaagd

## Library

February 6: Rena Lynema  
 February 13: Linda DeYoung  
 February 20: Ida Westendorp  
 February 27: Rena Lynema

## Squash Soup

1 1/2 pounds butternut or your favorite squash  
 2 T olive oil  
 3 medium size leeks, trimmed  
 2 garlic cloves, minced  
 4 cups chicken or vegetable broth  
 1/8 tsp nutmeg  
 1/8 tsp cinnamon  
 1/2 cup canned coconut milk  
 1/4 tsp dried thyme  
 1 bay leaf  
 Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste  
 Sour cream, chipped chives or scallions for garnish

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Cut squash lengthwise and place cut side down on shallow baking dish. Bake 35 to 45 minutes. Let cool enough to handle, scoop out the flesh and set aside. Saute leeks for 5 to 7 minutes in olive oil until softened. Add garlic and saute 1 minute longer. Add broth and herbs. Bring to a boil. Simmer, covered, for 30 minutes. Add squash and simmer 10 minutes more. Discard bay leaf. Let cool slightly. Puree in small batches. Return to pan and heat through. Serves 4.