

The Echoes

May 2023

A monthly publication of the
East Martin Christian Reformed Church



A View from the Pew

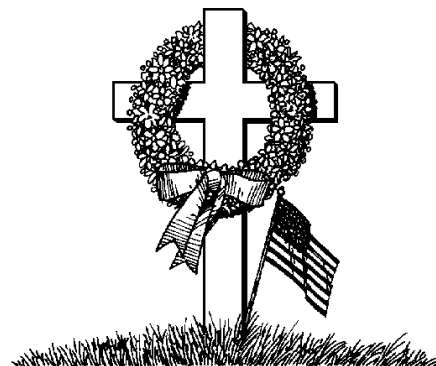
Memorial Day

On this Memorial Day weekend I think we should express our sincere gratitude and thanks to the brave men and women we know who sacrificed so much for our freedoms and safety in this great country. Some have given the ultimate price of giving their lives, but so many others served and returned home and got on with their lives. Some suffered injury and loss of friends and fellow soldiers, which has a life-long effect. I'm sure it's hard to fully understand the reality of being in the military, in battle or on a base, in the states or in a foreign country. I believe these men and women are often under appreciated and overlooked.

This holiday weekend I thank God for these brave men and women, but I think we should take the time to express our deep gratitude to these wonderful people that served our country in such a giving way. I guess we shouldn't limit our thanks to this weekend, but express it all year around!

God bless you!!

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



Two veterans, Earl Wykstra, a NAVY vet, and Harold Wykstra an ARMY vet, were treated to a trip to Washington DC on Saturday, May 13, along with 84 other vets from west Michigan. Also attending with us were our appointed guardians. Earl appointed his daughter, Jenny Moore and I appointed my grandson, Joel Wykstra.

The trip was provided by the Kalamazoo chapter of TALONS OUT HONOR FLIGHT, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to transport veterans to Arlington National Cemetery and surrounding areas to visit the monuments and memorials dedicated to honoring those great heroes who have so bravely served and sacrificed so much for our country, and to the war efforts that they participated in.

We flew out of the Kalamazoo Airport at 6:20 AM, landed in Washington DC at 8:00 and boarded 5 buses headed to Arlington National Cemetery. We visited memorials and grave sites as we went, got splendid views of other sites such as the Capitol building and the Pentagon and viewed an entire cycle of the solemn changing of the guard and laying of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. All of our meals were bagged meals served on the run.

After a busy day seeing the sites and a little rain we flew back to Kalamazoo and were treated to a rousing and emotional WELCOME HOME parade at the Kalamazoo Air Museum.

All in all it was a beautiful and emotional day.

In Contact With Council



1. The Council meeting of May 9 was opened with prayer and devotions by Ryan Tucker. Ryan read from II Timothy 1:7 and a devotional.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.
3. Reports:
Pulpit supply is good through mid August with the exception of July 23 both services.
The Deacons' report: the offering schedule was made, supported and passed. Budget was reviewed. Motion was made to adopt 2023-2024 budget as proposed by the finance committee. Supported and passed.
4. Evangelism committee: Bruce Mejeur is working on playgrounds. Discussed VBS and will check with Martin Reformed about helpers. Looking for Spanish Bibles.
5. Building and Grounds committee. Two quotes on sealing and repainting the parking lot were received.
6. Council visits made: 11.
7. Glenn Leep and Earl Wykstra are retiring as Elders. Keith Smit stays for a third year. Bob Katje and Doug DeMann are retiring as deacons. Ryan Tucker stays for a third year.
8. Motion was made to adjourn. Supported and passed. Bruce Tiemeyer closed with prayer and has devotions next month.

1. The Congregational meeting of May 21 was opened with prayer and devotions. Glenn Leep read from Romans 8:28-30.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were read for information
3. Count of attendees: 65.
4. Presentation of the 2023-2024 budget was made by Scott Tuinstra. Motion was made to vote by voice for budget passed. Voted by voice. Budget passed.
5. Drawing lots for elders: Wayne Leep and Don Wubben were elected. Retiring elders are Glenn Leep and Earl Wykstra.
Drawing lots for deacons: Tim Westendorp and Dean Wubben were elected. Retiring deacons are Doug DeMann and Bob Katje.
6. Proposal from Building and Grounds committee to resurface and repaint the parking lot for \$11,476.00. East Martin Christian School to donate up to \$6,000. Vote by voice. Motion passed.
7. Discussion by Glenn Leep from Search Committee on Ryan Poolman from Saskatoon, Canada. He will not graduate until December. Council is listening to sermons. Committee is still looking at others.
8. Motion to adjourn passed. Closing prayer by Glenn Leep.

Our 2023 Graduates

East Martin Christian School

Addison Tuinstra
Violet Tuinstra

Hopkins Public School

Caleb Tuinstra

Otsego Public School

Rozalyn Denzel

Tri-Unity Christian High School

Toby Smith

Zion Christian School

Andrew Leep

Hillside Learning Center

Aren DeKoekkoek

Grand Valley State University

Kari Zhou
Bachelor's degree in Business Administration
majoring in Finance

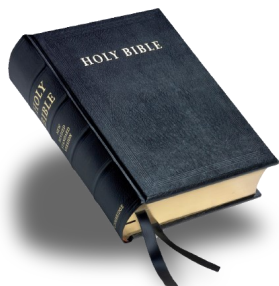
Northeastern University

Zac Zhou
Master's degree in Project Management

Marquette University Law School

Rose Van Elderen
Juris Doctorate degree

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



Bible Sunday

Sunday, May 14th we celebrated Bible Sunday. Those who received a Bible this year were Levi De Young, Aubie

Rillema, and Nora Tucker. The students were asked if they loved to read. It was explained

that books are often filled with amazing stories that take them to far-off places. Books are great because they can teach us things and tell exciting stories.

Then they were reminded that the Bible is a life-changing book and the greatest book of all time. The Bible contains God's words to them, and the words written there are helpful to lead, comfort, instruct, and encourage them. That unlike other books they read that tell make-believe stories, the books of the Bible are 100% true. The events happened in real life and to real people. The Bible is made up of 66 books. Despite there being so many books, God's Word tells one great story. The story of the Bible is all about the one true God who created everything and loves them so much that He sent His Son Jesus to save them. That's why the Bible is the most amazing book. No matter how much they read it, God can always teach them something new.

In Jeremiah 15:16 it says, "Your words become for me a joy and the delight of my heart." The students were encouraged to delight in their new Bibles, to get excited about God's Word and enjoy hearing what God has to say to them.



Playground Ministry Update

Things have been ramping back up after being shut down for Covid a couple of years ago. Supply chains and shipping have returned to some stability and travel has normalized allowing us to get things moving again.

We have partnered with a retired missionary who was familiar with the playgrounds being installed in Guatemala and has been communicating with churches and schools in Guatemala about interest in playgrounds. He

has had a lot of positive feedback from them. These groups are willing to contribute to the shipping costs, participate in the installation, and most of all, are able to do the refurbishing after installation. That will take a lot of work and costs away from our responsibility and leaving us to concentrate on finding, removing, and packing the playgrounds for shipment.

Currently we have 7 playgrounds in storage and another to be removed on June 3 in St. Joseph. Of those, 2 have been refurbished by us, 2 have been refurbished by other ministries and donated to us, and 3 are ready to be refurbished but won't need to be now.

We are expecting a 40-foot container to be delivered to the storage warehouse in the next week or so and will be loaded with 4 playgrounds and 4 sets of swings to be shipped to Guatemala by the end of the month.

We are thankful for:

The volunteers that help with removals.

A warehouse for storage and repairs.

A ministry partner with great in-country contacts.

The recipients who are willing to cover the shipping and refurbishment costs.



New Library Books

HOLDING THE LINE—JENNIFER DELAMERE (Love Along the Lines #3)
BROKER OF LIES—STEVEN JAMES (Travis Brock thriller)
SECOND TIME AROUND—MELODY CARLSON
WINDSWEPT WAY—IRENE HANNON
MICAH'S GOT TALENT—ANDY MCGUIRE (Micah's Super Vlog! #1) Youth
THE BIG FALL—ANDY MCGUIRE (Micah's Super Vlog! #2) Youth
TO SKETCH A THIEF—ANDY MCGUIRE (Micah's Super Vlog! #3) Youth

GIANT ROBOT SUIT—PHIL VISCHER (A Lesson in Friendship) Primary
SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW—AMY CLIPSON
JERUSALEM ASSASSIN, THE—JOEL ROSENBERG (Marcus Ryker novel)
A NOVEL PROPOSAL—DENISE HUNTER
THE ROSE AND THE THISTLE—LAURA FRANTZ



Thank you to all who provided a meal or dessert for our youth meetings or invited us into your home for an evening of fun. Thank you for investing in the lives of our young people. We have had a good year as we studied stories from the book of Judges and got to know each other a bit better. We are looking forward to finding ways to get to know more of the church family in the future and let you get to know us better.

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and food, that we were blessed with from our church family as we mourn the loss of my brother. How thankful I am to be a part of such a caring church!

Thank You,
Cameron and Kristie Tuinstra
and family

Thank you to everyone for the prayers, cards and texts on my behalf this last month.

Darlene Leep

Blessed are givers ...
And grateful are the receivers.

Thank you so much.

Thanks for your prayers and love.
God is very good!

Sarah Dendel (Libby's Mom)

April Tithes and Offerings

General Fund	\$10,999.00
Ministry Shares	3,072.00
Faith Promise	
Shaarda	172.00
Smit	192.00
Tiemeyer	117.00
Walker	162.00
Guatemala Orphanage	242.00
Benevolence	1,045.00
Projection System	200.00
East Martin Christian School	3,175.00
Tri-Unity Christian School	150.00
Son-Life Camp	50.00
Wycliffe Bible Translators	326.00
International Campus Ministry	261.00
Martin Resource Center	253.00
Right to Life Education Fund	5.00
Antonio & Sylvia Fundraiser	100.00
Total	\$20,521.00

General Fund	4% behind
Ministry Shares	26% behind

Giving at EMCRC is \$23,194 behind budget for the year. Budgeted income was \$192,192 for the year June 2022 through May 2023. Actual giving for the year June 2022 through April 2023 is \$168,997. That said, we have not been paying a full-time pastor so our expenses actually show that we have a \$86,700 surplus over expenses to date. If anyone would like to see the total report, please let me know and it can be printed for you.

Sue Tiemeyer, Treasurer

Offering Schedule for June

June 4: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Project Hope
 June 11: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—Gideons
 June 18: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Elim Christian School
 June 25: AM—World Renew DRS; PM—Rehoboth Christian School

Greeters

June 4: AM—Dave & Jean Mejeur, Glenn Leep; PM—Bruce & Sue Tiemeyer
 June 11: AM—Elders; PM—Les & Rena Lynema, Ryan Tucker
 June 18: AM—Scott & Jen Tuinstra, Doug DeMann; PM—Stan Leep and Earl Wykstra
 June 25: AM—Roger & Dawn Anderson, Dave Mejeur; PM—Libby Dendel, Ida Westendorp

Ushers

June 4: Bob and Bram Katje, Ryan Tucker
 June 11: Henry Tuinstra, Tom Rook, Scott Tuinstra
 June 18: Wayne Leep, Cameron and Caleb Tuinstra
 June 25: Dave Mejeur, Vern Klaasen, Tim Westendorp

Nursery

June 4: Riley and Addison Tuinstra
 June 11: Rebekah Westendorp
 June 18: Jen, Violet and Willow Tuinstra
 June 25: Laura DeMaag

Library

June 4: Rena Lynema
 June 11: Nancy Tuinstra
 June 18: Carolyn VanderMeulen
 June 25: Linda DeYoung



Martin Area Resource Center

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.