



The Echoes

February 2023

A monthly publication of the
East Martin Christian Reformed Church



A View from the Pew

Love: Whom Can We Trust?

For this month, we could go to the dictionary for the definition of a very important word: **Love**. After all, just recently people around the globe celebrated Valentine's Day. Instead, let us take a moment to delve more deeply.

When we think about *love*, maybe we recall that first middle school crush, and just maybe it ended in rejection. Ouch! Or, the word certainly figures at weddings, where a sense of wonder causes the couple to exclaim, "Out of all this world you have chosen me!" Then life happens, and with it sometimes resentment, anger, wounding words, a heart turned cold or hard.

Well, Jesus knows these feelings, maybe from us. God's Son spent *everything*, on us. With that gift, that love, He "binds up the broken-hearted," replaces "ashes" with a "crown of beauty" (Isaiah 61: 1, 3). He also restores "the years the locusts have eaten" (Joel 2:25). He will "remove from you a heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 36:26). More than that, the Word declares that He "makes all things new" (Revelation 21:5).

Agape love: Willingly Jesus shed His blood on a cross. He paid the ultimate price, the death penalty, for every time we've lived our way instead of His. No one's ever loved us like Jesus! "God showed how much He loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that *we* might have eternal life through Him. This is *real* love—not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins" (1 John 4: 9-10)—because He had no sin. He paid the way for *us* into heaven, bringing us a relationship with God and eternity in heaven. In the end, this is a gift, God's Riches at Christ's Expense (GRACE!). Yet a gift is only a gift when it's received. We can accept it, or we can say, "OK, but really, no thanks." No matter how we express it, those words *reject* His love.

Consider Psalm 103: 8-12, where David clearly proclaims

The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in **love**.

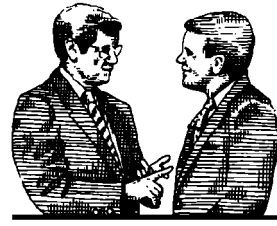
He will not always accuse,
nor will He harbor His anger forever;
He does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is His **love** for those who fear Him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Could we with ink the ocean fill and were the skies of parchment made, were every stalk on earth a quill and every man a scribe by trade, to write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry.

Now there's a **love** we can trust.

In Contact With Council



1. The Council meeting of February 14 was opened with prayer and devotions by Dave Mejeur. Dave read from Psalm.103:2-5.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.
3. Report: Pulpit supply is full thru May.
4. Deacons' report: Offering schedule presented, supported and passed. No projects.
5. Worship Committee: Pastor Heijerman will be preaching for some lent services. Motion made and supported to have Easter morning service at 8am. Breakfast after at 9am. Second service at 10am. Passed.
6. Council visits made: 15.
7. Motion made and supported to extend Pastor David Prince's interim contract until further notice. Passed.
8. A motion was made and supported to use only gluten-free bread at Communion. Passed.
9. Sue Tiemeyer requested to continue the Ladies' Bible study. A motion was made and supported. Passed. Church will purchase the books.
10. Classis nominees: Keith Smit, Dave Mejeur, alternate is Earl Wykstra.
11. Mutual censure was observed.
12. A motion was made and supported to adjourn. Passed. Closing prayer by Bruce Tiemeyer. Glenn Leep has devotions next month.

East Martin CRC was well represented at Tri-Unity Christian School on Friday, February 3, at the Homecoming basketball game. Two of our own members were on homecoming court this year.

Avi Rillema was nominated by her classmates and served as sophomore representative.

Toby Smith was nominated and served as senior representative and then was crowned Homecoming King.



What an honor! Well done Avi and Toby!!

Calling all cookie bakers

We will be packing boxes for our military personnel and college students who live away from home the week of March 13. We will need at least 24 dozen cookies plus other items such as microwave popcorn, wrapped chocolates, cheese/cracker packs etc. If you are willing to help, please watch the bulletin for details and the sign up sheet in the narthex.



Our Journey Through Lent **Theme: Words Spoken** **From the Cross**

Lent 1: 2/26/23

Text: Luke 23:26-34 (v. 34)

The First Word From the Cross: Forgive

Location: Martin Reformed

Preaching: Pastor David Prince

Lent 2: 3/5/23

Text: Luke 23:32-43 (v. 42-43)

The Second Word From the Cross: Salvation

Location: East Martin CRC

Preaching: Pastor Mark Heijerman

Lent 3: 3/12/23

Text: Matthew 27:45-46

The Third Word From the Cross: Forsaken

Location: Martin Reformed Church

Preaching: Pastor Mark Heijerman

Lent 4: 3/19/23

Text: John 19:28-30

The Fourth Word From the Cross: Thirst

Location: East Martin CRC

Preaching: Pastor David Prince

Lent 5: 3/26/23

Text: Luke 23:44-49

The Fifth Word From the Cross: Into Your Hands

Location: Martin Reformed Church

Preaching: Pastor David Prince

Lent 6: Palm Sunday 4/2/23

Text: John 19:28-30

The Sixth Word From the Cross: It Is Finished

Location: East Martin CRC

Preaching: Pastor Mark Heijerman

Good Friday: 4/7/23

Text: To Be Determined

Theme TBD (Communion will be served)

Location: East Martin CRC

Preaching: TBD

Mission Trip with MRC

There were nine of us all together who ventured to the far south of Mississippi known as Hattiesburg. We were commissioned by World Renew to work on the last house in that area that had been hit by a tornado five years earlier. The homeowner, Ms. Carolyn had been waiting a long time for help. With a retired drywaller and a licensed builder in the group, R3SM was excited for us to come.

R3SM put us up in their renovated home/ office building which used to be the boarding house back in the day for the train station that was across the street. It took a bit to get used to all the trains coming and going.

Monday morning we walked into Ms. Carolyn's house. It was ready for drywall. The guys hung drywall Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday morning the finishing pieces of drywall were still being hung but enough was done that the taping and mudding could begin. By the end of the day Thursday we had the first coat of drywall mud and taping on everything.

Thursday was a pretty special day for all. We had a quilt along with us that had been made by one of the ladies from Martin Reformed Church. We made sure that Ms. Carolyn would be able to be home around lunch time. She was the manager at a local Burger King. We invited her to have lunch with us. We decided to get a 30 inch pizza from Fat Boys so that we would have enough pizza for everyone. We didn't realize that R3SM also had a special event happening that same day. Ms. Carolyn's house was the last house to be completed since that tornado hit the area five years earlier. The local news station was following the progress of her home, her story and R3SM's involvement in that community. You guessed it! The TV crew showed up just before lunch. They interviewed Harvey Leep about what we were doing. They came in the house and filmed us all working on different things. They aired the segment later that evening. Ms. Carolyn was so excited to see the progress on her house. She LOVED the quilt! Most of all she loved that she had a front and back porch. She took that treasured quilt and walked it out her back porch to the shed in the back yard where she was living.

We had a great week and got a lot accomplished because we had a great group of people working together and a great organization to work with. If you would like to see some of the pictures of the week you can find them on R3SM's website – r3sm.org or their facebook page



New Library Books

HOUSE OF LIVING STONES — KATIE SCHUERMANN #1
 THE CHOIR IMMORTAL — KATIE SCHUERMANN #2
 THE HARVEST RAISE — KATIE SCHUERMANN #3
 LOVE'S DWELLING — KELLY IRVIN (Amish Blessings) #1
 THE WARMTH OF SUNSHINE — KELLY IRVIN (Amish Blessings) #2
 EVERY GOOD GIFT — KELLY IRVIN (Amish Blessings) #3
 DOG DAYS OF SUMMER — KATHLEEN Y'BARBO (Good read)



Martin Area Resource Center

While you are grocery shopping in March, please purchase some of the items below for the Martin Area Resource Center and put them in the grocery cart.

Canned fruits, canned veggies, juices, applesauce, canned meat; i.e., tuna, chicken

KCHS Performing The Music Man

Kalamazoo Christian High School invites you to a performance of "The Music Man", put on by the High School Performing Arts Department.

The dates are Friday, March 10 at 7 pm and Saturday, March 11 at 2 pm and 7 pm. The performances will be held at the Comstock Community Auditorium at 2107 N. 26th Street, Kalamazoo.

If you wish to attend there are two ways to buy tickets: Come to the high school office to buy your tickets or call 269-381-2250 to order. Cost is \$13 for adults and \$10 for students 5 and up. (small credit card fee will be applied).

Do you want to Fast this Lent? (in the words of Pope Francis)

- Fast from hurting words ... and say kind words
- Fast from sadness ...and be filled with gratitude
- Fast from anger ...and be filled with patience
- Fast from pessimism ...and be filled with hope
- Fast from worries ...and have trust in God
- Fast from complaints ...and contemplate simplicity
- Fast from pressures ...and be prayful
- Fast from bitterness ...and fill your hearts with joy
- Fast from selfishness ...and be compassionate to others
- Fast from grudges ...and be reconciled
- Fast from words ...and be silent so you can listen

January Tithes and Offerings

General Fund	\$ 9,312.00
Ministry Shares	2,210.00
Faith Promise	
Shaarda	240.00
Smit	410.00
Tiemeyer	85.00
Walker	130.00
Guatemala Orphanage	210.00
Benevolence	1,186.00
Sr. High Youth Group	146.00
East Martin Christian School	1,449.00
World Renew—DRS	205.00
Growing Hope Globally	399.00
Martin Resource Center	200.00
Mel Trotter Mission	93.00
Total	\$ 16,275.00

General Fund	5% ahead
Ministry Shares	25% behind

Offering Schedule for March

March 5: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Martin Resource Center
 March 12: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—Resonate Global Missions
 March 19: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Luke Society
 March 26: AM—Mel Trotter; PM—Back to God Ministries

Greeters

March 5: AM—Wayne and Denise Leep, Ryan Tucker; PM—Cameron and Kristie Tuinstra
 March 12: AM—Elders; PM—at MRC
 March 19: AM—Dean and Carolyn VanderMeulen, Scott Tuinstra; PM—Jim and Cindy Mejeur
 March 26: AM—Larry and Phyllis Tuinstra, Earl Wykstra; PM—at MRC

Ushers

March 5: Joel and Jacob DeYoung, Bob Katje
 March 12: Ryan Tucker, Bram Katje, Henry Tuinstra

March 19: Bruce Aukema, Chase DeMaagd, Tom Rook.
 March 26: Scott Tuinstra, Caleb Tuinstra, Joe DeKoekkoek

Nursery

March 5: Jen, Violet and Willow Tuinstra
 March 12: Laura DeMaagd
 March 19: Hailey and Kylee Tuinstra
 March 26: Riley and Addison Tuinstra

Library

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

Crockpot Pizza Casserole

Ingredients:

1 lb. uncooked 95 to 97% lean ground beef
 1 tsp garlic powder
 3/4 tsp salt
 1/4 tsp black pepper
 1 tsp dried oregano leaves
 1 tsp dried basil whole leaves
 1/4 cup fresh grated parmesan cheese
 2 cups roughly chopped fresh cauliflower
 2 cups low carb marinara sauce
 1 1/2 cups reduced fat shredded mozzarella cheese
 2.5 oz turkey pepperoni slices

Directions:

Over medium high heat, cook ground beef in a large skillet
 Add garlic powder, salt and pepper. Drain grease. Remove from heat.

Add dried oregano, dried basil, cauliflower, parmesan cheese, marinara sauce and 1 oz of turkey pepperoni that has been cut into fourths to the ground beef until combined.
 Pour into a slow cooker that as been sprayed lightly with cooking spray.
 Cook on LOW for 4 to 6 hours.
 Top with mozzarella cheese and additional 1 ounce of turkey pepperoni. Cook for an additional 30 minutes on HIGH or until cheese has melted. 4 servings