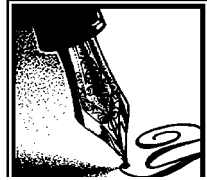


The Echoes

January 2025

A monthly publication of the
East Martin Christian Reformed Church



A View from the Pew

What will it take to be successful?

The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. Matthew 25:40

The coming of a new year is a time to look ahead and ask ourselves, What are we hoping for in the coming year? What are our dreams and aspirations? What will we do with our lives? Will we make a difference in this world? Will we be successful?

Some are hoping to graduate this year. Others are looking for a promotion. Still others are hoping for healing. Many are hoping to make a new start in life. All of us are hoping for a good year ahead.

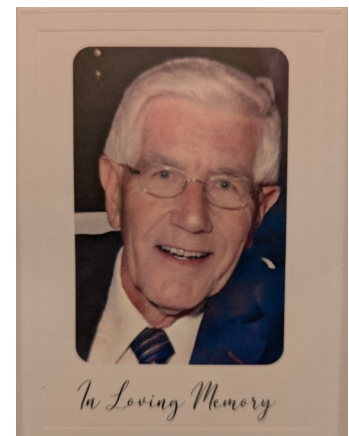
Whatever our hopes or resolutions may be for the new year, let's take a few moments to ask ourselves, What will we do for people who are down and out? How do we plan to imitate our Lord in reaching out to people who are outcasts, who need help, encouragement, and a new start? Will we take the words of our Savior seriously as he tells us that anything we do for people such as these, we are doing for him?

Some people I know bring a warm meal to long-term residents in a run-down motel. Others are active in prison ministry. Others pray daily for people who are alone and in need, and still others generously share their resources.

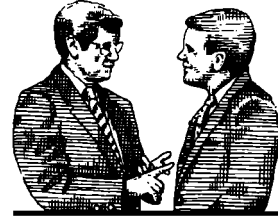
A bookmark in my Bible says, "Success has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others!" And that is what Jesus teaches.

Fill us Lord Jesus with compassion for people who are least in the eyes of this world. Open our eyes to the needs of the people around us.

In remembrance of our former pastor, Rev. Art Schoonveld. This was take from a devotional he wrote for the TODAY in December 2020.



In Contact With Council



- ◆ Dean Wubben opened the Council meeting of January 14 with reading from Psalm 119: 89-95. He had devotions and opened with prayer.
- ◆ The minutes from the November 12 meeting were read. A motion to accept was supported and passed.
- ◆ Communications: Libby would like to know how many hours per week she should plan on and how often she should check the phone in the office.
- ◆ Sixteen district visits were made.
- ◆ Reports:
 - ◆ Pulpit supply—February 23 and March 9 are still open.
 - ◆ Deacons' report—the offering schedule was presented. A motion to accept was supported and passed. The General fund is 1.83% behind and Ministry Shares is 18.9% behind.
 - ◆ Projects: The deacons installed appliances at Stacie's house.
 - ◆ Worship committee—the live nativity was a big success.
 - ◆ Evangelism outreach—missionary updates. Having lunch again on January 19.
 - ◆ Life in a negative world—new ideas and activities to try each month and looking at the possibility of getting a programmable sign.
 - ◆ Building & Grounds—smoke detectors and a humidifier are being installed in the parsonage
 - ◆ Finance committee—no meeting
 - ◆ Church security—no meeting
- ◆ Old business—follow up with the lawyer to help Joel with immigration paperwork.
- ◆ Dates for Tanya and Joel to talk about their missionary work.
- ◆ A motion to adjourn was supported and passed.
- ◆ Jonathan closed with prayer and has devotions next month.

The Year In Review

The following changes took place in our membership in 2024.

Addison Tuinstra was welcomed into our membership through Profession of Faith.

Joanne Mejeur was taken from us in death.

Jared Westendorp's membership was transferred to Martin Reformed Church and Kelly Leep Hein's membership was transferred to Walker United Reformed Church.



Check Out What's New in Our Library

UNFORGOTTEN—SHELLY SHEPARD
GRAY (Suspense)
COURTING THE COUNTRY PREACHER
(Four authors — Four stories)
IT IS FINISHED—CHARLES MARTIN
(Beautiful book)
THE ROADS WE FOLLOW—NICOLE DEESE
A YEAR OF FLOWERS—SUZANNE WOODS
FISHER
THE QUEENS COOK—TESSA AFSHAR
(Queen Esther)
A GRIEF OBSERVERED—C.S. LEWIS
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT—MAX LUCADO
CLOAKED IN BEAUTY—KAREN
WITEMEYER
AN EASTER CAROL—VEGGIE TALES #102
DVD



Sunday School and Catechism teachers from the first half of the education year will continue in the second half of the year.

Our sincere thanks to Amy Kalkman, Libby Dendel, Bruce Tiemeyer and Jonathan Kalkman. Seek them out to express your thanks for their dedication to our kids.

Wild Game Dinner

East Martin Christian School's annual Wild Game Dinner will be held on Saturday, February 8.

The speaker will be Guy Zuck. Guy grew up in a small



town in Missouri where he lived on a farm that raised turkeys, which is where he learned to make just about every sound a turkey can make. Guy won several state and open calling contests and took 2nd place in the world voice calling competition. He has also been featured on MeatEater. Guy hung up his gun and picked up his cross on March 11, 2017. Join us to hear his testimony on what God has done for Guy and his family.

The doors open at 4pm if you want to come early and check all the auction items. Seating is limited so please RSVP to emcswildgamedinner@gmail.com.

See Wayne Leep or check the EMCS Facebook page if you are interested in participating in the Coyote hunt.

**A
Thank You
to
Melodie Norris**

***They say
that a job well-done
has its own reward,
but still,
you should know
how much your
hard work
means to those
around you.***

Thanks for doing such a good job. Your service as Bulletin Secretary has blessed many of us over the years. We thank God for you.

The East Martin CRC family

Your love has given [us] great joy and encouragement because you have refreshed the hearts of the saints. Philemon 7



Martin Area Resource Center

When you are grocery shopping in February, please purchase some of the items below for the Martin Area Resource Center.

Breakfast items: Cereal, Pop-tarts, cereal/ breakfast bars, oatmeal and instant oatmeal flavors, pancake mix and syrup.

Lasagna Soup

- 1 lb hamburger, salt and pepper
- 1 yellow onion, diced
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 3 cloves of garlic
- 3 Tbsp tomato paste
- 1-24 oz jar of marinara sauce
- 1/4 tsp red pepper flakes
- 2 Tbsp fresh parsley or 2 tsp dried parsley
- 1/2 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp dried basil
- 7 cups of vegetable or chicken broth
- 9 large lasagna noodles, broken into pieces
- 2 cups fresh spinach leaves (optional)
- 10 oz ricotta or cottage cheese
- 1 cup mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 cup fresh parmesan cheese, grated

Fry burger, onion and garlic. Drain if necessary. Stir in tomato paste, sauce, spices and broth.

Bring to a boil and add noodles. Reduce heat to medium low. Cook until noodles are done. Add spinach, if using.

In a small bowl mix the cheeses together and add a dollop to each bowl.

Library

- February 2: Ida Westendorp
- February 9: Rena Lynema
- February 16: Linda DeYoung
- February 23: Ida Westendorp

Nursery

- February 2: Riley and Addison Tuinstra
- February 9: Mary Bouman
- February 16: Rebekah Westendorp
- February 23: Jen, Violet and Willow Tuinstra

Tithes and Offerings for December

General Fund	\$32,628.00
Ministry Shares	2,434.00
Faith Promise	
Shaarda	4,430.00
Smit	4,290.00
Tiemeyer	3,490.00
Walker	3,390.00
Guatemala Orphanage	4,270.00
Benevolence	8,950.00
Education Assistance	1,470.00
Senior High Youth Group	770.00
Cadets	1,247.00
Cadets—Denomination	235.19
East Martin Christian School	2,422.00
Kalamazoo Christian High School	1,100.00
Rehoboth Christian School	500.00
World Renew—DRS	2,800.00
World Renew—General	7,600.00
Growing Hope Globally	200.00
Martin Resource Center	250.00
Right to Life Education Fund	200.00
Kalamazoo Gospel Mission	500.00
Guiding Light Mission	100.00
Freedom in Christ	611.00
Grace Shaarda	300.00
Gideons	229.00
Total	\$84,416.19

General Fund 1.83% behind
Ministry Shares 18.90% behind

Offering Schedule for February

- February 2: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Zion Christian School
- February 9: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Martin Resource Center
- February 16: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—Reach the Forgotten
- February 23: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Pine Rest