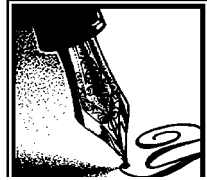




The Echoes

October 2024

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East Martin Christian Reformed Church



A View from the Pew

Relatively Speaking

Family. The word conjures up a multitude of word pictures and thoughts. A husband/father, wife/mother, sons and daughters, sisters and brothers, grandparents, grandchildren, aunts and uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins. Relatives all. According to Max Lucado, “We are God’s idea. Look deeply into the face of every human being on earth, and you will see His likeness. Though some appear to be distant relatives, they are not. God has no cousins, only **children**.” In fact, “You are created *Imago Dei, in the image of God,*” points out author and speaker Laura De Groot. So, what *do* His **children** look like?



“We are God-reflectors, mirroring Him at every turn...We bear something about God that’s even more specific—‘we bear the image of the heavenly man,’ Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 15:49). God chose you in Christ to be like *him,*” shares Joni Eareckson Tada.

It follows, then, that we should “Be...therefore followers of God, as dear **children**” (Ephesians 5:1). But how do we get *here*, to this point? After all, “... once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as **children** of the light!” (Ephesians 5:8). Clearly, we are *here* because “He predestined us to **adoption as sons** through Christ Jesus Himself, according to the kind intention of His will” (Ephesians 1:5), before the creation of the world (1:4). How can this be? Because “now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to Him through the blood of Christ” (Ephesians 2:13). “For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin [become sin itself], so that we could be made right with God through Christ” (II Corinthians 5:21).

Hence, relatively speaking, the first person of the Trinity is the Father, and fathers have **children**. In II Corinthians 6:18, we hear Him promise, “and I will be a father to you, and you shall be **sons and daughters** to Me,” says the Lord Almighty.” Furthermore, we are assured of this because “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are **children of God**” (Romans 8:16). Again, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become **children** of God, even to those who believe in His Name” (John 1:12).

As **children**, then, we belong to this **family**, and as such we also love and obey, trust and praise, and should grow in grace, modeling our lives after

Jesus. As noted earlier, we must “be imitators of God, as beloved **children**; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma” (Ephesians 5:1-2). It’s as if God says, “I want you to look more and more like Me. Absorb My principles and meditate on My Promises, then speak aloud about them to others.” In Mark 10:45 we read: Our job is imitating Jesus Christ who “did not come to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many,”—in all things demonstrating the full extent of His love (John 13:1c). To be like Him goes far beyond affection to, indeed, serving and self-sacrifice.

If we think about it and seek to understand, it’s a mind-blowing concept. “See what great love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called **children of God!** And that is what we are!” (1 John 3:1), “and if **children**, then heirs also of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him” (Romans 8:17). The Lord doesn’t promise a life of ease...but He does guarantee that the endpoint will be worth it.

Simultaneously, while **we His children** are indeed relatives, “the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now **we are children of God...**” (1 John 3:1b-2a). Let us recognize that every moment He showers, yes, lavishes, riches of grace on each and every one of His **children** (Ephesians 1:8).

Consequently, it’s not *what* we have in life but **who** (brothers and sisters in the Lord—the **family** of God) and **Who** we have in our lives that matters. Once a **child** of God, always a **child** of God, *relatively* speaking!

In Contact With Council



- ◆ The October Council meeting was opened with prayer and devotions by Bruce Tiemeyer. Bruce read from Psalm 19 and 24 talking about the heavens declaring God’s glory, about God’s creation and how amazing it was to see the northern lights.
- ◆ The minutes from September 10 meeting were read. A motion to accept was supported and passed.
- ◆ Communications: Bruce and Cameron attended the Kalamazoo classis meeting and gave a report of that meeting. There was discussion on CRC denominational membership declining since 2000 and what actions might help.
- ◆ Three Council visits were made.
- ◆ Deacons’ are working on a wheelchair ramp.
- ◆ Deacons’ reported that the General Fund is 37% behind; Ministry shares 38% behind.
- ◆ The offering schedule was presented. A motion to accept was supported and passed.
- ◆ Worship committee—no meeting
- ◆ Evangelism—no meeting
- ◆ Building and grounds—plumbing has been taken care of in the parsonage. They are looking into a new water softener for church and parsonage.
- ◆ Finance—no meeting
- ◆ Church security—working on cameras

- ◆ Met with Joel and talked about how things were going.
- ◆ Possibly have evening prayer volunteers
- ◆ A motion was made to approve Libby as church secretary—supported and passed.
- ◆ A motion was made to approve Rosalyn as church janitor—supported and passed.
- ◆ Pastor appreciation—having lunch on October 27
- ◆ Don is checking on CRC ordination of pastors to see what is necessary.
- ◆ Motion to adjourn was made, supported and passed.
- ◆ Jonathan Kalkman closed in prayer and has devotions at the next meeting on November 12.



Please join in showering Colton and Jen (Mejeur) Petrie with baby gifts as they await the arrival of their baby boy in December. Please place your gifts in the pack 'n play in the narthex.

They are registered at Amazon and Target under Jennifer Mejeur-Petrie if you wish to purchase something from their wish list.

Instead of a card you may sign a children's book as Colton and Jen would love to read their baby a book picked out by you.



Check Out What's New in the Library

TARGET ACQUIRED — LYNETTE EASON (Lake City Heroes #2)
 BETWEEN THE SOUND AND SEA — AMANDA COX A worthy book to read — Historical

CHEESE BALLS FOR JESUS — MOLLY SANBORN
 Written by the Bible League speaker this year. Funny, faith-filled stories to encourage and inspire

SHIELD OF THE MIGHTY — CONNILYN COSSETTE (The King's Men #2)
 Beautiful book. Biblical history.

THE WOMEN OF WYNTON'S — DONNA MUMM
 Suspense, mystery, a classy 1950's mystery — Good read

THE PARIS HOUSEKEEPER — RENEE RYAN (WWII story—Paris)

UNTIL OUR TIME COMES — NICOLE M. MILLER (WWII story—Poland)

ROOTS OF WOOD AND STONE — AMANDA WEN (Sedgwick County Chronicles #1)

THE SONGS THAT COULD HAVE BEEN — AMANDA WEN (Sedgwick County Chronicles #2)

RHYTHM OF FRACTURED GRACE — AMANDA WEN (Sedgwick County Chronicles #3)
 There is a very good message in each of these books. Historical and modern. Some inspired from real history.

THE WOMAN FROM LYDIA — ANGELA HUNT (The Emissaries #1)

THE SISTERS OF CORINTH — ANGELA HUNT (The Emissaries #2)



Daylight Savings Time ends on November 3

Thanksgiving Offering Envelopes

The Deacons will provide envelopes for the Thanksgiving Day offering. You can select from several options listed. Any monies not designated will be used for the General Fund.

Food Drive

We will be able to participate in a food drive for Martin Resource Center on Thanksgiving Day. Please bring staple foods for MARC on Thanksgiving Day morning.



The Grace Course Dates for November

November 3
November 17
November 24

Thanksgiving Day Breakfast

Serving from 8 to 9:15 am.

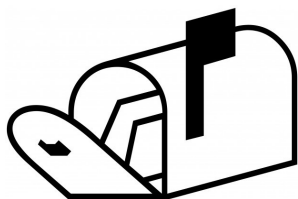


Everyone is invited to come enjoy pancakes, breakfast casseroles, sausage links, apple juice and coffee before the Thanksgiving Day service.

Come enjoy the fellowship and support the High School Youth Group.

Christmas Card Service

The High School Youth Group will provide a Christmas card delivery service beginning the first Sunday of Advent, December 1. Just place your Christmas cards, along with your donations, in the basket by the church mailboxes. The cards will be delivered to the proper mailboxes by the Youth Group.



Young At Heart

Young at Heart concluded its 2024 season. We had a great time of fun and fellowship this year. We averaged about 20 at each gathering.

We expect to start again in May 2025 and encourage more to join us.



Martin Area Resource Center



When grocery shopping in November, please remember the needs of those less fortunate in our community. In November they need the following:

Soup, canned tomatoes, chili, beans, crackers (saltines, oyster, etc). spaghetti and sauce, tea and hot cocoa, boxed meals and foods, stuffings, rice mixes, etc.

Nursery

November 3: Rebekah Westendorp
November 10: Jen, Violet and Willow Tuinstra
November 17: Laura DeMaagd
November 24: Riley and Addison Tuinstra

Library

November 3: Nancy Tuinstra
November 10: Carolyn VanderMeulen
November 17: Linda DeYoung
November 24: Ida Westendorp

Tithes and Offerings for September

General Fund	\$14,137.12
Ministry Shares	1,355.00
Benevolence	1,366.00
Education Assistance	1,263.00
Faith Promise	
Shaarda	325.00
Smit	475.00
Tiemeyer	25.00
Walker	115.00
Guatemala Orphanage	60.00
East Martin Christian School	1,062.00
Kalamazoo Christian High School	424.00
Martin Area Resource Center	270.00
Christian Neighbors	342.00
The Luke Society	376.00
International Campus Ministry	307.00
Total	\$21,902.12

General Fund—behind 37%
Ministry Shares—behind 38%

Offering Schedule for November

November 3: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Reach the Forgotten
November 10: AM—GEMS—EMCRC; PM—GEMS—Denomination
November 17: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Heritage Christian School
November 24: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—Martin Area Resource Center
November 28: Thanksgiving—(envelopes)
Any monies not designated will be used for the General Fund

Easy Pumpkin Bread with Crumb Topping

Ingredients:

Pumpkin Bread
3 1/3 cups flour
1 1/2 tsp salt
2 tsp baking soda



1 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
1/4 tsp ground cloves
1/4 tsp allspice
1/4 tsp ginger
2 cups granulated sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 cup canola (or vegetable) oil
4 eggs, large
1 15 oz pumpkin puree (not pumpkin pie filling)
2/3 cup water
1 tsp vanilla extract

Crumb Topping
1/2 cup butter, cold and cubed
1/2 cup brown sugar
3/4 cup flour
1 tsp ground cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350 degrees and grease two 8x4 bread pans (parchment paper in the bottom and grease with baking spray works well).

In a large bowl, mix together flour, salt, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, allspice and ginger.

Add in granulated and brown sugar, mix until combined.

Make a well in the center and add in the oil. Mix just until the oil is combined (the mix will be dry).

Add in the eggs, 2 at a time, mixing after each addition (again, the mixture will be dry).

Add in the pumpkin puree, water and vanilla extract, mixing until well combined.

Divide the batter between the two pans. Set aside.

In a separate bowl, mix flour, brown sugar and cinnamon together. Cut in the butter with a fork or pastry cutter and mix until it resembles course crumbs.

Sprinkle the crumb topping evenly over both pans.

Bake for 55-65 minutes or until cake tester comes out clean. (Tent a piece of foil over the top of the bread if the top is getting done faster than the center).

Allow to cool for 10 minutes before removing loaves from the pans, placing them on a wire rack to finish cooling.

Slice and serve.