

*Joy to the World!*



December Niekerk News 2025

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**Worship Coordinator**

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**Prayer Line Maintained by:**

Brian Bosch

# NewsLetter DEADLine

For the  
**January Niekerk News is:**  
**December 21, 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

## Advent 2025

The Christmas season is upon us! In the business of the coming weeks, it will be good to take time out to consider together this wonderful truth: *The Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world* (1 John 4:14). The Father sent Jesus to save us. He brought hope, peace, joy and love to the world.

The Father sent Jesus on a mission. Each Sunday we'll be studying Old Testament prophecies concerning Jesus the Messiah's ministry and we'll seek to apply these advent themes to our own mission. Jesus sent us to fulfill a mission that is like His. Jesus said, "*As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.*" (John 20:21) Jesus' ministry from the Father was a mission of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Now, based on The Great Commission, our mission is also to be marked by these:

November 30	A Mission of Hope	<i>Isaiah 42:1-9; Romans 15:12-13</i>
December 7	A Mission of Peace	<i>Isaiah 57:14-21; Romans 5:1-11</i>
December 14	A Mission of Joy	<i>Isaiah 35; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18</i>
December 21	A Mission of Love	<i>Zephaniah 3:14-20; 1 John 4:7-12</i>

Let's pray for each other as we live into these coming weeks. Pray that we will grow to know and love Jesus better. And pray that, with increasing measure, our life and ministry will be filled with the Hope that Jesus gives; the peace He wants us to know; A joy deep inside and open hearts filled with His love.

Pastor John Nyitray

Lost  
&  
Found



**December**

Miscellaneous jewelry & buttons  
*Make Your Mark Gallery*  
coloring book

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

October 31, 2025

Total Budgeted YTD Receipts	\$ 555,852.50
Total Actual YTD Receipts	\$ 478,667.55
<b>Over(Under) Budget</b>	\$ (77,184.95)

GENERAL FUND:	BALANCE
2025 Beginning Balance	\$487,979.33
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$47,218.92
This Month Envelopes Receipts	\$54,883.78
Year to Date Budget Envelopes	\$397,246.02
Over Budget Receipts	\$0.00
Interest	\$12,763.34
Facilities Rental Income	\$50.00
Total Receipts	\$410,059.36
This Month Disbursements	\$34,910.44
Year to Date Disbursements	\$430,177.85
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$467,860.84</b>

EVANGELISM FUND:	BALANCE
2025 Beginning Balance	\$10,243.33
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$4,125.00
YTD Receipts from Envelopes	\$34,742.81
YTD Over Budget Receipts	\$1,000.00
YTD Total Receipts	\$35,742.81
YTD Disbursements	\$35,077.20
Allocated Not Paid	\$4,500.00
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$6,408.94</b>

BUILDING RENOVATIONS FUND	BALANCE
2025 Beginning Balance	\$87,966.15
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$3,750.00
YTD Envelope Receipts	\$31,865.38
YTD Over Budget Receipts	\$1,000.00
YTD Total Receipts	\$32,865.38
YTD Disbursements	\$1,460.36
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$119,371.17</b>

SPECIAL FUND:	BALANCE
2025 Beginning Balance	0.00
This Month Special Fund	6,273.00
Year To Date Special Fund	83,257.73
This Month Disbursements	6,673.00
Year To Date Disbursements	82,457.73
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>800.00</b>

MISCELLANEOUS FUND:	BALANCE
2025 Beginning Balance	\$ 46,334.39
<b>Current Fund Balances:</b>	
Niekerk Tuition Fund	11,178.76
Hockey Rock	914.54
Niekerk Christian Ed Fund	25,624.92
Hand 2 Hand Ministries	11,816.49
Community Impact	1,299.22
Health Pantry	1,374.81
Family Mission Trip Fund	3,755.84
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 55,964.58</b>

<b>Cash Balances</b>	
Beginning Balance as of 1/1/2025	\$ 632,923.20
Ending Balance as of 10/31/25	\$ 654,905.53

CHURCH BUDGET	ACTUAL DOLLARS	BUDGETED DOLLARS	INCOME VARIANCE
Receipts	478,667.55	555,852.50	(77,184.95)
Disbursements	466,715.41	555,852.50	89,137.09
Allocated Not Paid	4,500.00		
Spendable Income	7,452.14		11,952.14

# NIEKERK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

## Council Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2025, at 7:30 PM

### Growing in Christ and Making Him Known

01. Devotions and Opening Prayer: Randy Hoogewind read from Romans 4 and opened with prayer.
02. Council Minutes of October 6, 2025. Approved as written.
03. Elders' & Admin Meeting Summary – Randy Hoogewind
  - a. Randy Hoogewind opened with devotions
  - b. Approved meeting minutes from October 6
  - c. Pastor John gave an Interim Pastor report
  - d. Community Impact is looking into more opportunities to impact our community
  - e. We officially have our kitchen license.
  - f. Pine Rest report
  - g. Worship Committee report. Asked to have a seminarian come and preach again
  - h. Elders will start visiting church programs (youth group, GEMS, & Cadets etc)
04. Search Team Update from Dave Helder. No new news from Chemistry. They are still looking into a few candidates and they have removed a few candidates due to lack of experience.
05. November 3 Deacons' Meeting Summary as provided by Bryan VanDyke.

The meeting was opened with devotions from Mark 10 and prayer by Joe Texer.

- a. Review of October 6 Deacons meeting minutes.

- b. Loose Offering Collections & Schedule:

October offerings confirmed:

October 5	Samaritans Purse	\$1,685
October 12	Forgotten Man Ministries	\$1,354
October 19	Heights of Hope	\$1,142
October 26	World Renew	\$1,167

- c. December Offerings Scheduled as Follows:

December 7	Benevolent Fund
December 14	Holland Deacons' Conference
December 21	Multiplication Network
December 25	Bravo CRC (Christmas Day)
December 28	Special Education of Holland

- d. October Benevolent Fund Balance: \$8,001.65
- How Many Disbursements 3
- What Amount? (6,900.01)
- How Many Deposits 2
- For What Amount 1,500.00
- October Ending Benevolent Fund Balance \$2,601.64

Benevolent Needs Discussed. Do we have any known benevolent needs inside of the congregation? Reviewed several needs for members that the Deacons have been assisting with or seeing if assistance would be helpful. Do we have any known benevolent needs outside of the congregation? No needs were discussed for members outside of Niekerk.

- e. Special Guest. Reinier Deblois shared about his involvement with Jerusalem Center for Bible Translation. The organization specializes in providing training and historical context for individuals that are actively working on translation efforts of the Old Testament. The present needs are related to funding scholarships for individuals that are unable to cover the full cost of the 4-month training session which is ~\$8k/student. At this time, the Deacons are looking for opportunities to inform/educate the congregation as it relates to this organization and their work and look to schedule some loose offerings in 2026 to provide financial support for this organization.
- f. Niekerk Family Mission Trip Fund. The 2026 Mission Trip is July 25-31. We will be working alongside First CRC of Grand Haven at ARO.
- g. Open Discussion, Correspondence and Other Items. Dale made the group aware that the Holland Deacons' Conference just received notice from Ottawa County Health Department that the funding they historically have received (\$250k) will not be continuing into the future. This will be a significant funding hit for the HDC and we will need to stay in communication with HDC in the coming months.
- h. Food Drive. Discussed an email recently received related to the concern of the government's SNAP funding being paused as the government is shut down and the desire to start collecting food resources for anticipated needs in the community. The Deacons will be seeking where food supplies collected could be best used in the community. We will be reaching out to the community impact group to see if they are aware of any organizations that have current/increased needs.

Closing Prayer by John Timmer

Next Meeting and Devotions will be Monday, December 1 – Bryan VanDyke

Meeting Adjourned

06. Pulpit Supply Schedule provided by Randy Hoogewind (\*Subject to Change)

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Morning Worship</u>	<u>Evening Worship</u>
November 9	John Nyitray	Cal Compagner
November 16	Dr. Paul Mindi	Tom Pettinga
November 23	John Nyitray	Duane Terpstra
November 27	John Nyitray <i>Thanksgiving Day &amp; Communion</i>	
November 30	John Nyitray	Tom Pettinga
December 7	John Nyitray	Cal Compagner
December 14	John Nyitray	Duane Terpstra
December 21	John Nyitray	Candlelight Hymn Sing
December 25	John Nyitray	
December 28	Jim Dykstra	Cal Compagner

Working on pulpit supply after February 8, 2026

07. Shepherding Team Minutes provided by Pastor John Nyitray.
  - a. Discussed a letter that will be sent to those who are no longer worshipping with us.
  - b. Brief discussion on the visitor's report.
08. Next Communion is December 7 and February 1 (Pastor Ren Broekhuizen)
09. Next meeting starts the Nomination process. We have 3 Elders and 3 deacons going out and 2 Elders and 2 Deacons coming in. This will make our total of 12 Council members.
  - a. Last month we confirmed our goal to be a total of 12 Council men. The decrease this year will be men from the Administrative Team. Will decide next year to do two more or all three.
  - b. Proposal to have the Admin Team work on restructuring of who is on what team(s) and the Shepherding team will divide the districts. This was seconded and approved to be discussed in the next Admin meeting.
10. There was a time of Mutual Censure

11. Next meeting: December 1, 2025, at 7:30pm.
12. The meeting was adjourned.
13. Closing prayer: Dale Walters



**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 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.





## December

**December 7** Ric Lucas  
Mike Schutter  
**PM** Mike Schutter

**December 14** Mark & Jan Hop

**December 21** Mike Venema  
Steve Kragt  
**PM** Mike Venema

**December 25** Jon Boeve

**December 28** Carl Helder  
Marcus Helder  
**PM** Carl Helder

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

## **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.

## **December & January DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

December 1	Council Meeting
December 3	Wednesday Night at Niekerk
December 7	Caroling
December 8	Congregational Meeting
December 14	Children's Christmas Program
December 17	GEMS & Cadets
December 25	Christmas Day Service
January 5	Council Meeting
January 19	Red Cross Blood Drive
January 24	Puzzle Tournament
January 30	Monthly Prayer Meeting
February 21	Cornhole Tournament

## **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, Chicken Broccoli Rice Casserole, Chicken Pot Pie, Beef Enchiladas, Poppyseed Chicken 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.



**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.



# December Thank You Notes

Thank you Deb Bosch! A very big thank you to Deb Bosch for putting together everything for our annual fall Shippi outing. Everybody had a great time crafting, lots of shopping, talking with each other and, of course, lots of good eating! Thanks again Deb! Can't wait until next spring to do it again!

Niekerk Red Barn Ladies,  
Holly, Jan, Sue, Lisa, Dawn, Marilyn, Bonnie, Bev, Virginia, Nancy, Deb, Deb, Joyce, Marilyn,  
Kris, Nancy, Nancy, Jean, & Carol

Thank you so much for the blankets and coats that you donated to Bravo CRC. We received 68 blankets and 44 coats and 5 snowpants. You are such a blessing! Thank you!

Pastor Duane Terpstra & Susan

The food went to "Ladders of Hope" They were so thankful!!!

Noah Brinks had a MRI done on his brain and a follow up appointment with his neurosurgeon on November 6 and received a very good report and a "high five" from his doctor! So much to be thankful for! PTL!! Thanks to all of you for your love, prayers and concern for Noah and his family!

Bob & Linda Nyhof  
& Brinks family

What a wonderful feeling to belong to a caring and praying community. Thank you to all for the prayers, cards, calls and well wishes for us when I had my aortic valve replaced. Things didn't go as smoothly as I thought they would, I needed to wear a heart monitor for two weeks and I also needed to go back to the ER two weeks later because I had AFIB and needed to have my heart "zapped" to get it back into rhythm. However, through it all, the Lord was with me. When I was in the ER, the cardiologist had a cancellation and was available to care for me right at that time. Thanks also for continued prayers for Jerry, also. Our Lord is faithful!

Jerry & Elaine Brower

A BIG heartfelt thank you to the congregation for your prayers, visits from Pastor John and Elder Steve Slenk, phone calls, cards, delicious food and other expressions of kindness shown to me following my shoulder surgery. It is truly a blessing to be part of the Niekerk Family of God.

Karen Lucas

Thank you for the cards, calls, food and expressions of kindness after my shoulder replacement surgery. Also, thank you for the cards and birthday wishes I received for my birthday. *"Praise God from whom all blessings flow"*

Pete & Carolyn Jacobsen

EnGedi Window Replacement is COMPLETE!

A special thanks to Phil Helder and Doug Gritter for their advice and expertise with managing the project. Also, thanks to all those who helped with trim, window blinds, preparations for install and washing the 44 windows.

Facilities Team

# December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Deb Venema Sara Tase	9	10	11	12	13 Ivan Janssen Cal Schierbeek
14 Sid Staal	15 Nonie Rietman Paul Tase	16	17 Ric Lucas Renee Texer	18 Loren Haan	19 Elmer Nyhof Gail Berkompas	20
21	22 Ryan Texer Ron Van Gelderen	23	24	25 Karen Lucas	26	27
28	29 Joyce Schierbeek	30 Maria Heeres	31	Happy Birthday		

## First few days in Peru!

Buenas

<https://lshelder8.wixsite.com/mission-updates>



This past week at Eagle's Nest Orphanage has been absolutely amazing. Coming in, I had no idea what to expect. However, God answered SO many prayers I prayed coming into this week.

The team I joined was a group of 7 girls (5 from Indiana, 2 from Ohio) and 1 guy (from Kansas). We were also blessed with Marissa (from Guatemala), our amazing translator, who was with us all day, every day. You never know what you are going to get with a group of people coming together but God was clearly at work. This team was wonderful to partner with. The leaders were strong, solid women of God, and the other team members came with open hearts ready to serve. Everyone was encouraging, welcoming, and easy-going. We had a great week together.

Throughout the days with the kids, we did a vacation Bible school (VBS), fall festival (face paint, balloon animals/swords, various games, etc.), movie & pizza night, piñatas, worship, and free-play time with the kids. As a team, we also had some time for rest/reflection, debriefs, testimonies, devotion sharing, and adventure times (new foods, markets, walks, etc.).

If you've ever worked with kids, you know you learn so much from them. This week I was reminded of the importance and POWER of childlike faith, purity in love, inclusion, the heart of worship, the beauty of diversity & language, the simplicity and power of inviting someone to be part of a game/conversation, and much more. These kids' resiliency, faith, ability to trust, and all-in love have marked by life.

I was also greatly blessed by a missionary named Julie. She caught me one night and asked how things were going and expressed she had been trying to find time to connect to talk more and answer any questions I may have. God provided a perfect time to do so. We talked for just under 2 hours about the ins and outs of the orphanage but were also able to simply talk about life, what God has spoken, and how I am doing with all of it. I didn't realize how much I needed that conversation and time with Julie, but I am so thankful for that time, her willingness to talk, and all the wisdom and truth she was able to speak into my life.

Again, I have no idea what God is doing big picture. But, again, I am even more excited for what is to come after this week. I feel torn because I could easily go back to Peru or Guatemala and do the same things I did and be more than content. However, I am truly resting confidently in knowing that God has a beautiful, perfect plan and knows the desires of my heart and what is best for me. I also am confident that He will continue to reveal next steps in His timing.

For now, I am heading back home after I spend a few days with a friend in Antigua, Guatemala. I will be taking up learning Spanish (if you have any pointers, let me know!) out of obedience to what I feel the Lord has asked me to do, and I will continue making connections and seeing where God leads. (: I will be posting pictures, but it will probably be in 2-3 weeks since I need to get most pictures from other people.

Thank you for your continued support as I navigate what God is doing and where He is leading me. I truly couldn't do it without you all. As always, I will keep you updated as I hear the Lord speak!

Love & blessings,  
Laura H





# Holiday Cleaning Fundraiser



Greetings!

With holiday season fast approaching, I'm offering holiday household cleaning services! Coming with 6 years of experience, I would love to help you and your family get your home guest-ready — while raising funds for my future in missions!

Whether it's deep-cleaning kitchens and bathrooms, mopping floors, or tidying up, I'll make sure your home shines just in time for the holidays. (:



## Cost & Scheduling

- Block-rate up to 4 hours available (2hrs/\$60, 3hrs/\$90, 4 hrs/\$120)
- Booking Now—December 31st
- Monday through Friday
- 8:30am—5:00pm

## What's included?

- Deep kitchen (excl. oven) & bathroom cleaning
- Dusting, vacuuming, mopping
- Quick & easy tidying

## What's NOT included?

- Laundry
- Picking up toys/clothes
- Moving furniture

## Contact Information

Please feel free to send this to someone you know and/or to reach out with any inquires or questions!

*lshelder8@gmail.com*





## WOW—Thanks a Lot! Niekerk Church collected 64 boxes!

Samaritan's Purse—Operation Christmas Child is celebrating 32 years of giving shoebox gifts to children in need! Since 1993 more than 232 million shoeboxes have been sent around the world to 170 countries and territories!

Each shoebox contains small gifts and a 12-lesson discipleship program called "The Greatest Journey" which is available in 83 languages. Since 2009, more than 46 million children have enrolled in "The Greatest Journey". Every child who graduates is given a New Testament Bible in their own language. Over a 24 million children have made a decision for Christ as their savior!

Thanks to the Niekerk benevolent fund for covering the cost of shipping the shoeboxes and the cost of providing "The Greatest Journey" discipleship program.

Shoebox Committee



Lou & MaryAnne Wagenveld  
540 E. Greenwood Circle #111  
Holland, MI 49423



### DECEMBER

- 12-7 AM** Pat Texer  
Jessica Schutter  
PM Kris Roelofs  
Lindsey Haan
- 12-14 AM** Sue Hoekstra  
Abby Helder  
PM Char Janssen  
Deb Haan
- 12-21 AM** Margaret Timmer  
Lisa Kragt  
PM Trisha Texer  
Dawn Folkert
- 12-25 AM** Volunteers
- 12-28 AM** Melanie Russcher  
Renee & Emma Texer  
PM Melinda Kryger  
Carol Venema

### JANUARY

- 1-4 AM** Dana Hondred  
Kathie & Claire Helder  
PM Linda Timmer  
Sara Heeres
- 1-11 AM** Kathi Petroelje  
Deb Slenk  
PM Kim Walters  
Kaylin Van Dyke
- 1-18 AM** Laura VanderZwaag  
Jenn Schierbeek  
PM Kris Roelofs  
Pat Texer
- 1-25 AM** Sandy Van Dyke  
Jessica Schutter  
PM Abby Helder  
Char Janssen

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





October 8, 2025

Greetings from Holland Deacons' Conference and Brothers and Sisters Homes! For nearly 45 years, HDC has been providing loving, Christian homes for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities with the support of Christians who choose to invest in this ministry. One measure of the quality of these homes is evidenced by the number of residents who have lived there for over twenty years.

For the six years prior to 2025, HDC received money from the Ottawa County Mental Health Millage to help fund our programs. We recently learned that, due to some changes in need and priorities at CMH, HDC will not receive any millage support for 2025. This puts a \$200,000 hole in this year's budget and threatens the sustainability of our excellent programs into the future. The Sunday following the receipt of this disappointing news, my church sang "O Worship the King" and I could not help but think of BSH. Please read these lyrics with the residents of BSH in mind.

Supporting Independence  
Building Community

224 West 30th Street,  
Holland, MI 49423  
616.494.6050  
Fax: 616-494-6054

brothersandsistershomes.org  
admin@brothersandsistershomes.org

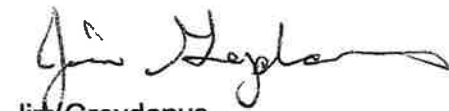
Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light.  
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
In You do we trust, nor find You to fail.  
Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the  
end,  
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

Through the love of Christians and His Church, God has protected and cared for His precious children who live at Brothers and Sisters Homes. Enclosed with this letter you will find a recent copy of the Drop In News highlighting a week's activities from the daytime program. These homes and program of engaging activities only exist because of the generosity of individuals, churches, and businesses who participate in providing the mercies of God to His children. If you have contributed to Brothers and Sisters homes or HDC, thank you!

As we reach the end of 2025, will you consider a generous contribution for Brothers and Sisters Homes? As you do so, will you also share with someone else why you choose to invest your donation in this ministry and encourage them to do the same? Together we can overcome the budget challenges and continue to set a high standard of resident care in the Holland area.

Thank you and may God richly bless you!



Jim Greydanus  
HDC Executive Director





Heights  
of Hope

# Christmas Store

## 3 Ways to Donate:

- Pick a tag and buy a gift to return (unwrapped) here by December 10.
- Buy a gift off our Amazon wishlist. (It will automatically be shipped to HOH.)
- Donate cash or checks (payable to Heights of Hope) here. Or donate online at [www.heightsofhope.org](http://www.heightsofhope.org).



Greetings once again, Niekerk, from "Pastor Luis" about the Word and Deed Project that I have been involved with for years and you have been supportive of. Thanks.

I'm not good at getting pictures into my letters (sorry), and for two reasons I'm using larger than usual print font. One, to make it easier to read, and two, because in August I wrote a detailed explanation of changes made over the last two years. That had a lot of words; I hope you got through some of that.

Here I'll just say that I'd appreciate your looking at and reading the information on the adjoining page that outlines a "re-alignment" of how things now will go forward. This is a significant shift that I hope you can appreciate, it takes me out of a direct relationship with the El Salvador Christian Reformed Church. In turn, via a non-profit started years ago by CRCNA staff called "Seeds of New Creation," those churches will be more in relation with our denomination via Resonate Global Missions.

I'll be candid here; patterns don't change easily. Because of the long-standing personal relations, recently I have gotten informal reports from Pastor Carlos Mejia about the Project that Semillas and his Santa Tecla church are helping with in a newer area called Maria Victoria, about half an hour challenging walk from Huizucar. Trainings have taken place about violence in its various forms.



*These are folk showing off their Certificates of Completion of the trainings. The building is of a new church plant that has been underway for several years.*

Once again, the offer stands for "coffee" here at The Farmstead; just phone me at (616) 392-9079 so you can ask more questions and get clarifications if desired.

Appreciatively,  
Pastor Lou Wagenveld



# Re-alignment of the El Salvador Project



**Christian Reformed Church of El Salvador**

now coordinates with

**Seeds of New Creation (*Semillas de Nueva Creacion*)**



Missionary Pastor Lou Wagenveld

*Semillas' Mission Statement:* We accompany individuals, churches and communities in strengthening their gifts and capacities, so that together we can energize the Kingdom of God in El Salvador.



*The El Salvador CRC now coordinates more directly with the "Seeds of New Creation" Resonate Global Mission Partner. This picture captures the "re-alignment" that has taken place with the El Salvador Project. Missionary Pastor Lou Wagenveld now continues in a fund-raising role via ARMA/Semillas.*



## Gideons Greeting Cards

Gideon cards for various occasions are in the card rack in the narthex. These cards provide a way to honor a friend on any special occasion by sending Bibles in *honor of* or *in memory*. Examples are: praying for someone who is sick or in need of encouragement, or in memory of someone who has died, or honoring the Pastor and others in leadership ministry. Included with each free card is an envelope to donate to the Gideons based on the number of Bibles selected to honor the person.

Fill in the card with the number of Bibles that you wish to have sent in honor of the recipient. Each donation of \$5 purchases one full-sized Bible for the Gideons to distribute worldwide. If you prefer to use your own greeting card, there are envelopes with Gideon insert cards that can be placed into your card in honor of the person receiving your card, along with a donation to the Gideons. A convenient way to send a Gideon card is to visit [SendTheWord.org](http://SendTheWord.org). There is a large selection of cards. Send the card with your personalize message via email to the recipient and enter your credit card information to donate to the Gideons. The greeting card can be sent to anyone with an email address around the world, such as missionaries or friends in foreign countries. For any questions, contact Julie Mulder.

IN HONOR OF

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Bibles  
NUMBER

will be distributed by members  
of The Gideons International  
to help transform lives  
through the Word of God

DONATED BY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Gideons International





**American  
Red Cross**

**2026**

**Blood Drive Dates**

Monday, January 19

Monday, March 16

Monday, May 15

*One blood donation may help save three lives.*

*The American Red Cross commented that Holland is in the top ten of the Michigan cities for blood donations! The average donation is 1.12 with Holland at 3.4 donations.*



**Church Members in Care Facilities**

**Royal Park Place**

Judy Bosch

Nonie Rietman

**Quincy Place Senior Living**

Leona Scholten

**Riley Grove**

Jim & Lorraine Snay

**Royal Park Atrium**

Marge Boeve

Nick Ellerbroek

**PC<sup>+</sup>SITIVE  
OPTIONS**

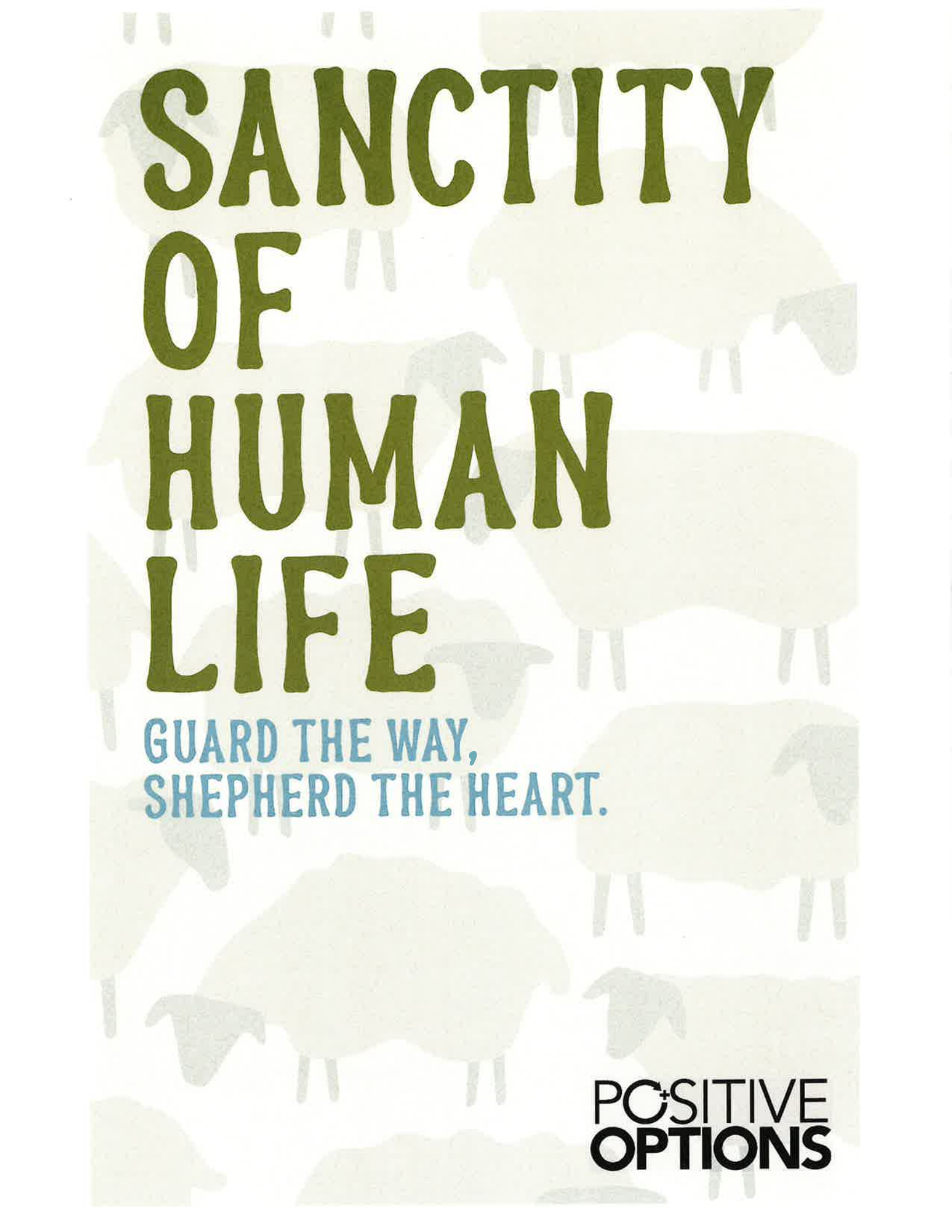
*For your health, choice, and future.*

**HOLLAND: (616) 396-5840**

**ENGAGE**

- Volunteer
- Like us on Facebook and Instagram (friends of Positive Options)
- Subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter at [www.lpcenters.com](http://www.lpcenters.com)
- Participate in a 2023 event at [www.lpcenters.com/event](http://www.lpcenters.com/event)
  - \* Golf Marathon: September 8
  - \* Center Open Houses
- Be a Prayer Partner and receive a monthly prayer calendar by email at [www.lpcenters.com/prayer-support](http://www.lpcenters.com/prayer-support)





# SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

GUARD THE WAY,  
SHEPHERD THE HEART.

PC+SITIVE  
OPTIONS

## SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE AT POSITIVE OPTIONS

Each January, we reflect on the sacredness of every life—born and unborn, created in the image of God. Sanctity of Human Life reminds us that every person is precious and that protecting life is a calling from God.

In 2025, **over 72% of clients** at Positive Options with a positive pregnancy test chose life, showing the impact of compassionate

72%  
CHOSE  
LIFE

7 IN 10  
IDENTIFY AS  
CHRISTIAN

support. Seven in ten women who have had an abortion identify as Christian, highlighting the need for faith-centered care and hope.

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY

At Positive Options, our mission to protect life and nurture hearts is lived out daily. Our staff, volunteers, and supporters stand with women, men, and families facing unplanned pregnancies. We provide free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, parenting and fatherhood support, and pregnancy loss care—all with compassion and truth.

We are pressing toward a bold vision: **to expand our reach and triple the number of lives saved in the next 15 years—5,000 lives by 2040.** By guarding the way of life and shepherding hearts, we help clients see their God-given value and hope for the future.



## GUARD THE WAY, SHEPHERD THE HEART

*Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. -Proverbs 4:23*

This year's theme, *Guard the Way, Shepherd the Heart*, speaks directly to the Sanctity of Human Life. **Guarding the way** reminds us to protect the sacred path of life, staying alert to God's direction and honoring the journey He has designed.

**Shepherding the heart** reminds us to lead with compassion, nurture faith, and guide each life toward the hope of Christ. Together, we are called to protect life and nurture the hearts of those entrusted to our care.



## PROTECT LIFE. NURTURE HOPE. JOIN US.

You can be part of this life-affirming work:

- **PRAY** for the women, men, and families who walk through our doors.
- **GIVE** generously to help us reach our vision of 5,000 lives saved by 2040.
- **SERVE** as a volunteer, offering your time and gifts to shepherd hearts with compassion.
- **SHARE** the message of life and the ministry of Positive Options with your church, family, and friends.

Together, we can guard the way, shepherd the heart, and make an eternal difference.



**GUARD THE WAY.  
SHEPHERD THE HEART.**

Scan to discover how you can pray, serve, and give to protect life and nurture hope.



# RIGHT TO LIFE OF HOLLAND AREA

November 10, 2025

**Dear Friends of Life,**

Life. The Other Choice. Everyday, we here at Right to Life of Holland Area, we are working daily to educate on LIFE issues from conception until natural death. We accomplish this placing Pro-Life billboards in our communities, sharing educational pieces on local radio stations, mailing updates and other educational pieces in our monthly newsletters, hosting 2 church representative meetings a year, leading a Life Chain in Holland, hosting a booth at local fairs and other community events. We believe that ALL LIVES MATTER, including babies in the womb! It takes a lot of support from our LIFE partners to achieve our mission.

While we have made great strides here in Ottawa County and in MI in the past 50 years, some of our laws have been struck down by one of the most Pro-Abort Governor's in Michigan's history and we have plenty of work to do to change the hearts of people. Abortion is NOT health care and is morally wrong. We want to make MI a state that values LIFE in all stages of life. The decision to continue or end a pregnancy has never been a choice of political parties or action groups. It is and has always been a choice of the woman. Choices characterize who we are and what we will become. They are rooted in hopes and worries, and even force us to face our fears and stand against greater odds. Do you know of someone who needs HELP now? **Call this number: 1 (800) 712-HELP**

We have great concern over some Michigan lawmakers that have been trying to pass medical aid in dying legislation for years, most recently in the 2023-2024 session. At that time, the legislature considered an aid-in-dying bill, SB681, called the Michigan Death With Dignity Act. If it had passed, the law would have functioned much like Oregon's Death With Dignity Act, allowing terminally ill patients who met certain requirements to request and use life-ending medication.

How can you help?

~First and foremost **PRAYER**! Pray that God will remove the scales from the eyes of those who seek to destroy the unborn, to abolish parental rights, to devastate the lives of the women and men and their families, who have had abortions, jeopardize the health of women seeking abortions and those who do not value the aged and the infirmed.

~Secondly, continue calling your state legislators to keep the protection that is in place through our prolife laws.

~Thirdly, by donating to Right to Life of Holland Area so we can continue our work on educating and protecting those who are the most vulnerable in our communities, the unborn, the infirmed and the aged .

We must always share the good news of Jesus, His love for us, His forgiveness, His sacrifice for us, in our lost world. We must be diligent to be the Hands and Feet of Jesus and we can do that by supporting and loving on women who are facing a crisis pregnancy, sharing with those who have had an abortion that Jesus Heals and Forgives and that regardless of what was done in the past, HE LOVES THEM and so do we!

***We hope you will bless Right to Life of Holland Area with a year-end gift this Holiday Season.***

**WWW.RTLOFHOLLAND.ORG**

**616.396.1037 ~ 607 Heritage Court, Holland, MI 49423 ~ rtlholland@egl.net**

# Six Important Reasons

## to Oppose Legalizing Physician-Assisted Suicide

1



### **Insurance companies will deny life-saving treatment**

Stephanie Packer was told her insurance company wouldn't cover her life-saving treatment, but was instead offered assisted suicide drugs for a \$1.20 co-pay.<sup>1</sup> Canadian officials estimated that euthanasia and assisted suicide reduce annual spending between \$34 million and \$138 million, versus the cost of lethal drugs being between \$1.5 million and \$14.8 million.<sup>2</sup>

2



### **No screening for depression**

Ruthie Poole experienced severe depression and could relate to the desire of a "painless and easy way out." In Oregon, only a dismal 3.3% of patients who have died by assisted suicide were referred for psychiatric evaluation.<sup>3</sup>

3



### **Life expectancy after terminal diagnosis unreliable**

Jeanette Hall from Oregon was diagnosed with terminal cancer in 2000 and asked for assisted suicide. Her physician convinced her treatment could be beneficial, and she is alive today. A study of terminal prognosis accuracy found only 20% accurately predicted when death would occur.<sup>4</sup> 1 in 8 hospice patients outlive the 6-month terminal prognosis window.<sup>5</sup>

4



### **Suicide contagion is real, targeting seniors and veterans**

A Veterans Affairs Canada staffer brought up the topic of assisted suicide when one veteran sought assistance to treat his PTSD and traumatic brain injury.<sup>6</sup> After Oregon legalized assisted suicide, suicides in the state increased twice as fast as national rates.<sup>7</sup> In Oregon and in Switzerland, suicide comparative-studies have been conducted due to assisted-suicide being legal. Studies showed older adult women avoid suicide except when physician-approved.<sup>8</sup>

5



### **People with disabilities fear coercion and abuse**

Stephanie Woodward fears assisted suicide for people with disabilities like herself: "Any doctor could prescribe a lethal dose and any person could administer that dose to kill a person, with medical confidentially preventing any oversight. No independent witness is required during the death of an individual, so there's no way to ensure that the individual administered the lethal dose himself or herself. In a world where abuse of people with abilities and seniors is rampant, this alone is cause for concern."<sup>9</sup>

6



### **Proponents of assisted suicide quickly move to eliminate safeguards**

Proponents tout "safeguards" and "guidelines" in assisted suicide legislation, but quickly move to eliminate them after legalization of PAS. These include reducing or eliminating: waiting periods, residency requirements, self-administration of lethal drugs (allowing euthanasia), and the requirement that the person has a terminal illness.

**Right to Life of Holland Area**  
**607 Heritage Court**  
**Holland, MI 49423**





## FAITH AND FARMING

Many families in Uganda rely on farming, but growing healthy and abundant crops has only become more challenging over the years. That's where your Resonate Sara Sytsma comes in. She helps

churches and communities come alongside farmers to connect their faith to their farming, equipping them to better care for their land and produce more food. Read all about one group she's been working with at [www.resonateglobalmission.org/farming](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org/farming)

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for your missionaries, church planters, and campus ministers as they walk alongside and disciple people all around the world.
- Pray for those who are struggling and seeking answers to their questions, doubt, and uncertainty. Ask the Holy Spirit to draw them into a relationship with Christ.
- Pray that believers will be courageous and bold in sharing the gospel and living out their faith.
- Pray for encouragement for new Christians—and that they will find a community they can lean on for support.
- Pray that God will continue to provide the prayer support, resources, and finances to continue these important ministries.

Andrew Zokoe, Donor Relations  
(616) 699-0317 | [azokoe@crcna.org](mailto:azokoe@crcna.org)  
[resonateglobalmission.org](http://resonateglobalmission.org)





## FROM THE DIRECTOR

*"Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples." —Psalm 96:3*

As Christ followers, we are part of a bigger story than our own—we are part of a global church of believers called to live out God's mission. Thank you for stepping into that bigger story through your generous support of Resonate! I hope these stories of God at work through your gifts encourage and bless you.

Serving with you,  
Kevin DeRaaf



## GOD'S TRANSFORMATION

When Sam returned to his alma mater, Ferris State University, to coach the football team, he re-connected with your Resonate campus minister Mike Wissink. Not only did Sam decide to follow Jesus, but so did players on his team! Read more at [www.resonateglobalmission.org/sam](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org/sam)

## RIPPLE EFFECTS

Your Resonate missionary James Lee disciplined David, who invited his peers on his university campus to a Bible study. That's how Victoria found Jesus. Read all about ripple effects in mission at



[www.resonateglobalmission.org/rippleeffects](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org/rippleeffects)



## A CHURCH LIKE LOGOS

A new church in Zeeland, Michigan, that you helped to plant has become a beloved faith community where people can worship in Chinese language and culture. God has surprised the church with who has joined the community! Read who has found a church home: [www.resonateglobalmission.org/logos](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org/logos)

## A LEADER WHO MULTIPLIES

In Nigeria, a majority of the population struggles to make ends meet, violence plagues communities in the North, and corruption runs rampant. But Rev. Stephen Hamidu is equipping a new generation of pastors to live out God's mission and bring Christ into every sphere of life. Your support helped equip Stephen for the task. Read how you helped at [www.resonateglobalmission.org/stephen](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org/stephen)



## RESPONDING TO JESUS

Arman and Taraneh (names changed) had both grown up in Muslim backgrounds in Iran. But when they moved to Hungary, they became interested in Jesus. A local pastor connected them with your Resonate missionary Jeff Bouman, who shared the gospel with them. Captivated, they decided to follow Jesus and were baptized! Read more at

[www.resonateglobalmission.org/captivated](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org/captivated)



## Niekerk Ministry Teams

Updated 11-24-25

<u>Council Committee</u>	<u>Chair/Contact Person</u>	<u>Team Members</u>
<b>Community Impact Team</b>		
Building Men for Life	Cheryl Bosch,	Deb Slenk, Joe Texer*, Ryan Texer, Marv Venema, Brenda Van Dyke, Sarah Walters
Growing Hope Globally	Dave Walters	
Hand2Hand Ministries	Carl Helder	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	
	Dale Walters	
<b>Congregational Life Team</b>	<b>Ken Schierbeek*</b>	
<b>Fellowship Team</b>	Jan Hop &	Curt & Marcy Brower, Abby Helder, Sue Hoekstra, Mark Hop, Bob Steenwyk
	Jane Steenwyk	
<b>Wednesday Night at Niekerk</b>	Carl Helder	
<b>Community Groups</b>	MJ Staal/Jamie Hop	Carol Keen, Bev Leegwater, Ken & Joyce Schierbeek, Bryan & Kaylin Van Dyke
Greeters/Welcome Assistant	Linda Nyhof	Jim Hondred, Vern Hoeksema, Greg Leenstra
Pine Rest Counseling	Carl Helder	
Newsletter Editor	Julie Mulder	
<b>Discipleship Team</b>	Trisha Texer	Brian Bosch, Stephanie Edewaard, Kurt Rigterink, Linda Timmer, Kaylin Van Dyke
Catechism Teachers	<b>Kurt Rigterink*</b>	Scott Helder (4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> ), Char Janssen (6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> ) Carl Helder (8 <sup>th</sup> )
Childcare/Nursery	Kaylin Van Dyke	Lindsey Haan, Renee Texer
Education Team	Marilyn Russcher	
Library	Kim Walters	Rita Helder, Jane Steenwyk, Linda Timmer, Sandy Van Dyke
Little Lambs		
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	Nancy Means	Carol Hochhalter, Char Janssen, Stephanie Edewaards, Kristi Driscoll, Nancy Means, & Kaylin Van Dyke
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		

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

# Niekerk Yellow Pages

**Tekton Ceramic Tile LLC**  
**Todd Sneller**  
**616-218-2074**  
**Installation of Ceramic Tile**  
**and Laminate Wood Floors**

**CURT BROWER**  
**BROWER BUILDERS**

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1907 W. 32nd Street  
Holland, MI 49423  
616-335-9690  
tomhochhalter@gmail.com

**Mike Venema**  
**Carpet Cleaning**  
**Water Restoration,**  
**Strip & Refinish VCT Floors**  
**Warehouse Floor Cleaning**  
**Janitorial Services**  
**616-218-5381**

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