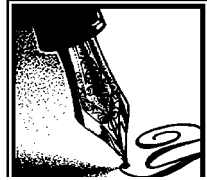




The Echoes

November 2023

A monthly publication of the
East Martin Christian Reformed Church



A View from the Pew

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a great time of year to meditate and reflect on the goodness, mercy, and grace of our wonderful Heavenly Father and His blessings to us over the past year. I'm going to share a few verses with you that help me worship and adore the great and awesome God who saved and redeemed us, and deserves all our praise.

The first verses that come to mind are from Lamentations 3:21-23. These are the verses that were used for the great hymn, "Great is Thy Faithfulness". "Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail, they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."

Psalm 103 is used in Communion to state our profound thanks to God as we remember His redeeming grace in Jesus Christ. The whole psalm expresses deep praise to God - I'll just point out a few verses:

Verse 1: Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being praise His Holy name.

Verse 2: Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits

Verse 3: Who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases

Verse 4: Who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion.

Verse 8: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

Verse 10: He does not treat us as our sins deserve, or repay us according to our iniquities.

Verse 17: But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear Him, and His righteousness with their children's children.

Verse 22: Praise the Lord, all His works everywhere in His dominion.

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

That Psalm, along with many others, are filled with many reasons to praise, I just picked out a few verses.

And one of my favorite praise passages is Ephesians 2:4-9.

"But because of His great love for us, God who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you

have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.”

We have received a lot of blessings from our gracious Heavenly Father, but the greatest and most important is the free gift of salvation because of Jesus’ death and resurrection! Praise to God! May our praise and thanksgiving flow from our hearts not only at Thanksgiving time, but throughout our lives.

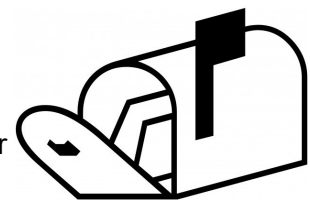
In Contact With Council



1. The Council meeting of November 14 was opened with devotions and prayer by Jon Kalkman. Jon read from John 6:25-end which talks about Jesus is the bread of life.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.
3. A motion was made to have two services on December 31 and none on January 1. Supported and passed.
4. Deacons’ report. The offering schedule was made, supported and passed. The treasurers position is filled. A motion was made, supported and passed to hire Rebekah Westendorp as treasurer, resident agent, and primary administrator for Quickbooks. Passed.
5. Four Council visits were made.
6. A motion was made, supported and passed to approve Ladies’ Bible study books “Experiencing God” by Henry Blackenby.
7. Mutual censure was observed.
8. A motion to adjourn was made, supported and passed. Dave Mejeur closed in prayer and has devotions next month.

Christmas Card Service

The High School Youth Group will provide a Christmas card delivery service beginning the first Sunday of Advent, December 3. Just place your Christmas cards, along with your donations, in the basket by the church mailboxes. The cards will be delivered to the proper mailboxes by the Youth Group.





Advent Schedule

December 3: Hope
Morning Message: Ruth 1

December 10: Peace
Morning Message: Ruth 2

December 17: Faith
Morning Message: Ruth 3
The morning service will include the Sunday School Program
Our candlelight service will be in the evening.

December 24: Love
Morning Message: Ruth 4

December 25: Christmas

December 31: New Year's Eve (morning and evening services)

January 1: No Service

Thank you

Thank you for keeping Roger's Dad in your prayers during his illness and for the prayers and cards sent in his passing. We appreciate you all.

Roger, Dawn and family



**Check out what's new
in the library**

ONE FINAL BREATH—LYNN H. BLACKBURN (Dive Team Investigations #1)
LETHAL RANGE—RYAN STECK (Matthew Reed Thriller)
MARSHALING HER HEART—MARY CONNEALY (Wyoming Sunrise #3)
LETTERS OF COMFORT—WANDA E. BRUNSTETTER (Friendship Letters #2)
LOST AND FOUND—SUZANNE WOODS FISHER
AGAINST THE WIND—AMANDA CABOT (Secrets Sweetwater #2)
CARVED IN STONE—ELIZABETH CAMDEN (Blackstone Legacy #1)
WRITTEN ON THE WIND—ELIZABETH CAMDEN (Blackstone Legacy #2)
HEARTS OF STEEL—ELIZABETH CAMDEN (Blackstone Legacy #3)

Rena Lynema made some beautiful bookmarks. They are free. They are in the library, if you would like one, tell Rena Thank You.



East Martin Christian School presents "C.A.K.E. — Christmas Acts of Kindness Experiment" on Thursday, December 7, at 6:30 p.m.

Kindergarteners through 8th graders will participate.

Come and enjoy the evening at East Martin Christian.



Martin Area Resource Center

needs the following in December:

Cleaners: laundry soap, window wash, disinfectants (toilet and household), mops, brooms, sponges, hand soap, fabric softeners, dish soap, dishwasher soap.

Recycle your corrugated

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

Calvin University presents The January Series

Listen | Learn | Discern

Starting January 15, 2024, you'll have the chance to hear from 15 inspiring and thought-provoking speakers—including a journalist, a rock climber, a jazz pianist, a legal scholar, and a Pulitzer Prize-winning author. You can sit in on a recording of the NPR Podcast, Poetry for All. Additionally, in November, we'll be announcing a special event for Saturday, January 20.

Almond and Peanut Butter Bark

1 (24 ounce) package of vanilla almond bark
1/2 cup crunchy peanut butter
1 1/2 cups semisweet chocolate chips

Put almond bark in a medium-sized, microwave-safe bowl. Microwave for 1 minute. Stir. Microwave 45 seconds at a time until completely melted, stirring after each time.

Add in peanut butter and mix. Spread mixture on wax paper.

Put chocolate chips in a small, microwave-safe bowl. Microwave for 1 minute. Stir. Microwave 45 more seconds and stir.

Pour chocolate chips on top of almond bark mixture and swirl with a spoon.

Let cool and place in refrigerator to harden. Break into pieces.



Greeters

December 3: AM—Don and Julie Wubben, Scott Tuinstra; PM—Cameron and Kristie Tuinstra
December 10: AM—Elders; PM—Ryan and Jessica Tucker
December 17: AM—Henry and Nancy Tuinstra, Wayne Leep; PM—Larry and Phyllis Tuinstra
December 24: AM—Ron and Lorraine VandenBerg, Dean Wubben
December 25: AM—Westendorp family
December 31: AM—Doug and Mary VanderMeulen, Don Wubben; PM—Ida Westendorp

Ushers

December 3: Bob Katje, Ryan Tucker, Bram Katje
December 10: Henry Tuinstra, Bruce Aukema, Chase DeMaagd
December 17: Tom Rook, Wes Leep, Kevin Bouman
December 24: Jared Westendorp, Dave Misner, Don Wubben
December 31: Toby Smith, Kevin DeKoekkoek, Glenn Leep

Nursery

December 3: Jen, Violet and Willow Tuinstra
December 10: Laura DeMaagd
December 17: Hailey and Kylee Tuinstra
December 24: Riley and Addison Tuinstra
December 25: Rebekah Westendorp
December 31: Jen, Violet and Willow Tuinstra

Library

December 3: Carolyn VanderMeulen
December 10: Linda DeYoung
December 17: Ida Westendorp
December 24: Rena Lynema
December 31: Linda DeYoung

October Tithes and Offerings

General Fund	\$ 8,404.25
Ministry Shares	2,848.00
Faith Promise	
Shaarda	192.00
Smit	412.00
Tiemeyer	137.00
Walker	382.00
Guatemala Orphanage	262.00
Cadets—Denomination	302.00
GEMS—Denomination	446.00
Church Library	200.00
East Martin Christian School	1,168.00
Tri-Unity Christian School	232.00
Education Assistance	996.00
Son-Life Camp	527.00
Martin Resource Center	874.00
Gideons	367.00
Total	\$17,749.25

General Fund behind	36%
Ministry Shares ahead	4%

Offering Schedule for December

December 3: AM—East Martin Cadets; PM—World Renew
December 10: AM—General Fund and Ministry Shares; PM—Forgotten Man Ministries
December 17: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—Martin Resource Center
December 24: AM—General Fund and Ministry Shares
December 25: AM—Benevolence
December 31: AM—General Fund and Ministry Shares; PM—CRU-Youth for Christ

With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord: 'He is good; his love toward Israel endures forever.' And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid."

Ezra 3:11

