

July 2022

A monthly publication of the
East Martin Christian Reformed Church

The Echoes



A View from the Pew

Grace

I was reflecting in my devotional time about God's grace and what it meant to me, God's undeserved favor that He lavished on me (Ephesians 1:8) with all wisdom and understanding. Grace greater than all my sins, according to the familiar hymn.

Why would a completely holy, perfect, infinite God choose to pour out His forgiveness and grace on someone who could never possibly earn it or deserve it? Because of who He is, not who I am. I John 4:7-9, tells me that God is love, and He showed that love by sending His one and only Son to die for me that I might live through Him.

But that's not the end of the story. Since God has blessed me with His love and grace, how am I to respond? Of course it fills me with love and gratitude to Him, but I need to let God's love flow through me to those around me. I John 4:11-12 makes that very clear, and verses 20 & 21 in the same chapter say "If anyone says 'he loves God', yet hates his brother he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen". God loves me unconditionally and freely. I pray I may extend that love and grace to those He puts in my path.

How about you? Have you been given God's grace? How will you respond?

Congregational Meeting of May 22

1. Opening devotions and prayer by Les Lynema.
2. Read minutes of congregational meeting of June 6, 2021 for information.
3. Count of attendees: 65.



4. Presentation of proposed budget for 2022-2023 by Kevin Bouman.
5. Motion to accept proposed budget passed by voice vote.
6. Casting lots for Deacons resulted in Jonathan Kalkman and Scott Tuinstra being elected; Dave Mejeur, Tom Rook, and Bruce Tiemeyer as Elders. Kevin Bouman, Les Lynema, Dave Misner and Harold Wykstra are the retiring council members.
7. Discussion: A: Les Lynema updated us about Plainwell Ministries now called "CITY ON A HILL". B. Dennis DeYoung updated us on East Martin Christian School's request to use several rooms at The Anchor to make room for growth of the school. C. Glenn Leep updated us on the search for a pastor. D. Sara Denzel asked us to think about what we could do to have our service recordings be more representative of how many attendees we actually have in our services. E. Sara Denzel presented her thoughts about an old fashioned hymn sing and to think about how we as individuals could participate if it comes about.

In Contact With Council



1. The Council meeting of July 12 was opened with prayer and devotions from John 17:20 by Bruce Tiemeyer.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.
3. Deacons' report: Offering schedule was approved.
4. Building and Grounds committee: Work will be going on at the parsonage — painting and cleaning carpets. The church will not be renting the house to East Martin Christian School at this time. The school is also not using The Anchor at this time.
5. A motion was made to replace 5 furnaces at The Anchor for \$20,000. Passed. The congregation will be asked for approval first.
6. Two Council visits were made.
7. Martin Home School Association requested the use of The Anchor grounds for football. Motion was made to allow this. Passed.
8. A motion was made to adjourn. Passed. Scott Tuinstra closed in prayer and will have devotions next month.

One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure



During the springtime each year Martin Township leadership arrange for an event called Martin Trash Days. The residents of the township can bring their trash items to the Martin Library parking lot where the residents can dispose of their unwanted items in the proper way.

During this event members of our congregation with a desire to raise money for the orphanage in Guatemala volunteer to help residents unload their trash but with a special eye out for items that can be recycled. During the one-day event, recyclable metal is sorted from the trash and loaded onto trailers to be sent for reclamation. This year 3 trailer loads were collected, and the proceeds amounted to \$840.30. This money is used to support Fundacion Salvacion in Huehuetenango, Guatemala.

Truly God uses many people's trash to be a treasure for His children.

Thank You!

The VandenAkker family would like to thank everyone for their love, support, cards, prayers and more in the passing of Adrian's brother Dirk in Germany.

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards and phone calls after my stroke. I am doing well.

Deb Rook

THANK YOU for telling others about Jesus through Bible League. The Kalamazoo Division of Bible League Volunteer Ambassadors appreciates the generous contributions raised from the love letter fundraiser. Together, our church was able to provide \$600 for ministry. Continue to pray with us for the provision of God's Word to a lost and needy world. Thank you for serving the under-resourced Church.

Your love for the Word is obvious and demonstrates a partnership between East Martin Christian Reformed Church and the Gideons.

Please note that our offering of \$1,023 will print and place 852 New Testaments into waiting hands here and around the world. Our church has touched 852 lives—with the truth that God loves us.

Praise the Lord!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
J.D. and Carol Chamberlain
Gideons

What are our graduates doing?



Preston Rillema graduated from Tri-Unity Christian High School. He played varsity soccer for 3 years & he worked 2 years at a tree farm. Currently he works part time at McDonalds. Preston dreams of going into music engineering.



Look What's New in the Library

IN HONOR'S DEFENSE —
KAREN WITEMEYER
(Hangers Horseman #3)
LOVE IN PLAIN SIGHT—

KATHLEEN FULLER (An Amish Mail Order Bride #3)

A PROMISE ENGRAVED—LIZ TOLSMA

Doors to the past — Historical

COUNT THE NIGHTS BY STARS—

MICHELLE SHOCKLEE

Very interesting story — Covers a timeline 1897 to 1961 — Takes place in Nashville, Tennessee

UNDER THE TULIP TREE—MICHELLE SHOCKLEE

Slavery-Civil War-Depression — Very good book

UNTIL LEAVES FALL IN PARIS—SARAH SUDIN — WW II historical

A WARRIOR'S HEART—MISTY M. BELLER (Brides of Laurent #1)

A HEALER'S PROMISE—MISTY M. BELLER (Brides of Laurent #2)

THE DEADLY SHADOWS—DAN PETTREY (Coastal Guardians #3)

PRINCE AND THE PRODIGAL, THE—JILL EILEEN SMITH — Two brothers, One betrayal



MARC

When grocery shopping please remember Martin Area Resource Center. In August they need condiments:

Ketchup, mustard, mayo/salad dressing, dressings (French, Ranch, etc), pickles, olives.

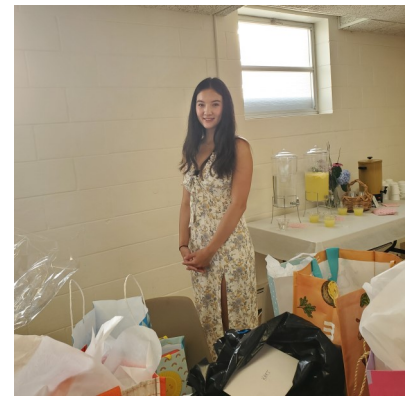
Thanks in advance for helping those in our community who are in need.

Bridal Shower

Approximately 40 ladies and girls enjoyed the Bridal Shower on Thursday, July 14. We honored Amanda Klaasen who is marrying Cole Wnuk, Amber Leep who is engaged to Josh Westendorp and Kari Mejeur-Zhou who is married to Zac. All of the girls mother's-in-law were able to join us. Kari's mother-in-law gets the prize for coming the farthest — from China. We enjoyed a light supper, played a game enjoyed by most :), and the brides received lots of groceries.

During the game we learned the following: Cole works as an electrician with Circuit Electric. Josh works for his dad at Jamestown Auto and plans on taking full responsibility of the shop when Cliff retires. Zac was born in China but attended high school in the United States. He is studying to be a project manager.

Below are a few pictures of the evening



Greeters

August 7: AM—Nancy Minegar, Terri Jager and Doug DeMann; PM—Bruce and Renee Aukema
August 14: Cameron and Kristie Tuinstra, Dave Mejeur; PM—Adrian and Wilma VandenAkker
August 21: AM—Wayne and Denise Leep, Bob Katje; PM—Bill and Bonnie Snook
August 28: AM - Dean and Carolyn Vandermeulen, Jonathan Kalkman PM—Larry and Phyllis Tuinstra

Ushers

August 7: Wes Leep, Tom Westendorp, Kevin Bouman
August 14: Joe DeKoekoek, Kevin DeKoekoek, Glenn Leep
August 21: Adrian VandenAkker, Bruce Mejeur, Les Lynema
August 28: Roger Anderson, Trayton Tuinstra, Preston Rillema

Nursery

August 7: Rebekah Westendorp
August 14: Jen, Violet and Willow Tuinstra
August 21: Laura DeMaagd
August 28: Hailey and Kaylee Tuinstra

Library

August 7: Ida Westendorp
August 14: Rena Lynema
August 21: Linda DeYoung
August 28: Ida Westendorp

Offering Schedule for August

August 7: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Kalamazoo Christian High School
August 14: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—Christian Neighbors
August 21: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Resonate Global Mission
August 29: AM—Back to God Ministries; PM—Gideons

June Tithes and Offerings

General Fund	\$ 6,491.25
Ministry Shares	2,266.70
Faith Promise	
Shaarda	154.00
Smit	724.00
Tiemeyer	99.00
Walker	144.00
Guatemala Orphanage	224.00
East Martin Christian School	1,275.00
Martin Resource Center	25.00
World Renew — DRS	1,270.20
Son-Life Camp	312.00
Bible League	302.00
Mel Trotter Mission	420.00
Intl Campus Ministry	83.00
Total	\$13,790.15

Peaches 'N Cream Pie

3/4 cup flour
1 tsp baking powder
1 (3 3/8 oz) pkg regular vanilla pudding
3 Tbsp margarine
1 egg
1/2 cup milk

Filling:

3 cups peaches fresh or canned sliced and drained, reserving juice
1 (8 oz pkg) cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup sugar
3 Tbsp reserved juice or milk
1 Tbsp sugar
1/4 tsp cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Use a greased 9" pie plate. Combine crust ingredients and pour into pie plate.

Spread peaches over crust. Mix cream cheese, sugar and juice and spoon over peaches within 1 inch of the edge. Sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon. Bake 30-35 minutes until golden.