



October 2021

A monthly publication of the
East Martin Christian Reformed Church



The Echoes



A View from the Pew

KOINONIA: ENCOURAGEMENT

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing (I Thessalonians 5:11)—there's that phrase again—*one another!* Let's consider further how this might apply to our lives.

Perhaps we first should review the meaning of the word *encourage*. It involves inspiring others to continue on a chosen course; to embolden; to hearten; to motivate courage or confidence. Almighty God, El Shaddai, designed His church to be a family. If we recognize our susceptibility to lies and the assaults Satan makes—and whether we like it or not, each of us is a target for him—then we accept that fellowship with *one another* is essential. Christ reconciles Himself not only to our triune God but also with one another.

Consequently, this command, also found in Hebrews 3:13, to encourage *one another daily*, means that each child of God should give courage where and when needed. Think: Our koinonia needometer (*August Echoes*). For purposes of this discussion, let's identify six types of courage.

A Christ follower lives *in* the world without becoming part *of* it. Such a lifestyle requires **moral** courage, standing up for what's right even when unpopular. We can impart moral courage through prayer for *one another* as well as speaking the truth in love, and in this way build *each other* up. Closely aligned to this is **social** courage, being oneself (a saint) in the face of adversity, risking embarrassment or rejection. The biblical worldview, unacceptable in society today, puts us smack dab in the middle of the fray. Further, demonstrating **physical** courage means that, though we feel fear, we yet choose to act (bravery at the risk of bodily harm). Without concern for self, we bless others with words and deeds.

Emotional courage and **intellectual** courage call us to follow our heart (the Holy Spirit's prompting) as well as expanding our horizons and our willingness to learn. (Be in the Word and desire to understand it more deeply.) Last, with **spiritual** courage we face pain of any sort with dignity and faith...live with purpose and meaning.

These encouragements can be the difference-maker for others. Encouragement and building *one another* up, daily, are central to God's plan to grow us in Christlikeness, holiness, and perfection. Paul exhorts us to

stay awake, live as Christians who await His coming, live lives of fullness with and for *each other*, to which he observes, "just as in fact you are doing."

Let us, therefore, continue to encourage our brothers and sisters to "stay the course," boldly follow the leading of the Lord, courageously and confidently, as the family of God at East Martin Christian Reformed Church and in the fellowship of believers world-wide.



In Contact With Council

Dave Misner opened the Council meeting of October 12 with "The New You" from John 15 and prayer.

Minutes of the September 14 meeting were read and approved.

Deacons' Report: general fund receipts of \$13,544.70 leaves us \$9,540.29 short of ideal. Ministry Shares receipts of \$4,376.00 leaves us \$4,268.96 short of ideal. The offering schedule proposed for November was approved.

Council met with Pastor Ken Kuiper, at our request, to consider him being our interim. He is willing to discuss the details.

Committee reports:

- A. Education Committee: a youth leader has not been found. Cadets and GEMS will begin.
- B. Outreach Committee recommended we add Joel and Tanya Tiemeyer to Faith Promise. They are nephews of Bruce and Sue, who have partnered with Wycliff Bible Translators to serve in an undisclosed country in South East Asia. A motion to add them to Faith Promise passed.
- C. Building and Grounds Committee reported a problem with heating in The Anchor. Les is familiar with the system and will look into that.
- D. Finance Committee will develop an updated pastor pay package.
- E. Search Committee presented an updated Church Profile to send to CRCNA for East Martin. Motion to approve passed.

Old Business:

- A. Plainwell Ministries: Maria Bowater indicated that October 11 was Mark Immick's first day on staff.
- B. The Sewing Club's first meeting is Thursday, October 14.

New Business:

- A. The Discipleship Course mid course prayer meeting will be Sunday, November 7, 2:30 to 5:30 and will take the place of the evening service.
- B. The Ladies' Bible Study is very well attended. They are learning the geography and landscape of Israel during Jesus' time.
- C. Motion was made and passed to produce and send collage students care packages.
- D. Dinner fund raiser for Don and Nancy Smith will take place November 5.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn at 9:08. Glenn Leep closed in prayer. The next meeting is November 9.



Dear Parents of GEMS (1st – 8th grade girls),

Our first gathering for GEMS will be on Wednesday, October 20. We typically meet the 1st and the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 6:00 – 8:00 in the church basement. (See schedule on back) Our theme for this year is UNSHAKEABLE. It is based on Psalm 62:2 "Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken!"

We will be split into 2 main groups: 1st -3rd graders will be in 1 group. Often they will start the evening off with the larger group and then break apart. We understand it can get late for these young ladies, but if you believe they can tolerate these later evenings we would love to have them! Mrs. Amy Kalkman will be their lovely counselor and Miss Avi Rillema their Jr. Leader.

The 2nd group will be the 4th -8th graders. We plan on doing larger group lessons together, crafts and badges. This group will also periodically do some fun activities with the Cadets as well! Myself, Mrs. Kristie Tuinstra, Miss Hailey Tuinstra, Miss Riley Tuinstra and Miss Kylee Tuinstra will all be assisting with mentoring, teaching, assisting and role modeling for these young ladies.

November 3 - Please bring dues and registration form. I will be ordering shirts for the girls so please fill out their size on the registration form to ensure everyone gets one! This year we will also give you the option to either pay \$25 per girl for dues or have each girl sell 25 subs. The order forms are attached and need to be turned in by November 3 as well. The subs will arrive ready to be picked up and delivered on November 17 @ 5:45pm. This year we will still plan to have a meeting on this date as well (as requested by several people last year).

Auction at the end of season! Your young ladies will have the opportunity to earn points throughout the season by attending the meeting, participating with singing/ motto/ Bible les-

son/ craft/ badge/ activity, saying the memorized verse from the prior lesson, respecting everyone (+or- points), wearing GEMS themed shirt, bringing their badge book, completing a badge, and by bringing a friend to GEMS!

Service project: collect \$ for the GEMS Esther school in Zambia. This year we will be having a coin war competition against each other all year! Pennies and bills will count towards points in each team's jar. Silver coins will subtract points (so you wouldn't want to put them in your own jar – but someone else's). The group with the most points at the end of the season will win a special prize and all the money will be donated to the Esther school in Zambia to help meet their many ongoing needs. :) To learn more about this school started by the GEMS program in 2012 – please visit www.estherschool.org.

Safety 1st! When you pick up your girls at the end of the night please come into the building to get them. This way we can see who they are going home with.

East Martin GEMS Facebook page – PLEASE JOIN if you have not already! All important information will be posted here, including meetings that might have to be canceled for weather or any other reason (illness etc.) We would love for the girls to invite their friends to GEMS!! If possible, please let us know so we can be prepared with extra craft materials.

If you have any questions please feel free to call or text me at 616-262-3827.

Thanks for sharing your girls with us!

~ Becky Rillema and the GEMS counselors





Theme: God's In Control

Theme Verses – *Have I not commanded You? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*
Joshua 1:9

Dear parents of Cadets (4th-8th Grade):

This year Cadets will be working on badges out of their Cadet books and Bible lessons out of the Quest magazines. The Bible badge in their Cadet books will be as follows: 4th New Life, 5th Prayer, 6th Giving, 7th The Church, 8th Church Leadership. They will NEED to have their grade appointed badge completed by our Cadet meeting on March 2th. This is their ticket to go to Craig's Cruisers. They will need to complete this badge at home and we will check over their work at Cadets. Please encourage them to start on this early instead of waiting until the last minute. Many of these badges need to be completed over a specific time frame; they can't be done in 1 night. We are also going to be doing the point system again this year with an auction at the end of the year. Cadets will meet from 6:00p-8:00p at The Anchor. We also have a facebook page setup for updates: [East Martin CRC Cadets](#). Be sure to join.

SNOW DERBY- For those who don't know what the Snow Derby is, we head down to the Cadet campground in Glendale, MI. The boys compete together as a group. They earn points based on their skill compared to other groups as they go through the different stations. These stations test their knowledge on Landmarks, First Aid, Knots and Lashing, Fire Building, Marksmanship and a Sled Race. The church Cadet group with the most points at the end wins. We would love to have as many boys as possible help us compete again this year! If you haven't gone before that's ok, your first year it's a learning experience and you help as much as possible. All you need to bring is warm clothes, as we will be outside

the entire time! This year the building will not be open, but there will be fires going at each station. There is no cost for this, also kids don't need to bring soup this year. We will be meeting at The Anchor at 7:45 AM (donuts/muffins & a drink will be provided) and plan on picking kids up at The Anchor @ 1:00!

Last of all we have permission slips and \$10 dues. The dues help cover the cost of materials and activities. **Please turn these in by October 16th**. Any questions or concerns please contact Scott Rillema 616-318-7864 or any one of the Cadet Leaders!

This year's leaders are:

Head Counselor — Scott Rillema
4th Grade — Scott Rillema
5th Grade — Cameron Tuinstra
6th&7th Grades — Scott Tuinstra
8th Grade — Ryan Tucker

There are many hands and hearts that go into any of the youth ministries throughout the education year. When you consider the great reward of seeing our children responding to God's love, it's a priceless investment! Who wouldn't like to set a good example of God's love, and show our children how important they are to the church? This is especially important at the high school level. Romans 12:13 says, "When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality." God's people at East Martin Christian Reformed Church have a real need right now. We need High School youth leaders.



Think back to when your faith was forming. Remember back to those leaders who walked along side you and made a commitment to you to help you navigate through life as a teenager and have fun along the way! They followed I Timothy 4:12, and they believed that you should not be looked down on because you

were young, but you could and were examples of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. They were great people, right? Well then were they perfect people? How about trained people? Nope again and again. They were people called to serve, not people trained to serve. They were men and women **who felt God's call** to service.

We have been very fortunate through the years that East Martin Christian Reformed Church has seen the value of its young people. Numerous people have seen the value in our youth as the future of our church and the future of the church as a whole. The reality is that if we underappreciate our church youth today, it will be our loss tomorrow. They will move on from this place, and if the statistics are right, they may even move on from the church entirely. We need people who can come together to lead and make an impact in the lives of these members of the church. An investment today in the youth of EMCRC is an investment in the future of THIS church. This place wouldn't be East Martin Christian Reformed Church without them. They all have valuable gifts and talents. Without them this church will suffer.

Please carefully consider what discipleship truly means for you. Can and could God use even you to disciple them? God called Noah to build an ark even when there was no rain in sight. He used Moses even when he feared public speaking. He called a young girl named Esther to deliver the Israelites from certain death. He called a young Daniel into a lion's den and three of his friends into a fiery furnace. He called a cupbearer to the king named Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, to return the exiles, and get His people to recommit their lives to God. Jesus used plain fishermen from Galilee to spread the gospel. He used a man who persecuted the church to be one of His great apostles! Please pray for the youth of this church. Pray that leaders will step up to fill this important position. Maybe life is busy. Maybe you feel you can only make a commitment of one Sunday a month to start with, that's fine. But truly pray about how God can use you to show our high schoolers how valued and supported they are!

You could be the perfect person God needs to walk along a young person. You could be the one God uses to change a life for Him!!

Our 2021 Graduates



Jennifer Anderson

My freshman year at Hopkins I was class president and participated in the school musical "The Adams Family". My sophomore year I was class representative for homecoming, I cheered and played soccer. During my junior year at Hopkins I was student council president, class president, and participated greatly in School Spirit. Throughout those 3 years I was also involved in FFA. I attended and graduated from Plainwell High School my senior year.

Currently I am in my freshman year at Ferris State University and my future plans are to get a degree in elementary education or special education.

To all high school students I want to encourage you to remember to stay true to yourself, keep God above anything else, and keep your dreams/goals a priority!

Rachel Leep

While attending Kalamazoo Christian High School I played basketball and was on the track and golf teams. I played in band and performed in theatre and received the Outstanding Theatre Award.

I was inducted into the National Honor Society, in the Top 10 of my graduating class, and received the DAR Good Citizen Award. During high school I also participated in Student Council, TEAMS competition, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and GEMS.

I'm attending Hope College pursuing a degree in secondary education with an English focus.

An Update from the Smith Family

Thank you EMCRC for all the love and prayers for Don these past few months as he deals with Covid 'Long Haulers'.

Here is the latest update: Don was in the hospital for over a week with complications from congestive heart failure and kidney function. He was having extreme essential tremors and they were unsure why. After moving from the cardiac ICU he had a grand mal seizure. God is amazing how he works - for whatever reason the new medications for the seizures have almost stopped the tremors. PTL. Medications have been adjusted for the heart and kidneys. We had home nursing care (PT and OT) last week and yet this week. Next is a pet scan and results for what's next with the heart and an EEG to see what caused the seizures. They are working on cognitive issues and then back to continuing 8 more weeks of out-patient therapy at Mary Free Bed.

So thankful for all the great care here in west Michigan and for all of you. God is so Good.

Blessings,
Don, Nancy and Toby

PS: Thanks for prayers for Reed as well. Chemo, after 12 months of every week, finally being spread out to every 3-4 weeks. Two more years of chemo to complete treatment and he's still responding well. PTL

Spreading the Fragrance of Life



On September 24, 14 members of our church, along with about 250 others gathered at Friendship CRC for the 2021 conference sponsored by Bible League International. The theme for this year was "Spreading the Fragrance of Life" based on II Corinthians 2:14 which says, "But thanks to be God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession and through us spreads the

fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere."

Speakers from Bible League shared with us the work being done both here in the US and in foreign countries. It was great to hear some of the stories of people who have received Bibles.

Our worship leader was Elisabeth Sooy. We were blessed to sing hymns of praise with her, her husband and son.

The keynote speaker for the day was Lynn Wilder. She had a powerful and emotional story to tell. Her husband, Michael, was a high priest in the Mormon church and she was a professor at Brigham Young University. God began to reach into their lives through His word. Once faithful Mormons, they became hungry for the Christ of the Bible. Since coming to Christ, they witness to other Mormons and have seen many come to Christ. They have founded a Christian ministry called Ex-Mormon Christians United for Jesus.

Lynn has written a book entitled "Unveiling Grace" in which she tells her story and gives a rare look into Mormon culture. The book is in our church library for anyone who is interested in hearing her story.



What's new in the Library

FISHER, SUZANNE WOODS —
ON A SUMMER TIDE
(Three Sister's Island) #1

FISHER, SUZANNE WOODS —
ON A COASTAL BREEZE (Three Sister's Island) #2

FISHER, SUZANNE WOODS —
AT LIGHTHOUSE POINT (Three Sister's Island) #3

WILDER, LYNN K. —

UNVEILING GRACE The Story of How We Found Our Way Out of the Mormon Church. True story. They pulled back the Mormon Veil and discovered a God full of grace.

DVD — *FREEDOM IN CHRIST* 10-week life changing Discipleship course

HEDLUND, JODY —
A COWBOY FOR KEEPS (Colorado Cowboys) #1
 HEDLUND, JODY —
THE HEART OF A COWBOY (Colorado Cowboys) #2
 BRUNSTETTER, WANDA E. —
THE WALNUT CREEK WISH (Creektown Discoveries) #1
 CONNEALY, MARY —
LOVE ON THE RANGE (Brothers in Arms) #3
 YOUTH — (The Wormling series)
 JENKINS & FABRY —
THE BOOK OF THE KINGS Book 1
 JENKINS & FABRY —
THE SWORD OF THE WORMLING Book 2
 JENKINS & FABRY —
THE CHANGELING Book 3
 JENKINS & FABRY —
THE MINIONS OF TIME Book 4
 JENKINS & FABRY —
THE AUTHOR'S BLOOD Book 5



Here is a short bio for our new Faith Promise missionaries.

Joel and Tanya Tiemeyer felt God calling them to overseas ministry with Wycliffe through praying about God's heart for reaching the nations - and then through a webinar about teaching overseas. God showed them that it was possible to serve him through missions right now, with their existing skills and personality traits. They didn't have to wait for "someday" when they'd know enough to get started. They are excited to begin their first overseas assignment.

The Tiemeyers will be serving in Southeast Asia. Joel will study for a Master's Degree in Linguistics at Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand to serve in Bible translation in the region. Tanya is planning on working in litera-

cy, teaching those who have never been able to read and write in their own language before. She'll also be caring for their children - Anastasia is 2.5 years old and Solomon is a year old.

Watch for more information on Joel and Tanya in the coming weeks.



Martin Area Resource Center

When grocery shopping in November, please remember the needs of those less fortunate in our community. In November they need the following:

Soup, canned tomatoes, chili, beans, crackers (saltines, oyster, etc). spaghetti and sauce, tea and hot cocoa, boxed meals and foods, stuffings, rice mixes, etc.

Daylight Savings Time

Begins November 7



Apple Dapple Cake

2 cups flour
 1 1/2 cups sugar
 1/2 tsp salt
 1 1/2 tsp soda
 1 tsp cinnamon
 1 can apple pie filling (20 oz)
 2 eggs
 3/4 cup vegetable oil
 1/2 cup nuts

Mix all ingredients in a 9x13" pan it is to be baked in. DO NOT GREASE PAN. Bake 35 to 45 minutes at 350 degrees. Top with ice cream or cool whip. Serve warm or cold.

September Tithes and Offerings

General Fund	\$13,544.70
Ministry Shares	4,376.00
Faith Promise	
EM Missions	498.00
Shaarda	900.00
Smit	1,420.00
Walker	890.00
Guatemala Orphanage	970.00
East Martin Christian School	1,129.00
Guatemala Mission Trip	1,302.50
Resonate Global Missions	204.00
World Renew—DRS	465.00
Martin Resource Center	50.00
Bible League	373.00
Total	\$26,122.20
General Fund under	\$9,540.29
Ministry Shares under	4,268.96

Offering Schedule for November

November 7: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—World Missions
 November 14: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—Bible League
 November 21: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Right to Life
 November 28: AM—World Renew—DRS; PM—Luke Society

Thanksgiving Offering Envelopes

The Deacons will provide envelopes for the Thanksgiving Day offering. You can select from several options listed. Any monies not designated will be used for the General Fund.



Feeding the Community

We will be able to participate in a food drive for Martin Resource Center on Thanksgiving Day also. Please bring staple foods for MARC on Thanksgiving Day morning.

Creative Stitching

Creative Stitching meets the 2nd Thursday of each month in the church fellowship room at 9:30 am. Come and enjoy the fun. If you have any questions, contact Karen Misner.

Greeters

November 7: AM—Joe DeKoekkoek, Harold Wykstra; PM—Keith and Deb Smit
 November 14: AM—Eric and Alex Zudweg, Ryan Tucker; PM—Wes and Darlene Leep
 November 21: AM—Bruce and Renee Aukema, Glenn Leep; PM—Cameron and Kristie Tuinstra
 Thanksgiving Day: Wayne and Denise Leep
 November 28: AM—Adrian and Wilma VandenAkker, Keith Smit; PM—Glenn and Nancy Leep

Ushers

November 7: Dennis and Sam DeYoung, Henry Michael Tuinstra
 November 14: Dan Wubben, Dean Wubben, Jonathan Kalkman
 November 21: Don Wubben, Dean VanderMeulen, Eric Zudweg
 Thanksgiving Day: Bruce Tiemeyer, Joel and Jacob DeYoung
 November 28: Bob and Bram Katje, Chase DeMaagd

Nursery

November 7: Riley and Addison Tuinstra
 November 14: Rebekah Westendorp
 November 21: Jen, Violet and Willow Tuinstra
 Thanksgiving Day: Laura DeMaagd
 November 28: Hailey and Kylee Tuinstra

Library

November 7: Carolyn VanderMeulen
 November 14: Linda DeYoung
 November 21: Ida Westendorp
 November 28: Rena Lynema