



The Echoes

August 2023

A monthly publication of the
East Martin Christian Reformed Church



A View from the Pew

One Generation Will Call to the Next

With a new education season about to begin, let's remember it's *not only* up to members who work with covenant children to instruct, on Sundays and Wednesdays, nor any paid professionals who teach in our Christian schools, nor for the pastor or elders and deacons of our church. As members and parents, we work in tandem—a three-fold Christian community, the home, the church, the school—to train up those precious children given to us by the Lord God. Instruction begins, and needs to be affirmed daily, at home. Specifically, what does the Word tell us about our responsibilities?

Let's look first at Deuteronomy 6:1-9.

These are the commands, decrees, and laws the Lord your God directed me to

Teach you (That's *all* of us, and it's *not* optional.), **so that you, your children, and your children's children after them** (generations) **may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may**

Enjoy long life. Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly (multiple blessings for obedience—bottom line, God wants to bless us!).

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with

All your heart and with **all** your soul and with **all** your strength. These

Commandments that I give you today are to be upon your

Hearts. Impress them upon your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down, and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. (In case there's any doubt, take a look at the all-encompassing nature of these commands—not simply

suggestions or nice ideas. The Lord says to *impress* them, *talk* about them, when we *sit, walk, lie down and get up*. Oh, and then we should also *tie* them and *write* them in very visible places. Has He missed anything? Definitely not. He identifies all our waking hours.)

In our hymnal *Lift Up Your Hearts*, we find a setting of Psalm 145 (#562). If you remember the tune, sing it in your head as you ponder the four verses, plus the refrain.

We will extol you, God and King, and bless your holy name.
Day after day we'll sing your praise, forever and forever.

Refrain: One generation will call to the next: "Our God is good, and his hand is strong!" All of the world sings his marvelous acts, and our voice will join with theirs in the song.

Great is the Lord! In all his ways he's greatly to be praised.
Were we to search for endless days, his greatness none could fathom.

Refrain: One generation will call to the next: "Our God is good, and his hand is strong!" All of the world sings his marvelous acts, and our voice will join with theirs in the song.

We contemplate the splendor of the world your hand has made.
Far greater still the majesty we see in the Creator!

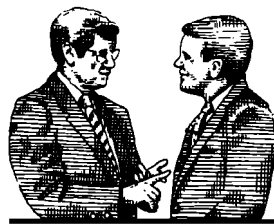
Refrain: One generation will call to the next: "Our God is good, and his hand is strong!" All of the world sings his marvelous acts, and our voice will join with theirs in the song.

Now may your name be sung in every tongue, in every place.
Singing the fame of your great love in every generation.

Refrain: One generation will call to the next: "Our God is good, and his hand is strong!" All of the world sings his marvelous acts, and our voice will join with theirs in the song.

Consequently, we Christians owe it to our children to *live* God-centered lives, *provide* God-centered homes, and *train* our children in the training and instruction of the Lord. Obedience to these specific "demands" comes with a promise, as recorded in Proverbs 22:6 (AMP): **Train up a child in the way he should go [teaching him to seek God's wisdom and will for his abilities and talents]. Even when he is old he will not depart from it.**

In Contact With Council



1. The Council meeting of August 8 was opened with devotions and prayer by Tim Westendorp. Tim read from James 5:13-20 and a devotional on Does God Answer Prayer?
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.
3. Pulpit supply is complete through October with the exception of 9/17 am and 10/8 both services.
4. Deacons' report: the offering schedule was made, supported and passed.

5. Outreach committee: The playground for City on a Hill is mostly done. Handed out 200 bags of cotton candy at Martin Days.

6. Education committee. The calendar for Sunday School is set.

7. Council visits: 7 were made.

8. Communion prep for September 10—Tom Rook will handle it.

9. Mutual Censure was observed.

10. A motion to adjourn passed. Don Wubben closed in prayer and will have devotions next month.



Sunday School and Catechism

The Sunday School and Catechism season will begin on September 17 and continue until December 10 at which time the Lord's Supper will be celebrated. There will be no classes that week. The Christmas program is scheduled for December 19.

The second half of the season begins on January 7 and continues until March 10 when the Lord's Supper will be celebrated. There will be no classes that week. Classes will resume on March 17 and then Easter (March 31) there will again be no classes. The last Sunday School and Catechism classes will be held on April 21 and Bible Sunday will be held on April 28.

Coffee Break will be starting the new season on September 20. This year we will be going through the book *Embracing God's Grace* by Elizabeth George. It's a 25-lesson study on Colossians and Philemon. Through it we'll learn to strengthen our faith by discovering more about God and His principles for our lives.



Coffee Break meets every Wednesday morning with a time of fellowship from 9:45 to 10, and then an hour of Bible study and prayer.

If you have questions or are interested in joining talk to Deb Smit or Denise Leep. We'll get you a book, and get you connected



Playground Ministry

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there. Matthew 19:14-15 NIV

The Playground Ministry here at East Martin CRC would like to thank all those who helped out at City On A Hill in Plainwell. From those who were involved in the removal and refinishing of the playset we installed, as well as our friends who lent us their equipment to install it, and of course the people that took the time to set it up. We were able to show

Christ's love to the children of the surrounding area and the kids of current church goes by setting up a big, beautiful playset in the backyard of the church!

We broke ground on July 22 by peeling off all the sod and making all the post holes. To our enjoyment the ground was all sand which made the whole job that much easier. We ended that first day by loading a small shed from the playground site onto a neighbor's trailer. City On A Hill was happy to have it off the property and he was excited to receive it. On July 29 we set the poles in cement and attached the platforms to them to hold everything in place while it dried. And on August 5 we came back with the big job of setting the curly slide in place and installing all of the steps, ladders, hand holds and railings on the rest of the playset. Everything was completed when we left except for one slide mounting pole that needed a new four bolt flange welded on it.

We were not alone in our efforts. Each weekend we had donuts, muffins, coffee and fruit waiting when we arrived thanks to Lu, a City attendee. Not to mention water and lunches when we needed them. There were also young kids, teens and "mature adult males" that helped out from City On A Hill. All in all it was a great experience for everyone involved. All the hard work mixed with fun, friendly banter felt like a glimpse of what the Kingdom of Heaven should look like here on earth. Glory be to God!

Graduate's Plans

I graduated from Tri-Unity Christian High School and had a great time in school. For sports I played football, golf, and bowling. I served on Student Council and my senior year as Student Body President. During my senior year I sang in the Praise Band, was honored to be chosen as Homecoming King, and Senior of the year, and gave a speech at the graduation ceremony. With other students and teachers of TCS God's Club I was able to serve many times doing Bible study, crafts, and meals with kids in the Urban Grand Rapids area.

Outside of school I worked part time for VanDellen Steel and then for my brother Tanner at TNT Landscaping. For the past ten years I have been involved in 4H showing steers, pigs and goats. I worked as MSU Teen Superintendent for Barry County Fair.

In August I will be heading to Northpoint Bible College in Grand Rapids to study Global Missions and Ministry.

I have loved being part of the East Martin family my entire life. I am looking forward to seeing where God leads me next. Thanks for all the love and support.

Toby Smith

GEMS and Cadets

GEMS and Cadets will begin their 2023-2024 season on Wednesday, September 20, from 6-8 pm. Watch the bulletin for additional details.

Earl Wykstra no longer has a home phone. Please contact him on his cell — 269-217-6464.



Check out what's new in the library

BREAKING NEW GROUND—AMY CLIPSTON (Amish Legacy #3)
IN THE SHADOW OF THE RIVER—ANN H GABHART
DOUBLE INDEMNITY—ROBERT WHITLOW (Good Novel)
COUNTERFEIT FAITH—CRYSTAL CAUDILL (Hidden Hearts of the Gilded Age #3)
UNDER FIRE—LYNN H. BLACKBURN (Defend and Protect #3)
BREAK OF DAY—COLLEEN COBLE (Annie Peterson Novel #3)

THE ALL AMERICAN—SUSIE FINKBEINER
 A SHADOW IN MOSCOW—KATHERINE REAY (Cold War Novel)
 EVERY DOG HAS HIS DAY—JANICE THOMPSON (Gone to the dogs #5)
 TWO TO TANGO—KATHLEEN FULLER (Maple Falls Romance)
 BENEATH THE SURFACE—LYNN H. BLACKBURN (Dive Team #1)
 COUNTDOWN—LYNETTE EASON (Extreme Measures #4)
 FINDING US—TRACIE PETERSON (Pictures of the Heart #2)
 GOD MADE ALL OF ME—JUSTIN & LINDSEY HOLCOMB
 GIANT ROBOT SUIT—PHIL VISCHER (A lesson in Friendship)

Growing Inward Reaching Outward

The Bible League Conference for men and women will be held on Friday, September 8, at Friendship CRC in Byron Center from 9 to 3. Our featured speaker will be Carol Kent. Carol and Gene's only child is serving a life sentence for first-degree murder. How do you come out on the other side when life sends its worst? Join us as best-selling author Carol Kent shares from God's Word and her family's life experience in growing an enduring faith and impacting the world for Christ. Please note that the deadline is August 31.

*Thank
 you*

THANK YOU for telling others about Jesus through Bible League. The Kalamazoo Division of Bible League Volunteer Ambassadors appreciates the generous contribution raised from the love letter fundraiser. Together, our church was able to provide \$ 450 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.

Enchilada Zucchini Boats

(serves 2) 35 minutes

1 tablespoon of oil
 1/2 of a sweet onion
 1/2 red bell pepper
 3 cloves of garlic minced or 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
 1/4 teaspoon cumin
 1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
 1/4 teaspoon paprika
 Sea salt and pepper to taste
 1 can of black beans, drained
 2 medium zucchini
 1 1/2 cups of enchilada sauce
 Optional toppings: cheese, cilantro, sour cream

Cut zucchini in half the long way and gently scoop out most of the inside of the zucchini. In a frying pan, warm the oil and add the seasonings, onion, pepper. Saute until soft. Add the black beans and cook another 3 minutes. Place the zucchini in a lightly greased baking dish, spoon the enchilada mix into the zucchini and top them with enchilada sauce. Top with cheese and bake for approximately 25-30 minutes at 400 degrees.



Martin Area Resource Center

When grocery shopping please remember Martin Area Resource Center. In September they need Back to School "stuff".

Peanut butter and jelly; mac and cheese; tuna, healthy snacks, graham crackers, cracker packs, puddings and jello, juice boxes.

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



July Tithes and Offerings

General Fund	\$17,428.70
Ministry Shares	4,806.00
Faith Promise	
East Martin Missions	150.00
Shaarda	942.00
Smit	2,412.00
Tiemeyer	887.00
Walker	932.00
Guatemala Orphanage	912.00
Cadets	70.00
GEMS	70.00
East Martin Christian School	1,772.00
Heritage Christian School	285.00
Kalamazoo Christian High School	245.00
Tri-Unity Christian School	180.00
Reframe Ministries	223.00
Son-Life Camp	70.00
Martin Resource Center	1,389.00
Project Hope	70.00
Bible League	256.00
Wycliffe Bible Translators	70.00
The Luke Society	183.00
Total	\$ 33,422.70
General Fund	12% behind
Ministry Shares	28% ahead

Offering Schedule for February

September 3: AM—General Fund and Ministry Shares; PM—Forgotten Man Mission
 September 10: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—Right to Life Education Fund
 September 17: AM—General Fund and Ministry Shares; PM—Wycliffe
 September 24: AM—Martin Resource Center; PM—International Campus Ministry (WMU)

Greeters

September 3: AM—Randy and Mary Bouman, Ryan Tucker; PM—Dave & Karen Misner
 September 10: AM—Elders; PM: Glenn & Nancy Leep
 September 17: AM—Bob & Ruth Katje, Scott Tuinstra; PM—Ryan & Jessica Tucker
 September 24: AM—Joan Kammeraad, Jeanine Katje, Wayne Leep; PM—Chase & Laura DeMaagd

Ushers

September 3: Cameron Tuinstra, Caleb Tuinstra and Joe DeKoekoek
 September 10: Scott Tuinstra, Dave Mejeur, Vern Klaasen
 September 17: Wayne Leep, Tim Westendorp, Wes Leep
 September 24: Tom Westendorp, Kevin Bouman, Jared Westendorp

Nursery

September 3: Hailey and Kylee Tuinstra
 September 10: Riley and Addison Tuinstra
 September 17: Rebekah Westendorp
 September 24: Jen, Violet and Willow Tuinstra

Library

September 3: Linda DeYoung
 September 10: Ida Westendorp
 September 17: Rena Lynema
 September 24: Nancy Tuinstra

