

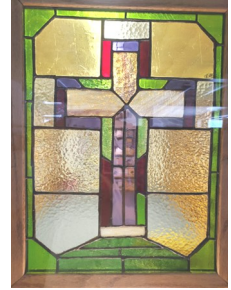


The Echoes

May 2026

A monthly publication of the
East Martin Christian Reformed Church

A Reflection



Pastor Joel recently shared a devotion during his ordination examination from 2 Timothy 4:1–5, reflecting on the Apostle Paul’s final charge to Timothy: “Preach the Word.” In his message, he emphasized that the ministry of the Church must always be centered upon, founded upon, and sustained by the Word of God. Paul reminds Timothy that ministry is carried out in the presence of God and in light of Christ’s appearing, kingdom, and final judgment. Because our ultimate accountability is to Christ, the Church must never allow the changing opinions, desires, or preferences of the world to determine its message. Instead, our calling is to faithfully proclaim the gospel that has been entrusted to us.

Throughout Paul’s letter, the Word of God stands at the very center of the Church’s life. The gospel is described as the good deposit entrusted to God’s people, the pattern of sound words to be guarded, and the truth to be faithfully passed on from one generation to the next. It is through the Scriptures that God reveals His saving grace in Christ, equips His people for every good work, and preserves His Church in the truth. Apart from the Word, neither the pastor nor the congregation has a firm foundation upon which to stand. As Paul declares in 2 Timothy 3:16–17, all Scripture is God-breathed and sufficient for the life and ministry of the Church.

Pastor Joel also highlighted that the ultimate mark of a faithful minister is not eloquence, popularity, or personal influence, but faithfulness to the gospel entrusted to him. The Church does not need novel messages but faithful proclamation of God’s unchanging Word. This same commitment to biblical faithfulness has sustained Christ’s Church throughout the ages and continues to guide her today. As we await the Lord’s leading in the months ahead, we remain confident that He nourishes, strengthens, and preserves His people through the faithful preaching of His Word.

East Martin Christian Reformed Church Preaching Ministry

The Lord has graciously provided willing, capable, and biblically grounded pastors and missionaries to fill our pulpit this summer through the end of October as we await the outcome of the Trinidad family’s visa application and, Lord willing, their return in November.

We will have the privilege of learning from retired/refocused ministers whose love for God and His Church has been refined and proven through many years of faithful service and the preaching of His holy Word. We will

also hear from missionaries and chaplains whose rich experiences in the mission field and in ministering to those in need will challenge and encourage us to go the extra mile in loving our neighbors.

In addition, we will be blessed by pastors whom God is presently using to shepherd His people. Through their ministry, we will gain wisdom and encouragement as they faithfully preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and labor to preserve the purity and spiritual health of their congregations.

Let us unite our hearts in joyful anticipation of what God has in store for us through His servants. Let us also pray together that He would use them powerfully and effectively, while preparing our own hearts to be encouraged in our needs, strengthened to live for His glory, equipped to serve His Church, and enabled to love our neighbors more faithfully. May the Lord be pleased to bless His people through the ministry of His Word.

May God build up East Martin Christian Reformed Church, all to His glory, and for the sake of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior!

Pulpit Supply	AM	PM
May 17	Mark Vander Hart (MARS)	Mark Vander Hart (MARS)
May 24	Joey DeKoekKoek	Joey DeKoekKoek
May 31	Ron Boukamp	David Meengs
June 7	Ron Boukamp	Ron VanderRoest
June 14	Ron Boukamp	Ron VanderRoest
June 21	Ron Boukamp	Ron VanderRoest
June 28	Ron Boukamp	Ron VanderRoest
July 5	Jim Admiraal	Joey DeKoekKoek
July 12	Joey DeKoekKoek	Joey DeKoekKoek
July 19	Joey DeKoekKoek	Joey DeKoekKoek
July 26	Joey DeKoekKoek	Ron VanderRoest
August 2	Mark Heijerman	Christopher Engelsma
August 9	Mark Heijerman	David Meengs
August 16	Jake Weeda	Joshua Amazechi
August 23	Jake Weeda	David Meengs
August 30	Jake Weeda	Jim Admiraal
September 6	Mark Heijerman	Jim Admiraal
September 13	Mark Heijerman	David Meengs
September 20	Ron Boukamp	Jim Admiraal
September 27	Ron Boukamp	Jim Admiraal
October 4	Ron Boukamp	Ron VanderRoest
October 11	Ron Boukamp	Ron VanderRoest
October 18	Ron Boukamp	Joshua Amazechi
October 25	Ron Boukamp	Joshua Amazechi

In Contact With Council



Harold opened the Council meeting of May 12 by reading from Psalm 19, had devotions and opened with prayer.

The minutes from the last meeting were read. A motion to approve passed.

Pastor's report:
Pulpit supply is all set.

Pastor Joel had a breakfast meeting with the Gideon's, dinner with Bruinsma's, visited Nick Shealy and family, met with Ron and Sheryl VanderRoost, hosted Dave and Karen Misner, met with Steve VanDenberg, Tim and Terre Miller visited, visited Paul and Betty DeMann, led service for Dwight Williams funeral, met with Jim and Cindy Mejeur, met with Dean and Carolyn VanderMeulen and Doug and Mary VanDerMeulen.

Deacon's report: General Fund is 2% ahead; Ministry Shares is 20% behind. Offering schedule was presented and approved.

Building and grounds: 10 windows have been replaced; two in church and eight in The Anchor. Considering blowing insulation into the attic of the parsonage

Three Council visits were made.

Old business:

Angie Walker would like to visit with the outreach committee.

Classis Kalamazoo will meet here on May 19 at 6 pm for Pastor Joel's examination.

A request was received from Tom and Sarah Lynema to transfer their membership to Redeemer OPC in Ada, Michigan. A motion made to approve passed. Robert and Marlene Leep's membership was received by Martin Reformed Church.

A request was received from Bruce Mejeur for assistance to go to Uganda. A motion made to approve up to \$3,000 passed.

The June 7 morning service will include ordination, installation, and communion.

Mutual censure was observed.

A motion to adjourn passed

Kevin closed with prayer and has devotions at the next meeting.

Excerpts from the Congregational Meeting

There were 88 members present on May 3.

The following office bearers were elected by lot:

Elders: Randy Bouman and Keith Smit

Deacons: Ryan Tucker and Seth Watson

Recognition and thanks to our retiring office bearers:

Elders: Wayne Leep and Don Wubben

Deacons: Tim Westendorp and Dean Wubben

The Budget for 2026 was approved.

The vote to call Joel Trinidad as our Commissioned Pastor was approved.

Our Graduates



Barry County Christian School
Jacob DeYoung

Kalamazoo Christian High School
Bram Katje

Martin High School
Eden Suk

Calvin University
Trevor Shealy
Bachelor of Science in Operations and Supply
Chain Management and Finance

Grand Valley State University
Kendra Leep

Western Michigan University
Ruth Katje
Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)

Congratulations graduates! We pray for God's blessing on you in the next phase of your life.

Did You Know?

Eden Suk was awarded the John Phillip Sousa award from Martin High School at a recent band concert. Eden plays the flute for the band and was selected by the band director as the top student. It is given to one student per year per high school recognizing superior musicianship, dependability, loyalty and cooperation. Congratulations Eden!

At graduation Eden wore a light blue cord as she was on Student Council. A red cord represented the 13th year program she is doing with Lake Michigan College and the gold cord is because her GPA was 3.5-4.0. She also has a National Honor Society Stole and she received a 4-year band metal. Well done, Eden!!

We also congratulate Henry Tuinstra (about a year late) for also receiving the John Phillip Sousa award from Martin High School. The award was not formally presented because of the Martin tornado. Congratulations Henry!



What's New in Our Library

MISTS OVER THE CHANNEL ISLANDS—
SARAH SUNDIN (A Novel of World War II)
THE LUMBER BARON'S WIFE—LYNN
AUSTIN
WITNESS PROTECTION—ROBERT
WHITLOW
CYBERSQUIRRELS—MIKE NAWROCKI
LOVE LETTERS FROM GOD—GLENYS
NELLIST
MORE THAN FRIENDS—DENISE HUNTER
OVER THE HORIZON—PENNY ZELLER
(Horizon Series #1)
SOUTH OF SOMEWHERE—T.I. LOWE
BIRDS ON A WIRE—KATIE POWNER
THE SHOP DOWN THE LANE—LESLIE
GOULD Not the normal Amish book. Good
story.
WHERE WE BELONG—KIM VOGAL
SAWYER (Orphan Train Novel) Excellent
book.

Golf Outing

The annual East Martin
Christian School Golf Outing is
Saturday, June 20th, at Mullenhurst Golf
Course in Delton. The day includes 18 holes of
golf, a shirt, Chick-fil-A lunch, and a chance at
prizes. The 4-person golf scramble begins at 8
a.m.

They are still looking for more teams so if you
are interested in playing or sponsoring this
event, please call/text Kelvin DeVries at (616)
481-3872.





Martin Area Resource Center

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

Shampoo/conditioner; Bar soap/ body wash; Toothpaste/mouthwash; Razors/ deodorants; Lotion/sunscreen; Diapers/wipes

Marinated Asparagus Salad

2 cups (approximately 1/2 pound) frozen or fresh asparagus, cuts and tips
1 small red onion, thinly sliced
2 tomatoes, chopped
1/4 cup (or more) bottled Italian salad dressing, low-fat or regular

If using fresh asparagus, cook in a small amount of boiling water until just tender and drain well. If using frozen, thaw and drain well.

Combine asparagus with remaining ingredients, stirring gently. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Stir again before serving. Makes 6 servings.



As it was their job to defend our freedom, so it becomes our job to honor their memories.

A Spring Garden

Here's what you need for your Spring garden:

Plant three rows of squash

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash criticism
3. Squash indifference

Plant seven rows of peas

1. Prayer
2. Promptness
3. Perseverance
4. Politeness
5. Preparedness
6. Purity
7. Patience

Plant seven heads of lettuce

1. Let us be unselfish and loyal
2. Let us be faithful to duty
3. Let us search the scriptures
4. Let us not be weary in well doing
5. Let us be obedient in all things
6. Let us be truthful
7. Let us love one another

No garden is complete without turnips:

1. Turn up for church
2. Turn up for meetings, prayer and Bible study
3. Turn up with a smile, even when things are difficult
4. Turn up with determination to do your best in God's service

After planting:

May you grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (II Peter 3:18) And may you reap rich results. "The measure of a person's character is what he would do if he knew he would never be found out."



Greeters

June 7: AM—Scott & Jen Tuinstra, Kevin Bouman; PM—Ron & Lorraine VanDenBerg
June 14: AM—Dean & Carolyn VanderMeulen, Randy Bouman; PM—Tim, Rebekah and Thomas Westendorp
June 21: AM—Bruce & Renee Aukema, Doug DeMann; PM—Marcia Bouman
June 28: AM—Joe DeKoekkoek, Dennis DeYoung; PM—Merrie Beth DenBoer



Ushers

June 7: Glenn Leep, Wayne Leep, Les Lynema
June 14: Bruce Mejeur, Dave Mejeur, Jim Mejeur
June 21: Tim Miller, Dave Persenaire, Tom Rook
June 28: Don Smith, Bruce Tiemeyer, Henry Tuinstra

Nursery

June 7: Jessica Tucker
June 14: Rebekah Westendorp
June 21: Jen, Violet and Willow Tuinstra
June 28: Laura DeMaagd

Library

June 7: Rena Lynema
June 14: Nancy Tuinstra
June 21: Carolyn VanderMeulen
June 28: Linda DeYoung

Shaarda Correspondence

June 7: Randy & Mary Bouman
June 14: Dennis & Linda DeYoung
June 21: Glenn & Nancy Leep
June 28: Les & Rena Lynema

Tithes and Offerings for April

General Fund	\$23,504.00
Ministry Shares	3,578.00
Faith Promise	
Shaarda	875.00
Smit	775.00
Tiemeyer	415.00
Walker	415.00
East Martin Christian School	3,449.75
World Renew—DRS	100.00
Martin Area Resource Center	311.00
Reaching the Forgotten	507.00
Pine Rest	571.00
Total	\$34,500.75

Offering Schedule for June

June 7: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Gideons
June 14: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—Resonate Global Missions
June 21: General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Wycliffe
June 28: Martin Resource; PM—Zion Christian School

