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East Martin Christian Reformed Church



A View from the Pew

Reach for a Song

*It is good to praise the Lord and Make
music to Your Name, O Most High...*

The Echoes

An unquestionably particular and genuine richness of Reformed heritage lies in our singing the psalms. While there's nothing inherently "wrong" with contemporary songs, it's those based on scripture (and not me-focused) that prove theologically sound. That said, this "View from the Pew" is not a mini-treatise on the psalter. It is, however, a call to "Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth" (Isaiah 12:5). Additionally, we can recognize that the Lord Himself delights in us and sings songs, too.

Presumably every one of us recognizes the command: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us **rejoice** and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). Along this same vein (more commands), "Come, let us **sing** for joy to the Lord; let us **shout aloud** to the Rock of our salvation. Let us **come before Him** with thanksgiving and **extol Him with music and song**" (Psalm 95:1-2).

And not just any song. It needs to pass the litmus (a decisively indicative) test, a three-fold examination. It ought to be a hymn or worship song that raises us "onto a different plane spiritually; it must summon in [us] the emotional wherewithal to remember [our] calling." Second, it should be "filled with deep truths about life and God." Finally, it needs to have "power to press healing and strength into [our] tired heart[s]."*

A peek into God's heart reveals something like this: *Sing songs to Me; tell of My wondrous works. Remember that I take great delight in you.* Do we doubt the truth of this idea? We shouldn't, because it's right on the printed pages of our Bibles. "*The Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love*" (Psalm 147:11). Furthermore, "*The Lord your God is with you. He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing*" (Zephaniah 3:17).

Let's consider this last bit: The Lord will "rejoice over you with singing!" Yes, you read that right. Please read it again. **God sings! Over us!**

Therefore, what can we conclude about singing? Definitely, it's God-ordained. Even He participates. In fact, according to Hebrews 2:12, we

might say Jesus leads our singing: "For He [Jesus] said to God, 'I will proclaim Your Name to my brothers and sisters. I will praise You among Your assembled people.'"

To "get definitional" a moment, "to reach" means to extend ourselves, stretch, seize, and grasp. So, today, and every day, let's **reach** for a song. In case we need more reasons, consider these: "When the Colossians were struggling under the madman Nero, Paul ordered, 'Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom He gives. Sing *psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God* with thankful hearts'" (Colossians 3:16).*

Can we find further proof? "When the Ephesians were being threatened with torture, Paul told them to encourage one another, '*singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs* among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts'" (Ephesians 5:19).*

...to proclaim Your love in the morning and Your faithfulness at night... For You make me glad by Your deeds, O LORD; I sing for joy at the works of your hands. (Psalm 92:1-4)

"Come, let us sing a psalm and drive away the devil," declared Martin Luther. Basically, Satan and his minions loathe our worship songs. The Lord, on the other hand, loves them. So **reach for a song...and... keep singing!**

*quotes from *The Practice of the Presence of Jesus*, Joni Eareckson Tada

In Contact With Council



- ◆ The Council meeting of July 9 was opened with devotions by Tim Westendorp. Tim read from the Today and opened with prayer.
- ◆ The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.
- ◆ There was open discussion on elder and deacon districts. We must keep in touch and work on visiting the shut-ins.
- ◆ Pulpit supply was reviewed. August 25 is open. Josh Shaarda will be preaching this fall.
- ◆ Bruce Tiemeyer made motion to offer Joel Trinidad an intern package. Motion was supported and passed.
- ◆ Deacon's report: the General Fund is behind 44.7%; Ministry shares is over by 19.4%.
- ◆ A motion was made to accept the offering schedule as presented. Approved.
- ◆ Dan Wubben will put announcement in bulletin to request furniture for parsonage for Joel and JC.
- ◆ Worship committee: no meeting
- ◆ Education committee: no meeting
- ◆ Evangelism committee: working on Martin days

- ◆ Building and grounds: no meeting
- ◆ The Finance committee presented Joel's intern package
- ◆ Church security: no meeting
- ◆ Executive committee: no meeting
- ◆ Three Council visits were made.
- ◆ A motion was made to adjourn. Approved.
- ◆ Cameron Tuinstra closed in prayer and has devotions next month.

Freedom In Christ — Grace Course

Josh and Mandy Shaarda and their family have returned to the US to meet with their supporting churches and to share the work in Obulle, Uganda. Josh will be leading us in worship on August 11 during the morning service.

The Council has gladly accepted Josh's offer to lead us through the Grace course developed by Freedom In Christ. The Discipleship course that Josh led at East Martin a couple years ago is not a prerequisite to the Grace course so if you did not attend that training the Grace course will still be a blessing as we strive to serve God in our daily lives.

The Grace course will be led as part of the Sunday evening service as we did with the Discipleship course. Josh will lead the teaching on October 6, 20, November 3, 17, 24, and December 1, 8 and 15. There will be more information coming about the Grace course as the time gets closer.

Pray that God will use this means to help us grow in His love and Grace.



New Books for July

LOVE ON A WHIM — SUSANNE WOODS FISHER (CAPE COD CREAMERY #3)
Ice Cream series — Interesting Series
WITH EACH TOMORROW — TRACI PETERSON & KIMBERLY WOODHOUSE (JEWELS OF KALISPELL #2)
THE WIND BLOWS IN SLEEPING GRASS — KATIE POWNER A very good book — Takes place in Montana
THE SEAMSTRESS OF ACADIA — LAURA FRANTZ Historical — Good Book
UNFORGIVEN — SHELLY SHEPARD GRAY Amish story
A CHOICE CONSIDERED — TRACIE PETERSON (Heart of Cheyenne #2)
COLD VENGEANCE — NANCY MEHL (RYLAND + ST CLAIR #3)
INTO THE STARLIGHT — AMANDA CABOT (Secrets of Sweetwater Crossing #3)
THE SONG OF SOURWOOD MOUNTAIN — ANN H. GABHART Historical



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When grocery shopping please remember Martin Area Resource Center. In August they need condiments:

Ketchup, mustard, mayo/salad dressing, dressings (French, Ranch, etc), pickles, olives.

Thanks in advance for helping those in our community who are in need.



June Tithes and Offerings

General Fund	\$8,834.70
Ministry Shares	2,112.00
Faith Promise	
East Martin Missions	
Shaarda	190.00
Smit	190.00
Tiemeyer	140.00
Walker	160.00
Guatemala Orphanage	90.00
Benevolence	1,992.00
East Martin Christian School	3,064.00
Heritage Christian School	264.00
Right to Life Education Fund	708.00
Martin Resource Center	343.00
Pine Rest	422.00
Mel Trotter Mission	421.00
Total	\$18,930.70

General Fund: 44.72% behind
 Ministry Shares: 19.47% ahead

Offerings Schedule for August

August 4: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Martin Resource
 August 11: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—Bible League
 August 18: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Wycliffe
 August 25: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—SON-Life Camp

Library

August 4: Linda DeYoung
 August 11: Ida Westendorp
 August 18: Rena Lynema
 August 25: Nancy Tuinstra

Greeters

August 4: AM—Wayne and Denise Leep, Dave Misner; PM—Bruce Mejeur
 August 11: AM—Wes and Darlene Leep, Jonathan Kalkman; PM—Dave and Karen Misner
 August 18: AM—Dave and Jean Mejeur, Tim Westendorp; PM—Pat Fenton
 August 25: AM—Keith and Deb Smit, Dean Wubben; PM—Bruce and Sue Tiemeyer

Ushers

August 4: Randy Bouman, Kevin Bouman, Joe Dekoekkoek
 August 11: Kevin DeKoekkoek, Chase DeMaagd, Doug DeMann
 August 18: Dave DeYoung, Dennis DeYoung, Jacob DeYoung
 August 25: Joel DeYoung, Sam DeYoung, Jonathan Kalkman

Nursery

August 4: Laura DeMaagd
 August 11: Riley and Addison Tuinstra
 August 18: Mary Bouman
 August 25: Rebekah Westendorp

Jelly Flavored Pops

- 3 cups blueberries
- 1 cup strawberries
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup unsweetened rice milk
- 3/4 cup natural peanut butter
- 1/3 cup agave nectar

In the cup of a blender, combine blueberries, strawberries, vanilla extract, rice milk, peanut butter and agave nectar. Blend until smooth then pour, dividing equally, into six individual Popsicle molds. Place in the freezer and freeze until solid— about four hours. Approximate servings per recipe: 6