



**April 2025**

A monthly publication of the  
East Martin Christian Reformed Church



## **A View from the Pew**

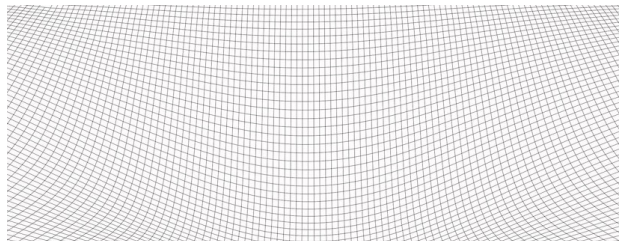
### **Things God Cannot Do: God Cannot Be Seen**

Immortal, *invisible*, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid  
from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of  
Days, almighty, victorious, thy great Name we praise!

With these words the hymnwriter captures (in part) the essence of our triune God. Simultaneously, he highlights a biblical truth: God cannot be seen. So, while last month we ruminated on “Things God Cannot Do: God Cannot Learn,” this month we ponder a second aspect, God Cannot Be Seen.

How do we know this? In Scripture, as early as the Pentateuch, God makes the matter clear, for we read in Exodus 33:19b-20, “I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But,’ He said, ‘You cannot see My face, for no one can see My face and live.’” Here the Lord unmistakably spells out for Moses that He absolutely cannot be seen. In fact, simply standing in God’s presence makes the face of Moses glow, so much so that the Israelites run away in fear, begging Moses to cover his face after he speaks with Yahweh.

So, too, on the Day of Atonement, smoke fills the Holy of Holies so that the high priest cannot see God between the cherubim. Per the Lord’s explicit instructions, because God dwells between the cherubim, the high priest is “to put incense on the fire before the Lord, and the smoke from the incense will conceal the atonement cover above the Testimony, so that he will not [see Me and] die (Leviticus 13:13).



New Testament writers confirm the reality of invisibility as well, which Paul expresses in multiple epistles. Twice in his first letter to Timothy, the apostle details aspects of the Lord’s character. As early as I Timothy 1:17, he breaks out in doxology, “Now to the King eternal, immortal,

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*invisible*, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen!" Then, as he comes to the end, he bursts once again into praise, extolling "...God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal, and Who lives in unapproachable light, Whom *no one has seen or can see*" (I Timothy 6:15-16).

Both in his gospel and his first epistle, John also affirms this truth. From the former, the NLT records these words of Jesus, in 6:46, "(*Not that anyone has ever seen the Father*; only I Who was sent from God, have seen Him)."

The question might arise, then, "If I can't see Him, *how* can I, or *can* I, even know Him?" First, Paul asserts in his letter to the saints in Colosse, "Christ is the visible image of the *invisible* God" (1:15a). Furthermore, in Hebrews 1:3a we read, "The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God."

Exciting and also reassuring, boldly appearing this time from the pen of John, I John 4:12 declares, "*No one has ever seen God*"; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us."

Consequently, even though God cannot be seen, God is love, and He puts Himself on display through His adopted children. Therefore, "Immortal, *invisible*, God...thy great Name we praise!"

## **In Contact With Council**



Vern Klasen began the April Council meeting with reading from Matthew 6:25 - 34 and opening with prayer.

The minutes from the Council meeting of March 18 were read and approved.

We welcomed Pastor Mike Koetje to our meeting and talked about different ways of getting Pastor Joel approved to be our ordained pastor.

The offering schedule was presented. A motion to accept passed.

The Finance committee presented the budget. We will be using 102 active members this year. A motion to accept passed.

The Congregational meeting is scheduled for May 18 after the morning service.

Two Council member visits were made.

Pastor Joel's graduation is on May 15. Do we wish to go as a group? Decided to let everyone make their own arrangements.

A motion to adjourn was supported and passed.

Dave Misner closed with prayer and has devotions at the next meeting on May 13.



Congratulations to Jonathan and Brooke Hoysradt on the birth of their son. Wesley Kyle arrived on Tuesday, April 1. He was 6 pounds and 14 ounces

and 20 inches long. Mom and baby are doing great.

Congratulations to the proud grandparents, Wayne and Denise Leep and great grandparents, Wes and Darlene.

May God richly bless this family.



Congratulations to Sam DeYoung and Julie Verduin who are engaged.

Sam and Julia met at Zion Christian but didn't start to hangout and be friends until after Sam graduated.

Sam works at Alamo Valley Ag as a pivot irrigation specialist. Julia works at Trinity Health GR as a nurse on a progressive neuroscience unit.

Their wedding is set for August 22, 2025 and the plan is to live in Sam's current house.



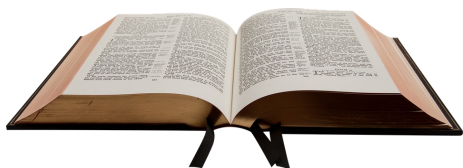
A grocery shower was held on April 9 for Sara DeYoung. A light supper was served followed by THE game. It was lots of fun but your team does have to know how to spell. Following the game we enjoyed desserts.

Sara and Steve received lots of groceries. Some things they probably won't need to purchase for quite some time.

There were lots of stories being told and lots of laughter. Steve came for some leftovers but his main job to was carry all the groceries up the steps.

We wish Sara and Steve God's best blessings on their marriage.





Bible Sunday is May 4. The second graders who will be receiving a Bible are Vocean Rillema, Boaz Katje and Willow Tuinstra. Bibles will be given to Ioelle and Ioanne Trinidad also.



### Check Out What's New in our Library

BEIJING BETRAYAL—JOEL ROSENBERG (Marcus Ryker Novel)  
 SHATTERED SANCTUARY—NANCY MEHL (ERIN DELANEY MYSTERIES) Bk #1  
 BREAK MY FALL —LYNN H. BLACKBURN (GOSSAMER FALLS #2)  
 THE KEEPER—CHARLES MARTIN (MURPHY SHEPHERD #4)  
 LAND OF DREAMS—LAURINE SNELLING (HOME TO GREEN CREEK #1) Immigrants coming into America  
 LIZZIE'S LITTLE MOUSE—ANNE BLACKBURNE (Amish Mystery)  
 THE PEACEMAKER—WANDA E. BRUNSTETTER (MIFFLIN COUNTY MYSTERY #2)  
 NEW DVD'S:  
 # 1 BEAUTY AND THE BEET—(LESSON IN CONDITIONAL LOVE) VEGGIETALES  
 # 24 GOD'S LITTLE CREATURES—(STORY OF FORGIVENESS)  
 # 60 WORDS TO MAKE US WISE! (PSALMS, PROVERBS ETC)  
 # 96 JESUS IS THE GOOD NEWS! (MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN)  
 # 115 SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS! (BOOK OF JOHN)

### Young @ Heart



The first session of Young @ Heart meets on May 15 (the 3rd Thursday of each month). Please come at 11:30 for fellowship; lunch will be served at noon.



Thank you for all of the cares, concerns, prayers, and cards from the congregation in regard to my back surgery. The doctor said all went well, and I am doing well recovering. I am so thankful to God for His healing hand.

Thanks again,  
 Sheryl VanderRoest

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.

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

### 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.



### 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.



As the mission trip God's opened for me in Thailand and Ethiopia gets closer, I realized it would be beneficial to have a gathering of those praying over the trip. So, I would like to invite you to Georgetown CRC

(Address: Georgetown Christian Reformed Church, 6475 40th Ave, Hudsonville, MI 49426) on May 21 at 7:00 pm. This will be a time where I share the agenda for the trip, answer questions you may have, and spend time in prayer together for the countries of Thailand and Ethiopia.

Please let me know if you can make it!

I look forward to seeing you, Lydia

The Bible League Conference for men and women will be held on Friday, September 5, at Friendship CRC in Byron Center from 9 to 3.



The featured speaker will be Karen Ehman. Karen is a Proverbs 31 Ministries speaker and New York Times best selling author. Described as profoundly practical, engagingly funny and down right real, her passion is to help people live their priorities and love their lives as they serve God and others.

Watch your mailbox for your invitation.

## Greeters

May 4: AM—Ron & Lorraine VandenBerg, Dave Misner; PM—Harold Wykstra  
May 11: AM—Dean & Carolyn VanderMeulen, Tom Rook; PM—Bruce & Renee Aukema  
May 18: AM—Doug & Mary VanDerMeulen, Cameron Tuinstra; PM—Marcia Bouman  
May 25: AM—Don & Julie Wubben, Vern Klaasen; PM—Randy & Mary Bouman

## Ushers

May 4: Kevin Bouman, Randy Bouman, Joe DeKoekkoek  
May 11: Kevin DeKoekkoek, Chase DeMaagd, Doug DeMann

May 18: David DeYoung, Dennis DeYoung, Jacob DeYoung

May 25: Joel DeYoung, Sam DeYoung, Jonathan Kalkman

## Nursery

May 4: Jen and Violet Tuinstra

May 11: Laura DeMaagd

May 18: Riley and Addison Tuinstra

May 25: Jessica Tucker

## Library

May 4: Rena Lynema

May 11: Nancy Tuinstra

May 18: Carolyn VanderMeulen

May 25: Linda DeYoung

## March Tithes and Offerings

General Fund	\$12,455.20
Ministry Shares	1,551.00
Faith Promise	
Shaarda	155.00
Smit	55.00
Tiemeyer	55.00
Walker	55.00
Kitchen Fund	82.00
East Martin Christian School	2,955.00
Heritage Christian School	288.00
SON-Life Camp	50.00
Martin Resource Center	264.00
International Campus Ministry	128.50
Total	\$18,093.70

General Fund behind 12.76%  
Ministry Shares behind 26.23%

## Offering Schedule for May

May 4: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Kalamazoo Christian High School  
May 11: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—Luke Society  
May 18: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Martin Resource Center  
May 25: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—Resonate Global Mission