

August Niekerk News 2025

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Interim Pastor

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Youth Director

Trisha Texer

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Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

8:00am—2:00pm

Phone: 616-396-4388

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Worship Coordinator

Carol Hochhalter

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

9:00am—noon

Phone: 616-396-4388

Email: worshipleader@niekerkcrc.org

Prayer Line Maintained by:

Brian Bosch

Newsletter DEADLine

For the
September Niekerk News is:
August 24, 2025

Gifts for Visitors

Just a reminder, there are gift
bags and folders that can be
handed to our visitors



***Phonebooks can be
found by the
Information Center
magazine rack.***



a letter from the pastor

God's Investment In Us *Based on 2 Timothy 1:1-9*

When we're investors, we are interested. We want what we've invested in to grow, develop and mature. The more we invest, the more concerned we are for that positive development and the more uneasy we become when things do not grow the way we had hoped.

God has blessed us. He's invested a great deal in our lives. Like Timothy, we have been given much and God is at work by the Holy Spirit continuing to give us all we need to be effective disciples of Jesus in this world. God has blessed Niekerk and as we near the beginning of a new chapter of ministry, it's good to pause and thank the Lord for His great blessing and good work.

A Spiritual Heritage

Here, Paul shared something of his own spiritual heritage and then reminded Timothy of his. *"I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."* (1:5) Timothy was raised in a home of faith. *"...From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."* (3:5) Many have also had godly parents who pointed them to Jesus Christ by their words and conduct. If that is your heritage, be thankful. Others have not known the blessing of a Christian home. However, when we come to faith and join with a fellowship of Christians, we share in the spiritual heritage of that congregation. We all need to realize that our spiritual heritage began long before we were born. In 2026 Niekerk Church will have served the Lord for 160 years. However long you've been a part of Niekerk, this congregation's spiritual heritage has been given to you as a blessing from the Lord.

Discipling Relationships

The second thing that Paul reminded Timothy about was their friendship. He referred to Timothy as his beloved son (verse 2) Paul's ministry was most likely used to bring Timothy to faith. He surely had become a mentor to Timothy. Think back. Who helped you grow in your walk with God? As you thank the Lord for those who influenced you, know that Niekerk Church is to be a place filled with such discipling relationships. Find someone to pray with. Share what God is teaching you through his Word. Encourage each other to use the gifts God has given.

Spiritual Gifts

The special gift that Paul mentioned was given to Timothy during a time of prayer and the laying on of hands. Timothy was reminded to stir that gift into flame. In other words, put it to use, exercise it! Such blazing gifts will not illumine individuals but always reflect the power of God working in His people's lives. God invested spiritual gifts in your life. They are given for a purpose—to be used in the fellowship.

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit puts within us this spirit: *"of power, of love and of self-discipline."* (2 Tim. 1:7) The Holy Spirit takes these character traits of Jesus and grows them in us:

POWER: Such power will enable us not to be ashamed of Christ, his people nor of the message we to share.

LOVE: Paul's heart for Timothy is seen in his prayers for Timothy. Compassion leads the child of God to pray for and to bear with one another in love.

SELF-DISCIPLINE: In this world, our desires and passions are so quickly prone to rule. As we keep in step with the Spirit of God, we will be released from fear, strengthened in power, enabled to love and taught to govern the one area we've primarily been given to govern—ourselves.

What an investment God has made in our lives! He's given us a spiritual heritage. We have been given discipling relationships. He's gifted Niekerk with every spiritual gift necessary to minister effectively with the good news of Jesus. And we have the Holy Spirit's presence of power, love and self-discipline.

Total Budgeted YTD Receipts	\$	333,511.50
Total Actual YTD Receipts	\$	257,067.98
Over(Under) Budget	\$	(76,443.52)

June 30, 2025

GENERAL FUND:	BALANCE
2025 Beginning Balance	\$487,979.33
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$47,218.92
This Month Envelopes Receipts	\$40,488.58
Year to Date Budget Envelopes	\$209,602.38
Over Budget Receipts	\$0.00
Interest	\$12,559.93
Facilities Rental Income	\$50.00
Total Receipts	\$222,212.31
This Month Disbursements	\$35,081.35
Year to Date Disbursements	\$260,187.32
Fund Balance	\$450,004.32

EVANGELISM FUND:	BALANCE
2025 Beginning Balance	\$10,243.33
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$4,125.00
YTD Receipts from Envelopes	\$18,115.87
YTD Over Budget Receipts	\$0.00
YTD Total Receipts	\$18,115.87
YTD Disbursements	\$23,792.60
Allocated Not Paid	\$0.00
Fund Balance	\$4,566.60

BUILDING RENOVATIONS FUND	BALANCE
2025 Beginning Balance	\$87,966.15
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$3,750.00
YTD Envelope Receipts	\$16,739.80
YTD Over Budget Receipts	\$0.00
YTD Total Receipts	\$16,739.80
YTD Disbursements	\$5.70
Fund Balance	\$104,700.25

SPECIAL FUND:	BALANCE
2025 Beginning Balance	0.00
This Month Special Fund	6,832.50
Year To Date Special Fund	46,213.51
This Month Disbursements	7,332.50
Year To Date Disbursements	43,713.51
Fund Balance	2,500.00

MISCELLANEOUS FUND:	BALANCE
2025 Beginning Balance	\$ 46,334.39
Current Fund Balances:	
Niekerk Tuition Fund	11,178.76
Hockey Rock	4,040.33
Niekerk Christian Ed Fund	11,350.06
Hand 2 Hand Ministries	12,839.87
Community Impact	3,532.44
Health Pantry	1.85
Family Mission Trip Fund	5,555.00
Fund Balance	\$ 48,498.31

Cash Balances		
Beginning Balance as of 1/1/2025	\$	632,923.20
Ending Balance as of 06/30/25	\$	610,269.48

CHURCH BUDGET	ACTUAL DOLLARS	BUDGETED DOLLARS	INCOME VARIANCE
Receipts	257,067.98	333,511.50	(76,443.52)
Disbursements	283,985.62	333,511.50	49,525.88
Allocated Not Paid	0.00		
Spendable Income	(26,917.64)		(26,917.64)

August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Happy Birthday					1 Linda Timmer	2 Jim Hondred Kim Walters Amy Staal Ron Timmer Scott Edewaard
3	4	5 Jacob Staal	6	7 Willemijn deBlois	8 Nancy Windemuller Ethan Schierbeek	9 Ida Janssen Lin Plaggemars
10 Steve Riemersma	11	12 Carl Helder Carolyn Jacobsen	13 Virginia Alofs Ruby Hondred	14	15 Magda Kos Declan Russcher	16 Jim Lampen
17	18	19 Ed Helder	20 Jessica Schutter	21 Tessa Van Dyke	22	23 Jerene Janssen
24	25	26 Dean Koopman	27 Emma Texer Jack Kryger	28 Gay Tucker	29	30
31						



NURSERY SCHEDULE

August

- 8-3 AM** Melanie Russcher
Jenn Schierbeek
PM Kris Roelofs
Deb Slenk
- 8-10 AM** Laura Vander Zwaag
Margaret Timmer
PM Trisha Texer
Lindsey Haan
- 8-17 AM** Sandy Van Dyke
Lisa Kragt
PM Char Janssen
Sue Hoekstra
- 8-24 AM** Pat Texer
Abby Helder
PM Melinda Kryger
Renee & Emma Texer
- 8-31 AM** Linda Timmer
Kathi Petroelje
PM Kathie Helder
Dawn Folkert

September

- 9-7 AM** Dana Hondred
Sara Heeres
PM Kaylin Van Dyke
Jenn Schierbeek
- 9-14 AM** Jessica Schutter
Deb Slenk
PM Kris Roelofs
Sandy Van Dyke
- 9-21 AM** Laura Vander Zwaag
Lindsey Haan
PM Abby Helder
Char Janssen
- 9-28 AM** Margaret Timmer
Sue Hoekstra
PM Trisha Texer
Lisa Kragt



CHURCH SECURITY

August

August 3 Steve Kragt

August 10 John Timmer

August 17 Henry Bosch

August 24 Ric Lucas

August 31 Mike Schutter

****Remember to find your own replacement if you are unable to volunteer. Contact Jon Boeve with any concerns.**



Nursery Volunteers: Remember to find your own replacement if you are unable to volunteer. Contact Kaylin Van Dyke with any concerns.

August Thank You Notes

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and visits during my time in the hospital! My favorite verse is Psalm 46, "A caring and loving church is a wonderful thing."

Carol Smith

My heartfelt thanks for the many birthday greetings by cards or by spoken words. What a blessing to be part of the Niekerk family! All thanks are to God for his loving care to me for 93 years!

Stan Brandsen

Thanks to everyone for the calls, beautiful cards and "Happy Birthday" for our birthdays. We would like to thank the Niekerk family for the cards of sympathy, and prayers in the passing of our brother George. God is so Good!

Gary & Joyce Morren

I would like to thank the congregation for the cards, calls, and birthday wishes I received for my birthday. I thank God for blessing me with 86 years.

Ron Kapenga

Thank you for welcoming Nate and for being so supportive of Kendra and Nate in their new relationship. Thank you for the cards, well wishes and celebrating with us at the ceremony. Thank you most of all for your prayers over the new marriage.

The Koopman's and Van Harn's

We would like to thank Niekerk for all the cards, prayers and support in the passing of our brother-in-law, Brian Busscher.

Tom & Carol Hochhalter

To our friends at Niekerk CRC,

Thank you so much for your on-going support and partnership. We are so grateful. Because of partners like you, we were able to keep and/or place over 100 families in homes last year. Together we are bringing the Kingdom of God to our community!

With Gratitude,
Terri Coldwell
Director City on a Hill

Dear Niekerk family,

Thank you so much for your generous gift! We're so grateful for your partnership in mission through your prayers, generosity, and encouragement.

We've settled in well here in London—the summer has been hot, though! and we look forward to sharing some ministry news in our coming newsletter. We pray for everyone at Niekerk.

Blessings,
Matt Slack

August & September DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

August 4 Council Meeting
 August 6 Worship Team Meeting
 August 9 Heights of Hope 5k
 August 11 Shepherding Team Meeting
 August 13 Senior (65+) Singles
 August 17 Outdoor Service
 August 29 Monthly Prayer Meeting
 September 8 Council Meeting
 September 10 Senior (65+) Singles
 September 17 Wednesday Night at Niekerk
 September 25 Monthly Prayer Meeting

INDOOR WALKING!

Mondays and Thursdays
9:00am to 11:30am

The church will be open for those who need to get out, get moving, and stretch their legs. Whether you're an Olympic speed walker or a casual slow walker, all are welcome to come out, bring their kids, invite a friend, and start walking laps here at Niekerk.



CONTACTS

New Address

Zeb & Kristi Driscoll
3116 52nd St
Hamilton, MI 49419

New Address

Nate & Kendra Van Harn
8020 Green Meadow Ct #11
Jenison, MI 49428

Nyhof Cell Phone Numbers

Bob: 616-403-4542
Linda: 616-403-8679



**BRING
YOUR
CRAFTS**

Ladies Quilting & Craft Day

Ladies take your sewing, knitting, scrapbooking, stamping or any other activity and join other women for a craft day starting at 9 AM until 4 PM in En Gedi. No need to sign up; come when you can, and leave when you must.



**Shared
Meals**

The freezer has Chicken Alfredo Casserole, Chicken Lasagna, Beef Lasagna, Mexican Chicken Alfredo Casserole, Meatloaf & Cheesy hashbrowns, Mac-n-Cheese, Taco Bake, Chicken Bacon Ranch Casserole, Tater Tot Casserole and Chili. These meals are for members of our church with needs and for those outside our church that could use a helping hand.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – FALL 2025
Tuesday mornings from 9:30 am – 10:45 am
September 23, 30 – October 7, 14, 21 – November 4, 11

Abide ... an old English word meaning “remain” ... “stay steady” ... “keep your position. What does it mean “to abide in Christ” in John 14-17?

It means ... always to be resting in Him.

It means ... always to be anchored to Him.

It means ... always to be fixed in Him and drawing to Him.

It means ... continually connected to Him and in touch with Him.

Abiding in Him brings peace and joy and love.

Abiding in Him brings answers to prayer.

Abiding in Him brings fruitfulness to service.

Come join us this Fall 2025 as we study the following book “**Abiding in Christ**” by J. I Packer and Carolyn Nystrom.

This is for **women of all ages** – single, married, widowed – young or young at heart. **Bring along a friend!**

The cost of the book is covered by the Niekerk Council.

The signup sheet and a copy of the book are at the Information Center.

If you have questions, please call or email Char Janssen.

Char Janssen

Phone 616-772-6537 (landline)

Cell phone 616-210-2251

Email johncharjanssen@yahoo.com



From Lou Wagenveld

Greetings, Niekerk supporters:

July 2025

I want to update you on some considerable developments as pertains to both my involvements with the El Salvador Christian Reformed Churches (ICRES) and the new relationship of the latter with Resonate-related *Seeds of New Creation Office* (*Semillas*) in San Salvador. Nearly two years in reformulation, these are significant changes that I'm very pleased with.

You recall that having served in ES the last five years of last century, I maintained ties with the *ICRES* which developed into the Word and Deed support project from 2009 on, consisting of mutually agreed upon objectives in four dimensions: Evangelism, Discipleship, Diaconal, and Development. Donations were in the range of \$8,000 per year, which were channeled to the Association for Reformed Ministries Abroad (ARMA), and then sent by me to the *ICRES*. That support was much appreciated and much ministry was carried out; but things change and new relationships needed to be put in place.

Coupled with my turning eighty-five, and having made my last yearly trip there in 2024, it was past time to reconsider all the dimensions of this model of ministry. In conversations sustained over the last couple of years, an agreement was reached between the *ICRES* and *Semillas* last year. The model of ministry would become more local/indigenous. A hopeful benefit of this is also to put the *ICRES* more closely in touch with the CRCNA via Resonate.

The funding source will remain the same, but that support will be channeled/distributed now through *Semillas*. There now is also in place an agreement between ARMA and *Semillas* for the channeling of funds. The 2025-2026 grant was recently sent, in the amount of \$8,200. Most of that will go toward a new church plant near *Huizucar*, a settlement called *Maria Victoria*. The *Santa Tecla* church is helping.

If you have questions or would like clarifications on any of this, I'm usually around after the evening service and would be only too pleased to talk with you. Or call me at The Farmstead for a coffee chat at (616) 392-9079.

Fraternally in kingdom service,
Lou Wagenveld

COMMUNITY IMPACT/CARE PORTAL UPDATE

A quick glance at what we've done the last few months.

COMMUNITY IMPACT-

In April we held the Family Resurrection Breakfast on the Saturday before Easter. We enjoyed meeting people from our community and our church families.

At Holland Heights, on June 3, we passed out ice cream bars to students and provided a luncheon of bagels & fruit as appreciation to the staff. Thank you to the Niekerk members who came to help, the kids really enjoyed the end of school treat!

In August we'll meet to continue planning for the Great Pumpkin Party, on Thursday, October 16.

CARE PORTAL & SIMPLY LOVED-

There are many varying needs in Care Portal, and as was mentioned previously, these are needs that arise to help children in crisis situations in our community.

In the last year we've donated items such as; car seats, clothing, twin bed frames & mattresses, bedding, table chairs, gift cards for food & gas – just to name some.

We've given a couple of cribs and some infant items, but the need for these seems low. The infant items that were donated for Simply Loved have been given to Positive Options and People Helping People. We wanted them to be used instead of keeping them in storage.

August

Lost
&
Found



Green Boogie Board
Pink water bottle with stickers
Miscellaneous jewelry & buttons

*** Items can be picked up in the
office under the elder and
deacon mailboxes***



We share **GIFT CARDS**
with your church!



Corners Of Your Field is a partnership between your church and our ministry. We return a portion of the value of your donation as gift cards to your church to be used with those directly in your care.



Now you can sync our church directory directly to your Apple, Android or Kindle Fire device with a FREE app!

ITS EASY!

1. Go to your device's app store.
2. Search for Instant Church Directory.
3. Enter your email as it's listed in Niekerk's directory.
4. Make a password.

NEW: If a family would like to use one email address and one password. Contact Julie Mulder.

****Contact Julie Mulder for assistance****

**How
may I
help
you?**

Contact Julie Mulder at secretary@niekerkcrc.org or 616-396-4388 if you would like to be:

1. Added to the prayer email
2. Added to the info@niekerkcrc.org email
3. If you would like a CD or DVD of the morning or evening service
4. If you would like the bulletin mailed to you
5. If you would like the newsletter mailed to you
6. If you would like the newsletter in your church mailbox

prolife update

July 17, 2025

I want you to meet Roger Foley. Roger lived in Toronto and served as a manager at the Royal Bank of Canada. Sadly, Roger suffers from spinocerebellar ataxia. The progressive damage to his brain slowly robbed him of his ability to move.

Unable to continue working, Roger resigned in 2009 and had to rely on the Canadian healthcare system. If you had asked the average person, they may have thought Roger was in good hands: free healthcare for everyone! But, as you can probably guess, they were dead wrong... **Socialized medicine robs people of care when they need it most. Worse yet, physician-assisted suicide is legal in Canada**, meaning someone like Roger is at heightened risk of being killed by the very healthcare professionals who are supposed to help him.

At first, Roger relied on in-home healthcare to assist him. What was meant to be a way for patients to stay in the comfort of their own homes slowly became a living nightmare. As just one example, Roger—who cannot walk—was left taking a bath unsupervised while his healthcare assistant passed out on his couch. Waiting, **he was forced to crawl out of the bathroom, naked, to get help**. The indignity of that is heartbreaking. Imagine this is one of your loved ones. And what about the danger?

Fearing for his life due to the lack of care, Roger entered a hospital in 2016. He hasn't gone home since.

At the center of the dispute is his refusal to go back home and be assigned to the same home healthcare workers who nearly killed him. **All he wants is the ability to pick who cares for him at home—to feel safe, to be cared for.** But that's not how the hospital sees it. With the value of human life chipped away by a healthcare system that considers assisted suicide “care,” they offered him three options:

1. Leave the hospital and receive even fewer hours of home healthcare.
2. Stay in the hospital and be charged as much as \$1,500 a day.
3. Or a doctor or nurse practitioner can end his life.

In Canada, **they call killing patients MAID: “medical aid in dying.”** MAID sounds like a wonderful, luxury service, doesn't it? The pro-death groups are skilled at euphemisms.

Roger's hope slowly diminished. The terrible indignities he endured left him feeling that choosing the manner of his death was the only dignity left to him. So, Roger said, **“Yes. Please kill me.”**

Thankfully, he had an angel on his shoulder, in the form of a kind social worker. She cared enough to help Roger address his suicidal depression. **Today, Roger lives.** And though his disease has robbed him of his ability to walk, he still has fight in him!

(over)

Have stories like this rallied Canadians to fix gross injustices? Sadly, no. Many are fighting alongside Roger, but to many Canadians, Roger is just a “bed-blocker,” needlessly taking up healthcare and hospital space. How tragic that healthcare is being twisted into killing instead of caring for the patient.

What happens in Canada will not stay in Canada. Here in the U.S., physician-assisted suicide is already legal in 11 states, plus the District of Columbia. If we don’t have the sense of urgency to stop physician-assisted suicide in its tracks, it can happen in Michigan.

The largest organization pushing physician-assisted suicide in America is “Compassion & Choices.” They talk a great game about respecting the dignity of every person, but, to them, Roger and people like him are simply a strain on society... an unnecessary bill to pay. **Michigan is at risk now, currently on Compassion & Choices’ target list!** They are quietly building in communities across the state and have engaged in the legislative process, hoping to legalize physician-assisted suicide, one way or another, here in Michigan.

They tried before, back in 1998, in the days of Jack Kevorkian. Remember him? I do, and he still makes me shudder. Right to Life of Michigan and a coalition of organizations led the effort to stop his friends’—Merian’s Friends—and his efforts to legalize physician-assisted suicide at the ballot box, and we succeeded.

It took a lot of work, but we were able to show exactly what would happen if people voted to allow doctor-prescribed suicide. People with disabilities, the sick, and the elderly would be targeted for death. **What begins as an “option” to die would quickly become a “duty” to die.** Thankfully, by Election Day, we won 71% to 29%. We didn’t just defeat their messaging; we crushed them and set them back a quarter century.

Today, they are clawing their way back. We must show up to stop them again! Here’s how you can show up for the thousands of people like Roger, right here in Michigan:

1. **Pray...** for the volunteers of Compassion & Choices. While some of them may be death-obsessed advocates like Kevorkian, most of them are just scared. Scared of death, aging, disability, and about how they could care for a family member. In the grip of fear, people make terrible decisions.
2. **Be a light...** to the disabled, the aged, and the dying. *“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” - Matthew 25:40.*
3. **Give generously... to our educational efforts.** We saw how powerful our efforts were in 1998, but that was decades ago. We’ve since expanded our coalition of support, continued to study the issue, and updated our messaging. But **the greatest message in the world is useless if people don’t hear it!**

We must do all we can to protect Michigan from the threat of assisted suicide. I thank God for the support you have given to protect patients’ rights in Michigan for decades, and I pray you will continue standing strong for those who cannot stand on their own!

With deepest appreciation,



Amber Roseboom
President
Right to Life of Michigan



LIFE. The Other Choice!

Questions and Answers from a former Planned Parenthood (PP) director, Mayra Rodriguez. She grew up in Mexico City, but attended HS in the U.S. She was recruited by PP because she spoke Spanish. Mayra finally left and is now working with Abby Johnson's ministry, And Then There Were None.

- ♦ **What made the prospect of working at PP seem so attractive?** I didn't not know much about abortion or PP, just that they "helped people with birth control and reproductive challenges". They wanted me to go into the Hispanic community and I thought they were helping my people...and women. What's not to like about that? It started as a 9-5 job, with weekends and holidays off. I was starting a family of my own, and thought this was great. The America Dream - for a Mexican. From the beginning, I was asked about abortion and my answer was always, "I'll never have one. But if someone else does, that's her problem. It's her body and her choice." I thought this for many years. I didn't want to be involved in the actual abortions and avoided the treatment rooms. I would go and help at the front desk, help do lab work, but I avoided anything to do with abortion until I became a director.
- ♦ **Did PP's use of federal Title X funding change your perception on the company?** It was impossible to separate Title X funding at the same location where you do abortions. There were all these schemes they were doing to get around the rules. Their excuse was "the abortions are done on Fridays, and the Title X is Monday-Thursday." They'd take calls M-T from abortion patients. Women who had issues with their abortion drugs would walk in, which means you are using the facility for abortion patients. You're using the practitioners from Title X to answer questions from abortion patients, taking after hours and emergency calls at night. Then they would say, "we are transitioning her to be a Title X patient." I would complain and this was my first time bumping heads with a supervisor.
- ♦ **Did you have other concerns?** I started noticing when I took over the facility that the number of abortion complications that didn't get reported. As a center director, I was responsible for reporting those. Then they changed it to the doctor doing the report and I questioned "how is that possible? He is the one who did the complication". I never got to see the report to the Health Department and when I would he ask, he told not to worry about it. Perforated uteruses were happening almost daily. We had patients showing up in the ER with baby pieces still inside them. I was trained to say "tell them it's as miscarriage. You don't have to tell them it's an abortion". I remember the phone calls from young girls crying (after taking our abortion drugs), in excruciating pain., "You never told me it would hurt this much. I'm bleeding so much! I'm dying!" I was trained to simply say, "Take it easy for the next three days." Honestly, I was not told that's how it goes. You don't know until you're inside the abortion facility, seeing it. I sent a message to my supervisor, saying "This has to stop. You do something, or I will. I will go to the health department, I will go to the medical board, but this has to stop." **THEY FIRED ME!**

Will be continued next month.

SAVE THE DATE!

Focus on Life annual fundraising dinner will be held on Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at The Pinnacle Center, Hudsonville.

Guest speaker: Ellen Salter, she lives the prolife message in a powerful way. Her journey will touch your heart!



Ticket Cost - Checks or Cash ONLY:

\$60 Individual

with a 10% savings when buying a table

8 Top - \$432

9 Top - \$486

10 Top - \$540

Questions? Call Ann 616.396.1037 or email: awilson.rtl@gmail.com

"Life is the most basic human right, and without it, no other rights can be enjoyed or protected."

~ Unknown ~

Important Dates and INFORMATION

- ◆ Hudsonville Fair - August 18-23 - Volunteers needed to staff our booth.
- ◆ Precious Baby Contest - August 18-23 voting done at the Hudsonville Fair, Right to Life of Holland booth only.
- ◆ Annual Fundraising Dinner - October 21st at The Pinnacle; guest speaker: Ellen Slater.

Life. The Other Choice.

Choices characterize who we are and what we will become. They are rooted in hopes and fears and invite us to strive for the best in ourselves, often against great odds.

Get connected with people in your community.

Join or start a student or young adult group.

Get the facts about abortion for someone you know and practical options that exist.

Volunteer or just learn more

Pregnant? Want Help?

Call or Text 1.800.712.HELP

To visit our website directly: Use your cellphone camera, center on the QR code below (should see a yellow square) and press OPEN on your camera screen

Find out information on our events and other prolife information, download flyers or registration forms and you can make donations directly to us by using PayPal.



Matt, Emily & Juniper SLACK

LEADING TURKS TO CHRIST

One day, Emily, Juniper, and I were on a walk on the college campus where we live.

We met one of our neighbors, Hilary, who happens to lead an English language group at her local church. Sometimes her language students go on to participate in a Bible study in order to further their English skills. This year it was the **Al Massira** course.

Al Massira ("the Journey" in Arabic) is a Bible study geared towards Muslim-background people.

Hilary had been hoping and praying for someone to join the team, and we had been hoping and praying for the same opportunity.

When we met, she lit up: "You're that American family who were in Turkey, aren't you? We need your help!"

The students attending Al Massira are all *Turkish*. They were learning a lot about Christianity, but no church leaders in the group had any familiarity with Turkish culture, language, or Islamic beliefs. This made it difficult for the leaders to fully understand and address their concerns, questions, and comments.

Joining the group, Emily and I were able to connect with the Turks on a more personal level because of our shared appreciation for their country, background, and language. One example of this happened in our last meeting.

We were discussing the concept of faith itself. Turkish vocabulary for faith is generally an intellectual belief in God. This is how it is in Islam. However, Turkish *Christians* use a different word that better captures the **personal, trusting faith** we have in Jesus. Sharing this was just one way I was able to make their understanding of the gospel clearer, deeper, and more fluent in their lives.

H & E, we'll call them, are a husband and wife attending Al Massira. Emily and I have really connected with them. They're the same age as us, live nearby, and have a daughter the same age as Juniper. We're excited to develop a friendship with their family. Please pray for H & E.

Apart from H & E, I've also been meeting one-on-one with two other Turkish men (one a devout Muslim, the other a Christian who has no Christian friends). Please pray for them, as well.

LOTS TO LEARN AND MANY TO MEET

We've been visiting many local churches. This helps us get a lay of the land, observe ministry gaps, and pursue partnerships for outreach. So far, we've seen lots of promise in the area, including English language courses, Bible studies, and existing (and potential) church plants.

One big need we've seen is for a *men's* English language class. This is something I'm exploring at the moment as a potential evangelism opportunity. Please pray for God's will and guidance.



Emily and I have attended several conferences and trainings across London in the last couple of months, and I recently concluded some masters level courses on Islamic theology. This has helped me make better connections and ask better questions on a deeper level with Muslims.

We spent a weekend with an American couple who shared their curriculum on teaching English to Muslims as ministry.

We also hosted our good friend Fig who visited on behalf of one of our supporting churches. We gave him a taste of London *and* Turkey (literally: British fish and chips one day, a Turkish restaurant the next!).

This year, we celebrated the 4th of July—on British soil!—with some students and their families at the college. Turns out, hot dogs and baked beans are crucial for our countries' diplomatic ties!

TONS OF THANKS

Lastly, we're excited to thank you for helping us reach **EXCEED** our fundraising goal for last year (2024-2025)!

In the midst of so much financial hardship across churches and within our own families, God has also been faithful to ensure His mission continue and that His good news is heard in places that desperately need it.

We're so blessed and affirmed by your generosity, prayers, and encouragement in this year of big transitions and unexpected challenges. God has been faithful and kind to us, and we pray the same for you this summer.

Love, Matt, Emily, and Juniper

PRAY

1. Pray that our new Turkish friends can come to know Jesus.
2. Pray for good partnerships with local churches and ministry leaders
3. Pray for our family's continued health and stability
4. Praise God for His provision!

SUPPORT THE SLACKS

Our greatest need is consistent individual/family partners.

If you give online, select "Missionaries-Europe**," then under "Choose a Missionary" select "**Slack, Matthew**." This will ensure your gift goes to the right place.*

By Credit Card? Call Resonate: **877-272-6205 (USA)** and **800-730-3490 (CAN)**

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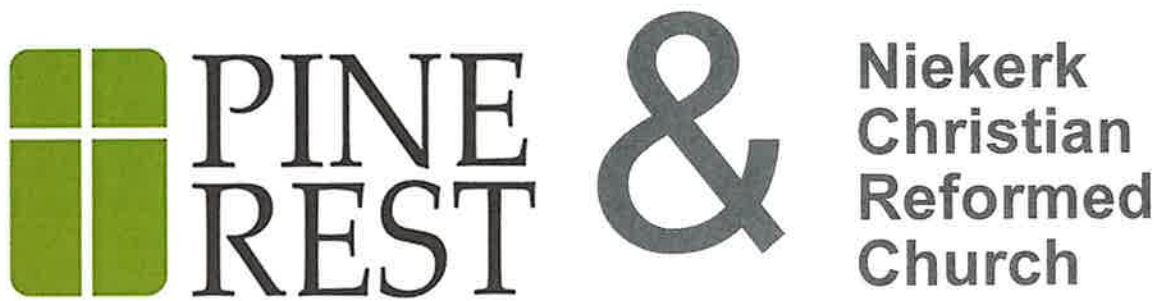




**NIEKERK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
WEATHER POLICY and PROCESS
Updated 3-13-20**

1. Whenever the National Weather Service issues a tornado **warning** for Ottawa County which extends past one hour before the stated beginning time of any scheduled church activity, that activity is cancelled.
2. Whenever the National Weather Service issues a tornado **watch** or any kind of severe thunderstorm alert for Ottawa County which extends past one hour before the stated beginning time of any scheduled church activity the executive committee* shall determine whether or not that activity is cancelled.
3. The Executive Committee shall decide whether or not congregation-wide meetings and functions (*e.g. Worship Services, Congregational meetings, and the like*) shall be cancelled in situations of severe weather which have not produced National Weather Service alerts (*e.g. heavy snow; fog; ice; and the like.*)
4. Each group's leadership shall decide whether or not to cancel, postpone, and/or reschedule the activities and/or functions of their own groups. (*e.g. Youth Group, Cadets; GEMS; Summer Bible Club; Hockey Rock, etc.*)
5. Cancellation notices will be posted on the websites of local TV station: WOOD TV CHANNEL 8; WZZM CHANNEL 13; WWMT CHANNEL 3. A Prayer Line email and text message may also be sent.
6. Rescheduling of any church related function or event shall be arranged, if reasonably possible, so the postponed meeting or event is not rescheduled to conflict with already scheduled events.

*For purposes of this policy, the Executive Committee will be deemed to include the preaching pastor, President and Clerk of Council when determining the cancellation of a worship service.



The Church Assistance Program
Toll-Free: 1-800-442-0809
or in Grand Rapids: 616-455-6210



Pine Rest and Niekerk Christian Reformed Church collaborate together in the Church Assistance Program.

Facts about the program:

- Church members and their families can call the Assistance Center for confidential help with personal problems.
- Call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Callers can choose to remain anonymous during the initial contact.
- Trained counselors listen and give advice or make referral to person or agency best able to help.
- All kinds of problems and concerns (financial, marital, work-related, alcohol, drugs, and so forth) are appropriate for the hotline.
- Up to three pre-treatment and assessment interviews can be arranged at no cost for problems requiring further assistance.
- Callers names are kept confidential by the Assistance Center and will not be shared without written permission.



Niekerk Ministry Teams

Updated 5-7-25

<u>Council Committee</u>	<u>Chair/Contact Person</u>	<u>Team Members</u>
Community Impact Team		
Building Men for Life	Cheryl Bosch,	Deb Slenk, Joe Texer*, Marv Venema, Brenda Van Dyke, Sarah Walters
Growing Hope Globally	Dave Walters	
Hand2Hand Ministries	Carl Helder	Lisa Wedeven, Trisha Texer
Heights of Hope Rep's	Sara Heeres	
Hockey Rock	MJ Staal	Sara Heeres, Phil Helder, Steve Kragt, Jen Leenstra, Margaret Timmer
Health Pantry	Kim Walters	
	Loren Haan	
Congregational Life Team	Ken Schierbeek*	
Fellowship Team	Jan Hop &	Curt & Marcy Brower, Abby Helder, Sue Hoekstra, Mark Hop, Bob Steenwyk
	Jane Steenwyk	
Wednesday Night at Niekerk	Carl Helder	Carol Keen, Bev Leegwater, Ken & Joyce Schierbeek, Bryan & Kaylin Van Dyke
Community Groups	MJ Staal/Jamie Hop	Jim Hondred, Vern Hoeksema, Greg Leenstra
Greeters/Welcome Assistant	Linda Nyhof	
Pine Rest Counseling	Carl Helder	
Newsletter Editor	Julie Mulder	
Discipleship Team	Trisha Texer	Brian Bosch, Stephanie Edewaard, Kurt Riggerink, Linda Timmer, Kaylin Van Dyke
Catechism Teachers	Kurt Riggerink*	Scott Helder (4 th -5 th), Char Janssen (6 th -7 th) Carl Helder (8 th)
Childcare/Nursery	Kaylin Van Dyke	Lindsey Haan, Renee Texer
Education Team		
Library	Marilyn Russcher	Rita Helder, Jane Steenwyk, Linda Timmer, Sandy Van Dyke
Little Lambs	Kim Walters	
Sunday Night Bible Study		Elmer & Leona Nyhof, Gary & Marilyn Russcher
Sunday School Superintendent	Kaylin Van Dyke	Abby Helder & Trisha Texer
Cadets	Jim Means	Henry Bosch, Terry Bosch, Mike Roelofs, Wayne Tjarks
GEMS		Carol Hochhalter, Kaylin Van Dyke, Kristi Driscoll, & Nancy Means
Youth Director	Trisha Texer	
Middle School Youth Group	Trisha Texer	Melissa Dozeman, Scott & Stephanie Edewaard, Joe Texer
Youth Group	Trisha Texer	Melissa Dozeman, Scott & Stephanie Edewaard, Joe Texer
Young Adults		

Finance Team Financial/Member Secretary <i>General Fund Treasurer</i>	Bryan VanDyke* Kathi Petroelje Mike Dozeman	Mike Dozeman, Ivan Janssen, Brent Kapenga, Larry Van Dyke
Missions Team Missionary Financial Support Growing Hope Globally	Bryan Van Dyke* Carl Helder	Dave Helder, Bev Leep, Joe Texer, Wayne Tjarks
Prayer Team Oversee Prayer Activities Worship Coordinator	Dave Helder Carol Hochhalter	Char Janssen, Gary Morren, Nancy Windemuller
Support Team Administrative Assistant Building Supervisors Custodian Donations Emergency Response Historian Kitchen Media Team Safe Church Abuse Prevention Physical Safety (Security)	-Jon Boeve* Julie Mulder Ric & Karen Lucas Karen Koopman Cheryl Bosch Judy Stoel Jane Steenwyk/ Jan Hop Joe Texer Jamie Hop Jon Boeve	Ric Lucas, Jane Steenwyk, Mike Venema, Joe Texer Jack Koeman, Bev Leegwater, & Karen Lucas Jon Boeve, Jessica Bosch, Jamie Hop, & Brenda Van Dyke Joyce Dalman, Elaine Helder, Verna Jansen, Char Janssen, Karen Lucas, & Linda Timmer Julie Mulder Jim Means, Ric Lucas
Worship Team Banner Changes Flower/Decorations Greeter Coordinator Nursery Visual Arts Power Point Sound Booth	Carol Hochhalter* Donna Lampen Linda Nyhof Kaylin Van Dyke Daryl Van Dyke Daryl Van Dyke	Jamie Hop, Jen Leep, Dan Petroelje, MJ Staal Bonnie Nagelkirk, Jane Steenwyk Melanie Russcher, Renee Texer, Lindsey Haan Melissa Dozeman, Teri Hoogewind, Jan Hop, Tim Leep, Bryan Van Dyke Jim Hondred, Jamie Hop, Jacob Staal, Mary Jo Staal, Joe Texer

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