OCTOBER 2026

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE EAST MARTIN CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

THE ECHOES



A Reflection

Words are important. I realized this anew several months ago at my annual physical. At the beginning of the physical I was given 3 words to remember Banana, Sunrise, and Chair. Twenty minutes later I was asked to repeat them. Fortunately I was able. I don't know what would have happened if I had failed.

The effects of our words can last a long time. I can still vividly remember my sixth grade catechism teacher's class on joy. The minister stressed that joy was formed from three words J-Jesus, O- others, and, Y-yourself. By ordering life this way, joy would result. I have remembered these words for over 60 years. I wonder if the minister realizes his lasting effect.

On the negative side, I remember carelessly telling a college roommate that he was all talk and no action. This resulted in his not speaking to me for a week. I finally realized the problem and apologized. This healed the relationship and taught me a valuable lesson on the power of my words to hurt. What a power that a few careless words can have.

There are two points that I would like to make. One, be intentional with your words. They are powerful even if you do not realize it. Thoughtfully use them to build others up and not to tear down. Look for several ways every day to say something up-building to people with whom you come in contact. On the flip side, think carefully about the words that you use and why you are using them. Two, if our words have this kind of power, think of the power of God's Word. Read it, meditate on it, and allow it to empower you. Think of the accusation against the early Christians in Acts 17. They were accused of turning the world upside down with the ***Word*** of the Gospel. God's Word has the ability to turn a heart of stone into a living heart. It brings life out of death and truly can turn the world upside down. God's Word--Use it!

Proverbs 25:11

A word fitly (timely) spoken is like apples of gold in settings (baskets) of silver.



In Contact With Council



The Council meeting of October 13 was opened by Vern Klaasen. He read from Romans 5:12-13 and a TODAY devotional. Vern opened with prayer.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved with the following addition. Harold Wykstra and Seth Watson were added to the Classis delegate list.

Correspondence: The Singing Crusaders requested to practice in our church. Liz (missionary) is asking for a family meeting place in January. Cameron to get additional details.

Deacon's Report: Thanksgiving envelopes and the November offering schedule were presented. A motion to approve passed. There was discussion on GEMS/Cadets/SON-Life tuition. A motion made to pay a percentage of the approved GEMS/Cadets/SON-Life tuition passed.

The Executive, Finance and Church Safety committees did not meet.

Worship and Education liasons were not present (at classis) so there was no report.

Evangelism/Outreach: A motion was made to recommend that EMCRC not take any active responsibility in the changes happening at Martin Area Resource Center at this time.

Building and Grounds: Defibrilllators – made more sense to purchase new. Painted wall in the Fellowship room. Parsonage septic was pumped and discovered tree roots were growing in cracks. Committee to get estimates on tanks. Looking for volunteers to deep clean the parsonage before the Trinidads return.

Eighteen Council visits were made.

Old Business: Need to check if shut-ins get church-affiliated mail. Digital E-giving is tabled.

New Business: A motion to pay Trinidad's reciprocity fee of $1740 passed.

A motion to adjourn passed. Dave Misner closed in prayer and has devotions at the next meeting on November 10.

Thanksgiving Offering Envelopes



The Deacons have placed envelopes for the Thanksgiving Day offering in our pew racks. You can select from several options listed or add your own. Any monies not designated will be used for the General Fund.



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 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.

Christmas Card Service



The High School Youth Group will provide a Christmas card delivery service beginning the first Sunday of Advent, November 29. 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.



It's a Bridal Shower

You are invited to participate in a Bride's Shower for Brooke Hoysradt and Riley Tuinstra. Jonathan and Brooke's wedding ceremony was held on October 23, and Riley and Aaron are planning to be married on November 14. Aprons are in the church narthex for the next few weeks. Please place your gift for Jonathan and Brooke and Riley and Aaron in the appropriate apron pocket. Your gift can be in the form of cash, check or gift cards.

Thank you for supporting these marriages with your gifts and prayers.

What's New in Our Library



THE HIDDEN PRINCE – TESSA AFSTAR
UNBREAKABLE COURAGE – MAX LUCADO
TRACK OF COURAGE -- SUSAN MAY WARREN #1
THE UNDERCOVER HEIRESS OF BROCKTON – KELLY J. GOSHORN
THE CAREGIVER AT WOUNDED KNEE – DEBBY LEE
GIRL FROM TOMORROW'S TOWN – NAOMI MUSCH
FATAL PATTERN – KATE ANGELO (The King Legacy #2)
NOTHING BUT AIR – SUSAN MAY WARREN AND TERI FRIS (Summer Rangers #3)
FATHER TEN BOOM, GOD'S MAN -- CORRIE TEN BOOM

Young @ Heart



Young @ Heart met for the final time on October 15. We had a great group of people throughout the season, usually about 24 each month.

The lower elementary kids from East Martin Christian School provided music for us in the spring and for our last session we played a Price is Right game where we "guessed" at prices from the 1960's. The only one that everyone guessed correctly

was the price of a McDonalds hamburger. It was 15 cents. Would you have gotten it right. Our winners were: Merrie Beth Den Boer, Ron Vander Roest and Cindy Mejeur. They each received an adorable pumpkin decoration made by Karen Misner. It was a fun season.

We must give a shout out to Dave Misner. He was a huge help to the committee for anything and everything that was needed. We couldn't do it without him. Thank you Dave!!



Martin Area Resource Center

When grocery shopping in November, please remember the needs of those less fortunate in our community. In November they need the following: Soup, canned tomatoes, chili, beans, crackers (saltines, oyster, etc). spaghetti and sauce, tea and hot cocoa, boxed meals and foods, stuffings, rice mixes, etc.





Offerings for September

General Fund	$11,286.25
Ministry Shares	2,547.00
Faith Promise	
Shaarda	125.00
Smit	125.00
Tiemeyer	125.00
Walker	125.00
East Martin Christian School	886.00
Rehoboth Christian School	422.00
Bible League Intl	323.00
The Luke Society	237.00
Mel Trotter Mission	443.00
	$16,644.25

General Fund ahead 27%
Ministry Shares behind 31%

We will be packing boxes for our military personnel and college students living away from home on November 10. If you are willing to bake cookies, please sign the sheet in the narthex. Please indicate the kind of cookies you will make so we have a variety. If you would prefer to provide something store-bought, Kind, Clif or Nature Valley bars are always welcome as are chocolates or candy.

Thanks so much for remembering our youth living away from home.

Offerings Schedule for November

November 1: AM – General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM – East Martin Tuition Assistance
November 8: AM – East Martin GEMS; PM – GEMS Club Ministry
November 15: AM – General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM – International Campus Ministry
November 22: East Martin Christian School; PM – Pine Rest
November 26: Thanksgiving Envelopes
November 29: AM – General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM – Resonate Global Missions

Greeters

November 1 AM: Les & Rena Lynema, Kevin Bouman; PM: Tim & Terri Miller
November 8 AM: Nancy Minegar and Cathy McMullin, Randy Bouman; PM: Bruce & Sue Tiemeyer
November 15 AM: Bruce Mejeur, Doug DeMann; PM: Tom Rook
November 22 AM: Dave & Jean Mejeur, Dennis DeYoung; PM: Henry & Nancy Tuinstra
November 29 AM: Dave & Wilma Persenaire, Vern Klaasen; PM: Scott & Jen Tuinstra

Ushers

November 1 Glenn Leep, Wayne Leep, Bruce Mejeur
November 8 Les Lynema, Dave Mejeur, Tim Miller
November 15 David Rillema, Justyn Rillema, Scott Rillema
November 22 Tom Rook, Don Smith, Bruce Tiemeyer
November 29 Henry M Tuinstra, Scott Tuinstra, Luke Watson

Nursery

November 1 Rebekah Westendorp
November 8 Jen, Violet, and Willow Tuinstra
November 15 Laura DeMaagd
November 22 Riley and Addison Tuinstra
November 29 Jessica Tucker

Library

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



November 1

Chicken Divan

2 ½ cups cooked, chopped broccoli
2 cups shredded, cooked chicken
2 (4-6 oz) cans mushrooms, drained
1 (8oz) can water chestnuts, drained (optional)
2 (10.75 oz) cans condensed cream of chicken soup
½ cup mayonaise
½ cup yogurt
1 tsp lemon juice
¼ tsp curry powder
1 Tbsp melted butter or margaine
½ cup shredded chedder cheese
½ cup sliced almonds

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Arrange cooked broccoli in a lightly greased 3 quart casserole dish. Arrange chicken over broccoli. Add mushrooms and water chestnuts. In a medium bowl combine the soup, mayonaise, yogurt, lemon juice, sliced almonds, curry powder and butter/magarine. Mix together and pour the mixture over the chicken and vegetables. Sprinkle cheese on top and bake in the preheated oven for 30-45 minutes.