



November 2024

A monthly publication of the
East Martin Christian Reformed Church



A View from the Pew

Coffee (and Thanksgiving)

Not everyone drinks coffee, so neither be put off nor excited by the title of this month's piece. Perhaps there's something about coffee that can instruct us.



Beyond being a trendy beverage, those coffee beans have "grown" into a big business worldwide. As such, the industry relies on slogans to bolster sales and entice customers. Without doubt, the oldest "pitch" dates back to 1915: Good to the last drop.

Absolutely, we can see this in our God, Who is *far more* than good to the last drop. In fact, His word commands us, "Give thanks to the Lord for *He is good*. His faithful love *endures forever* (Psalm 107:1). And another company expresses, "Elevate your coffee experience." Biblically, we understand "Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joy of those who take refuge in Him" (Psalm 34:8). Additionally, "Set your minds on things that are above, not the things that are on earth" (Colossians 3:2). We acknowledge His sovereignty, and elevate our eyes to our Lord in heaven.

While one business commands, "Awaken your senses," Jesus warns, "And since you don't know when that time will come, be on guard. Stay alert" (Mark 13:33). Moreover, a brewer claims that it is "brewing joy in every cup." Jehovah, however, affirms, "How joyful are those who fear the Lord—all who follow His ways!" (Psalm 128:1). Abundant joy is the fruit of the Holy Spirit for those who walk in faith.

Most certainly we know that *things* cannot and will not bring genuine happiness or make us feel cozy, even though a coffee producer uses the catchphrase: When every cup is a hug in a mug. The Lord counters with, "All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us" (II Corinthians 1:3-4).

An additional jingle boasts "Coffee is life. Life is short. Stay awake for it." Jesus knows all about this as well, and He describes it in the parable of the ten sleepy virgins—five foolish ones who took their lamps but no oil, and five wise who took oil in jars, along with their lamps (Matthew 25:1-13). The Master teaches that spiritual preparedness and wakefulness cannot be bought or borrowed at the last minute. Our relationship with

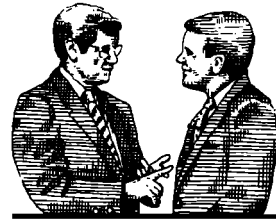
The Echoes

the Lord must be *our own* and *on time*. The truth is He is life, so “Let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us. How? By keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith” (Hebrews 12:2).

The Christian buzzword might, therefore, be the acronym, COFFEE. The letters for coffee freshly brewed remind us of a wonderful truth. Christ Offers Forgiveness For Everyone Everywhere.

GIVE THANKS!

In Contact With Council



- ◆ Don Wubben opened the November Council meeting reading from John 3:16 through 21, had devotions and opened with prayer.
- ◆ The minutes from October 15 meeting were read. A motion to accept was supported and passed.
- ◆ Communications: put an announcement in the bulletin regarding Thanksgiving envelopes.
- ◆ Don is going to get prices on equipment for doing live streaming of our church services and another back up microphone.
- ◆ Three district visits were made.
- ◆ Reports: pulpit supply is covered through Christmas.
- ◆ Deacons' report: General fund is 27% behind; ministry shares 17% behind.
- ◆ The offering schedule was presented. A motion to accept was supported and passed.
- ◆ QuickBooks will be updated. Rebecca and Tim will take care of it.
- ◆ Worship committee: Looking for a pastor for the New Year's Day worship service. Considering having breakfast before the service.
- ◆ Evangelism outreach: A motion to sponsor Cadets and GEMS to attend SON-Life camp was supported and passed. Considering a “send off” for Shaardas before they return to Uganda.
- ◆ Building and grounds: the water softener is installed in the parsonage and hooked up to the church. Also getting new locks installed on church doors.
- ◆ Finance: no meeting
- ◆ Church security: cameras are all adjusted.

- ◆ Bruce Tiemeyer will order Christmas baskets.
- ◆ Scott Tuinstra is working on prayer partners for evening services.
- ◆ Don Wubben followed up with an immigration lawyer.
- ◆ Mutual censorship was observed.
- ◆ A motion to adjourn was supported and passed.
- ◆ Dean Wubben closed with prayer and Jonathan Kalkman will have devotions at the next meeting.



Advent Services

December 1: First Sunday of Advent
 Candle Lighting: Hope
 Readings: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (ESV)
 Hymn of Meditation: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

December 8: Second Sunday of Advent
 Candle Lighting: Peace
 Readings: John 14:27; Philippians 4:6-7 (ESV)
 Hymn of Meditation: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

December 15: Third Sunday of Advent
 Candle Lighting: Joy
 Readings: Luke 2:10-11; Isaiah 12:2-3 (ESV)
 Hymn of Meditation: "How Great Our Joy"

December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Candle Lighting: Love
 Readings: John 3:16-17; 1 John 4:9-11 (ESV)
 Hymn of Meditation: "Silent Night"

December 25: Christmas Day
 Candle Lighting: Christ
 Readings: Luke 2:11-14; John 1:14 (ESV)
 Hymn of Meditation: "Joy to the World"



I (Sara) met Steven (Heffron) when he became my coworker at Nutrien Ag Solutions in July of '22. We got to know each other and decided to start dating in June of '23.

I left Nutrien this past January and started a transition back to working on the family hog farm. Steve left Nutrien as well this past summer and went to work for a distant relative on a beef farm, as well as operating his small hay business with his dad and grandpa.

We got engaged on October 5 and are planning our wedding for April. After we're married we plan to live in the Martin area.

Thank you all for the support. We are very excited to see where God will lead us in the future.



Check Out What's New in the Library

70 NORTH—KIMBERLY WOODHOUSE (Alaskan

Cyber Hunters #3)

A HOPE UNBURIED—KIMBERLY WOODHOUSE (Treasures of the Earth #4)

ONE LAST STAND—SUSAN MAY WARREN (Alaska Air One Rescue #4)

OVER THE EDGE—IRENE HANNON (Undaunted Courage #2)

A HEALING TOUCH—SUZANNE WOODS FISHER (Very good book - A very worthy read)

SERENITY SECRET—LISA JONES BAKER (Amish)

LETHAL STANDOFF—DIANN MILLS (Suspense)

THE PROTECTOR—WANDA E.

BRUNSTETTER (A Mifflin County Mystery #1)

TEA WITH ELEPHANTS—ROBIN JONES GUNN (African Safari - Good book)

THE WISHING BRIDGE—VIOLA SHIPMAN (Christmas)

A LANCASTER AMISH CHRISTMAS—BLACKBURNE, CLIPSTON, LILLARD, STEELE 4 Christmas Novellas

WHAT GRIEVING PEOPLE WISH YOU KNEW—NANCY GUTHRIE

INTO THE SUNSET—MARY CONNEALY (A Western Light #3)

The CHRISTMAS TREE FARM—MELODY CARLSON

WAITING FOR CHRISTMAS—LYNN AUSTIN Follows All My Secrets

Thanksgiving Day Breakfast

Serving from 8 to 9:15 am.



Everyone is invited to come enjoy pancakes, breakfast casseroles, sausage links, apple juice and coffee before the Thanksgiving Day service.

Come enjoy the fellowship and support the High School Youth Group.

Food Drive

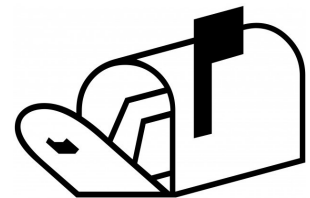
We will be able to participate in a food drive for Martin Resource Center on Thanksgiving Day. Please bring staple foods for MARC on Thanksgiving Day morning.



Thanksgiving Offering Envelopes

The Deacons will provide envelopes for the Thanksgiving Day offering. You can select from several options listed. Any monies not designated will be used for the General Fund.

Christmas Card Service



The High School Youth Group will provide a Christmas card delivery service beginning the first Sunday of Advent, December 1. Just place your Christmas cards, along with your donations, in the basket by the church mailboxes. The cards will be delivered to the proper mailboxes by the Youth Group.

The Christmas program for East Martin Christian School will be held on Thursday, December 5, at 6:30 pm at our church.

The play is called "The Christmas County Spelling Bee" which focuses on the many names of Jesus. All students kindergarten through 8th grade will participate.

Come start off the Christmas season with the students at EMCS.



The Grace Course Dates for December

December 1
December 8



Thank you so much for including us in your Pastor Appreciation service and luncheon. It was very much appreciated.

Ron and Cheryl VanderRoost

Calvin University presents The January Series

Listen | Learn | Discern

Starting January 20 through January 31 you'll have the chance to hear from 10 speakers—including Olympians, comedians, explorers, Pulitzer Prize winners, and innovators—this year's diverse slate of January Series speakers will encourage us to create a better, more inspired, and more inclusive world.

This marks the transition from a three-week to a year-round lecture series, featuring additional events in the spring, the January Series in July, and an event in the fall.



Martin Area Resource Center

needs the following in December:

Cleaners: laundry soap, window wash, disinfectants (toilet and household), mops, brooms, sponges, hand soap, fabric softeners, dish soap, dishwasher soap.

Recycle your corrugated at MARC



Don't forget to recycle your corrugated at the Martin Area Resource Center. Use the brown door (right next to the white door previously used). Place your flattened corrugated in the bins. They will turn it into cash to benefit the less fortunate in our community.



**Give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good,
his steadfast love endures
forever.**

Psalm 136:1

Pumpkin Magic Cake

Cake:

- 1 yellow cake mix
- 1—15 oz can of pumpkin
- 1 cup of brown sugar
- 1/2 cup evaporated milk
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 3 eggs
- 1 tsp pumpkin pie spice

Frosting:

- 1—4 oz instant vanilla pudding
- 1 tsp pumpkin pie spice
- 8 oz Cool Whip
- 1 cup of milk

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Make cake as directed on the box. Set aside.

In a large bowl whisk together the pumpkin, evaporated milk, cream, eggs, brown sugar and spice until smooth.

Pour cake batter into a 9x13 pan. Then slowly pour the pumpkin mixture over the cake batter. Carefully place cake in the oven and bake 50-60 minutes or until toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Let cool to room temperature.

Frosting: place pudding in large bowl. Add pumpkin pie spice and cold milk. Whisk until combined and starts to thicken. Gently fold in Cool Whip. Spread on top of cooled cake and enjoy.

Nursery

- December 1: Mary Bouman
- December 8: Rebekah Westendorp
- December 15: Jen, Violet and Willow Tuinstra
- December 22: Laura DeMaagd
- December 29: Riley and Addison Tuinstra

Library

- December 1: Rena Lynema
- December 8: Carolyn VanderMeulen
- December 15: Linda DeYoung
- December 22: Ida Westendorp
- December 29: Rena Lynema



Tithes and Offerings for October

General Fund	\$17,882.10
Ministry Shares	4,430.40
Faith Promise	
East Martin Missions	400.00
Shaarda	2,240.00
Smit	2,140.00
Tiemeyer	2,390.00
Walker	2,410.00
Guatemala Orphanage	2,030.00
East Martin Christian School	1,945.00
Tri-Unity Christian School	315.00
World Renew—DRS	554.00
Pine Rest	354.00
Growing Hope Globally	362.00
Total	\$37,452.50

Offering Schedule for December

- December 1: AM—General Fund and Ministry Shares; PM—Freedom in Christ
- December 8: AM—East Martin Cadets; PM—Cadets—Denomination
- December 15: AM—General Fund and Ministry Shares; PM—Gideons
- December 22: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—Martin Area Resource Center
- December 25: General Fund and Ministry Shares
- December 29: AM—East Martin Christian School—Education Fund; PM—Zion Christian School

