



The Echoes

December 2024

A monthly publication of the
East Martin Christian Reformed Church



A View from the Pew

Merry Christmas Who's My Jesus?

In a world that ignores, belittles, or outright rejects Jesus, it behooves us to consider who Jesus is, and more than that, intentionally ask ourselves, "What kind of Jesus do I want?" Even within the church there are multiple views of Jesus, and the Christian needs to come to terms with the answer to that query.

Do I desire the ***Prozac Jesus**, who will make me feel better? Life is hard, and a "little something" might improve things. You know, I am feeling anxious.

*He will be only your Sovereign Savior King.

Or maybe a ***Vacation-Planner Jesus** appeals, one who could take me places where life is more pleasurable. You know, like the beach, or a tropical paradise. Or, how about the middle of nowhere, out in the boondocks, with fresh-smelling pine woods and pristine lakes? A comfy rig and the perfect campsite will bring relaxation and family bonding. Fun in the sun. Yes, that's the life!

Jesus provides life in the Son!

Of course, there's always ***Suggestion Box Jesus**, whose law is more *advice* than orders. If I really "don't feel like it," then He probably won't mind. After all, it's generally easier if I don't follow His *every* command. I like my comfort zone. It's familiar, with no "boat-rocking."

*He will be nothing less than the sovereign Savior King.

Then there is **^Accomplice Jesus**, someone to rely on as long as He's doing my bidding, one on whom I can project my wants and wishes. If He does "something other," I can ^"keep Him in my vocabulary but discreetly click 'unsubscribe' and quietly unfriend Him."

*He will be to you what you need, your sovereign Savior King.

On the other hand, maybe I prefer ***District Attorney Jesus**. He will "get" all those people who make life so difficult and unfair. They refuse, after all, to follow biblical principles. They are immoral, and mean. They cheat,

bully, slander, deceive, steal, lie, even murder. Therefore, they should get what they deserve! And the sooner the better!

*He will be only your sovereign Savior King.

Perhaps today I long for the ***Match.com Jesus**, who will give me someone to love. A person to move in with me and *meet my needs*.

*He will be to you what you need, your sovereign Savior King.

No, I don't need any of those, but a ***Neiman Marcus Jesus** would be just the ticket: designer clothes, luxury items, and my golden dreams. If I could dress like the fashionable people, drive a newer, fancier, sportier vehicle. Oh, man, the latest in computer technology and games; a Rolex or Fitbit watch; a home remodel wouldn't hurt either.

*He will be nothing less than the sovereign Savior King.

Who is my Jesus? I look at all of this, and I think, I'm really not drawn to any of those. Actually, it's Christmas, and I like baby Jesus "wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger" (Luke 2:7)—isn't that adorable! Angels sing. Shepherds bow down. Later, wise men arrive with gifts. And He comes to bring peace on earth.

But wait!

This is Jesus.



I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice He judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on Him that no one knows but He Himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and His Name is **the Word of God**. The armies of heaven [follow] Him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On His robe and on His thigh He has this name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

This is Jesus. This is Christmas.

Revelation 19:11-16

*terms from *New Morning Mercies*, Paul David Tripp

^Joni Eareckson Tada



Bible Study Opportunities at East Martin

Coffee Break

We will begin meeting again for the new session on January 8. We will be studying "The Women of the Bible Speak" by Shannon Bream. We will look into the lives of sixteen women of the Bible. Shannon takes us into their lives, but more specifically their hearts through their own words, emotions, and interactions. We will see how God used each one of them, and see through their lives, the value God has placed on each one of us.

We meet every Wednesday from 9:45 to 11:00. If anyone would like to join us, or has any questions, feel free to talk to Deb Smit or Denise Leep.

Ladies Evening Bible Study

Ladies Evening Bible Study will be studying the Sermon on the Mount by Jen Wilkin.

Here is an overview about the Study: In His sweeping depiction of kingdom citizenship, Jesus utters some of the most familiar passages in all of Scripture. Most of us have only encountered the Sermon on the Mount in fragments, considering its subdivisions as complete teachings in their own right—a study on blessedness; a reflection on the Lord's Prayer; a discussion of religious devotion, money, ambition, and relationships.

What if we navigated these three chapters in Matthew as they were originally heard? What if we read them as one cohesive, well-ordered message, intended to challenge us to think differently about what it means to be a follower of Jesus?

This 9-session study will give you the opportunity to do just that. Come and learn from Jesus, just as His disciples did. First released in 2014, this study is now updated with new teaching videos from Jen Wilkin.

We will be meeting at 6:30 pm the second and fourth Mondays starting January 13 and

finishing May 12th. Come join us for fellowship and by doing so also keep yourself in God's Word. Talk to Sue Tiemeyer if you have any questions.

Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study will continue studying the Sermon on the Mount through January before starting another study.

They meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month starting on January 15.

If you have any questions, please contact Keith Smit.

Young Adults Bible Study

This group is open to all college and working young adults. They meet once a month for now at the parsonage. They are reading through I Peter. Please contact Pastor Joel if you have any questions.

Young Couples

This group is open to young couples with or without kids. They are reading through the books of Joshua and James. They meet once a month for now at the parsonage. Please contact Pastor Joel if you have any questions.

Couples

This group is open to all couples. They are reading through the book of Mark. They meet once a month for now at the parsonage. Contact Pastor Joel if you have any questions.

Youth Group

The High School Youth Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings at 7:30 at The Anchor. They are studying Philippians but will soon be moving to another Bible book.

If you have any questions contact Libby Dendel or Melodie Norris.



What's New in Our Library

ALL WE THOUGHT WE KNEW—MICHELLE SHOCKLEE (Very good book. Historical. WWII & Vietnam)
HIDDEN CHRISTMAS—TIMOTHY KELLER (The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ)
BRAVE—MESU ANDREWS (King David's Brides #1) The story of Ahinoan - Interesting
A TRUTH REVEALED—TRACIE PETERSON (Heart of Cheyenne #3)
SANDCASTLE INN—IRENE HANNON (Hope Harbor Novel)
THE CROWN CONSPIRACY—CONNIE MANN (A Page Turner - Good Book)
THE COLOR OF HOME—KIT TOSELLO (Slow beginning but good book)
DEADLY REVENGE—PATRICIA BRADLEY (Pearl River #3)
I THINK I WAS MURDERED—COLLEEN COBLE & RICK ACKERMAN
BEFORE WE WERE US—DENISE HUNTER
CORNERED—EASON, BLACKBURN WALTERS (Three suspense novels)
THE CHRISTMAS GATHERING—GRAY, GOOD, WORTH



We thank you all for all your prayers during Adrian's hospital stay and the passing of Wilma's sister. Also for the visits, cards and all the food was really appreciated. Above all we thank our Heavenly Father for His care and healing.

Adrian and Wilma

Oh Come Let Us adore him

Praying that you have a Christmas filled with miracles and memorable moments you'll cherish forever.

To my family,
I am in a Christmas card class at Life Care and I wish love, peace and keep knowing Jesus day in and day out. Never leave nor forsake Him, He doesn't leave us!

Nancy Minegar

During a time like this we realize how much our friends and relatives really mean to us ...
Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

Thank you for the beautiful lantern and candle.

East Martin was the perfect place for a young student to start a ministry.

With love,
Anita Schoonveld

May you have a blessed Christmas and a very prosperous New Year

Season's Greetings

From your friends at
Martin Area Resource Center

A Child
Has been
boRn for us,
a son is glven
to uS;
authoriTy rests
upon hiM; and
he is nAmed
JeSus.

Isaiah 9:6



Light of the World

...“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never live in darkness. They will have the light that gives life.” John 8:12 ERV

In Him there was life,
and that life was a
light for the people
of the world.

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not defeated it.
John 1:4-5 ERV

May the light of Jesus shine brightly on you
this Christmas and all throughout the year.

May you have a Merry Christmas
and a blessed New Year.

The Echoes Staff



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

Calvin University presents The January Series

Listen | Learn | Discern

Starting January 20 through January 31 you'll have the chance to hear from 10 speakers—including Olympians, comedians, explorers, Pulitzer Prize winners, and innovators—this year's diverse slate of January Series speakers will encourage us to create a better, more inspired, and more inclusive world. Join at the Calvin Fine Arts Center on campus or online. More information can be found at www.calvin.edu/january-series.

This marks the transition from a three-week to a year-round lecture series, featuring additional events in the spring, the January Series in July, and an event in the fall.

Nursery

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

Library

January 5: Linda DeYoung
January 12: Ida Westendorp
January 19: Rena Lynema
January 26: Linda DeYoung



Tithes and Offerings for November

General Fund	\$19,281.00
Ministry Shares	1,546.00
Faith Promise:	
East Martin Missions	50.00
Shaarda	830.00
Smit	130.00
Tiemeyer	130.00
Walker	130.00
Guatemala Orphanage	40.00
Senior High Youth Group	50.00
GEMS	2,542.00
GEMS—denomination	257.00
Cadets	750.00
East Martin Christian School	2,973.75
Heritage Christian School	173.00
Kalamazoo Christian High School	200.00
Reframe Ministries	75.00
World Renew—DRS	200.00
World Renew—General	50.00
Martin Area Resource Center	363.00
Reaching the Forgotten	199.00
Right to Life Education Fund	200.00
CRC Disability	126.00
 Total	 \$30,295.75

General Fund—19% behind
Ministry Shares—20% behind

Offering Schedule for January 2025

January 5: AM—General Fund/Ministry
Shares; PM—Project Hope
January 12: AM—East Martin Christian
School; PM—Bible League
January 19: AM—General Fund/Ministry
Shares; PM—Growing Hope Globally
January 26: AM—Martin Resource Center
PM—Reframe Ministries (Back to God Hour)



Hearty Beef and Potato Casserole

8 cheddar cheese hash brown patties
1 lb. ground beef
1 bag frozen broccoli (partially cooked)
1 small can French fried onions
1 onion
1 can cream of celery soup
1/3 cup milk
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
1/4 tsp garlic powder
1/8 tsp pepper

Place hash browns in the bottom of a 9x13 inch pan. Bake 400 degrees for 10 minutes
Brown beef and onion
Place beef, broccoli and 1/2 can of French fried onions on top of potatoes
Combine soup, milk and 1 cup of cheddar cheese/seasonings
Pour over the meat mixture
Bake covered 400 degrees for 20 minutes
Top with remaining cheese and onions
Bake uncovered 2-3 minutes longer until cheese has melted.



Recycle your corrugated at MARC

Don't forget to recycle your corrugated at the Martin Area Resource Center. Use the brown door. Place your flattened corrugated in the bins. They will turn it into cash to benefit the less fortunate in our community.