



The Echoes

January 2024

A monthly publication of the
East Martin Christian Reformed Church



A Prayer for the New Year

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for another year of your faithfulness in the good times and the bad. There were times when we felt like we lost our way and didn't know how to move forward. Yet, you carried us through it all.

As the new year begins, we ask for your blessings to be showered upon us. May this be a year filled with your goodness and grace.

Thank you for making all things new, and for the opportunity of a new year. Help us to stay focused on you and trust in your plans for our lives. Our desire is that this well be a year filled with purpose. Please help us to be intentional about the way we spend our time, and help us to submit to your guidance.

Bless the coming year with your divine presence. May your love fill our hearts, your wisdom guide our steps, and your peace reign in our lives.

In Jesus' name, amen.

In Contact With Council



- The Council meeting of January 9 was opened with devotions and prayer by Keith Smit. Keith read II Chronicles 32:1-8.
- The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.
- Pulpit supply is covered to April. April 7 is open yet.
- Deacons' report: The offering schedule was made, supported and passed. The General fund is ahead 4%; Ministry Shares is ahead 15%.
- Gideons to speak on February 11 during the morning service for 10 minutes
- Twenty Council member visits were made.
- Communion will be on March 10 and the Good Friday service on the 29th.
- A motion was made to adjourn. Supported and passed. Tom Rook closed in prayer and will have devotions next month.

The Year In Review

The following changes took place in our membership in 2023.

Wyatt DeMaagd was baptized.

Trey, Ava, David and Justyn Rillema and Violet Tuinstra were welcomed into our membership through profession of faith.

Dan Wubben Sr. and John DenBoer were taken from us by death.

The membership of Joyce Ritchie was received from First Christian Reformed Church in Byron Center and the membership of Bobbie Spitzner was received from Calvary in Plainwell.



Check Out What's New in Our Library

THIS PASSING HOUR—LESLIE GOULD (Amish Memories #2)
LIKE A RIVER—GRANGER SMITH
(Finding the faith and strength to move forward after loss and heartache)
THE YEAR of GOODBYES and HELLOS—KELLY IRVIN
THE FLOWER QUILTER—MINDY STEEL
CHRISTMAS EVERY DAY—LINDA BYLER
THE AMISH MATCHMAKERS—BETH WISEMAN
THE HEIRLOOM—BEVERLY LEWIS
CALLING ON THE MATCHMAKER—JODY HEDLUND (Shanahan Match #1)
APPALACHIAN SONG—MICHELLE SHOCKLEE
THE SECRETS BENEATH—KIMBERLY WOODHOUSE (Treasures of the Earth #1)
ON MOONBERRY LAKE—HOLLY VARNI
(A little bit like Father Tim) Good
SOMEONE LIKE YOU—KAREN KINGSBURY
JUST ONCE—KAREN KINGSBURY (WWII story) Very Good

Simply Grateful

Your thoughtfulness is so appreciated.

We wish to Thank You for the lovely gift bag of goodies you gave us for Christmas. It was so good and greatly appreciated.

In Christ, Joe and Eleanor

I really enjoyed the bag of goodies I received from the church council at Christmas time. I appreciated it so much.

I also enjoyed the group who braved the cold to sing Christmas carols. It was very nice.

I love being a part of the East Martin church family.

Thank you, Jeanine Katje



Wild Game Dinner

East Martin Christian School's annual Wild Game Dinner will be held on Saturday, February 3rd. The doors open at 4 pm with dinner at 5 pm. The speaker will be David Zuiderveen. David is an avid hunter and will be talking about coyote hunting. The evening will include Dutch and Silent Auctions.

Registration for the Coyote Hunt will be Friday, February 2 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. Weigh in will be Saturday, February 3 at 4 pm. \$80 per team to enter. For official rules or questions contact Wayne Leep.

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.

Lasagna Soup

1 lb. hamburger
4 cups beef broth
8 oz. lasagna noodles, broken up
1/2 onion, diced
1 bell pepper, diced
1 tsp minced garlic
28 oz. can crushed tomatoes
14.5 oz. can petite tomatoes
1 tbsp. Italian seasoning

Brown burger, place in crockpot. Add onion, bell peppers, tomatoes and seasoning. Mix well. Add beef broth, combine and cook on low for 6–8 hours. Then turn on high and add noodles. Cook until tender, 15-30 minutes.

Serve with a dollop of ricotta cheese, mozzarella and parmesan cheese.





December Tithes and Offerings

General Fund	\$38,326.00
Ministry Shares	2,912.00
Faith Promise	
East Martin Missions	3,335.00
Shaarda	4,915.00
Smit	3,935.00
Tiemeyer	3,410.00
Walker	3,935.00
Guatemala Orphanage	3,595.00
Benevolence	1,622.00
Youth Group	173.00
Cadets	1,143.00
East Martin Christian School	2,661.00
Kalamazoo Christian High School	500.00
World Renew—DRS	2,402.00
World Renew—General	2,000.00
Martin Resource Center	310.00
Reaching the Forgotten	391.00
Youth for Christ	178.00
Kalamazoo Gospel Mission	500.00
Rehoboth Christian School	500.00
Total	\$76,743.00
General Fund over	4%
Ministry Shares over	15%

Offering Schedule for February

February 4: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Pine Rest
 February 11: AM—East Martin Christian School—Education Assistance; PM—Gideons
 February 18: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Son Life Camp
 February 25: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—Martin Resource Center

Greeters

February 4: AM—Joel and Jen DeYoung, Tom Rook; PM—Pat Fenton
 February 11: AM—Joan Kammeraad and Terri Jager, Keith Smit; PM—Bob and Ruth Katje
 February 18: AM—Jon and Amy Kalkman, Bruce Tiemeyer; PM—Glenn and Nancy Leep
 February 25: AM—Vern and Joanne Klaasen, Ryan Tucker; PM—Robert and Marlene Leep

Ushers

February 4: Jonathan Kalkman, Bob Katje and Bram Katje
 February 11: Vern Klaasen, Glenn Leep and Robert Leep
 February 18: Stan Leep, Wayne Leep and Wes Leep
 February 25: Les Lynema, Dave Mejeur, Bruce Mejeur

Nursery

February 4: Jen, Violet and Willow Tuinstra
 February 11: Laura DeMaagd
 February 18: Hailey and Kylee Tuinstra
 February 25: Riley and Addison Tuinstra

Library

February 4: Ida Westendorp
 February 11: Rena Lynema
 February 18: Linda DeYoung
 February 25: Ida Westendorp