



April 2024

A monthly publication of the
East Martin Christian Reformed Church



A View from the Pew

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain—for me, who caused his bitter
death?
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my Lord, shouldst die for me?

*When Jesus gave you His most amazing, life-transforming display
of love; when He showed you the height, depth and breadth of that
love; when He withheld nothing but wrung Himself inside out to
death, pouring out all of His love to the last drop...it happened on
a torturous cross, His greatest point of horror and anguish.**

He left His Father's throne above—so free, so infinite His grace—
emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race!
What mercy this, immense and free, for, O my God, it found out me!

[In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus asked the Father, if
possible, to take the cup from Him.] *Jesus was about to drown in
raw, liquid sin as God's stored-up rage against humankind
exploded in a single direction—at Him on the hill of Calvary.**

Wonderful, merciful Savior,
Precious Redeemer and Friend,
Who would have thought that a Lamb
could rescue the souls of men,
Oh, You rescue the souls of men.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray; I woke—the dungeon flamed with
light!
My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went out, and followed Thee.

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,
Spirit we long to embrace.
You offer hope when our hearts have
hopelessly lost the way.
Oh, we've hopelessly lost the way.

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne and claim the crown, through Christ,
my own.

The Echoes

*With His own pierced hands, Jesus created a pasture for the soul.
He tore out the thorny underbrush of condemnation. He pried
loose the huge boulders of sin. In their place he planted seeds of grace
and dug ponds of mercy. ^*

You are the One that we praise.
You are the One we adore.
You give the healing and grace
our hearts always hunger for.
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.

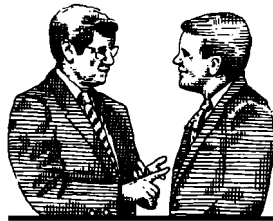
*Jesus did not die to make us healthy but to make us holy. He came
not to make us comfortable but to heal us of our propensity to sin.
The best cures have to do with eschewing sin and drawing closer to Christ.**

Almighty, infinite Father
Faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne.
Oh, we're falling before Your throne.

Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

**Joni Eareckson Tada
^Max Lucado*

In Contact With Council



- ◆ The Council meeting of April 9 was opened with prayer and devotions by Wayne Leep. Wayne read from Mark 1:14-20 and a devotional.
- ◆ The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.
- ◆ Pulpit supply is covered through May with the exception of the 19th.
- ◆ Deacons' report. The offering schedule was made, supported, and passed. The General fund is behind 6.56%; Ministry Shares is behind 0.01%. The annual budget was reviewed. A motion was made, supported, and passed to accept the budget and present it to the congregation on May 19.
- ◆ Building and Grounds committee: Our new lawn maintenance person is Scott Tuinstra.
- ◆ Seven Council member visits were made.
- ◆ Nominations for Elder and Deacon are set for the congregational meeting. Names to be posted in bulletin May 5 and 12.
- ◆ A motion to adjourn was made, supported, and passed. Bruce Tiemeyer closed with prayer and has devotions next month.

Bible Sunday

On April 21 during the morning service we handed out Bibles to our 2nd graders Carsen DeMaagd and Landen Tucker. The boys were asked if they could name some characters in the Bible, and who they would say is the main character in the Bible. They were reminded that the Bible mentions a lot of people, but the main character is God.

In the Bible it tells them how God made the world, and how He led the people of Israel. It tells how He sent His son Jesus to die on the cross, how He sent the Holy Spirit into our hearts to teach us, and how He's going to make a new world for them to live in at the end of this one. The Bible is all about God!! God is telling us His story. He used other people, but He is the one that spoke it to them. God gave us His story, the Bible, so that we could learn about Him!

The boys were given their Bibles, and we hope that they will do a good job reading God's story so that they can get to know God a little better and get rooted in Him.

Young @ Heart

Young @ Heart will resume on Thursday, May 16. The students from East Martin Christian will be present to sing for us. Please be on time. The students will come at 11:30am. Lunch will be served at noon.



Graduations

Anyone from our church who has or will be graduating during the current school year from 8th grade, high school or college, please contact a member of The Echoes staff by next copy deadline so the graduation information can be listed correctly. If graduating from college, please include your degree.



Thank
You

During a time like this
we learn how much our friends
and family really mean to us.

Your expression of sympathy will
always be remembered.

Bruce Mejeur and family



New Books for April

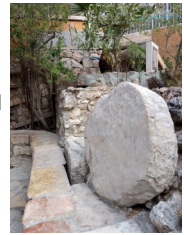
ONE FINAL TARGET—JANICE CANTORE
(Suspense)
THE IRISH MATCHMAKER—JENNIFER
DEIBEL (Historical)
NEW LEASE ON LIFE—KATHLEEN
Y'BARBO (Dog Mystery #6)
THE QUILT ROOM SECRET—LISA JONES
BAKER (Amish & Mennonite)
THE APOSTLE'S SISTER—ANGELA HUNT
(Jerusalem Road)
8 DOWN—KIMBERLEY WOODHOUSE
(Alaskan Cyber Hunters #2)
THE DIVINE PROVERB OF STREUSEL—
SARA BRUNSVOLD
THE FOXHOLE VICTORY TOUR—AMY
LYNN GREEN (Historical)
THE HEART'S SHELTER—AMY CLIPSON
(An Amish Legacy #4)
HAPPY CRAB—LAYLA & KEVIN PALMER
(Primary)
SET IN STONE—KIMBERLY WOODHOUSE
(Treasures of the Earth #2)

Basketball State Finals



Congratulations to Trey Rillema and the rest of the Tri-Unity Christian Defenders as they won their second Division 4 State Title in three seasons in convincing fashion 79-59 over Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart on March 16 at Michigan State University. Great job guys!

If you attended the breakfast between our Easter sunrise service and morning worship you were blessed with some delicious food and great fellowship. Be sure to thank Scott and Jen and Glenn and Nancy.



It was a great way to spend celebrating our risen Savior.



Martin Area Resource Center

When you are grocery shopping in May please remember those who are less fortunate in our community. Martin Area Resource Center needs the following:

Toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, paper plates, female sanitary napkins/tampons, wraps, baggies and foil.

The Bible League Conference for men and women will be held on Friday, September 6, at Friendship CRC in Byron Center from 9 to 3.



Our featured speakers will be Craig and Molly Sanborn. Their love for laughter, each other, and Jesus is contagious! Connecting well with audiences of all ages, their common theme is the necessity to be joined with Christ and committed to His Word. Craig serves as a Youth Pastor and a Director for a movement of churches across Minnesota and Iowa. Molly holds a masters in Marriage and Family Therapy and teaches with Craig at FamilyLife conferences. Molly is known as the Cheese Ball Chick and has been on several TV shows.

Watch your mailbox for your invitation.

Chocolate Chip Cheesecake

3 packages (8 oz each) of cream cheese, softened
3/4 cup sugar
3 eggs
1 tsp vanilla
12 oz. mini chocolate chips
1 extra serving-size packaged graham cracker crumb crust (9 oz)
2 Tbsp whipping cream

Heat oven to 450 degrees. Beat cream cheese and sugar in large bowl with mixer until well blended. Add eggs and vanilla; beat well.

Stir in 1 2/3 cup small chocolate chips; pour into crust.

Bake 10 minutes. Without opening oven door, reduce temperature to 250 degrees, continue baking 30 minutes or just until set. Remove from oven to wire rack. Cool completely. Cover; refrigerate until thoroughly chilled.

Place remaining 1/3 cup chips and whipping cream in small microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on HIGH 20-30 seconds or just until chips are melted and mixture is smooth when stirred. Cool slightly; spread over top of cheesecake. Refrigerate 15 minutes or until topping is set. Cover; refrigerate leftover cheesecake.



March Tithes and Offerings

General Fund	\$17,830.00
Ministry Shares	1,386.00
Faith Promise	
Shaarda	320.00
Smit	60.00
Tiemeyer	60.00
Walker	60.00
Guatemala Orphanage	60.00
Benevolence	1,374.00
Building Construction Fund	866.61
EMCRC Library	500.00
East Martin Christian School	2,909.00
Kalamazoo Christian High School	25.00
World Renew—General	504.00
Martin Resource Center	431.00
Total	\$26,385.61
General Fund behind	6.56%
Ministry Shares behind	0.01%

Offering Schedule for May

May 5: AM—General Fund and Ministry Shares; PM—Christian Neighbors
 May 12: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—Kalamazoo Christian High School
 May 19: AM—General Fund and Ministry Shares; PM—Project Hope
 May 26: AM—Martin Resource Center; PM—Bible League



Golf Outing

The annual East Martin Christian School golf outing fundraiser is Saturday, June 15, at Mullenhurst Golf Course in Delton. The day includes 18 holes of golf, a shirt, lunch, silent auction and a chance at prizes. The 4-person golf scramble begins at 8 am. If you have interest in playing, please call/text Kelvin DeVries at 616 481-3872.



Greeters

May 5: AM—Henry and Nancy Tuinstra, Bruce Tiemeyer; PM—Larry and Phyllis Tuinstra
 May 12: AM—Scott and Jen Tuinstra, Ryan Tucker; PM—Ron and Lorraine VandenBerg
 May 19: AM—Dean and Carolyn VanderMeulen; Scott Tuinstra; PM—Doug and Mary VanDerMeulen
 May 26: the Westendorp family, Tim Westendorp; PM—Don and Julie Wubben

Nursery

May 5: Rebekah Westendorp
 May 12: Mary Bouman
 May 19: Jen, Violet and Willow Tuinstra
 May 26: Laura DeMaagd

Library

May 5: Rena Lynema
 May 12: Nancy Tuinstra
 May 19: Carolyn VanderMeulen
 May 26: Linda DeYoung