



God is our refuge
and strength, a very
present help
in trouble. Psalm 46:1

May Niekerk News 2026

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Prayer Line Maintained by:

Brian Bosch

NewsLetter
DEADLine

For the
June Niekerk News is:
May 17, 2026

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

“A Great Awakening”

Spiritual Awakening is when the Father wakes us up to see Christ's fullness in new ways, so that together we trust Him, love Him and obey Him in new ways, so that we move with Him in new ways for the fulfillment of His global cause.

David Bryant

Maria and I saw a film last week called “A Great Awakening” which features the friendship of George Whitefield and Benjamin Franklin during a great awakening before and during the formation of our country. The nation was being changed by God, bringing about a renewing and reviving work of salvation.

At the constitutional convention, disagreement on representation in congress had stalled deliberations. Benjamin Franklin rose to speak. This is some of what he said: “I have lived a long time and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that *God governs in the affairs of men*. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured in the sacred writings that “except the Lord build the House they labor in vain that build it.” I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the Builders of Babel: We shall be divided by our little partial local interests; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall be become a reproach and a bye word down to future age... I therefore beg leave to move—that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business...” The convention adjourned without passing the motion. Though, to this day, the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate open their sessions with a prayer. *Maria and I recommend going to see the movie!*

This year again, as part of One Community Weekend, we will be praying with other churches during the month of May. All across our community, churches will cover Holland & Zeeland in prayer, seeking God together for our city, leaders, churches and neighbors. Niekerk's day to pray is May 7 which is also the National Day of Prayer. This year's theme is taken from 1 Chronicles 16:24 “*Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.*” So, on May 7 Niekerk will be praying for a spiritual awakening in our nation as well. Sign up for a ½ hour time slot at the Information Center and pick up a prayer guide.

Let's purpose in this month to especially be in prayer for our nation, our community and for our congregation. Pray for the new Council as they begin serving. Pray for the upcoming summer ministry of Hocky Rock. Pray for Pastor Tim and Mary Nelson as they consider our call for Tim to be our next pastor. Pray that we will be a bright light for Jesus in our community.

*More things are wrought by prayer
Than this world dreams of. Wherefore, let thy voice
Rise like a fountain for me night and day.
For what are men better than sheep or goats
That nourish a blind life within the brain,
If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer
Both for themselves and those who call them friend?*

Tennyson

*Lord, I have heard of your fame, I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord.
Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.*

Habakkuk 3:2

Pastor John Nyitray

March 31, 2026

Total Budgeted YTD Receipts	\$ 164,600.50
Total Actual YTD Receipts	\$ 130,839.27
Over(Under) Budget	\$ (33,761.23)

GENERAL FUND:	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	\$519,255.41
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$46,242.00
This Month Envelopes Receipts	\$34,299.00
Year to Date Budget Envelopes	\$102,393.13
Over Budget Receipts	\$0.00
Interest	\$3,169.27
Facilities Rental Income	\$0.00
Total Receipts	\$105,562.40
This Month Disbursements	\$41,144.26
Year to Date Disbursements	\$172,162.05
Fund Balance	\$452,655.76

EVANGELISM FUND:	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	\$9,880.03
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$4,875.00
YTD Receipts from Envelopes	\$14,298.03
YTD Over Budget Receipts	\$0.00
YTD Total Receipts	\$14,298.03
YTD Disbursements	\$11,133.07
Allocated Not Paid	\$0.00
Fund Balance	\$13,044.99

BUILDING RENOVATIONS FUND	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	\$104,738.98
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$3,750.00
YTD Envelope Receipts	\$10,978.84
YTD Over Budget Receipts	\$0.00
YTD Total Receipts	\$10,978.84
YTD Disbursements	\$2,581.29
Fund Balance	\$113,136.53

SPECIAL FUND:	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	0.00
This Month Special Fund	9,475.00
Year To Date Special Fund	23,478.00
This Month Disbursements	9,475.00
Year To Date Disbursements	23,478.00
Fund Balance	0.00

MISCELLANEOUS FUND:	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	\$ 38,768.06

Current Fund Balances:	
Niekerk Tuition Fund	11,178.76
Hockey Rock	2,464.54
Niekerk Christian Ed Fund	6,100.00
Hand 2 Hand Ministries	9,197.37
Community Impact	1,056.33
Health Pantry	1,892.71
Family Mission Trip Fund	6,965.84
Fund Balance	\$ 38,855.55

Cash Balances	
Beginning Balance as of 1/1/2026	\$ 672,522.48
Ending Balance as of 03/31/26	\$ 617,692.83

CHURCH BUDGET	ACTUAL DOLLARS	BUDGETED DOLLARS	INCOME VARIANCE
Receipts	130,839.27	164,600.50	(33,761.23)
Disbursements	185,876.41	164,600.50	(21,275.91)
Allocated Not Paid	0.00		
Spendable Income	(55,037.14)		(55,037.14)

NIEKERK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Council Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2026, at 7:30 PM

Growing in Christ and Making Him Known

01. Devotions and Opening Prayer by Randy Hoogewind.
 - a. Colossians 3:23, "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve."
 - b. 1 Peter 5: 2, "Whatever you do, work as it with all your heart as working for the Lord, not for human masters."
 - c. Philippians 4:13, "I can do all this through Him who gives me strength."
 - d. Psalm 46
02. Council Minutes of March 2, 2026. Approved as written.
03. The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer by Mike Schierbeek.

- a. Review of March 2nd Deacon's Meeting Minutes.

- b. Loose Offering Collections & Schedule:

March offerings confirmed:

March 1	Matt & Emily Slack (Resonate)	\$1,773.00
March 8	Heights of Hope	\$1,454.00
March 15	Building Men for Life	\$2,520.00
March 22	Niekerk Christian Education Fund	\$943.55
March 29	Resonate	\$1,955.00

- c. May Offerings Scheduled as Follows:

May 3	Hockey Rock
May 10	World Renew (school in Tanzania)
May 14	Benevolent Fund
May 17	Bravo CRC
May 24	Lakeshore Little People's Place
May 31	Niekerk Christian Education Fund

- d. March Benevolent Fund Balance: \$15,163.09
- How Many Disbursements 1
- What Amounts 321.20
- How Many Deposits 0
- For What Amounts 0
- March Ending Benevolent Fund Balance \$14,841.89

Benevolent Needs Discussed

1. Benevolent needs inside the congregation? Approved financial assistance for a member who had an unforeseen utilities expense.
 2. Benevolent needs outside the congregation? We are handling non-member benevolent requests by a rotation schedule. Please see the attached new rotation schedule as well as a copy of the non-member Benevolent Policy for the new Deacons to review.
- e. Niekerk Family Mission Trip Fund 2026 (ARO). The sign up is presently out for this trip which is scheduled for July 25-31, 2026. Presently there are only a few members signed up for this, and we discussed possibly making an announcement during a morning service as a reminder to the congregation. Depending on the number of members that sign up, the Deacons could consider an offering for June if additional funds are needed to support this trip.

- f. Open Discussion, Correspondence and Other Items.
 - 1. **Niekerk Box Envelopes.** Discussed this and the direction the Deacons are wanting to move forward with keeping the existing envelope system in place and seeing if there is any way to recast the box numbers to lower the number of boxes that may need to be ordered to try and lower the cost.
 - 2. **World Renew/RHM.** School in Tanzania, See attached correspondence. Decided to schedule an offering in May to assist with funding for the school supplies/desks.
 - 3. **Widow/Widower Dinner.** Reminder that tentatively we are planning on scheduling this for Thursday, May 21, at the Farmhouse.
- g. Special Deacon Assignments.
 - Joe Texer Benevolent Fund Report & Family Mission Trip
 - Mike Schierbeek Master Offering Schedule & Thanksgiving Offering & Special Dinners
 - Joel Kryger Niekerk Christian Education Fund
 - Dale Walters BMFL, Health Pantry, Holland Deacon's Conference
- i. Offering Collection Teams
 - Team A: Joe Texer, Dale Walters, Mike Schierbeek, Scott Edewaard
 - Team B: Joel Kryger, Matt Maas & Tom Staal
- h. Next meeting, May 4, with opening devotions by Matt Maas.

Closing Prayer by Dale Walters
Meeting Adjourned

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

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Morning Worship</u>	<u>Evening Worship</u>
April 12	John Nyitray	Duane Terpstra
April 19	Joel VandeWerken	Cal Compagner
April 26	Ren Broekhuizen	Leighton Seys
May 3	John Nyitray	Cal Compagner
May 10	Jim Busscher	Tom Pettinga
May 14	<i>Ascension Day</i>	John Nyitray
May 17	John Ouwinga	Tom Pettinga
May 24	John Nyitray	<i>TBD</i>
May 31	Tom Pettinga	Duane Terpstra
June 7	John Nyitray	Tom Pettinga

05. Next Communion are June 7 and August 2

06. Thank you to the outgoing Councilmen that have served Niekerk for their full term in office: Dan Petroelje, Kurt Rigertink, Steve Slenk, Jon Boeve, John Timmer, Bryan Van Dyke.

07. Update on the Status of Pastor Tim Nelson

- a. There was a time of discussion on letters the Council received from Classis Holland and Pastor Tim.
- b. Administrative Leadership Team to finalize the offer letter and job description to Tim Nelson and circulate it to the Council. They will also work with Classis Holland regarding specific steps needed to be taken.

08. Council discussion on open positions and district assignments.

Carl Helder: Council President
Randy Hoogewind: Clerk of Council
Ken Schierbeek: Congregational Life, Wednesday Night at Niekerk
Dave Helder: Prayer Team
Joe Texer: Chair of Deacons & Finance
Scott Edewaard: Community Impact, Missions
Tom Staal: Facilities/Support Team
Gary Meiste: Discipleship
Wayne Tjarks: Worship Team

09. We will be going down to four districts, evenly distributed between the eight Shepherding Elders and Deacons.

Alofs-C. Helder	Ric Lucas & Joel Kryger
D. Helder – Leep	Dave Helder & Dale Walters
Louwerse – Shoemaker	Gary Meiste & Mike Schierbeek
Slenk - Zeerip	Wayne Tjarks & Matt Maas

10. Next meeting, May 4, 2026, at 7:30pm. Elders and Deacons Meeting at 6:30pm.

11. The meeting was adjourned. This was seconded and approved. Pastor John closed in prayer.

May & June DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

May 1	Hand2Hand Ministries
May 4	Council Meeting
May 7	Men's Bible Study
May 8	Hand2Hand Ministries
May 11	Red Cross Blood Drive
May 14	Ascension Day Service Men's Bible Study
May 17	HS Youth Group
May 21	Men's Bible Study
May 22	Hand2Hand Packing
May 28	Men's Bible Study
May 29	Monthly Prayer Gathering Hand2Hand Ministries
May 30	MS & HS Youth Group
June 1	Council Meeting
June 15	Hockey Rock
June 22	Hockey Rock
June 26	Monthly Prayer Meeting
June 29	Hockey Rock



H2H is collecting spaghetti & Meatball cans (no larger than 16oz) and no-sugar-added applesauce cups for the month of May.



American Red Cross

2026

Blood Drive Dates

Wednesday, July 15
Wednesday, September 9
Wednesday, November 11

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

Riley Grove

Jim & Lorraine Snay

Royal Park Atrium

Marge Boeve
Nick Ellerbroek

May Thank You Notes

Dear Niekerk Church Family,

We cannot thank everyone enough for all the expressions of kindness and sympathy when Brenda's dad passed. The many cards, visits, prayers, kind words and love shown to us during these past weeks, we are truly grateful. We feel blessed for the many years we had with dad and will miss him, but rejoice that he is at peace in heaven.

Thank you again, Niekerk family, for your caring and support during these days, it has meant so much.

Terry and Brenda Bosch

Thank you for the prayers, cards and calls while I was in the hospital in March and again in April and when I got back home. Also thanks to Pastor John for the visits. We appreciate the ongoing prayers.

Ron and Joyce Dalman

Thank you for the prayers, cards, goodies and words of encouragement! during my hip replacement surgery. It's wonderful to have a church family who cares! I'm doing very good! God is so good!

Jack Bosch

We would like to thank our Niekerk family for all the prayers and encouragement concerning our health issues, also thank you for all the cards and best wishes for Joyce's birthday. God is so good. Thank you!

Jack & Joyce Koeman

Many thanks for all of the wishes for my 84th birthday. It is nice to be remembered.

Judy Stoel

Thank you for your cards, expressions of sympathy and Steve's visit after the passing of our brother Ray. Your support and prayers for safe travel were greatly appreciated! Although we mourn, we also cling to God's promise of eternal life and are thankful that Ray's pain and suffering are over.

Vern & Doris Klingenberg

Thank you for the many cards and best wishes for my birthday. Above all, we thank God for the many blessings all of these years!

Henry Bosch

Thank you Niekerk for your support and many prayers again this year as I traveled to Honduras. One again God blessed us with a very successful year. Many patients were helped and God cared for our team with safety and good health. Thank you!

In Christ,
Cheryl Bosch

May Thank You Notes

Dear Niekerk CRC Deacons and Church Family,

Thank you for your \$1001 gift received in March. We are grateful for the ways you choose to invest in girls through the ministry of GEMS.

Because of your generosity, girls are being mentored, disciplined, and reminded of their God-given worth. Your support helps place caring Christian women in girls' lives, equips leaders with a strong biblical curriculum and training, and ensures girls around the world hear the truth of the gospel in meaningful, age-appropriate ways.

GEMS exists to help girls know Jesus, grow in faith, and live out Micah 6:8 in everyday life. Your church's partnership makes that possible—one girl at a time.

Thank you for standing with us in this ministry. We are honored to serve alongside you and grateful for your prayers and support.

With gratitude,
Jill Postma
GEMS Director of Finance

Swimming in the Psalms Spring 2026

A group of women have begun "Swimming in the Psalms" on Tuesday mornings. If you are interested in reading, singing, and praying through the Psalms, you are welcome to join for the next seven Tuesday mornings. (see schedule below) Another group of all ages will begin "Swimming" once school is out for the summer. A meeting time will be determined based on who would like to participate. This will be active learning, movement and music included. Kids are welcome, and encouraged to bring a partner (parent, sibling, friend) who will spur them on to learning the Psalms. Sign up sheet for Summer Psalm Swimming is available today.

- April 21 Introduction and Wisdom Literature
- April 28 Psalms of Lament- focus on Book 1 of Psalms (1-41)
- May 5 Psalms of Refuge- focus on Book 2 of Psalms (42-72)
- May 12 The Dark Psalms- focus on Book 3 of Psalms (73-90)
- May 19 Psalms of Praise- focus on Book 4 of Psalms (90-106), though we will include 107 (History Psalms 104-107)
- May 26 Psalms of Ascent (120-135)
- June 2 Hallelujah/Praise the Lord Psalms 145-150

May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h2>Happy Birthday</h2>					1 Greg Leenstra	2 Sherrie Janssen
					3 Larry Smith	4 Claire Helder
10 Aubrey Bird Waylon Russcher	11 Joel Kryger	12	13 Karen Koopman	14	15 Dennis Bird	16
17 Jim Roelofs	18 Marge Boeve	19 Bob Nyhof	20	21	22 Wayne Tjarks	23 Evonne Gritter
24 Scott Helder Henry Russcher	25 Brady Vander Zwaag	26 Ken Schierbeek	27 Gary Meiste	28 Reagan Boeve Matt Maas	29 Deb Haan Eric Louwse	30
31 Kathi Petroelje Judah Russcher						



May

- 5-3 AM** Trisha Texer
Jessica Schutter
PM Dawn Folkert
Kris Roelofs
- 5-10 AM** Lindsey Haan
Margaret Timmer
PM Dana Hondred
Kathie Helder
- 5-17 AM** Deb Haan
Melinda Kryger
PM Carol Venema
Char Janssen
- 5-24 AM** Deb Slenk
Linda Timmer
PM Kim Walters
Sara Heeres
- 5-31 AM** Lisa Kragt
Kathi Petroelje
PM Kaylin Van Dyke
Laura VanderZwaag

June

- 6-7 AM** Sandy Van Dyke
Abby Helder
PM Jenn Schierbeek
Trisha Texer
- 6-14 AM** Renee & Kayla Texer
Sue Hoekstra
PM Pat Texer
Jessica Schutter
- 6-21 AM** Emma Texer
Dana Hondred
PM Kris Roelofs
Lindsey Haan
- 6-28 AM** Dawn Folkert
Margaret Timmer
PM Melinda Kryger
Char Janssen

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





CHURCH SECURITY

May

May 3 Ric Lucas
Mike Schutter
PM Mike Schutter

May 10 Denny Stoel
Jim Means
PM Jim Means

May 14 Mark & Jan Hop

May 17 Steve Kragt

May 24 Terry Bosch

May 31 John Timmer

**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.



Remember to schedule your meetings, community group events, and any other activities with the church office.

Shared Meals



The freezer has Chicken Alfredo Casserole, Meatloaf & Cheesy hashbrowns, Chicken Bacon Ranch Casserole, Chicken Broccoli Rice Casserole, Beef Enchiladas, Poppyseed Chicken Casserole, Tater Tot Casserole, Ham & Potato Casserole, Ham Pot Pie, Ham & Broccoli Breakfast Casserole, Ham & Potato Soup 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.

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Here is the QR code for Niekerk!



Settling in!

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



Hi Everyone!

Thank you so much for all the prayers, encouragement, and also patience as I have been settling in and trying to find time to write an update.

Week 1:

I arrived to my new place on March 8th. My friend Kayla was able to come with me and helped me settle in and figure out some of dos and don'ts. It was SUCH a gift from the Lord having her here. I took the first few days to rest, walk around, grab some groceries, etc. Kayla and I were able to go to Eagle's Nest (EN) together which was fun to show her another place and some faces I will be spending time with. It was also a special day being able to see some of the kiddos again and get some sweet hugs.

Thursday and Friday I started my Spanish classes from 1:00-5:00pm with my teacher, whose name is José. Haha it was a lot... the school I am at is designed to be an intensive learning experience, so it is one on one for the whole duration. Intense is definitely the best way to describe it. I was thankful I only had to complete two days before having the weekend.

Week 2:

Well, to start the week, Kayla left Sunday morning which was very hard emotionally. It was the last piece of fleshly comfort and familiarity. All of the doubts/fears/questions came flooding in. The next couple of days were tough as I adjusted to doing everything on my own.

Spanish was the only thing on my agenda during this week due to many other things going on at EN. By the end of Tuesday, I was very overwhelmed by taking 4 hours of Spanish every day. I felt this way the first day but wanted to give it some time. However, each day after 3 hours, my brain couldn't handle any more. I talked with José on Wednesday and he agreed that bumping down to 3 hours a day seemed like a great idea as he was observing the same thing. By Thursday, I was already doing much better all around. I had settled into new rhythms a bit and still had some energy to do things after class.

Week 3:

I was able to go to church in town Sunday which was really nice! It is a small church that was recommended to me by EN — some of the missionaries go there and they bring their groups there. The group last week was a group of 29 from Colorado Springs U.S. Air Force Cadet program. With them alone, the church was pretty much full. I didn't get to meet many of the regulars simply because it was chaos with so many people haha. I am excited to return and get to know more people though.

This week I committed to serving at EN MWF 8:00am-12:30pm as well as continuing to study 1:00pm-4:00pm M-F. It was a full, stretching week, but it was nice to have variety! At EN, I am currently helping out Wilma who is the house tía (they call their house parents tías/tíos). She has been in charge of Max (14 months) and Javier (5 months) until they recently received a newborn girl! Susan joined the EN family at just 2 days old. She is a little honey, but if you are a parent, you know that means not much sleep upon many other challenges. So, I have been hanging out with Max and Javier most of my time so Wilma can have a break/get caught up on things she hasn't been able to do. On Friday, my role was a bit different since they were moving the young boys upstairs. I was more of a point person for the team while we were moving things, organizing, and cleaning.

The end of this week was very sweet. I felt seen by the Lord as He showed up in special moments through meaningful, deep conversations with a couple people at EN, meeting me in worship & reading the Word, a couple of my best Spanish classes thus far, and bumping into a familiar face on my walk home from class. I am just getting over some sickness I got late Friday night, so this past weekend and beginning to my week has looked entirely different. That one felt like a slap from Satan as I was really looking forward to different plans this weekend including a baptism at EN followed by quinceañeras for 3 of their girls. But, life goes on!



Lake Atitlan



Week 4:

This week has looked very different due to Holy Week. This week is VERY special here in Guatemala. Many places shut down on Wednesday as they look forward to spending time with family and friends to celebrate Holy Week together. I had a lot of extra time to rest and heal which was a blessing. Other than resting, I went on some walks to see some of the festivities and caught up on all the miscellaneous things of life — updates, messages/ emails, laundry, food prep, budgeting, etc.

Thank you again for your love and support through all of this! Although there have been hard moments/days (mainly lonely ones), I remain confident this is where God has called and placed me for this season. I am excited to continue seeing what the Lord has for me as I find new rhythms, meet new people, learn more Spanish, spend more time with Him, etc. (:

Prayerfully

God's heart is moved by His people's prayers! I would be so blessed to have you commit to praying. Here are some ways you can pray!

1. Patience as God is teaching me new rhythms and taking me deeper in spiritual disciplines
2. Peace, truth, joy & confidence to surpass the overwhelming friendships, etc.
3. Sweet connection—prayer warriors, mentors, meaningful friendships, etc.
4. Eyes and ears to be opened and hearts to be softened to receive the good news
5. A balance in discipline of studying, but also resting and trusting the Lord in the process of learning Spanish
6. Continued discernment and a fresh yielding to the Lord—especially for what He has for me after Peru.

Financially

I have officially shifted from one-time goals to monthly support!

Since stepping into full-time ministry, I am solely dependent on individuals who are willing to financially partner and sow into what God is doing and where He is leading.

I am currently in the process of building a community of people who are willing to support me long-term through monthly and/or annual giving, and I would love to have you join in on what God is doing!

Monthly Goal: \$3,500
Left to raise: \$2,010
Yearly Goal: \$42,000
Left to Raise: \$24,120

I would love to talk to you about what your involvement could look like! If you would like to talk more, we can connect in person or on a phone call. Please email or text me to let me know you are interested!

*Updated 4/15/26

If you have any questions, I would LOVE to sit down with you, hop on a call, or answer them over email or text. :)



A Week of Hope: Restoring Vision for 123 Patients

Imagine slowly losing your sight.

Everyday tasks—walking safely, cooking a meal, recognizing a loved one's face—become harder and harder. For many people in Honduras, cataracts slowly take away their independence and their ability to work and care for their families.

During CAMO's recent International Medical Brigade, a team of eye specialists and volunteers helped change that story. Working together with Robles Eye Center, the team performed 123 cataract surgeries—simple procedures that restore sight in less than an hour.

The brigade was led by Honduran ophthalmologists Dr. Marco Robles, Dr. Pablo Robles, Dr. Ana Robles, and Dr. Carlos Trochez, alongside U.S. volunteers Dr. Matthew Currie, Dr. Michael Sarber, Cheryl Bosch, Julie Meyers, Carrie Weighmink, Kirk Leindecker, Amanda Thomas, and Deb Miller, working side by side with the CAMO medical team.

For many patients, the moment after surgery was emotional. After living in darkness or blurred vision, they could once again see clearly—the faces of their families, the beauty of the world around them, and the path in front of them.

A single surgery restored more than sight. It restored independence, confidence, and hope.

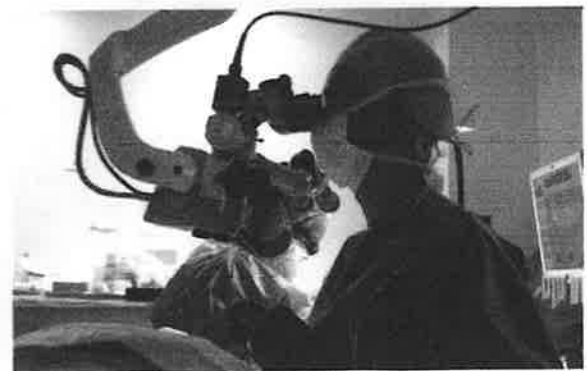
Because of compassionate doctors, dedicated volunteers, and the generosity of donors, 123 people received the gift of vision—and a new beginning.



Eight U.S. volunteers restored sight to patients who urgently needed cataract



Dr. Marco Robles views a cataract surgery through the operating microscope.

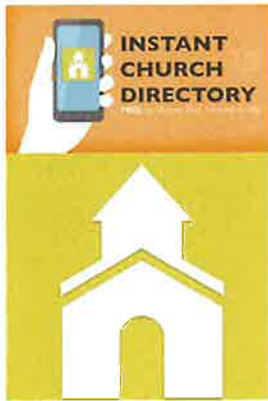




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Now you can sync our church directory directly to your Apple, Android or Kindle Fire device with a FREE app!

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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

Life. The Other Choice!



RIGHT TO LIFE
OF HOLLAND AREA

Volume 37 April 2026

607 Heritage Court, Holland, MI 49423 ~ 616.396.1037 ~ rtlholland@egl.net
www.rtlhofholland.org ~ https://www.facebook.com/RighttoLifeofHolland



~ **March/April** - HS Student Essay Contest

~ **May 16th** - Annual Walk/Run will be held at City on a Hill in Zeeland 9am-Noon.

~ **October 20th** - Annual Focus on Life Dinner with guest speaker Lydia Taylor, she is a pro-life activist, social media influencer, and national spokesperson for Students for Life of America.

2026 Annual Focus on Life Dinner

When: Tuesday, October 20, 2026

Where: The Pinnacle Center

Time: Doors open at 6:30pm



Guest Speaker:

Lydia Taylor Davis— Lydia is a Christian pro-life activist, social media influencer, and national spokesperson for Students for Life of America.

Based in North Carolina, she first gained recognition as president of Campbell University's Students for Life chapter - where she became known statewide as "the pro-life girl" - and later won a widely attended campus abortion debate in 2023.

Lydia is known for her pro-life content on TikTok, reaching tens of millions and educating Gen Z on the truth about abortion.

Her investigative videos exposing late-term abortion facilities have surpassed 50 million views across platforms. She has been featured on Fox News, the Wall Street Journal, ABC, Newsmax, the BBC and more.

This night is a great opportunity for teens and young adult to feel inspired!

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.



What Michigan Lost

UNDER THE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT



Abortion is now **legal in Michigan through all nine months of pregnancy** and for any reason. Additionally, as a result of the passage of the Reproductive Health Act in 2023, many longstanding commonsense safeguards have been struck from law, significantly increasing the risks for women. This reality is underscored by an already realized **38% rise in serious complications from abortion** being reported, the final year in which such reporting was required.*

BEFORE THE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT

- ✓ Abortion clinics were required to meet basic health and safety standards for patient protection.
- ✓ Women considering an abortion had a right to know common risks associated with abortions in Michigan.
- ✓ Abortion numbers and complication rates were reported to ensure transparency and accountability for abortion providers.

AFTER THE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT

- ✗ Commonsense health and safety standards have been removed, making abortion even more dangerous for women.
- ✗ There is no longer a requirement that common risks associated with abortion be shared with women before they undergo an abortion.
- ✗ Abortion providers are no longer required to report abortion numbers or complication rates, leaving women in the dark on vital information.

1978
2023

MICHIGAN REQUIRES ABORTION REPORTING

- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services releases annual abortion reports to the public

2024
PRESENT

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT (RHA) SIGNED BY GOVERNOR WHITMER

- No requirement for abortion providers to report data, meaning no public abortion data available from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
- No standard health and safety regulations for abortion clinics

LAST FULL PUBLIC ABORTION STATISTICS REPORT

- 38% increase in serious abortion complications

WOMEN ARE AT AN UNPRECEDENTED RISK to their health and well-being when they choose to have an abortion

If you are pregnant and want confidential help, call or text **1-800-712-HELP**



FROM THE CHAPLAIN



Friends,

Thank you for continuing to pray for and support the ministry inside the Ottawa County Jail. I want to share a brief update on what God has been doing.

CHRISTMAS IN THE JAIL

At Christmas, we were able to hand out Christmas bags to the men and women inside the jail.



Each bag included practical items along with a reminder that they are not forgotten. For some, it was the only gift they received this year. The response was powerful. They received them with joy, excitement, and even tears.

More than anything, the bags communicated this message: *You matter. You are seen. Jesus has not forgotten you.*



A special thank you to Ottawa Reformed Church who helped assemble the bags for the men and women inside of the jail.



RELAUNCH POD & WOMEN'S MINISTRY

We celebrated several more graduates from the Men's Relaunch Pod. Watching these men grow in Scripture, accountability, and life skills has been incredible.

Our women's ministry continues to grow in meaningful ways. Whether through one-on-one conversations, CHURCH Bible studies, or the New Life Group, we are seeing women give their lives to Christ, recommit themselves to Him, and take real steps forward in discipleship. Even when attendance fluctuates, God continues to bring the right women at the right time, and He is faithfully at work in their hearts.



Beyond the formal programs, we have seen more men and women give their lives to Jesus, and countless others continue to be discipled in their walk with Him. God is at work inside these walls.

EASTER IN THE JAIL

As Easter approaches, we are preparing Easter bags to hand out inside the jail, similar to Christmas.

Easter reminds us that no life is beyond hope. Because Jesus rose, there is new life available for every person - even behind bars. Please pray that these bags once again communicate hope and the love of Christ.

EXPANDING OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM

We are also seeking to expand our volunteer team as we continue being the hands and feet of Jesus in the jail. There is great opportunity for teaching, mentoring, discipling, and serving. Please pray that God would raise up faithful men and women to step into this mission.

A FINAL WORD – FAITHFULNESS

If there is one theme that continues to stand out to me, it is this: faithfulness. We are called to be faithful. Faithful to show up. Faithful to pray. Faithful to obey what God places in front of us. Faithful to love people who feel forgotten.

It is God who waters.
It is God who grows.
It is God who changes hearts.

We simply obey and trust Him with the rest. In this obedience, God is at work. Men graduating from the Relaunch Pod. Our first New Life Group graduate. Men and women surrendering their lives to Jesus. Others taking steps of discipleship and learning to walk faithfully with Him. The Kingdom of God continues to break forth in the Ottawa County Jail. Thank you for being faithful in supporting and praying for us. To God be all the glory.

BREAKING BREAD FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR



Rev. Dr. Rick Eschenburg

Recently, I had the privilege of attending a JailTalk in one of the counties we serve. JailTalk is RTF's version of a "lunch & learn," inviting community, business, and church leaders to share a meal while learning about our mission and the work God is doing in our jails. We never tire of sharing how God continues to show up daily in our county jails!

This JailTalk came with a built in bonus - it was hosted inside the jail! The community inside the jail shared stories and broke bread with the community outside, and it was a beautiful moment. Watching God connect these two communities, rediscovering our common humanity, if only briefly. I listened to my brothers in Christ, Mike and Tyler, shared their stories and spoke to the importance of RTF's presence in the jail- the same brothers I had been swapping "bad dad jokes" with while setting up lunch.

It was a day for the Church of Jesus Christ to be encouraged, to meet friends and family we didn't yet know, and to thank many while inviting others to join us in this work of jail ministry. It was a good day- one made possible through your prayers and generous support. Thank you. It is truly a privilege to serve alongside you.



Ways to Give:

Phone:
616.784.4620

Online:
jailministry.org

Mail:
1480 Buchanan Ave SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49507



RTF counties in Michigan

Reach the Forgotten Jail Ministry is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dependent solely on your generosity



@RTFjailministry



jailministry.org



@reachtheforgotten



GUIDESTAR



THANK YOU for your prayers & financial support! Our ministry would not be possible without you.

Niekerk Ministry Teams

Updated 4/23/26

<u>Council Committee</u>	<u>Chair/Contact Person</u>	<u>Team Members</u>
Community Impact Team		
Building Men for Life	Cheryl Bosch,	Scott Edewaard*, Deb Slenk, Ryan Texer, Margaret Timmer, Marv Venema, Sara 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	
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	Ken Schierbeek	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 Rigterink, Linda Timmer, Kaylin Van Dyke
Catechism Teachers	Gary Meiste*	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	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		

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

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