



The Echoes

May 2025

A monthly publication of the
East Martin Christian Reformed Church



A View from the Pew

Things God Cannot Do: God Cannot Look at Wrong

Back in March, we began our multi-part study of God's attributes, or rather, "non-attributes." We first considered the fact that "God Cannot Learn," followed in April with "God Cannot Be Seen." This month we examine a hard truth: God will not tolerate evil.

"The little book of Nahum begins with a heart-rattling description of the anger of God," writes Paul David Tripp:

The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The Lord takes vengeance on His foes and maintains His wrath against His enemies (Nahum 1:1-2). Who can stand before His indignation? Who can endure the heat of His anger? (Nahum 1:6)

Tripp continues, "This description has been a record and preserved as a means of instruction and rescue. Often when people read through the Old Testament and encounter a description of God's anger, they wonder about or even doubt the goodness of the Lord."

From Israel's songbook (Psalm 78:58) we read, "They angered Him with their high places; they aroused His jealousy with their idols. When God heard them, He was very angry;"

In another example, Jeremiah warns, "But the Lord is a true God; He is the living God, the eternal King. When He is angry, the earth trembles; the nations cannot endure His wrath" (10:10). So, "[a]s you read through Scripture, notice that God does not hide his anger from us." In Psalm 76:7, Asaph unabashedly claims, "You alone are to be feared. Who can stand before You when You are angry?"

Thus we see that God "is not ashamed of his anger, as though it were a mortifying character weakness. It is impossible for God to have character weaknesses of any kind. If God is perfectly holy—and he is—then his anger is not a contradiction of his holiness, but an aspect of it. God could not be perfect and tolerant of the enormous evil of sin at the same time," Tripp continues.

In another small book, the prophet Habakkuk calls a spade a spade, so to speak: "Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; You cannot tolerate

wrong" (1:13a). Elsewhere, through Ezekiel (22:21-22), the Lord announces, "I shall gather you and blow on you with the fire of my wrath, and you will be melted in the midst of it...and you will know that I, the Lord, have poured my wrath on you." This further affirms that God Cannot Look at Wrong.

In fact, when God's Word becomes "foreign" to a people, then we see a generation that neither knows the Lord nor what He has done. "Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord...They forsook the Lord ...and provoked the Lord to anger..." (Judges 2:10-12).

Please rewind your mind for further history of the Israelites. The prophet Jeremiah writes (7:20), "Therefore, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: My anger and My wrath will be poured out on this place, on man and beast, on the trees of the field and on the fruit of the ground, and it will burn and not be quenched."

**WRATH
OF GOD**

(Are we any different than the chosen people of old?)

Why does the Lord "lash out"? We see at least a hint in Moses' writing in Leviticus 11:45: "I am the Lord who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy." Such abhorrence of evil continues *throughout* scripture, all the way to the end, as seen in John's book of the apocalypse (Revelation 15:5-8). "And one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever, and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of seven angels were finished."

Yet, in Numbers 35:9-12, Yahweh, uncompromisingly holy and One Who will not have the land in which He dwells defiled by sin that is not properly dealt with, establishes cities of refuge. Any person who commits murder unintentionally may flee to one of these cities for safety from any avengers. So, how does this square with the Lord's clearly avowed hatred for evil? It's a matter of two of the Lord's traits working in tandem. Moreover, "[w]e see God's holiness and mercy working in beautiful cooperation in a later account, too. The entire biblical narrative marches to a hill outside of the city, where, on a rough-hewn cross, God's uncompromising holiness and tender mercy would meet. The cross was necessary because God would not turn his back on the idolatry and rebellion of sin and act as if sin's offenses against him were okay."

God's character, unchanging, therefore proves totally trustworthy. "But the cross was necessary also because of mercy promised to provide a way for sinners to be forgiven and reconciled to him. This means that we, too, have a city of refuge to which we can run. Our city of refuge is not a place but a person, and his name is Jesus. It is beautiful to know that Jesus met all of God's holy requirements on our behalf and paid the penalty for our sin so that he could be a refuge for sinners like you and me."

Ultimately, we see that God absolutely **cannot, will not**, tolerate wrong! As Tripp concludes, "No one can withstand the anger of the Lord; that is why we are thankful for his forgiving and reconciling grace."



In Contact With Council



Don Wubben opened the May Council meeting by reading from John 3 and opening with prayer.

The minutes of the April 8 meeting were read and approved.

Communications:

The Shaardas are coming October 12 for both services.

There was discussion on visiting/pastoral elders.

The Congregational meeting is set for Sunday, May 18. The budget is all set.

Pulpit supply is scheduled through May 25.

Deacons' report:

The General fund is 16.4% behind; Ministry shares is 28% behind.

The offering schedule was presented. A motion to accept passed.

Pastor Joel's graduation will be live-streamed at church at 8:30 on May 15.

Evangelism/outreach is planning a family fun day on June 28.

Dinner will be held after church on the 18th for Pastor Joel's graduation.

Looking at possibly dropping the orphanage in Guatemala from Faith Promise as it is no longer needing assistance.

Building and Grounds:

Looking at new chairs for the sanctuary and getting bids for new sidewalks at the parsonage.

Nine Council visits were made.

A motion was made to have Pastor Joel ordained as an elder on June 1 starting full-

time here at East Martin CRC. Supported and passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 3. Don Wubben closed with prayer and Dave Misner has devotions next time.



Pastor Joel,

Our sincere congratulations on your graduation from Mid-America Reformed Seminary. We are grateful for you and proud of your accomplishment.

We look forward to having you lead us in God's Word and His way at East Martin CRC.

May God bless you and your family as you trust him and follow His leading.

Our 2025 Graduates

Martin Public School

Henry Tuinstra

Tri-Unity Christian School

Avi Rillema

Justyn Rillema

Grand Valley State University

Kendra Leep

Bachelor of Science

Hope College

Rachel Leep

Bachelor of Arts in Secondary English
Education

Mid-America Reformed Seminary

Joel V. Trinidad

Master of Divinity

Congratulations to our graduates. We pray for
God's blessing on you in the next phase of
your life.



Check Out What's New in our Library

WHEN THE SKY BURNED—LIZ TOLSMA

(Based on true facts)

THE DAUGHTER of ROME—ANGELA HUNT

(The Emissaries #3)

HOPE'S ENDURING ECHO—KIM VOGEL

SAWYER (Historical)

TWO SECONDS TOO LATE—DANI

PETTREY (JEOPARDY FALLS #2)

STARSTRUCK—AMY CLIPSTON

THE ACCUSED—CARA PUTMAN (Secrets
to Keep #2)

MISS FANNIE'S BISCUITS—WANDA E.

BRUNSTETTER & MARTHA BOLTON

THIS PROMISED LAND—CATHY GOHLKE

(Very Good Book)

TEMPEST AT ANNABEL'S LIGHTHOUSE—

JAIME JO WRIGHT



Martin Area Resource Center

When you are grocery shopping
in June please remember those
who are less fortunate in our community.
Martin Area Resource Center needs the
following: Shampoo/conditioner; Bar soap/
body wash; Toothpaste/mouthwash; Razors/
deodorants; Lotion/sunscreen; Diapers/wipes

April Tithes and Offerings

General Fund	\$ 7,396.00
Ministry Shares	1,424.70
Faith Promise	
Shaarda	265.00
Smit	165.00
Tiemeyer	165.00
Walker	165.00
Guatemala Orphanage	20.00
East Martin Christian School	2,229.60
Rehoboth Christian School	334.00
World Renew—General	305.00
Gideons	492.00
	\$12,962.30

General Fund behind 16.48%
Ministry Shares behind 28.00%

Offering Schedule for June

June 1: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares;

PM—Mel Trotter

June 8: AM—East Martin Christian School;

PM—Pine Rest

June 15: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares;

PM—Bible League

June 22: AM—East Martin Christian School;

PM—Martin Resource Center

June 29: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares;

PM—Freedom in Christ (Shaardas)

Greeters

June 1: AM—Chase & Laura DeMaagd, Tim Westendorp; PM—Merrie Beth DenBoer
June 8: AM—Dennis & Linda DeYoung, Dean Wubben; PM—Libby Dendel
June 15: AM—Joel & Jen DeYoung, Don Wubben; PM—Bob & Ruth Katje
June 22: AM—Joan Kammeraad, Nancy Minegar, Wayne Leep; PM—Glenn & Nancy Leep
June 29: AM—Vern & Joanne Klaasen, Dave Misner; PM—Wayne & Denise Leep

Ushers

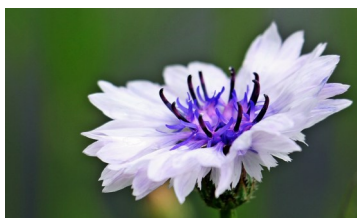
June 1: Dave DeYoung, Dennis DeYoung, Jacob DeYoung
June 8: Bob Katje, Bram Katje, Vern Klaasen
June 15: Glenn Leep, Wayne Leep, Wes Leep
June 22: Bruce Mejeur, Dave Mejeur, Jim Mejeur
June 29: Tom Rook, Keith Smit, Toby Smith

Nursery

June 1: Rebekah Westendorp
June 8: Jen and Violet Tuinstra
June 15: Laura DeMaagd
June 22: Riley and Addison Tuinstra
June 29: Jessica Tucker

Library

June 1: Ida Westendorp
June 8: Rena Lynema
June 15: Nancy Tuinstra
June 22: Carolyn VanderMeulen
June 29: Linda DeYoung



**As it was their job
to defend our freedom,
so it becomes our job
to honor their memories.**

Chocolate Raspberry Pie

Pastry for a single-crust pie (9 inches)

3 Tbsp sugar

1 Tbsp cornstarch

2 cups fresh or frozen unsweetened raspberries, thawed

Filling:

1 pkg (8 ozs) cream cheese, softened

1/3 cup sugar

1/2 tsp vanilla extract

1/2 cup heavy whipping cream, whipped

Topping:

2 ounces semisweet chocolate

3 Tbsp butter

Line unpricked pie shell with a double thickness of heavy-duty foil. Bake at 450 degrees for 8 minutes. Remove the foil; bake 5 minutes longer. Cool on a wire rack.

In a large saucepan, combine sugar and cornstarch. Stir in raspberries; bring to a boil over medium heat. Boil and stir for 2 minutes. Remove from the heat; cool for 15 minutes. Spread into the shell; refrigerate.

In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese, sugar and vanilla until fluffy. Fold in whipped cream. Carefully spread over raspberry layer. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.

In a microwave melt chocolate and butter, stir until smooth. Cool for 4-5 minutes. Pour over the filling. Cover and chill for at least 2 hours. Store in refrigerator.

