



**September 2022**

A monthly publication of the  
East Martin Christian Reformed Church

# The Echoes



## **A View from the Pew**

### **Denying Ourselves**

Why did Jesus tell us “to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him” in Matthew 16:24? Denying ourselves is seeing ourselves as completely dependent on God’s grace for salvation. Romans 3:23 tells us, “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”. We seem to understand and accept that, but even after we are saved we need to realize our ability to live for Him is totally due to His grace in our lives.

What are some of the indications in our lives that we have not denied ourselves?

- we attribute too much righteousness to ourselves
- we take pride in our “right” character
- we think we are wiser, more patient, more obedient, more godly than we truly are
- we look down on others thinking they aren’t as righteous as we are

The problem is when we see ourselves as righteous and mature, we don’t seek God’s grace in our lives which is our only hope. If we don’t see ourselves as weak and needy we tend to minimize our sin. We are more concerned about the sins of others than our own sins. As long as we have hope in our own ability to be righteous, we won’t run after the grace offered in Christ Jesus which we so desperately need.

The fact is we all give daily evidence in our lives of our continuing need for grace. Let’s run to the only place where grace can be found “to help us in our need”.

Hebrews 4:14-16 gives us insight and encouragement. “Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

## In Contact With Council



The Council meeting of August 9 was opened with prayer and devotions by Scott Tuinstra. Scott read Mark 1:35 and a TODAY devotional.

Deacon's Report: The offering schedule was adjusted and passed. The furnace installation and work is almost complete at The Anchor.

The Search committee is working on a new list of names.

Five Council visits were made.

A motion was made to adjourn. Earl Wykstra closed in prayer and will have devotions next month.

The Council meeting of September 13 was opened with prayer by Earl Wykstra. Earl read Deuteronomy 8:11-20 and a devotional.

The minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

GEMS denominational requested an evening offering. This was passed to the deacons.

Deacons' report: The offering schedule was adjusted and passed. City on the Hill clean up day is Saturday, September 17, beginning at 9 a.m.

Education committee report: We are set to start Sunday School on September 18.

Fourteen Council member visits were made.

Two delegates were selected for Classis: Earl Wykstra and Tom Rook. Bruce Tiemeyer is the alternate.

Mutual censure was observed.

A motion was made to adjourn. Passed. Tom Rook closed in prayer and will have devotions next month.



GEMS begins September 21. GEMS is open to girls in 1st-8th grade. We meet the 1st and the 3rd Wednesday of the month, during the school year, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the church basement. Our theme this year is Unshakeable, based on Psalm 62:2. "Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken." We would LOVE to have your girls join us for a fun night of singing, snacks, a devotion, and crafts. If you have questions, Amy Kalkman, 269-838-9105, is the GEMS leader for the 2022-2023 school year.

# Thank You!

"Thank you all for the baby gifts and wedding shower gifts! We are so thankful for everyone's support and generosity. Lennon loves his new books!"

Kari and Zheng Zhou

We wish to thank the East Martin congregation for the cards, well wishes and goodies received for our birthdays. Just as we were beginning to think we were outliving most of our friends you graciously showed us we hadn't.

Dick and Hazel Kroon



## Look What's New in the Library

A FEELING OF HOME—SUSAN ANNE MASON (Redemption's Light #3)  
CROSSFIRE—LYNETTE EASON (Extreme Measures #2)  
THE RECORD KEEPER—CHARLES MARTIN (Murphy Shepherd #3)  
CRITICAL ALLIANCE—ELIZABETH GODDARD (Rocky Mountain Courage #3)  
PIECING IT ALL TOGETHER—LESLIE GOULD (Plain Patterns #1)  
When everything's fallen apart, can she piece together the truth?  
A PATCHWORK PAST—LESLIE GOULD (Plain Patterns #2)  
Could the past be a patchwork for mending the present?  
THREADS OF HOPE—LESLIE GOULD (Plain Patterns #3)  
Can they find a way to stitch their suffering into hope and embrace an uncertain future?

HIGHER HOPE—ROBERT WHITLOW (Tides of Truth #2)  
GREATER LOVE—ROBERT WHITLOW (Tides of Truth #3)  
I'LL BE SEEING YOU—ROBIN LEE HATCHER  
Good Book  
WHEN THE MEADOW BLOOMS—ANN H. GABHART  
Good Book  
WHERE THE ROAD BENDS—RACHEL FORDHAM  
This book is a heart-tugging story of choices and second chances  
ELYSIUM YIDE—JAMES R. HANNIBAL  
Suspense

East Martin Christian School will hold its 79th Annual Harvest Sale on Saturday, October 15, at 4 p.m.



If you would like to donate or sponsor this event, please contact Jessica Tucker at (269) 998-2960 or Jenny Vande Bunte at (616) 217-7977 with items/description to be included in the Harvest Sale booklet. Please be sure to turn in all donations (excluding perishable items) to the school office by October 1.

## Martin Area Resource Center

When grocery shopping in October, please remember the needs of those less fortunate. Martin Resource Center needs the following:



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

## August Tithes and Offerings

General Fund	\$13,177.02
Ministry Shares	4,696.00
Faith Promise	
Shaarda	860.00
Smit	800.00
Tiemeyer	700.00
Walker	740.00
Guatemala Orphanage	900.00
East Martin Christian School	1,186.00
Kalamazoo Christian High School	180.00
Back to God Ministries	1,002.00
Resonate Global Mission	359.00
Guatemala Mission Trip	40.00
Martin Resource Center	25.00
Christian Neighbors	179.00
Total	\$24,844.02
General Fund behind	29%
Ministry Shares behind	10%

### Offering Schedule for October

October 2: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Bible League  
 October 9: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—Project Hope  
 October 16: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Zion Christian School  
 October 23: AM—Son Life Camp; PM—Right to Life  
 October 30: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Wycliff Bible Translators

### Greeters

October 2: AM—Dave and Karen Misner, Ryan Tucker; PM—Bob and Ruth Katje  
 October 9: AM—Ida Westendorp, Joan Kammeraad, Scott Tuinstra; PM—Bruce and Joanne Mejeur  
 October 16: AM—Jeanine Katje, Mina Haveman, Earl Wykstra; PM—Glenn and Nancy Leep  
 October 23: AM—Chase and Laura De Maagd, Doug DeMann; PM—Ryan and Jessica Tucker  
 October 30: AM—Dennis and Linda De Young, Harold Wykstra; PM—Scott and Jen Tuinstra

### Ushers

October 2: Henry Tuinstra, Bruce Aukema, Chase De Maagd  
 October 9: Tom Rook, Cameron and Caleb Tuinstra  
 October 16: Joe De Koekkoek, Scott Tuinstra, Dave Mejeur  
 October 23: Vern Klaasen, Wayne Leep, Tim Westendorp  
 October 30: Earl Wykstra, Wes Leep, Tom Westendorp

### Nursery

October 2: Hailey and Kaylee Tuinstra  
 October 9: Riley and Addison Tuinstra  
 October 16: Rebekah Westendorp  
 October 23: Laura De Maagd  
 October 30: Hailey and Kaylee Tuinstra

### Library

October 2: Ida Westendorp  
 October 9: Rena Lynema  
 October 16: Nancy Tuinstra  
 October 23: Carolyn Vander Meulen  
 October 30: Linda De Young

### Pumpkin Streusel Snack Cake

3 1/2 cups biscuit baking mix  
 1 cup packed light brown sugar  
 1/2 cup granulated sugar  
 1/2 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature  
 4 large eggs  
 1 can (15 oz) pumpkin puree (not pumpkin pie filling)  
 2 tsp pumpkin pie spice  
 1 tsp confectioners sugar

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Coat a 15x10 inch jelly roll pan with nonstick cooking spray. In a large bowl, combine baking mix, light brown sugar, granulated sugar, butter, eggs, pumpkin and pumpkin pie spice. With a mixer on low speed, beat 30 seconds, scraping down sides of the bowl until blended. Beat on medium speed 3 minutes.

Evenly spread cake batter into prepared pan. Sprinkle streusel evenly over cake.

Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool completely in pan on wire rack. Cut into 24—2 1/2 inch squares; dust top with confectioners sugar just before serving.

#### Streusel:

1 cup sweetened flaked coconut  
 1 cup pecan halves, chopped  
 1/2 cup biscuit baking mix  
 1/2 cup packed light brown sugar  
 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, melted

In medium size bowl, combine coconut, pecans, baking mix and light brown sugar. With a fork, stir in melted butter until mixture is evenly moistened.