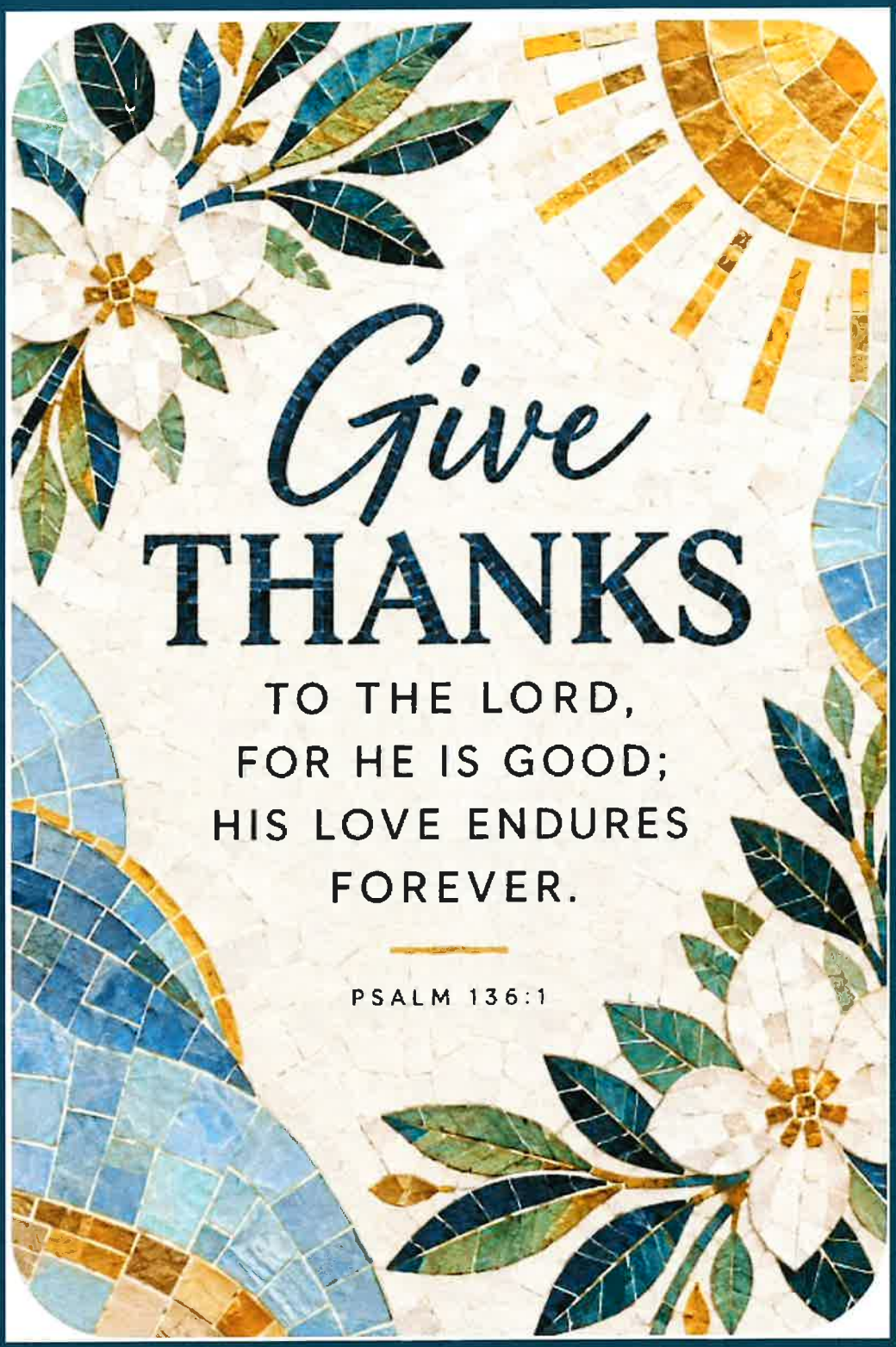

November Niekerk News 2026

Niekerk Contact Information
Phone: 616-396-4388
www. niekerkcrc.org

Interim Pastor
Pastor John Nyitray
Office: 616-396-4388
Phone: 616-834-3853
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Youth Director
Trisha Texer
Office: 616-396-4388
Email: youthdirector@niekerkcrc.org

Administrative Assistant
Julie Mulder
Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
8:30am - 2:30pm
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



Deadline for the October Niekerk News is November 22

Gifts for Visitors

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



Phone books can be found across from the Information Center on the magazine rack



a letter from the pastor

The 222 Club

At the last Classis meeting, Scott Vander Ploeg, a pastor from Florida, spoke about church planting and raising up leaders. He invited us to view leadership training through the multiplying pattern of 2 Timothy 2:2: "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." In other words, disciples are called not only to learn, but also to help others learn.

Back when I was about 6 years old, my dad tried to teach me to ride a bicycle. I'm sure my older sister gave it a try. My friend, Kenny Tuinier (he was 7) had already learned. He knew how to ride a bicycle. I was 6 and wasn't getting it.

Ken knew what I wanted to know, and he was a good friend. So, one day, in the middle of the celery farms on the outskirts of Kalamazoo, he taught me to ride. When it came to bicycles, Kenny was my teacher and I was his disciple: he passed on what he had learned so that I could do it too.

When we stand to confess our faith in Christ, we declare that we are in a discipling relationship with the Lord Jesus. He is our Master Teacher. We receive His instruction, live it, and pass it on to others. That is the pattern set out in 2 Timothy 2:2: Christ calls us to be disciples who make disciples. After all, what good is learning without doing?

For Timothy to be such a discipling discipler, he was to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus (verse 1). Paul wanted Timothy to know more and more the depth and security and wonder of our salvation in Christ.

If we stop digging into the unfathomable riches of His grace, our faith can become little more than "knowledge on the shelf" — head knowledge that never shapes how we live. That is as disappointing as learning to ride a bicycle and never getting on one again. In the same way, following Jesus without sharing what we are learning with others is like knowing how to ride but never taking off down the road.

God wants us to be strong in His grace — not so that we can keep what we learn to ourselves, but so that we can share it with others. We do not need to know everything before we begin; we need to be faithful with what Christ is teaching us. After all, what good is learning without doing?

Kenny's teaching was not perfect. He had not yet mastered every part of bicycling — especially stopping. I learned that day that the back end of a tractor is not the best brake! Yet Kenny still knew enough to help me begin. In the same way, we do not need to know everything before we help someone else take a next step with Christ.

You don't know everything. None of us does, and neither did Timothy. Seek out faithful people who can disciple you and meet with them regularly. Then share what you are learning with others who are ready to learn. In the church, every disciple should remain teachable — and every disciple should be willing to teach.

Pastor John

Total Budgeted YTD Receipts	$	493,801.50
Total Actual YTD Receipts	$	439,890.86
Over(Under) Budget	$	(53,910.64)

September 30, 2026

GENERAL FUND:	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	$519,255.41
Monthly Budget Amount Required	$46,242.00
This Month Envelopes Receipts	$26,245.45
Year to Date Budget Envelopes	$365,054.50
Over Budget Reciepts	$0.00
Interest	$3,169.27
Facilities Rental Income	$0.00
Total Receipts	$368,223.77
This Month Disbursements	$30,263.66
Year to Date Disbursements	$383,535.05
Fund Balance	***$503,944.13***

SPECIAL FUND:	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	0.00
This Month Special Fund	7,937.30
Year To Date Special Fund	94,075.02
This Month Disbursements	7,937.30
Year To Date Disbursements	93,975.02
Fund Balance	***100.00***

EVANGELISM FUND:	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	$9,880.03
Monthly Budget Amount Required	$4,875.00
YTD Receipts from Envelopes	$40,023.81
YTD Over Budget Receipts	$0.00
YTD Total Receipts	$40,023.81
YTD Disbursements	$37,212.57
Allocated Not Paid	$0.00
Fund Balance	***$12,691.27***

MISCELLANEOUS FUND:		BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	$	38,768.06
Current Fund Balances:		
Niekerk Tuition Fund		11,178.76
Hockey Rock		4,668.80
Niekerk Christian Ed Fund		28,078.77
Hand 2 Hand Ministries		5,016.77
Community Impact		833.51
Health Pantry		626.13
Family Mission Trip Fund		3,365.84
Fund Balance	***$***	***53,768.58***

BUILDING RENOVATIONS FUND	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	$104,738.98
Monthly Budget Amount Required	$3,750.00
YTD Envelope Receipts	$31,643.28
YTD Over Budget Receipts	$0.00
YTD Total Receipts	$31,643.28
YTD Disbursements	$1,234.95
Fund Balance	***$135,147.31***

Cash Balances		
Beginning Balance as of 1/1/2026	$	672,522.48
Ending Balance as of 09/30/26	$	705,651.29

CHURCH BUDGET	**ACTUAL DOLLARS**	**BUDGETED DOLLARS**	**INCOME VARIANCE**
Receipts	439,890.86	493,801.50	(53,910.64)
Disbursements	421,982.57	493,801.50	71,818.93
Allocated Not Paid	0.00		
Spendable Income	17,908.29		17,908.29

NIEKERK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Council Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2026, at 7:30 PM

Growing in Christ and Making Him Known

01. Devotions and Opening Prayer: Carl Helder

02. Approved Council Minutes of September 14

03. Deacons' Meeting Summary: Joe Texer

a. September Loose Offering Confirmed

September 6	Bravo CRC	$1,060.00
September 13	ARO	$2,037.00
September 20	Josh & Anna	$1,336.00
September 27	Gateway Missions	$1,336.00

b. Offerings Scheduled as follows:

November 8	Growing Hope Globally
November 15	Building Men for Life
November 22	Niekerk Christian Education Fund
November 26	Holland Rescue Mission
November 29	Sidewalk Counselors

d. September Benevolent Fund Balance: $14,347.66

e. Benevolent Needs Discussed
   1. To help offset the additional costs related to Niekerk's Health Pantry, Building Men for Life and Heights of Hope, the Deacons will be transferring money from the benevolent fund to help support the Health Pantry.
   2. Discussed various needs within the congregation
   3. No benevolent needs outside of the congregation were known at this time

f. Open discussion, Correspondence & other items

g. Spent some time on budget related questions

h. Spent some time on Christian Education questions

i. Retiree Dinner is scheduled for Thursday, October 27

j. Next meeting will be Monday, November 2, with opening devotions by Dale Walters

k. Closing prayer by Dale Walters

l. Meeting adjourned.

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

Sunday	Morning Worship	Evening Worship
October 11	John Nyitray	Tom Pettinga
October 18	David Bast	John Ornee
October 25	Ren Broekhuizen	Duane Terpstra
November 1	John Nyitray	Tom Pettinga
November 8	John Nyitray	John Ornee
November 15	David Bast	Tom Pettinga
November 22	Dr. Paul Mpindi	Duane Terpstra
November 26	John Nyitray – Thanksgiving	
November 29	John Wagenveld	Cal Compagner
December 6	John Nyitray – Communion	Cal Compagner
December 13	Christmas Program	John Nyitray
December 20	John Nyitray	Candlelight Service/no sermon
December 25	John Nyitray – Christmas Day	

05. Search Team report and discussion – Dave Helder

06. Shepherding Ream Report – Pastor John Nyitray
    a. Working with the Wednesday Night Team and will lead the Chosen series again this year. The last two episodes of season 5 through December 2026, starting in 2027 will be season 6
    b. Pumpkin party will give opportunities for members of the congregation to get involved with outreach to our neighborhood.
    c. November 1 will be All Saints Day, with pictures of loved ones that have gone home to glory. Announcement in bulletin will encourage new pictures or previous pictures from last time will be used. Also, to encourage new members to participate.
    d. Elders are encouraged to invite recent visitors that have been showing signs of joining Niekerk, to sign up to the Retirees' Dinner on October 27.
    e. Report on visitations that were made in September. Next meeting October 19.

08. Admin Team Minutes provided by Randy Hoogewind
    a. Minutes were read for review
    b. Discussion on the 2027 Budget by Joe Texer
        1. Various items were discussed. Quotes were discussed on the repaving of the church parking lot. A motion was made and approved to accept the bid and put us on the list to get done next spring.
        2. Another item was discussed on the church elevator. After the electrical strike, the insurance covered much of the cost to repair, but it forced us to bring it up to code. No decisions were made.

09. Classis Meeting was held October 1, 2026. Ric Lucas reported items that were done.

10. Pastor Appreciation Month of October

11. Other pressing matter that should be discussed before our next meeting.

12. Next meeting, November 2, 2026, at 7:30pm. Elders and Deacons Meeting at 6:30pm.

13. Adjournment and Closing prayer: Pastor John Nyitray

NOVEMBER THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Niekerk Friends, Let me thank you first of all, for the very warm welcome I received at Niekerk Church from all of you since I began worshiping with you. You are a special group of people. I also want to express my thanks to you for your prayers, food, cards, and visits since I was in the car accident. Your concern for me was overwhelming. Thanks to Pastor John and Maria for your visits also. I also thank God for sparing my life. It could have been so different. What an awesome God we serve.

THERESE DEVRIES

Thank you to the congregation for cards, calls, food and birthday wishes. I thank God for blessing me with 95 years.

HARVEY HELDER

Niekerk Church,

Last week I received your check in the mail, and I am blown away by your generosity! Thank you for so warmly welcoming me into your church, giving me the opportunity to share about the ministry of Haven Missionary Homes, and then the offering.

Your gift helped us color in three more bricks on our capital campaign image, bringing us one step closer to becoming a mortgage-free ministry! What an incredible gift!

I loved getting to spend a Sunday with you, worshipping together, celebrating Profession of Faith, and connecting with so many of you after the service.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for believing in our ministry, for investing in the work God is doing through HMH, and for being a part of our story. We are incredibly grateful for you!

STACEY NAGELKIRK

Thank you to all the Niekerk Church friends who helped make our Annual Harvest Auction a great success. We appreciate all the donors, bidders and food providers who contributed to making the 2026 Auction the second most profitable in 51 years!

BRAVO CONGREGATION

Dear brothers & sisters in Christ,

Greetings from Zeeland! Our family has been back in the States since late June. Both of the boys are up at Michigan Tech, leaving me and Virginia as new empty-nesters. I am continuing to guide and train three teams of Cameroonians who are translating the Bible into their own languages. I plan to be back in Cameroon for three weeks in November to work with them face-to-face.

We want to express our gratitude for your faithful and generous support of our work over the years. We are trusting that God's Spirit is working through His word to transform lives in Cameroon and around the world!

JOSH & VIRGINIA HAM

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and condolences in the passing of my sister, Sandy Hilles. Thank you for the continued prayers for my brother Rob, who is fighting cancer.

TERI & RANDY HOOGEWIND

Thank you for all the birthday wishes from cards, calls, email, and Facebook!

CAROLYN RIETMAN

NOVEMBER THANK YOU NOTES

To My Niekerk Family,

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the love, kindness, and support you have shown me during this difficult time. Your visits, delicious meals, thoughtful cards, and encouraging words have meant more to me than I can adequately express.

Most of all, thank you for your faithful prayers. Knowing that so many of you are lifting me up in prayer has brought me tremendous comfort, strength, and encouragement. Each act of kindness has been a beautiful reminder of God's love and the blessing of belonging to such a caring church family.

As I continue this journey, I trust the Lord for healing and place my future in His hands. Thank you for walking alongside me, loving me, and reminding me that I am not facing this alone.

May God bless each of you for the love you have so generously shared.

With heartfelt love and gratitude,

DELIA GALE

Thank You to my Niekerk Family, for helping me celebrate my 81st Birthday, and a reminder of how God has blessed my life! Your cards, calls, texts and greetings were very much appreciated!

Sincerely,

EARL PLAGGEMARS

Church Members in Care Facilities

Appledorn South
Stan Brandsen

Resthaven Janssen Cottage
Bernard "Bud" Bos

Royal Park Place
Judy Bosch
Nonie Rietman

Royal Park Atrium
Marge Boeve
Nick Ellerbroek

Quincy Place Senior Living
Jim & Lorraine Snay
Duane & Guy Tucker

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	7
8 Jen Leep Jake Boeve Sue Hoekstra	9	10	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

HELPFUL INFORMATION

01

AT THE GATE

At the gate in biblical times was the place where many things happened. People met to talk and get the latest news. Prophets often spoke to the people gathered at the gate. Each Sunday we will meet in the narthex at 11:00am to continue to study the text of the sermon for that morning and seek to apply it to our lives.

02

HOLIDAY CHOIR

is coming this fall and will sing for Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. Rehearsals will begin on Sunday, November 8, following the morning worship service. All singing adults are welcome to join.



03

SECURITY

UNDERLINE IS EVENING

November 1	Mike Venema & Steve Kragt
November 8	Carl Helder & Marcus Helder
November 15	John Timmer & Terry Bosch
November 22	Jim Means & Denny Stoel
November 26	Mike Venema
November 29	Dale Walters & Jon Boeve

04

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Blood Drive Dates: Wednesday, November 11
Monday, January 18
Monday, March 15
Monday, May 10



05

LOST & FOUND

Knockaround black/gray sunglasses
Black reading glasses
CarryOuts casserole carrier
Large Dice
Reading glasses/black
iActive black vest womens vest

To Our Niekerk Church Family

from Mandy Hutchesen

Circles Coordinator

Thank you for opening your doors to Circles and allowing us to call **Niekerk our home since 2019.**

Over the years, these rooms have held so much more than Tuesday night dinner and meetings. They've held laughter and tears, hard conversations and celebrations, kids growing up, friendships forming, goals being reached, and people learning to believe something different is possible for their lives.

Lives have truly been transformed within these walls.

Relationships have been built between people who may have never crossed paths otherwise. People have found community, support, encouragement, and a place where they know they belong.

And you have made space for all of it.

Thank you for welcoming our Leaders, Allies, children, volunteers, and staff week after week and year after year. Thank you for trusting us with your space and believing in the work alongside us.

You haven't simply given Circles a place to meet. You've given us a place to grow, build community, and change lives together.

We are so incredibly grateful to call Niekerk home.

With so much gratitude,

Mandy,
Heights of Hope & the Circles Crew

CIRCLES USA
Building Community to End Poverty

JOIN US!

INDOOR WALKING!

Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00am to 11:30am, the church will be open for anyone who needs to get out, get moving, and stretch their legs. Whether you're an Olympic speed walker or a slow walker, everyone is welcome to come out, bring their kids, invite a friend and start walking laps here at Nierkerk.



SHARED MEALS



These meals are for members of our church with needs and for those outside our church that could use a helping hand. The freezer has Chicken Alfredo casserole, Meatloaf & Cheesy hash browns, Chicken Pot Pie, Tater Tot Casserole, Ham & Potato Casserole, Ham & Broccoli Breakfast Casserole, Cream Turkey, & Pizza Casserole.

LADIES QUILTING & CRAFT DAY

Bring your crafts and sewing, knitting, scrap booking, stamping or any other activity and join other women for a craft day Tuesdays starting 9am until 4pm in the youth building. No need to sign up; come when you can, and leave when you must.



WWW.NIEKERKCRC.ORG

Wednesday Night at Niekerk

Program on November 4
Beginning at 6:30pm
In the sanctuary



Our speaker:
Director Curt Gritters
RN, BSN, MBA, CDP
with the Dementia Institute

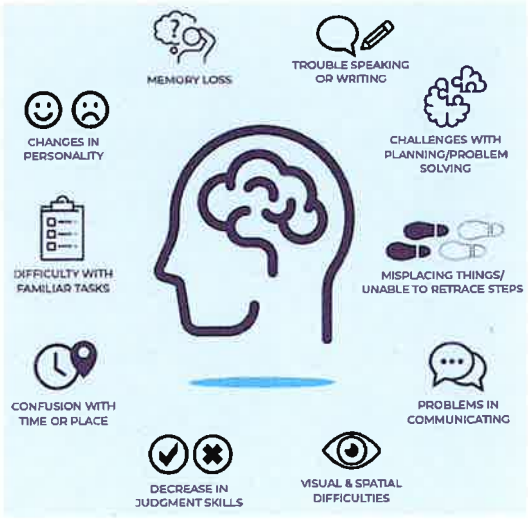
Curt Gritters will share more information on dementia and what the institute has to offer.

What is dementia?
Dementia is not a specific disease but a general term for the persistent loss of brain function, including impairment of memory, abstract thinking, and decision-making that interferes with everyday life.

What is the dementia Institute?
A certified team dedicated to improving the well-being of people living with dementia and the community that surrounds them.

What we offer:

- Free memory screenings
- In-person and virtual classes
- Private consultations
- Care navigation
- Certifications for professionals
- Accreditation for organizations
- Customizable services



Our Mission
In fulfilling God's calling to serve others, we will serve with love and compassion, commit o to excellence, and follow Christ's teachings and examples in all we do.

NURSERY schedule

DATE	Volunteers
November 1	AM: Trisha Texer, Renee & Kayla Texer PM: Dawn Folkert & Kris Roelofs
November 8	AM: Melinda Kryger & Pat Texer PM: Dana Hondred & Emma Texer
November 15	AM: Margaret Timmer & Laura VanderZwaag PM: Kathie Helder & Sandy Van Dyke
November 22	AM: Carol Venema & Lisa Kragt PM: Linda Timmer & Jessica Schutter
November 26	AM: Char Janssen & Kim Walters
November 29	AM: Kathi Petroelje & Kaylin Van Dyke PM: Sara Heeres & Abby Helder
December 6	AM: Deb Slenk, Renee & Kayla Texer PM: Trisha Texer, Kris Roelofs
December 13	AM: Dawn Folkert & Margaret Timmer PM: Melinda Kryger & Emma Texer
December 20	AM: Dana Hondred & Sandy Van Dyke PM: Pat Texer & Lisa Kragt
December 25	AM: Volunteers Needed
December 27	AM: Kathie Helder & Jessica Schutter PM: Carol Venema & Laura VanderZwaag

NIEKERK HISTORY PAGE - November 2026
Where Did We Come From?

The story of Niekerk or "New Church" began 160 years ago,* which sounds like a long time when we consider physical events. However, in the life of the Protestant church, 160 years is only a short segment of time. The founding of Christian churches, especially by Paul and the other apostles, goes back 2000+ years.

The father or founder of the Protestant church, Martin Luther, lived some 500 years ago and felt that the church – the Catholic church – was misinterpreting parts of the Bible. He was especially critical of the practice of paying indulgences to the church to contribute to one's own salvation.

Martin Luther's "reformation" (which we commemorate on October 31 each year) was the idea of salvation being NOT through good works and therefore earned, but rather by grace through faith as a free gift. This concept was radical and resulted in wars and local conflicts which still have not been totally resolved.

In the last 175 years or so, many people emigrated from Europe to the United States. Many of these immigrants were seeking religious freedom which was still in constant conflict in Europe.

Holland became the new home for many immigrants. In keeping with their beliefs, they quickly built places of worship. The hill in present day Graafschap was an ideal spot for one of these structures. It was visible and easily accessible. It served the new population well. However, as the settlers wandered farther and cleared more land toward the east, the church building became a long trip for some. "Let's build a new church, a Niekerk," some said. In 1866 a new church was begun on our present site. The horses and the people were happy to be able to worship closer to home.

Next month more on our journey

*The church we call Niekerk was organized on September 25,1866, some 19 years after the settlement of the Holland Colony by Rev. A.C. VanRaalte." Reference Niekerk's 150th Anniversary Scrapbook





NOVEMBER & DECEMBER DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

November 2	Council Meetings
November 4	Wednesday Night at Niekerk
November 5	Hand2Hand Packing
	Men's Bible Study
November 11	Red Cross Blood Drive
November 12	Men's Bible Study
November 13	Hand2Hand Packing
November 18	Thanksgiving Feast WN@N
November 19	Men's Bible Study
November 20	Hand2Hand Packing
November 27	Monthly Prayer Meeting
December 2	Wednesday Night at Niekerk
December 3	Men's Bible Study
December 4	Hand2Hand Packing
December 6	Christmas Caroling
December 7	Council Meeting
December 10	Men's Bible Study
December 11	Hand2Hand Packing
December 14	Shepherding Meeting
December 17	Men's Bible Study



Life. The Other Choice!

RIGHT TO LIFE
OF HOLLAND AREA

Volume 37 October 2026

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

Killing the Pain, Not the Patient: Palliative Care vs. Assisted Suicide

Unites States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Assisted suicide is in the news and on lawmakers agendas. Supporters call it "aid in dying" and claim it is just another option for ending intolerable pain as a part of end-of-life care. But assisted suicide is radically different from end-of-life care and the practice of palliative care, the healing art of relieving pain and other distressing symptoms for patients who are seriously ill. In fact, these two agendas are at war with each other.

Different Drugs, Different Results: When properly prescribed for pain of serious illness, powerful medications like morphine and other opioids are safe and effective. Patients can have their pain well-controlled with risk to life, and generally stay alert as well. Assisted suicide is VERY DIFFERENT. Where it has been legalized, doctors can prescribe a lethal overdose of pills to patients whom they think will die within six months, so they can kill themselves. The patient then intentionally swallows a massive overdose of barbiturates to cause unconsciousness and death.



The Importance of Intent: Besides having opposite results, these two approaches express different intentions. While pain medication is generally safe under medical supervision, it may have side-effects. For example, barbiturates may be used in rare instances to sedate an agitated patient in the final stages of dying if other pain control methods are inadequate, though this poses some risks of shortening life. In such cases, the doctor and patient must assess the good they intend and proceed ONLY if this good outweighs the unintended adverse effects. As risk cannot always be eliminated, modern medicine would be impossible with this "principle of double effect". The KEY is that no one involved intends the bad effects, especially the bad effect of killing the patient. Assisted suicide, by contrast, directly **intends the patients death,** which is NEVER morally permissible. The doctor prescribes an intentionally lethal overdose, with instructions on how to use the pills to cause death. Medical organizations like the American Medical Association (AMA) and the American College of Physicians oppose doctor assisted suicide, in part because it destroys this essential distinction between intended and unintended effects of treatment. Patients need to be able to trust their doctors to always care for their lives and never deliberately cause death.

Eliminate the Problem, Not the Patient: Palliative care also addresses symptoms beyond the physical pain, in ways that go beyond medication. Patients facing serious illness may feel hopeless and depressed, as though their lives have lost meaning. Addressing psychological, emotional, and spiritual problems is essential to palliative care. Assisted suicide alleviates none of these problems, but gives in to them. Consider that about half of patients who had requested assisted suicide under the Oregon Law in its first three years CHANGED their minds when the doctor provided palliative care. Yet in Oregon, almost none of the patients receiving lethal drugs are evaluated to assess whether their wish for death arises from treatable depressions - and over half say they requested the drugs partly because they feel they are becoming a "burden" on others. Offering assisted suicide can only confirm and strengthen that feeling. It ignores the underlying problems, instead abandoning and elimination the patient who has the problem.

True Love and Mercy: Do we see people as the problem, such that our responsibility begins and ends with helping patients kill themselves? Or, do we see seriously ill patients as fellow human beings who deserve our love and solutions for their problems? Will we succumb to the false "mercy" of assisted suicide? Will we dedicate ourselves to providing compassionate care, as a society and for our loved ones? ***Our answer and how we vote determines the care available now and for years to come!***

2026 EVENTS RECAP

MOVIE NIGHT 2026 was a wonderful evening, with **nearly $43K** raised in support of Positive Options! It was a meaningful night centered on the mission and the stories behind this work, helping provide real care, real answers, and real hope to individuals and families in the community.



THRIVE 2026 was a wonderful success in its very first year! Runners, walkers, volunteers, families, donors, and supporters came together for a meaningful day, helping us **exceed our $40K** fundraising goal and making our first THRIVE one to remember.



GOLF MARATHON 2026 was another great day on the course! Thanks to our golfers, donors, sponsors, volunteers, and staff, we've already raised **more than $61K** and reached over 70% of our goal. We're so grateful for everyone who helped make the day such a meaningful success.



JANUARY - AUGUST 2026

You helped provide and encourage:

262 PREGNANCY TESTS

551 EDUCATION VISITS

54 LIVES SAVED

592 CLIENTS SERVED

168 ULTRASOUNDS

160 MEN SERVED

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Because of you, women and families receive the care, hope, and support they need. Each gift is a chance to offer love, save lives, and create brighter futures.

Visit **lpcenters.com/ways-to-donate** and be part of something truly life-changing! Be the reason someone chooses life!

SCAN HERE

ABORTION AFTERCARE

Our mission at Positive Options is simple:

TO LOVE PEOPLE TO LIFE—before, during, and after a pregnancy decision.

Every day, our team lives out this mission by meeting people wherever they are and offering compassionate support, practical resources, and hope.

We meet students in school **BEFORE** they come face to face with a pregnancy decision. We provide a safe place to talk through options **DURING** a pregnancy. And our support doesn't end after a decision has been made.

AFTER a pregnancy decision also includes abortion aftercare. Abortion can have far-reaching effects for both women and men, including grief, questions, regret, or pain they may not know how to talk about.

Our Abortion Aftercare ministry provides a safe, confidential, Christ-centered place to process these experiences, find hope, and discover freedom through God's forgiveness and grace. Loving people to life means being there before, during, and after because every person and every story matters.



Contact **aac@lpcenters.com** if you or someone you know needs healing from an abortion.

PROJECT BESTLIFE

Project BestLife is entering a new season as Emery steps into the role of Director. We're excited to see her lead the program and continue building relationships with local schools, educators, and students throughout our community.



Through Project BestLife, educators connect with students in local schools to talk about social, emotional, and sexual health, helping them think through their choices, relationships, and future while building healthy decision-making skills before they face difficult situations or pressure in the moment.

This school year, we're also excited to introduce Project Best Self, a new initiative created to provide basic hygiene items to underserved middle school students. The idea is simple: when students feel clean and cared for, they can feel more confident in themselves and take another step toward becoming the best version of who they can be.

We're collecting toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, soap, and deodorant. Donations can be dropped off at our Holland location and designated for Project BestLife.

SCAN HERE

To learn more, contact **emery.page@lpcenters.com.**

pro-life update

September 21, 2026

Dear Friends in Life,

Most of us are familiar with the story of the *Titanic.* It was a marvel of engineering—an unprecedented vessel in size, hailed by the media as "practically unsinkable" before setting sail. Yet in 1912, it struck an iceberg and sank.

In the hours leading up to the ship's crash, the crew received several warnings from nearby ships about the dangerous ice in the *Titanic's* path. Sadly, the ship continued forward at a high speed, ignoring what would have been life-saving advice.

This story points to a larger lesson. **When danger is approaching, do we heed the warnings or are we too distracted, ignoring calls to take action for a safer route.**

You are undoubtedly watching the November 3 election fast approach. I'm sure you're being told this is one of the most important elections we face. It can be tempting to dismiss that as just another political message in yet another political year.

Make no mistake about it! The stakes are historically high this year, this November, in our beloved state!

If you thought that the last eight years under Governor Whitmer were bad, just wait! Jocelyn Benson, the Democrat candidate for governor, is ready to continue a radical pro-abortion agenda that will result in further removal of commonsense safeguards for Michigan women and families.

Longstanding protections for parents' rights in Michigan are at risk! Under Benson, parental consent, which ensures parents are involved when their child is considering an abortion, would be further chipped away.

Safeguards for vulnerable Michiganders targeted by the threat of physician-assisted suicide are at risk. If Benson and her allies win this fall, physician-assisted suicide is next on the docket for legalization.

Your hard-earned tax dollars will be under threat to fund elective abortions!

This is just the start to Benson's abortion-first agenda that prioritizes "reproductive freedom," threatening families and long-standing protections in our state.

It is no surprise that **Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan and Reproductive Freedom for All have endorsed Benson's gubernatorial bid.** This is the candidate that they know will push their radical anti-family, anti-life agenda.

Planned Parenthood knows these candidates are going to do everything they can to undermine any effort and organization that offers a life-saving choice to abortion, like our state's 100 pregnancy centers.

It is no exaggeration to say that **Planned Parenthood is a threat to every woman facing an abortion decision and to her unborn child!** And their endorsements of Benson and El-Sayed highlight the danger they pose both to our state and country.

The threat to women, the unborn, vulnerable populations targeted by assisted suicide, and every Michigan family is unprecedented!

The greatest value of a warning is that it gives time to take action. The election does not have to end in disaster like the *Titanic*. The work to be done in the coming weeks is critical if we want to win this November. **We cannot delay or hope that someone else does the work for us. It is up to you and me, today,** to make a difference that will have a lasting impact in Michigan for years to come.

I am asking you to be a crucial part of supporting this work. Please:

1) **Give your most generous donation to Right to Life of Michigan** (non-tax-deductible) to help us defeat Jocelyn Benson and Abdul El-Sayed. Help us elect our Right to Life of Michigan Political Action Committee endorsed candidates, including John James for governor and the full ballot of outstanding candidates who will stand for life-affirming support for women and families.

2) **Help us keep our "Life. The Other Choice." ads on the air as long as possible** with a contribution to the Educational Fund (tax-deductible). These life-saving ads, which connect women to their local pregnancy center, are currently on the air, helping women and saving lives.

3) **Go to rtl.org/vote to create your own personalized ballot of pro-life candidates.** Share this information with family, friends, neighbors, and at church. And learn more about the candidates at rtl.org/election2026.

4) **VOTE!** Early in-person voting begins on October 24. Election Day is November 3. Let others know what is at stake and encourage them to vote!

5) **PRAY!** It is by the grace of God that our work has an impact. Our mission is guided by Him, and we have seen great successes thanks to His Providence.

Please walk alongside us in this mission through your generous support. **Together, we can take action TODAY.**

With sincere gratitude,



Amber Roseboom
President
Right to Life of Michigan

Niekerk Ministry Teams

Updated 10/21/26

Council Committee	Chair/Contact Person	Team Members
Community Impact Team	Cheryl Bosch,	Scott Edewaard*, Deb Slenk, Ryan Texer, Margaret Timmer, Marv Venema, Sara Walters
Building Men for Life	Dave Walters	
Growing Hope Globally	Carl Helder	
Hand2Hand Ministries	Sara Heeres	Trisha Texer
Heights of Hope Rep's	MJ Staal	
Hockey Rock	Kim Walters	Sara Heeres, Phil Helder, Steve Kragt, Jen Leenstra, Margaret Timmer
Health Pantry	Dale Walters	
Congregational Life Team	**Ken Schierbeek***	
Fellowship Team	Jan Hop & Jane Steenwyk	Curt & Marcy Brower, Abby Helder, Sue Hoekstra, Mark Hop, Bob 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 (4th-5th), Christine VanGeldern (6th -7th) Carl Helder (8th)
Childcare/Nursery	Kaylin Van Dyke	Lindsey Haan, Renee Texer
Library	Marilyn Russcher	Rita Helder, Jane Steenwyk, Linda Timmer, Sandy Van Dyke
Little Lambs	Kim Walters	
	Sunday School Superintendent	Kaylin Van Dyke Abby Helder & Trisha Texer
Cadets	Henry Bosch	Terry Bosch, Mike Roelofs, Bryce Koopman, Bryce Faris, Ryan Texer
GEMS	Kristi Driscoll	Carol Hochhalter, Dana Hondred, Stephanie Edewaards, Claire Helder & 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	**Joe Texer***	Mike Dozeman, Ivan Janssen, Brent Kapenga, Larry Van Dyke
Financial/Member Secretary	Kathi Petroelje	
General Fund Treasurer	Mike Dozeman	

Missions Team	**Scott Edewaard***	Dave Helder, Bev Leep, Joe Texer, Wayne Tjarks
Missionary Financial Support		
Growing Hope Globally	Carl Helder	
Prayer Team	Dave Helder	Delia Gale, Doug Gritter, Carl Helder, Pastor John Nyitray, Gary Morren
Oversee Prayer Activities		
Worship Coordinator	Carol Hochhalter	
Support Team	**Tom Staal***	Ric Lucas, Jane Steenwyk, Mike Venema
Administrative Assistant	Julie Mulder	
Building Supervisors	Ric & Karen Lucas	
Custodian	Karen Koopman	
Donations		Jack Koeman, Bev Leegwater, & Karen Lucas
Emergency Response	Cheryl Bosch	Jon Boeve & Jamie Hop
Historian	Char Janssen	
Kitchen	Jane Steenwyk/ Jan Hop	Joyce Dalman, Elaine Helder, Verna Jansen, Char Janssen, Karen Lucas, & Linda Timmer
Media Team	Joe Texer	Julie Mulder
Safe Church		
Abuse Prevention	Jamie Hop	Jim Means, Ric Lucas
Physical Safety (Security)	Jon Boeve	
Worship Team	**Carol Hochhalter**	Jamie Hop, Jen Leep, Dan Petroelje, MJ Staal, Wayne Tjarks*
Banner Changes	Karen Koopman	Dean Koopman
Flower/Decorations	Donna Lampen	Bonnie Nagelkirk, Jane Steenwyk
Greeter Coordinator	Linda Nyhof	
Nursery	Kaylin Van Dyke	Melanie Russcher, Renee Texer, Lindsey Haan
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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