



““GIVE
thanks to
THE LORD,
because he
IS GOOD;
his love is
ETERNAL!””

psalm
107:1

November Niekerk News 2025

Niekerk Contact Information:

Phone: 616-396-4388
Prayer Line: 616-396-2697

Interim Pastor

John Nyitray
Office: 616-396-4388 #3
Phone: 616-834-3853
Email: john@niekerkcrc.org

Youth Director

Trisha Texer
Office: 616-396-4388
Email: youthdirector@niekerkcrc.org

Administrative Assistant

Julie Mulder
Office Hours
Monday—Thursday
8:00am—2:00pm
Phone: 616-396-4388
Email: secretary@niekerkcrc.org

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
December Niekerk News is:
November 23, 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

Caught In the Act

When we're caught in the act, it can be disconcerting. When Jon Boeve, or one of his fellow officers, discovers us speeding or not completely stopping, being caught in the act will mean a warning or a costly ticket. Other times being caught in the act can be heartwarming. Someone notices a kindness shown or an act of service given, and we blush with a settled contentment—knowing that somehow God was using even a small step of obedience.

On a Thursday in October, Niekerk Church was caught in the act of blessing and serving our neighborhood. We prayed, prepared, welcomed, served, provided, and then stood amazed at how the Lord blessed this year's Pumpkin Party. Our neighbors were greeted and blessed! Thank you to all who planned for and helped!

It says in Colossians 3:17, *"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."* Many acts of kindness and encouraging words were spoken to each other and our community. Niekerk did not hesitate to bless. And for that we thank God. *"In the name of Lord Jesus"* means we seek to speak and act under his authority as His ambassadors. The verse calls us to make sure our plans, decisions and activities are yielded to the Lord's will and are shining examples of His love.

Continue to pray for the ongoing effects of the Pumpkin Party. Pray that relationships begun would develop and that the coming months of ministry will be marked by continued growth in yielding to Jesus. Pray that our care for one another in word and deed will be clearly seen and felt.

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:15-16

Pastor John Nyitray

Total Budgeted YTD Receipts	\$ 500,267.25
Total Actual YTD Receipts	\$ 414,722.97
Over(Under) Budget	\$ (85,544.28)

September 30, 2025

GENERAL FUND:	BALANCE
2025 Beginning Balance	\$487,979.33
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$47,218.92
This Month Envelopes Receipts	\$36,405.86
Year to Date Budget Envelopes	\$342,362.24
Over Budget Reciepts	\$0.00
Interest	\$12,763.34
Facilities Rental Income	\$50.00
Total Receipts	\$355,175.58
This Month Disbursements	\$54,121.33
Year to Date Disbursements	\$395,267.41
Fund Balance	\$447,887.50

EVANGELISM FUND:	BALANCE
2025 Beginning Balance	\$10,243.33
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$4,125.00
YTD Receipts from Envelopes	\$29,998.20
YTD Over Budget Receipts	\$1,000.00
YTD Total Receipts	\$30,998.20
YTD Disbursements	\$23,792.60
Allocated Not Paid	\$9,750.00
Fund Balance	\$7,698.93

BUILDING RENOVATIONS FUND	BALANCE
2025 Beginning Balance	\$87,966.15
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$3,750.00
YTD Envelope Receipts	\$27,549.19
YTD Over Budget Receipts	\$1,000.00
YTD Total Receipts	\$28,549.19
YTD Disbursements	\$460.36
Fund Balance	\$116,054.98

SPECIAL FUND:	BALANCE
2025 Beginning Balance	0.00
This Month Special Fund	11,049.00
Year To Date Special Fund	76,984.73
This Month Disbursements	11,449.00
Year To Date Disbursements	75,784.73
Fund Balance	1,200.00

MISCELLANEOUS FUND:	BALANCE
2025 Beginning Balance	\$ 46,334.39
Current Fund Balances:	
Niekerk Tuition Fund	11,178.76
Hockey Rock	914.54
Niekerk Christian Ed Fund	24,329.92
Hand 2 Hand Ministries	10,690.49
Community Impact	6,723.94
Health Pantry	1,649.19
Family Mission Trip Fund	3,755.84
Fund Balance	\$ 59,242.68

Cash Balances		
Beginning Balance as of 1/1/2025	\$	632,923.20
Ending Balance as of 09/30/25	\$	641,834.09

CHURCH BUDGET	ACTUAL DOLLARS	BUDGETED DOLLARS	INCOME VARIANCE
Receipts	414,722.97	500,267.25	(85,544.28)
Disbursements	419,520.37	500,267.25	80,746.88
Allocated Not Paid	9,750.00		
Spendable Income	(14,547.40)		(4,797.40)

NIEKERK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Council Meeting Minutes October 6, 2025, at 7:30 PM

Growing in Christ and Making Him Known

01. Devotions and Opening Prayer. Carl Helder read from Psalm 95 and opened with prayer.
02. Council Minutes of September 8, 2025. Approved as written.
03. Elders' Meeting Summary: Carl Helder
 - a. Congregational Care changes. Pastor John will preach 2-3 times a month instead of 3-4 times a month while filling in the work of the Congregational Care role.
 - b. General discussion on the future of Niekerk.
 - c. Discussion on Communion and serving elements.
04. Search Team Update: Dave Helder
 - a. The team is moving through the candidates now and interviews are taking place with Chemistry Staffing. The Search Team will meet again when Chemistry has narrowed down the candidates.
05. Deacons' Meeting Summary as provided by Bryan Van Dyke.

The meeting was opened with devotions from 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 and prayer by Matt Maas.

- a. Review of the September 8th Deacons Meeting Minutes.
- b. Loose Offering Collections & Schedule:

September offerings confirmed:

September 7	Community Impact	\$4,777
September 14	Niekerk Christian Education Fund	\$1,297
September 21	Health Pantry	\$2,105
September 28	InterVarsity (Aaron Green)	\$950

- c. November Offerings Scheduled as Follows:

November 2	The Bible League
November 9	Sidewalk Counselors
November 16	Niekerk Christian Education Fund
November 23	Growing Hope Globally
November 27	Holland Rescue Mission (Thanksgiving)
November 30	Building Men For Life

- d. September Benevolent Fund Balance: \$9,301.65
 - How Many Disbursements: 2
 - What Amounts \$1,400.00
 - How Many Deposits 1
 - For What Amount 100.00
 - September Ending Benevolent Fund \$8,001.65

Benevolent Needs Discussed. We presently have several benevolent needs for members of the congregation that we are helping with and reaching out to see how we can be of assistance.

- e. Open discussion, correspondence and other items:
 1. A special donation was received. Discussed a special gift made earlier this year in the amount of \$4,000. We approved using this gift as follows: \$1,000 to assist Laura Helder's mission work, \$1,500 for kitchen upgrades and 1,500 towards the purchase of new music equipment.

2. Resonate Global Missions. Discussed correspondence from Resonate related to budgetary shortfalls. They do have a 2026 matching gift campaign in April so we could consider an offering for them in April of next year.
 3. Holland Deacons' Conference. Dale Walters made the group aware that the HDC is looking for assistance related to fall clean up at the brother/sister homes.
- Closing Prayer by Dale Walters
Meeting Adjourned

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

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Morning Worship</u>	<u>Evening Worship</u>
October 5	John Nyitray	Duane Terpstra
October 12	John Nyitray	Tom Pettinga
October 19	Ren Broekhuizen	Tom Pettinga
October 26	Eric Lynch-Seminarian	Tom Pettinga
November 2	Tim Cacciaytore-Seminarian	Cal Compagner
November 9	John Nyitray	Cal Compagner
November 16	John Nyitray	Tom Pettinga
November 23	Open	Tom Pettinga
November 27	John Nyitray (Thanksgiving Day) & Communion	
November 30	John Nyitray	Tom Pettinga

*Working on pulpit supply after December 14.

07. Next Communions: November 27, December 7 and February 1

08. Budget Proposal

- a. Spent some time on the 2026 Budget
- b. It was motioned to pass the budget and recommend it to the congregation to voted on. This motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
- c. The congregational meeting for the budget will be on December 8, 2025

09. Shepherding team Minutes provided by Pastor Nyitray

- a. To meet next week (week of October 12)
- b. Brief discussion on the visitors' report
- c. It was noted to be more intentional in welcoming visitors and to use the visitors' report as a tool in direct communication with each visitor before or after services.

10. Classis Report

- a. Dave Helder and Dale Walters gave a report on Holland Classis meeting that took place on October 2
- b. Pine Rest: during the last six months there was one visit to Pine Rest from our congregation.

11. Next meeting starts the nomination process. There will be three Elders and three Deacons going out and two Elders and two Deacons coming in. This will make our Council total 15.

12. The membership of Brenen and Rebecca Louwerse has been transferred to Overisel Reformed. This was approved unanimously.

13. Next meeting, November 3, 2025, at 7:30pm. Elders meeting at 6pm and Deacons meeting at 6:30pm.

14. The meeting was adjourned.

15. Closing prayer: Jon Boeve

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Cora Marie Rigterink
2	3 Josie Texer	4 Jen Leenstra	5 Ethan Texer	6 Carol Smith Katherine Heeres	7	8 Jen Leep Jake Boeve Sue Hoekstra
9	10 Brody Brower	11 Laura Vander Zwaag	12	13	14	15
16 Char Janssen	17 Bryan Van Dyke	18 Mike Dozeman Tucker Hondred	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 John Janssen Julie Mulder	26 Abby Helder	27 Pat Texer	28	29
30	Happy Birthday					



NOVEMBER

- 11-2 AM** Lindsey Haan
Abby Helder
PM Char Janssen
Sue Hoekstra
- 11-9 AM** Margaret Timmer
Trisha Texer
PM Lisa Kragt
Dawn Folkert
- 11-16 AM** Melinda Kryger
Dana Hondred
PM Carol Venema
Kathie Helder
- 11-23 AM** Kathi Petroelje
Renee & Emma Texer
PM Kaylin Van Dyke
Deb Slenk
- 11-27 AM** **Thanksgiving**
Linda Timmer
Kim Walkers
- 11-30 AM** Laura VanderZwaag
Sara Heeres
PM Jenn Schierbeek
Sandy Van Dyke

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

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



November Thank You Notes

Thank you for all the cards, calls and email messages for my birthday.

Carolyn Rietman

Jan and I wish to thank the Niekerk Church for the opportunity to serve as the Congregational Care Calling Elder for the last eight years. It was a rewarding experience to meet many of our members and help them through many different issues, I enjoyed working with the care teams and pray for them as they continue on. We were humbled by the service on September 28 when we were recognized and for the reception following the service. Also we thank you for the token of appreciation we received. That was very thoughtful. The Lord's blessing on each one of you as we look forward to what the Lord has planned for Niekerk.

In His service,
Jake and Jan Boeve

Dear Friends,

The loving support you gave us during Pam's illness was amazing. We loved you all the more for it, if that is even possible. The cards, gift cards, and meals were so appreciated and put to good use. The prayers were what sustained us. To say thank you is an understatement. But, "thank you" from the bottom of my heart.

Jerry Holmes

I would like to thank the congregation for all the cards and calls for my birthday wishes. I thank God for blessing me for 94 years.

Harvey Helder

"Thanks to the Niekerk Family for all the birthday cards, calls, texts and wishes for my 80th Birthday! GOD IS GOOD!"

Earl Plaggemars

We are so thankful for all the care and concern shown as Cal continues to struggle with his health. The prayers, phone calls, cards, wonderful meals, visits and rides to therapy are very much appreciated. Thank you to those who helped us get a wheelchair lift and building the platform we needed. It has been a great help in getting Cal out of the house safely. The lawn mowing crew has been a big help, too. We are blessed to belong to the family of Niekerk. Thank you!

Cal and Deb Schierbeek

A sincere THANK YOU for supporting us in various ways as Bill continues to deal with his Myasthenia Gravis. He has now received two sets of injections of Vyvgart and will begin on his third set of infusions soon. He has gained some energy, endurance and strength in his legs which is helpful. So thankful for prayers and medication. He will often say, *"I just keep rowing my boat."*

Bill and Carol Keen

Thank you to all who sent cards, made calls, and prayed for our family after my sister Carla passed away. We are very blessed to have a wonderful church family.

James & Nancy Means



November

November 2 Mike Venema
Steve Kragt
PM Steve Kragt

November 9 Carl Helder
Marcus Helder
PM Marcus Helder

November 16 Jim Means
Denny Stoel
PM Jim Means

November 23 Jon Boeve

November 27 Marcus Helder

November 30 John Timmer
Henry Bosch
PM Henry Bosch

****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.

November & December DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

November 3 Council Meeting
November 4 Women's Bible Study
November 5 Wednesday Night at Niekerk
November 11 Women's Bible Study
Ladies Craft Getaway 11-13
November 13 Men's Bible Study
Red Cross Blood Drive
November 19 Wednesday Night at Niekerk
December 1 Council Meeting
December 3 Wednesday Night at Niekerk
December 8 Congregational Meeting
December 14 Children's Christmas Program
December 17 GEMS & Cadets

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.

A Great BIG Pumpkin Party

Thank You!

The Community Impact Team would like to thank all of you who helped with the Great Pumpkin Party this year. From bakers to tractor drivers to donut donators to story-time teachers to face painters to pumpkin carvers to food donators to kitchen helpers to decorators to announcers to every last one of you--THANK YOU!!!! It goes without saying that our community felt loved on this night!

We invite you to continue to pray for those that attended that night. We pray that a connection made was somehow the seed of an introduction to the one true and living God. The call to reach the lost is urgent! We pray that the Lord fully uses us as ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor. 5:20-21)--what a privilege that His plan to have the glory of His gospel reach over every square inch of this world includes us!

We also thank you on behalf of Positive Options for donating clothing items for their donation store. They were in great need for these items to help support Moms in their journey to birth and parent their babies--THANK YOU!!!

You may also have noticed a new display unit in the narthex. The Community Impact Team hopes to use this area to keep you informed of ways in which we can continue to work together to build His Kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.

“The Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ”--C.S. Lewis

“What is the Motive for Evangelizing? There are, in fact, two motives that should spur us constantly to evangelize. The first is love of God and concern for his glory; the second is love of man and concern for his welfare.”--J.J. Packer

“Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains.”--Eph. 6:19-20



**American
Red Cross**

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.

2025 Blood Drive Dates

Thursday, November 13

Monday, January 19

Monday, March 16

Monday, May 15



Church Members in Care Facilities

Royal Park Place

Judy Bosch

Nonie Rietman

Royal Park Atrium

Marge Boeve

Nick Ellerbroek

Quincy Place Senior Living

Leona Scholten

Riley Grove

Jim & Lorraine Snay

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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
- Participate in a 2023 event at 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

Hi Niekerk family!

I wanted to give a quick update on my trip to Iquitos, Peru. Carol and I spent two and a half weeks in Iquitos. Our main ministries were relationship building, helping families start bodegas (little shops out of their homes), street and drug hole evangelism, prison ministry, providing medicine, partnering with The Safe House (men's rehab center), and helping at a couple children's programs.



Carol has been going to Iquitos for 30 years now, so she has built many beautiful relationships with the people there. A lot of our days looked like walking the streets and people who know Carol coming up to us or us going to them and checking in to see how they were doing. These conversations presented the needs that God had sent us to attend to. It was encouraging to see Carol carefully discern the line of being the hands and feet of Jesus and being "Santa Claus" in their eyes. She always pointed the conversation to God as provider, and we prayed with everyone. Carol quickly invited me into these moments of discernment and prayer.

The Safe House is Carol's favorite men's rehab in Iquitos. She knows many of the guys from first knowing them on the street. The guys love her. We went to hang out with them a few times at the house. We also went with them to the drug holes a few times to evangelize. These nights left me in awe of who our God is. Watching men freely worship the Lord and testify about what He has done in their lives on the streets where they were once bound in addiction in front of some of their closest friends was powerful.

One of the children's programs was held in a remote village across the Amazon and the other two were held in the roughest town, Belén. Any of the kids in these areas can come to these programs. They worship, pray, hear a short Bible story, do a fun activity, and then are blessed with a snack or meal. The goal of these programs is to disrupt and break the cycle of addiction, abuse, and poverty one child at a time through a relationship with Jesus.

We also did quite a bit of ministry with a gentleman named Jorge. Jorge was on the streets and in the drug holes for years and was also in prison before entering The Safe House where he had a radical encounter with God. We did drug hole evangelism and went to the prison with him. At the prison, we worshiped, testified, and handed out sandwiches and soda. Again, it is one of the most encouraging and powerful opportunities watching someone go back to the places and people that once held them bound in sin and shame and proclaim the name of Jesus.

Our time was full and short, but each encounter and conversation filled my cup to overflowing and reminded me of God's character. I have no idea what big picture the Lord is working on, but Peru has left me even more excited for whatever it is. Peru and the people there stole a piece of my heart and taught me new depths of unconditional love, intercession, joy, patience, hope, and much more I haven't even begun to process. Up next, Guatemala!

Much love,
Laura Helder



The Greener Side

InterVarsity in the Upper Peninsula

Aaron Green

1910 Robindale Drive, Houghton, MI 49931

Phone: 906-370-4835 Email: aaron.green@intervarsity.org

Pictures of New Student Outreach

We've had a very fruitful start to the year. Here are a few pictures with captions sharing all that God is doing!

How you can pray:

- Pray for our outreach trip to NMU and Bay College this week Thursday and Friday. Both of these chapters have had a challenging start to the year. Eight MTU students will join me on this trip - and it can make an enormous difference on campus! Pray that we would have meaningful conversations with seeking students and pray that the Christians on these campuses would be inspired and encouraged to dedicate themselves to pray and fellowship as they hear testimonies of how God is working.
- Please continue to pray that God would raise up more InterVarsity staff for the UP, as well as student interns who would live sacrificially to advance his Kingdom. It's very challenging to keep things going at all our chapters in the UP.
- Pray that we would see many students attend Urbana Missions Conference this December and grow a heart for missions. We still need helping funding all our interested students (see below if you want to help!)



Students and staff sharing the Gospel at one of our proxe stations on campus. Students have been active in both inviting seeking friends to explore faith and going out on campus to have discussions with new people. Several MTU students will travel with me to NMU and Bay later this week to outreach on those campuses (see prayer requests below)



Our students preparing to run Ultimate Cantaloupe during O-week. We hand almost all of our returning students on campus a week early just to meet freshmen and to talk to people about faith.



Not only have we seen every one of our 10+ Bible studies thrive—we've seen our student starting new Bible studies with seeking friends in their fraternities, on their sports team—and even freshmen like Trinity and Addy here started a Bible study to reach friends in their dorm!



We had 70 MTU students at our Camp Lahti retreat (but alas, you only get a picture of me this time). The camp gets very full so many students sleep outside on the shores of Lake Superior on

Needs for Urbana Scholarships!

Would you like to support global missions? Would you like to help send a student to a mission conference? We have over twenty signed up to go to Urbana this December—but it is quite expensive because they have to travel all the way to Phoenix! I have raised \$8000 the last six months to help students get to Urbana. I am still trying to raise \$7000 more by the end of this month. Would you consider a gift of \$500 to sponsor a student to attend? If so you can give to our chapter account at the QR Code



Our **VISION** IS TO SEE: **STUDENTS & FACULTY TRANSFORMED** campuses renewed **WORLD CHANGERS & DEVELOPED**

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Prayer updates from our ministry with InterVarsity in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Give a gift to support Aaron

Give a gift toward student scholarship

Mohan and Judy Chacko

230 S State St #36

Zeeland, MI 49464

mc@ptsindia.com/jc@ptsindia.com

October 2025

Dear Niekerk Family,

The wait is over. Almost a year and a half after we applied, we finally got Mohan's Green Card, adjusting his status from a tourist to that of a permanent resident. The days were filled with anxiety, but so many of you prayed with us and encouraged us during this period of waiting. We thank and praise God for his goodness. Thanks to all of you who prayed and shared our concerns through these days.

Now that we have a Green Card, we can think of travelling outside the country. Most likely, we will travel to India in the winter (2026) for a period of teaching, other ministries, attending to unfinished matters there, and of course visiting our dear friends and family at Presbyterian Theological Seminary. It won't be a long stay there as there are restrictions on how long one can be out of the US while a resident alien. It will be wonderful to meet some new students and re-visit the older ones. Above all, it will be a pleasure to teach face-to-face and discuss topics with the class. While we are thankful for the technical facilities that enable teaching from a distance, there is nothing like being able to stand in front of a class.

Meanwhile, we are already more than halfway through the first semester of the new academic year 2025-26. Mohan is teaching three courses this semester online. One of his goals is to write textbooks for all the theology courses taught at PTS so that students can have affordable and contextually-sensitive study material in front of them. New teachers also appreciate having a syllabus ready. Mohan was able to produce a new textbook this academic year on "Church and Sacraments." He is presently working on a book on the doctrine of last things. Judy keeps up with alumni and compiles the PTS prayer list for each month. (If you would like a copy, please let us know.)

The Lord blessed the Seminary with a good enrollment this year. Twenty-five new students have enrolled, bringing the total number of students to 89, making a full campus. They represent 17 states of India and three countries (India, Nepal, and Myanmar). It is an answer to prayer that students from Myanmar were able to get visas to study theology in India.

Things are going well on campus despite a heavy Monsoon season which is just coming to an end. There has been a lot of damage in the state due to flooding and landslides, but the PTS campus is safe so far. We praise God for that. We also praise God that the new student center and conference facility is near completion. Some work remains unfinished due to financial problems.

Some Items for Prayer and Praise:

- Thank God for the provision of the Green Card.
- New teachers are needed to fill the gap of some who have left or are gone for further studies.
- Protection of the Seminary from the attacks of radical groups who are against the Christian faith. Freedom for students and alumni to engage in ministry without fear.
- The Seminary very urgently needs a certain permit from the authorities. Please pray for this great need.
- Plans and provisions for our travel to India in the winter.
- Good health for both of us. Judy has been experiencing severe pains in her right leg, due to sciatica. She is going through physical therapy.
- Our family is now in four different countries – USA, Canada, New Zealand (Maria is studying there for one year), and India. Please pray that we may be kept together and under God's protection.

With love,
Mohan and Judy Chacko

Where to send gifts: ARMA, 4544 Van Buren, Hudsonville, MI 49426. (Checks may be made payable to "ARMA" and designated for "the Chackos".)

If you are receiving a paper copy of our letter, but would prefer to receive by e-copy, please let us know.

Please do not post this letter on any website.



Heights of Hope

Fall 2025 Newsletter

From Circles, to 5K, to YLC, we've had a lot going on over the last few months, and we want to share with you what we've been up to!

CIRCLES

Since October 2024, our incredible [Circles](#) Leaders—neighbors working hard to overcome poverty—have been courageously chasing financial and emotional goals. In March, a team of Allies joined them, not to lead or fix, but to walk with them—offering support, encouragement, and friendship.

But here's the thing: Circles isn't a one-way street. It's built on reciprocity—because we all have something to give and something to learn. Whether it's financial wisdom, lived experience, or just a really good cookie recipe, everyone brings something to the table (literally and figuratively).

Together, we've:

Partnered with [Community Action House](#) to join their Savings Club—learning how to make our money work for us & the importance of saving- even if there's only a little left over to save.

Started talking about the systems that keep people in poverty—and how we can use our stories and voices to spark change. This part of the journey is called Big View, and we're just getting started! We're in the introduction phase, but already feeling the power of what's possible

Shared some unforgettable meals, thanks to amazing churches and community partners (seriously, y'all are keeping us well-fed and well-loved)

Watched Circles Youth explore nature, meet a real life pirate (yes, that happened), do fun science experiments, and set savings goals with their parents.

Sure, there are bumps in the road—this is real life, after all—but every week, we show up for each other.

We're building something stronger. Together.

****Want to be part of it?***

We're always looking for youth volunteers, meal providers, and good-hearted folks who want to walk with us. Community is better when everyone's invited.



5K

On race day, the sun cranked up to a toasty 93°, but the heat didn't melt anyone's enthusiasm. Over 300 racers showed up ready to dash through the Peppermint Forest, jog past gumdrops, and yes, even waddle the route in a full gingerbread man costume.

King Kandy himself sent racers off, and the course came alive thanks to 14 incredible Road Warrior stations. Volunteers went all out: punny candy signs, pink and purple hair, giant gummy bears, candy bracelets, and even a full family of cupcakes. Flash was so impressed he handed out trophies to his top picks! The heat didn't stand a chance against our speedsters, who blazed through the course with jaw-dropping times! But in true Heights of Hope fashion, we cheered just as loud for the last runner as the first. At the finish line, every racer was greeted with a lollipop, plus cotton candy and gummy bears for extra sweetness.

But our volunteers were the true MVPs of our race. From blueberry pickers to cotton candy makers, bounce castle attendants to iced coffee servers, this race is powered by pure community spirit.

We also couldn't have done it without our corporate sponsors, the Holland Police Department, the [Ottawa County Medical Reserve Corps](#), our incredible partner churches, and [Gazelle Sports](#).

The Heights of Hope 5K isn't just a run. It's a community celebration wrapped in joy, sprinkled with creativity, and topped with a whole lot of heart.



YLC

YLC is our summer paid internship for students. We celebrated the end of the summer program with family and friends. Thanks to a grant from the Holland Junior Welfare League, students were able to get a stipend.

Students learned:

- How to fill out applications/create resumes
 - Interview preparedness
 - How to set SMART GOALS
 - Created and presented presentation boards to an audience about their internships
 - Learned about their strengths and created a plan to continue to strengthen them
 - Embraced service opportunities at CAH Food Club
 - Took 4 Financial literacy workshops, thanks to Community Action House, who MATCHED the students stipend with a bonus check!
 - Learned about each other
 - Helped host a community block party
 - How to communicate more efficiently with your employer
 - Attended two site visits, one to Escape Ministries and one to Cornerstone University
- ...and more!

Of course we had FUN TOO!

We did all of this in just 8 weeks!

We're so proud of the work the students put in this summer!



We Need Your Help

As always, we couldn't do this without your support. We are so grateful for all of you who pray for us, volunteer with us and support us with your finances. It is your partnership that allows us to continue building meaningful relationships with our neighbors, and partnering with them to make our neighborhood the great place that it is!

It is common for financial donations to ebb and flow for nonprofits. One way we can have greater predictability in our finances is for those of you who are able to consider making a regular monthly donation to Heights of Hope. There are already some of you that do, and we are so grateful for your regular support. Not only does that support communicate to us that you believe in the work that we do, but it also allows us to have greater accuracy and prediction of our cash flow, providing greater financial certainty.

We recognize that it is an economically uncertain time for many, but we ask if you are able, please prayerfully consider making a recurring monthly donation to Heights of Hope, or any donation, and support the work we do. We can't do it without your support.



UNITED STATES

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CANADA

3475 Mainway
PO Box 5070, STN LCD 1 P (905) 336-2920
Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8 P 800-730-3490

RESONATEGLOBALMISSION.ORG



October 15, 2025

Niekerk CRC
545 Country Club Rd
Holland, MI 49423

Dear Congregation of Niekerk CRC

Thank you for stepping into God's mission through your generous support of Resonate!

Through your church's giving to Resonate, your congregation has taken a step of faith into a bigger story to which God has called us as members of the global church. You have taken a step to share the gospel—and God is using your church's mission and generosity to bring transformation to lives, families, and communities all over the world!

God's story is bigger than we could ever imagine, and we all have a part to play in this story. In a world marred by hunger, sickness, violence, grief, and despair, the gospel is good news. Your congregation is walking alongside Resonate missionaries, church planters, campus ministers, and other ministry leaders as they share the good news of the gospel that brings fullness, healing, peace, and hope!

Thank you for joining people all over the world on their faith journeys. Through your partnership with Resonate, your church is not only a donor—you are a member of the global church who is responding to God's call to spread the gospel among peoples and nations!

Serving with you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "K DeRaaf", written in a cursive style.

Rev. Kevin DeRaaf

Director, Resonate Global Mission

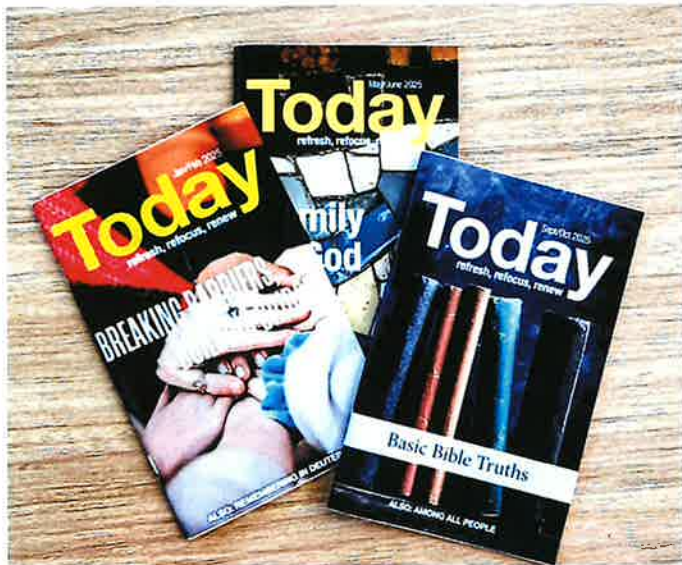


**ReFrame
Ministries**

is the new name of
Back to God Ministries International

OCTOBER 2025

Today ⁷⁵
YEARS



A Tool for Evangelism

The *Today* devotional is reaching far beyond individual readers and has become a powerful tool for sharing the gospel in everyday life. In prisons, mental health facilities, and nursing homes, *Today* offers hope, encouragement, and the reminder of God's presence to those who may feel overlooked or forgotten.

Inmates are enjoying *Today* so much that many have asked us to send copies to their families. From inside prison walls, they are spreading the Word of God to friends and loved ones. In nursing homes, staff and residents often use *Today* as the basis for Bible study, creating opportunities to share Scripture with others. For readers who struggle with eyesight, the *Today* app makes it possible to hear the devotions read aloud, extending its reach even further.

Available in print, by email, through the app, or on the *Today* website, this devotional continues to open doors for the gospel. Each copy of *Today* becomes a Spirit-filled way to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

A Resource for Growth

As we mark 75 years of the *Today* devotional, we celebrate how your support allows it to serve not only as a daily guide but also as a valuable resource for deeper learning.

Did you know our *Today* website is more than just a place to read the daily devotional? The site offers a wealth of resources, including past devotionals and blogs that explore topics in greater depth.

Recently, a new believer preparing to lead a Bible study searched the website for his topic and discovered devotionals and articles that strengthened both his lesson and his faith. A pastor also used the website to find archived devotions on the Holy Spirit, and he was able to print exactly what he needed for free to share with his group.



Double Your Gift!

Thanks to your generosity, *Today* continues to equip believers, inspire faith, and guide people into God's Word. Right now, every gift will be matched up to \$75,000, doubling your impact. Please use the QR code above or visit reframeministries.org/donate to make your gift and help us continue sharing *Today*.



Church Assistance Program

A Guide to Your Benefits



800.442.0809

(press 1 and follow the prompts)

Please remember to say, "I have a CAP with... (name of church)"

Your CAP Benefits Include

- 3 sessions of free, confidential counseling per episode of care
- In-the-moment support available 24/7
- Free consultations
- Personal Advantage online library
- Wallet Wisdom online financial wellness
- All benefits available to every member of the household



Benefit Line
800.442.0809

What if I Need Immediate Support?

If you or a loved one are in crisis or experiencing suicidal thoughts, please visit a hospital ER or Pine Rest Psychiatric Urgent Care Center.*

Access in-the-moment support by calling 800.442.0809 (press 1 and follow the prompts).



Online Scheduling
pinerest.org/scheduling

**ER and Psychiatric Urgent Care are not included in the CAP benefits.*

CAP Contact Info

800.442.0809 (press 1 and follow the prompts)
eap@pinerest.org



Church Assistance Program

A Guide to Your Benefits

Confidential Counseling Services

How do I schedule my free counseling sessions?

Call 800.442.0809, press 1 and follow the prompts or schedule online at pinerest.org/scheduling.

What is an episode of care?

An episode of care begins with your first visit and doesn't end until you have left treatment and your case is closed. An episode of care may include addressing multiple issues.

Will my church be notified?

All CAP services are 100% confidential.

Are my family members eligible for CAP benefits?

Every member of your household is eligible including dependents who are away at school.

Free Online Resources

Personal Advantage is an online library with thousands of resources related to health and wellness, financial and legal issues and more. This library includes articles, videos, webinars, calculators, locators, assessments and trainings.



pinerest.org/PAL
My Company Username is: _____

Wallet Wisdom is a financial resource library of webinars, calculators and articles to help you with complex financial issues such as debt consolidation, student loans, retirement saving, mortgage lending and more.



Wallet Wisdom
go.lmcu.org/pine-rest

Free Consultations

Elder Care Consultation with an elder care specialist from Pine Rest for a free consultation including assessment of needs, education and resources for housing, care and support groups.

Legal Consultation with an attorney from law firm, Rhoades McKee, for a free 30-minute consultation on any legal matter. Additional services receive a 20% discount.

Financial Consultation with a finance expert from Lake Michigan Credit Union to discuss any financial matter via telephone, video call or in-person at a LMCU location.

Infant Feeding Support Consultation with a board-certified lactation consultant from baby beloved, inc. to discuss prenatal, postnatal, return-to-work, breastfeeding, or bottle feeding concerns. Free webinars and 25% discount on additional online educational courses.

Real Estate Consultation with a licensed realtor from Cripe Real Estate to discuss any real estate related questions, receive a home valuation, and property availability search. Free 1-year home warranty with purchase or sale of a home.

How to Access Your Free Consultations

Option 1: Call 800.442.0809, press 1 and follow the prompts to select your free consultation.

Option 2: Scan the QR code to email your request. Please identify the type of consultation requested.

Remember to say, "I have a CAP with... (name of church)".



Scan the QR code to
email your request for a
free consultation.

Niekerk Ministry Teams

Updated 8-13-25

<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*, Ryan 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	
	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	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		
Catechism Teachers	Trisha Texer	Brian Bosch, Stephanie Edewaard, Kurt Rigtterink, Linda Timmer, Kaylin Van Dyke
Childcare/Nursery	Kurt Rigtterink*	Scott Helder (4 th -5 th), Char Janssen (6 th -7 th) Carl Helder (8 th)
Education Team	Kaylin Van Dyke	Lindsey Haan, Renee Texer
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, 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 <i>General Fund Treasurer</i>	Bryan VanDyke* Kathi Petroelje Mike Dozeman	Mike Dozeman, Ivan Janssen, Brent Kapenga, Larry Van Dyke
	Bryan Van Dyke* Carl Helder	Dave Helder, Bev Leep, Joe Texer, Wayne Tjarks
Missions Team Missionary Financial Support Growing Hope Globally	Dave Helder	Char Janssen, Gary Morren, Nancy Windemuller, Pastor John Nyitray
Prayer Team Oversee Prayer Activities Worship Coordinator	Carol Hochhalter	
Support Team Administrative Assistant Building Supervisors Custodian Donations Emergency Response Historian Kitchen	Jon Boeve* 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
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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