



December 2022

A monthly publication of the
East Martin Christian Reformed Church



A View from the Pew

Peace and Praise

I heard the bells on Christmas day their old familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, goodwill to men. I thought, as how the day had come, the belfries of all Christendom had rolled along th' unbroken song of peace on earth, goodwill to men.

Over recent months, as a congregation, East Martin has experienced sadness and grief, health issues, losses of various kinds, disappointment, discouragement in the political arena, anything but peace and goodwill across the globe.

And in despair I bowed my head: "There is no peace on earth," I said, "For hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, goodwill to men."

Many of us grapple with the numbing reality of life-altering occurrences. Just trying to sort out the "whys" and "what ifs" proves a daunting journey as we long to see the sun break through our fog.

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep, "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; the wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, goodwill to men."

Praise acknowledges a Son that shines even when the gloom seems heaviest, when we throw ourselves on His goodness, asking for the grace to praise Him more for all that He is, all that He has done, and all that in His sovereign love and power He will do. Praise lifts the heart.

Then ringing, singing on its way, the world revolved from night to day—a voice, a chime, a chant sublime of peace on earth, goodwill to men.

Let's hear them today, those bells, and praise Him and so live in God's peace. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The Echoes

In Contact With Council



1. The Council meeting of December 13 was opened with devotions and prayer by Bob Katje. Bob read Rick Warren's devotional on Hebrews 11:11.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.
3. Communications: The Echoes staff sent a list of birthdays and anniversaries to be reviewed.
4. Pulpit supply: Randy Bouman has a list of preachers thru 4/16/23 with a few openings. Pastor David Prince is helping him find names.
5. Deacons' Report: The offering schedule was presented, supported, and passed. The Thanksgiving offering was good. The deacons' have no special projects at this time.
6. A motion was made and supported to not have an evening service on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Passed.
7. Building & Grounds Committee report: The painting in the parsonage is done. A light will be installed at The Anchor. The new pulpit chairs are in. They are working on lawn care bids.
8. Council member visits: 20 were made.
9. A motion to adjourn was made, supported and passed. Jonathan Kalkman closed in prayer and will have devotions next month.

Bible Study Opportunities

Coffee Break

Coffee Break will take a two-week break for the holidays and resume on January 11. We will study the book "Who Jesus Is" a Life Change Bible Study by Navpress. We will look at nine amazing I Am statements Jesus made about Himself. Through these we will see who He says He is and what He has done for us.

We would love to have you join us. We meet every Wednesday morning from 9:45 to 11:00 at church. If you have questions please ask Deb Smit or Denise Leep.

Ladies' Evening Bible Study

This fall we had eleven ladies come together on Monday evenings to study "Elijah" written by Priscilla Shirer. We had 5 days of personal study on our own to do. At our Bible Study we discussed the lessons, then watched a video by Priscilla Shirer. Her video tied into Elijah's story but always had another lesson that we didn't even touch on in our weekly study.

We began with seeing Elijah called by God to go away by himself to the brook of Cherith. Here God provided food and water for Elijah while the rest of the region was under a drought, but that was not all God was doing. He was preparing Elijah for what was coming. During the three years of drought, God was preparing Elijah for Mount Carmel. After Mount Carmel, we saw Elijah hit a period of

depression and despair because the Israelites didn't repent and turn from Baal back to God.

We saw that he was human, just like us. We learned so many lessons and truths from Elijah's life. God brings us through struggles and trials with the purpose to deepen our relationship with Him. No matter what point of life that we are in God is not done with us. He wants us to see Jesus and Jesus alone.

Bible study will resume again in February. Come join us the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7 p.m. Watch for further information regarding what will be studied.

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study will meet the first and third Wednesday evenings at 7 pm. They will study Joshua.

Youth Group

Young people are a vital part of any congregation and we would like to build relationships with other generations of the church family. We are asking if there are members of the congregation who would be willing to invite us into your life for an activity. This can be as simple as a game night or a campfire (in warmer weather), anything that would allow us to better know you and you to better know us. We have been averaging 4-5 students. If you are interested please let Libby or Melodie know.

We will also be putting out a sign up sheet if you would like to provide a dish or dessert for one of our meetings.



New Library Books

**DARK FALL —
ANDREWS & WILSON**
(A Shepherds Series #3)

WHY THE NATIVITY — DAVID JEREMIAH
O LITTLE TOWN — AMANDA WEN, JANYRE
TROMP, DEBORAH RANY

**A QUILT FOR CHRISTMAS — MELODY
CARLSON** (A beautiful story)
**THE EXTRAORDINARY DEATHS OF MRS.
KIP — SARA BRUNSVOLD**
(Thoughtful story of an unlikely friendship
between two women)
HONOR BOUND — HALLEE BRIGEMAN
(Love & Honor #1)
WORD OF HONOR — HALLEE BRIDGEMAN
(Love & Honor #2)
**HONOR'S REFUGE — HALLEE BRIDGE-
MAN** (Love & Honor #3)
**A CHRISTMAS IN THE ALPS — MELODY
CARLSON**
**ENGAGING DECEPTION — REGINA
JENNINGS** (Joplin Chronicles #3)

Calvin University Presents The January Series

Listen | Learn | Discern

The January Series is a FREE 15-day lecture series that takes place each year at Calvin University and aims to cultivate deep thought and conversations about important issues of the day in order to inspire cultural renewal and make us better global citizens in God's world.

The January Series returns January 9-27. The presentations begin promptly at 12:30.

You can watch the presentation on your computer or other device that supports the following web browsers: Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Safari, Microsoft Edge. This includes mobile devices including Apple iPhones and iPads and Androids. Simply visit calvin.edu/january and click the Watch Now button. If you've subscribed to the daily emails, click the link in that day's email.

*Thank
You*

Thank you for the many cards, kind words, expressions of sympathy in Mark's passing. We are very thankful to our church

family, whose prayers were felt at our time of loss and for our Heavenly Father, whose comfort and peace carried us through.

Dennis and Linda

Thank you so much for all your prayers, cards, food, rides and thoughts during my knee surgery and recovery.

God has truly blessed me.

Renee Aukema

Thank you to everyone for the prayers and support during these past few months. The meals were wonderful and we appreciated these very much.

The chemo pills have been going fairly well but please continue to pray for minimal side effects.

Thanks again.

Bruce and Joanne Mejeur



MARC

In January the Martin Area Resource Center could use the following items:

Shampoo/conditioner
Bar soap/body wash
Toothpaste/mouthwash
Razors/deodorants
Lotion, diapers and wipes

Every year around Christmas the employees of Meijer vote on a food bank or resource center in the community to give a donation of money and this year for the first time Meijer presented a \$5,000 check to the Martin Area Resource Center! It was much appreciated and needed.

We would also like to thank East Martin Christian Reformed Church for being one of our largest supporters. For many years (no one seems to know how many) East Martin has supplied the resource center with non-perishable groceries at Thanksgiving, donations of clothing, offerings through the year, the grocery cart which usually has items in it every month, and year-end giving. We truly appreciate it all!

Thank you for partnering with us in helping the needy in our community. Jesus came to serve, not to be served. East Martin church is following His example. God bless you all!

M.A.R.C.

Chocolate Crinkles

1/2 cup cooking oil
2 cups sugar
4—1 oz squares unsweetened chocolate (melted)
4 large eggs
2 cups flour
1/2 tsp salt
1 1/2 tsp baking powder
2 tsp vanilla
Confectioners sugar

Mix together sugar, oil and melted chocolate. Add eggs one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Add vanilla and flour mixture and mix well. Let chill overnight, or at least several hours. When ready to bake, take teaspoonfuls of dough and roll into balls. Then roll balls in powdered sugar and place on greased baking sheet (about 2 inches apart). Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Do not over bake. Makes 5 to 6 dozen.

Best when eaten at room temperature. Store in a tightly sealed container in the refrigerator or freezer.

Greeters

January 1: AM—Dennis and Linda DeYoung, Earl Wykstra
January 8: AM—Dave and Jean Mejeur, Doug DeMann; PM—Bruce and Sue Tiemeyer
January 15: AM—Scott and Jen Tuinstra, Dave Mejeur; PM—Les and Rena Lynema
January 22: AM—Libby Dendel, Marcia Bouman, Bob Katje; PM—Joel and Jen DeYoung
January 29: AM—Jonathan and Amy Kalkman, Keith Smit; PM—Vern and Joanne Klaasen

Ushers

January 1: Wayne Leep, Tim Westendorp, Toby Smith
January 8: Jared Westendorp, Dave Misner, Tom Westendorp
January 15: Kevin Bouman, Wes Leep, Kevin DeKoekoek
January 22: Glenn Leep, Bruce Mejeur, Les Lynema
January 29: Trayton Tuinstra, Roger Anderson, Dennis DeYoung

Nursery

January 1: Laura DeMaagd
January 8: Hailey and Kaylee Tuinstra
January 15: Riley and Addison Tuinstra
January 22: Rebekah Westendorp
January 29: Jen, Violet and Willow Tuinstra

Library

January 1: Linda DeYoung
January 8: Ida Westendorp
January 15: Rena Lynema
January 22: Linda DeYoung
January 29: Ida Westendorp



Wishing you
the spirit of Christmas
which is *joy*,
the hope of Christmas
which is *peace*,
the heart of Christmas
which is *love*.

May you experience the
fullness of Christ this Christmas.

November Tithes and Offerings

General Fund	\$33,028.15
Ministry Shares	2,101.00
Faith Promise	
Shaarda	1,570.00
Smit	240.00
Tiemeyer	115.00
Walker	160.00
Guatemala Orphanage	240.00
Education Assistance	340.00
Sunday School	500.00
Sr. High Youth Group	10.00
GEMS	655.00
Cadets	100.00
Church Library	500.00
Property Repair Fund	1,000.00
GEMS—denomination	333.00
Guatemala Mission Trip	40.00
East Martin Christian School	1,400.00
Kalamazoo Christian High School	100.00
Zion Christian School	100.00
Resonate Global Missions	200.00
Back to God Ministries	385.00
World Renew—DRS	670.00
World Renew—General	170.00
Vacation Bible School	175.00
Christian Neighbors	20.00
Growing Hope Globally	70.00
Mel Trotter Mission	305.00
The Luke Society	147.00
CRC Disability	93.00
Martin Resource Center	250.00
Right to Life Education Fund	390.00
Total	\$45,407.15

General Fund 8.8% behind
Ministry Shares 19.8% behind

Offering Schedule for January

January 1: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares
January 8: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—Mel Trotter
January 15: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Martin Resource Center
January 22: AM—Benevolence; PM—Growing Hope Globally
January 29: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—World Renew—DRS