



# The Echoes

July 2023

A monthly publication of the  
East Martin Christian Reformed Church

## A View from the Pew



### God's Amazing Grace

I've read several devotionals in the last few weeks and they made me ponder and meditate again on this amazing concept of God's love for me not depending on who I am or what I've done, but completely on who He is. Let me share with you some of what God has been showing me.

I've always tried to earn my way—and in life, that is not a bad concept. As a student you work for good grades. As an athlete you practice and train for awards and medals. As a musician it takes long hours of practice and study to be good at what you do and enjoy. You can't earn a living for your family by sitting on the couch watching TV. You earn the love and trust of the people in your life by building a relationship and being there for them. These are noble and God-honoring, I believe.

My relationship with God seems opposite of my human thinking. I think I can be good enough and earn God's love, but that just isn't possible. If I could, Jesus' sacrifice on the cross would have been totally unnecessary. And what happens when I think I can earn it? I look away from the God who loves me, concentrate on my works, and look down on others who I feel aren't doing as well at earning God's love as I am.

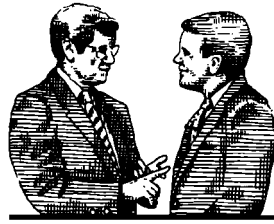
The parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector in Luke 18:9-14 is a perfect example. Verse 11 points out that the Pharisee prayed "about himself". He told God how good he was and how much he had done, and basically was saying how lucky God was to have him. He looked disgustedly at the tax collector, who ironically begged for God's mercy, because he saw his need for God's grace. Jesus comments in verse 14, "the tax collector went home justified." When I read this parable my mind always goes to Isaiah 64:6, "all our righteous acts are like filthy rags", and I can just imagine the Pharisee standing before God flaunting his "filthy rags". And how often do we do the same thing?

Obviously I want to love and serve God out of my great love and gratitude for His sending Jesus to save me from my sins when I didn't deserve it, not out of a sense of earning that salvation. God's grace opens my heart and spiritual eyes to see His great love for me and my need for salvation.

In closing look at Psalm 86:11-13

Teach me your way, O LORD and I will walk in your truth;  
Give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.  
I will praise you O LORD my God with all my heart;  
I will glorify your name forever.  
For great is your love toward me;  
You have delivered me from the depths of the grave.

## **In Contact With Council**



1. The Council meeting of July 11 was opened with devotions and prayer by Scott Tuinstra. Scott read from James 1:27 and a devotional.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.
3. Pulpit supply is good through October 22.
4. Deacon's report: Offering schedule was made, supported and passed. Tim Westendorp is the chairman of deacons. Jon Kalkman continues as deacon. Sue Tiemeyer will continue as Treasurer.
5. Evangelism committee: Pulled out 2 more playgrounds. Church will have a tent set up at Martin Days on Saturday, July 15th. Will be handing out cotton candy. July 22, 29 and August 5 help is needed setting up a playground at City on a Hill.
6. Council visits made: 4.
7. Communion is scheduled for September 10.
8. A motion was made to adjourn, supported and passed. Tim Westendorp closed with prayer and has 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 Day. The residents of the township can bring their trash items to the Martin JC Wheeler 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 three trailer loads were collected, and the proceeds amounted to around \$550.00. 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.



## New Library Books

THE TWELFTH IMAM—JOEL ROSENBERG #1

THE TEHRAN INITIATIVE—JOEL ROSENBERG #2

DAMASCUS COUNTDOWN—JOEL ROSENBERG #3

TAPESTRY OF GRACE, THE—KIM VOGEL SAWYER

SWINDLER'S DAUGHTER, THE—STEPHENIA H. McGEE

LONG MARCH HOME, THE—MARCIS BROTHERTON and TOSCA LEE Touching story of WWII in the Philippines. POW's.

FORGED IN LOVE—MARY CONNEALY Wyoming Sunrise #1

LAWS OF ATTRACTION, THE—MARY CONNEALY Wyoming Sunrise #2

SECRET OF HAPPINESS, THE—SUZANNE WOODS FISHER Cape Cod Creamery #2 — Very good book!

I hope you enjoyed the letter you received from the Kalamazoo Division of Bible League Volunteer Ambassadors. Prayerfully consider giving so others can know about Jesus through Bible League. Kindly respond on or before July 31. Thank you for making an eternal difference.

Darlene Leep  
Volunteer Ambassador

## 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.

# Thank You

Thank you to everyone for the birthday wishes! I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God here in East Martin.

Darlene Leep

I got home from Japan about 11 months ago, then attended a 6-month internship with a civilian cybersecurity firm in Chicago to close out my Navy career in March 2023. In May, I began working for Crown Motors in Holland as a Toyota technician.

Life has been good and I am beyond blessed. Thank you for the care packages, the prayers, and the support you showed me during the 4 years I was in the Navy, and please continue to shower our current military personnel with that same love.

God Bless!  
Mitchell Westendorp

## Tomato-Avocado Salad

1 lb. Roma tomatoes, chopped  
1 cucumber, chopped  
1/2 red onion, sliced  
2 avocados, diced or sliced  
1/4 cup cilantro, chopped  
2 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil  
2 Tbsp. lemon juice  
1 tsp. sea salt or 1/4 tsp. table salt  
1/8 tsp. black pepper

Place tomatoes, cucumber, onion, avocado and cilantro in large salad bowl. Drizzle with olive oil and lemon juice. Toss gently to combine. Just before serving, toss with salt and pepper. Makes 8-10 servings.

## You are invited:

Join us on Friday, September 8 in Byron Center for the Growing Inward-Reaching Outward conference. Best-selling author, Carol Kent's life turned upside down when their only child was sentenced for murder. Carol shares from God's Word and her family's life experience in growing an enduring faith and impacting the world for Christ. Registration and more information was in your mailbox a few weeks ago or it can be found at [Bibleleague.org/tickets](http://Bibleleague.org/tickets).



## June Tithes and Offerings

General Fund	\$10,099.45
Ministry Shares	1,924.00
Faith Promise	
East Martin Missions	567.20
Shaarda	152.00
Smit	172.00
Tiemeyer	97.00
Walker	142.00
Guatemala Orphanage	222.00
East Martin Christian School	1,209.00
World Renew—DRS	1,420.00
Elim Christian School	240.25
Rehoboth Christian School	183.00
Martin Resource Center	25.00
Project Hope	259.00
Gideons	390.00
Right to Life Education Fund	12.00
Total	\$ 17,113.90
General Fund	35% behind
Ministry Shares	26% behind

## Offering Schedule for August

August 6: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Christian Neighbors  
 August 13: AM—Martin Resource Center; PM—Growing Hope Globally  
 August 20: General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—International Campus Ministry  
 August 27: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—Barry County Christian School

## Greeters

August 6: AM—Dean & Carolyn VanderMeulen, Dave Mejeur; PM—Larry & Phyllis Tuinstra  
 August 13: AM—Henry & Nancy Tuinstra, Tom Rook; PM—Jim & Cindy Mejeur  
 August 20: AM—Merrie Beth DenBoer, Pat Fenton, Keith Smit; PM—Doug & Mary VanDerMeulen  
 August 27: AM—Westendorp Family, Bruce Tiemeyer; PM—Ron & Lorraine Vandenberg

## Ushers

August 6: Henry Michael Tuinstra, Dean Wubben, Bruce Tiemeyer  
 August 13: Joel DeYoung, Jacob DeYoung, Ryan Tucker  
 August 20: Bob Katje, Bram Katje, Henry Tuinstra  
 August 27: Bruce Aukema, Chase DeMaagd, Tom Rook

## Nursery

August 6: Hailey and Kylee Tuinstra  
 August 13: Riley and Addison Tuinstra  
 August 20: Jen, Violet and Willow Tuinstra  
 August 27: Laura DeMaagd

## Library

August 6: Ida Westendorp  
 August 13: Rena Lynema  
 August 20: Nancy Tuinstra  
 August 27: Carolyn VanderMeulen