

Look at the birds of the air, for they neither
sow nor reap nor gather into barns;
yet your **heavenly Father** feeds them.

🍁 Are you not of more
value than they?

Matthew 6:26
New King James Version



October Niekerk News 2025

Niekerk Contact Information:

Phone: 616-396-4388

Prayer Line: 616-396-2697

Interim Pastor

John Nyitray

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Congregational Care Associate

Jake Boeve

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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
November Niekerk News is:
October 19, 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

**THIS IS TO MY FATHER'S GLORY,
THAT YOU BEAR MUCH FRUIT,
SHOWING YOURSELVES TO BE MY DISCIPLES.**

John 15:8

What's God up to? Have you ever asked it? When we face difficulties or uncertainties in our lives, the question arises: "What's this for, Lord? The same is true in the life of a congregation that seeks to faithfully serve the Lord in the face of uncertainty. It's been over a year since our pastor moved to take another call. Why hasn't the Lord sent us a new pastor yet? We lament that some from Niekerk have left to begin serving in other congregations. Why has an unsettledness settled on us, our denomination, and nation? What's God up to?

We believe that when we pray "Your kingdom come" we're asking that the Lord would rule us by His Word and Spirit in such a way that **more and more** we will submit to Him. We're praying that God will preserve His Church and make it grow. That the devil's work would be destroyed along with every force that revolts against God and every conspiracy against His holy Word. We keep on praying this until God's kingdom fully comes. (*Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 123*)

So, my friends, this is what God is up to all the time. Ruling us by His Word and Spirit, calling us to submit to Him more and more and God is always in the process of protecting, preserving and growing us.

Speaking of growth, My friend Matt and I had a conversation about a story Jesus told of a gardener who pleaded with the owner of an orchard to give an unfruitful fig tree one more year before cutting it down (*Luke 13:6-9*). The gardener in Jesus' story to spare the tree, said he would dig around it and fertilize it. Now, I thought the digging around was only to aerate the soil. Matt (whose business is landscaping) shared with me how it was more than just that. For an un-fruitful tree, the digging includes cutting into the roots. This cutting causes the tree to be stressed, and a stressed tree naturally produces more flowers. The opened roots give the fertilizer fresh avenues for aiding growth. When the tree is dug around and nourished in this way, it will produce more flowers and in turn more fruit.

It's what God does when he allows us to be shaken. When hard and difficult situations cut into our lives, it's as though our roots are laid bare. In times like that growth happens. We grow to realize what's really important and what we were created for. A renewed hunger for His Word develops, producing growth, maturity and fruitfulness.

How has God been working in your life? Have you felt the Gardener's tending? Know that Jesus' purpose is to bring us to maturity -- to make us increasingly fruit bearing disciples. In the passage, Jesus called those who were listening to repent. The time is short. God's Word calls us to turn from sin and grow to produce the fruit that rises out of that repentance: a deep love for God, a growing holiness, and renewed passion for Christ and service in His Kingdom.

After Matt and I talked, I had a deep sense of awe and a renewed love for this Master Gardener who has pleaded for me and is working in me to make me fruitful. It's that Gardener who said, "*This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*" John 15:8

So, in this time, God is preparing Niekerk and He's preparing Niekerk's next Pastor and his family to be fully equipped to serve Him with joy for such a time as this. The changes we're experiencing and those that lie ahead may feel uncomfortable, but, like cutting into the root of a tree, their purpose is that we would grow in obedience and bear more fruit.

Pastor John

Total Budgeted YTD Receipts	\$	444,682.00
Total Actual YTD Receipts	\$	372,306.89
Over(Under) Budget	\$	(72,375.11)

August 31, 2025

GENERAL FUND:	BALANCE
2025 Beginning Balance	\$487,979.33
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$47,218.92
This Month Envelopes Receipts	\$30,781.36
Year to Date Budget Envelopes	\$305,956.38
Over Budget Receipts	\$0.00
Interest	\$12,763.34
Facilities Rental Income	\$50.00
Total Receipts	\$318,769.72
This Month Disbursements	\$48,529.55
Year to Date Disbursements	\$341,146.08
Fund Balance	\$465,602.97

EVANGELISM FUND:	BALANCE
2025 Beginning Balance	\$10,243.33
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$4,125.00
YTD Receipts from Envelopes	\$26,851.00
YTD Over Budget Receipts	\$1,000.00
YTD Total Receipts	\$27,851.00
YTD Disbursements	\$23,792.60
Allocated Not Paid	\$6,500.00
Fund Balance	\$7,801.73

BUILDING RENOVATIONS FUND	BALANCE
2025 Beginning Balance	\$87,966.15
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$3,750.00
YTD Envelope Receipts	\$24,686.17
YTD Over Budget Receipts	\$1,000.00
YTD Total Receipts	\$25,686.17
YTD Disbursements	\$5.70
Fund Balance	\$113,646.62

SPECIAL FUND:	BALANCE
2025 Beginning Balance	0.00
This Month Special Fund	11,382.62
Year To Date Special Fund	65,935.73
This Month Disbursements	11,882.62
Year To Date Disbursements	64,335.73
Fund Balance	1,600.00

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	18,045.06
Hand 2 Hand Ministries	11,007.19
Community Impact	2,349.10
Health Pantry	(434.45)
Family Mission Trip Fund	3,755.84
Fund Balance	\$ 46,816.04

Cash Balances		
Beginning Balance as of 1/1/2025	\$	632,923.20
Ending Balance as of 08/31/25	\$	641,967.36

CHURCH BUDGET	ACTUAL DOLLARS	BUDGETED DOLLARS	INCOME VARIANCE
Receipts	372,306.89	444,682.00	(72,375.11)
Disbursements	364,944.38	444,682.00	79,737.62
Allocated Not Paid	6,500.00		
Spendable Income	862.51		7,362.51

NIEKERK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Council Meeting Minutes September 8, 2025, at 7:30 PM

Growing in Christ and Making Him Known

01. Devotions and Opening Prayer. Carl Helder read from Acts and opened with prayer.
02. Council Minutes of August 4. Approved as written.
03. Elders' Meeting Summary. Carl Helder opened with devotions from 1 Peter.
 - a. Proposal from Facilities Team for new windows in the youth building was approved. This was approved in the Administrative Meeting.
 - b. Report:
 1. Admin Team to meet on 9/22. Worship Team continues to go through song files.
 2. Communion on Thanksgiving and December 7.
 3. Brief discussion on worship and additional worship styles.
 4. Brief discussion on Niekerk's direction that the Lord is leading us in.
04. Search Team Update. Jim Hondred and MJ Staal gave a breakdown of the work being done in the last 7-8 months. The team narrowed down their own list to ten CRC pastors across the US and sent the candidates to Chemistry. They will go through three interview process with Chemistry before they present it back to the Search Team.
05. Deacons' Meeting Summary as provided by Bryan Van Dyke.

The meeting was opened with devotions from Romans 12:3-8 and prayer by John Timmer.

- a. Reviewed the Deacon meeting minutes from August 4th.
- b. Loose Offering Collections & Schedule:

August offerings confirmed:

August 3	Bravo CRC	\$2,232
August 10	African Inland Missions	\$916
August 17	Building Men for Life	\$1,429.62
August 24	Gateway Mission	\$892
August 31	Appalachian Reach Out	\$733

- c. Offerings Scheduled as Follows:

October 5	Samaritans Purse
October 12	Forgotten Man Ministries
October 19	Heights of Hope
October 26	World Renew

- d. Benevolent Fund Balance: \$8,567.62
- How many disbursements 1
- What Amounts 552.97
- How many Deposits 1
- What amount \$1,287.00
- August Ending Benevolent Fund Balance \$9,301.65

Benevolent Needs Discussed. Do we have any Benevolent needs inside the congregation? Discussed one known benevolent need for a member and will also be reaching out to another member to see if the Deacons can be of assistance to them at this time.

Do we have any known benevolent needs outside of the congregation? Presently, we do not have any benevolent needs we are aware of outside of the congregation.

- e. Niekerk 2026 Family Mission Trip Fund. Ryan Texer scheduled Niekerk for another ARO mission trip on July 25-31, 2026.
- f. Open Discussion, Correspondence and Other Items.
 - 1. Retiree Fall Dinner. John Timmer is working on making the arrangements for the dinner and we have set a date of October 2 for this event.
 - 2. Special Donation Received. Discussed a special donation that was received and how we make use of these funds.
 - 3. Bravo CRC. Correspondence was received regarding a new mission store they are starting-- a furniture refinishing ministry to provide refurbished donated furniture that can then be made available to their thrift store ministry. The cost of starting this is \$150k. We decided that we would include this in the November Niekerk News and also run a bulletin announcement in November for the congregation to consider supporting this cause during our Thanksgiving offering.
 - 4. Thanksgiving Offering Envelopes. Reviewed the Thanksgiving offering envelopes and added a line for the Cadet and GEMS programs.

Meeting Adjourned. Closing Prayer by Bryan Van Dyke

- 06. Shepherding Team Update by John Nyitray
 - a. General discussion on attendance, membership lapses, and health of the church.
- 07. Pulpit Supply Schedule provided by Randy Hoogewind (*Subject to Change). The schedule is being worked on through December 28 and few services are open.

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Morning Worship</u>	<u>Evening Worship</u>
9/14	John Nyitray	Dan Roeda
9/21	John Nyitray	Duane Terpstra
9/28	John Nyitray	Duane Terpstra
10/5	John Nyitray	Duane Terpstra
10/12	John Nyitray	Tom Pettinga
10/19	Ren Broekhuizen	Tom Pettinga
10/26	Eric Lynch/Sem	Tom Pettinga
11/2	Tim Cacciaytore/Sem	Cal Compagner

- 08. Next Communion: October 5, December 7 and February 1. Elders are considering a Thanksgiving communion request.
- 09. General Discussion on a pastor's tenure at a church. Discussed various ways Niekerk could be better at helping a pastor want to stay longer.
- 10. New Member, Profession of Faith, Baptism, and other membership matter provided by Joe Texer.
 - a. Classis Holland Meeting October 2. Deacon: Dale Walters, Elder: Dave Helder; Alternates Dan Petroelje and Joe Texer.
- 11. Mutual Censure
- 12. Next meeting: October 6, 2025, at 7:30pm. Elders Meeting at 6:00pm and Deacons Meeting at 6:30pm.
- 13. The meeting was adjourned.
- 14. Closing prayer: Joel Kryger

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Earl Plaggemars	3	4
5	6 Harv Helder Aiden Leenstra Kaylin Van Dyke	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Christie Rietman Daniel Staal Bryce Faris	14 Melanie Russcher	15	16	17	18
19 Mike Roelofs Judy Chacko	20	21 Pete Jacobsen Mark Brouwer	22	23 Larry Van Dyke Grahm Van Dyke	24	25 Jon Boeve
26 Judy Lubbers Bette Jansen	27	28 Lorraine Snay	29 Maryjo Staal Kris Bulthuis Margaret Timmer	30	31 Mohan Chacko	

NIEKERK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Catechism and Sunday School Calendar
2025-26
10:45 – 11:45 AM

October 5	Regular Class	
October 12	Regular Class	
October 19	Regular Class	
October 26	NO CLASS	CEA Convention
November 2	Regular Class	
November 9	Regular Class	
November 16	Regular Class	
November 23	Regular Class	
November 30	NO CLASS	Thanksgiving Break
December 7	Regular Class	
December 14	Regular Class	
December 21	NO CLASS	Christmas Break
December 28	NO CLASS	Christmas Break
January 4	Regular Class	
January 11	Regular Class	
January 18	Regular Class	
January 25	Regular Class	
February 1	Regular Class	
February 8	Regular Class	
February 15	NO CLASS	Winter Break
February 22	Regular Class	
March 1	Regular Class	
March 8	Regular Class	
March 15	Regular Class	
March 22	Regular Class	
March 29	Regular Class	

Updated 7-31-25

October Thank You Notes

I would like to thank the congregation for the cards, calls and birthday wishes I received for my birthday. I thank God for blessing me with 95 years.

Jerene Janssen

To the Niekerk Family:

Thank you for your prayers and cards and well wishes given this summer. Dar and I are amazed you'd care so much for a fill-in-preacher! You are a special congregation! Both my knees are now in the rehab stage and I hope to be able to preach on my feet soon. Our prayers are for you and your leaders as you prayerfully seek your next pastor!

With our thanks and love,
Tom and Dar Pettinga

Many thanks to all who supported me following my stroke. Thank you for your prayers, calls, food, visits and rides. A special thanks to Pastor John and Jake and Jan for their visits. We truly felt loved by all of our church friends.

Denny and Judy Stoel

Dear Niekerk Family,

Thank you so much for all your faithful prayers and encouragement during these months of waiting for Mohan's green card. We are overwhelmed by your love and for standing with us as we waited. God has wonderfully answered all our prayers. We are so thankful and blessed to be a part of the Niekerk family.

Mohan and Judy Chacko

I would like to thank my Niekerk Church family for all the prayers, visits, meals, cards and calls I was blessed with after experiencing a stroke on the early morning of my birthday, August 8. A special thanks to Pastor John, Ric and Karen Lucas, Jake and Jan Boeve as well as many friends and family for their visits at both hospitals I was at and also once I returned home on August 20.

I thank God for sparing my life and blessing me with very good care and restoring my health and strength.

Psalm 46:1 says, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble".

Nancy Windemuller

Thanks to the Niekerk family for the many birthday cards and well wishes on my recent birthday. God is always good.

Jack Koeman

October Thank You Notes

Niekerk family,

Thank you for welcoming me with open arms on September 14. Your intentionality and support in my life means more than you know. If you missed my update, be on the lookout in this newsletter, or reach out and we can sit down to catch up! Also, a reminder that at the Information Center is a form to sign up for updates, long-term support information, and/or meet and chat.

Much love,
Laura Helder

Niekerk Church,

Your kindness is appreciated! We cannot thank you enough for all your help getting Bravo ready for our 90th Anniversary! Our church looked amazing. You are AWESOME! Thank you for everything. Thanks for all you did to beautify Bravo!

Pastor Duane Terpstra Ken & Fran Becklin
Randy & Ronda Pooituliut Susan Rawson
Roy & Jan Deb & George
Harry & Paula Pawson Victor & Janice Rawson
Robert Rawson Richard Rawson



Bonnie Meiste email:
meisteb10@gmail.com

Lost
&
Found



September

Pink water bottle with stickers
Miscellaneous jewelry & buttons

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

**focus
life**

2025 Annual Benefit Dinner

**Life. The
Other Choice.**

**Please Save
the Date**

October 21, 2025
The Pinnacle Center
Hudsonville, MI



Ellen Salter

Special guest speaker

Ellen has a degree in criminal justice and is a life-long Catholic. Ellen lives the prolife message in a powerful way. Her journey will touch your heart.

Call Linda Nyhof at 616-403-8679 if you are interested in attending this event



Join National Life Chain 2025
Sunday, October 5th 2:00PM - 3:00PM
Sponsored by Right to Life of Holland Area

What is Life Chain?

It is a ***peaceful, QUIET, and prayerful public witness*** of pro-life individuals standing and praying for our nation to end abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills children and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death!

You'll be a light in a darkened world as you help put an end to abortion through prayer!

Who Should Attend?

Everyone is Welcome!! Our goal is to have a representative from each church in our area lining the sidewalks of River Avenue in Holland.

~We encourage area Youth Groups and their Leaders to come as a group. Come as a Family!

Come Let Us Pray:

- *For our personal repentance and for spiritual awakening in our community and nation; for our public officials
- * For unborn children's protection and for legalized abortion to end in America; for God to convict and draw abortionist to Him; for all to witness our Life Chain.

Location of the Life Chain:

River Avenue (both sides of the road) between 10th and 12th Street by Centennial Park



Little One by YongYung Kim

October & November DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- October 1 Wednesday Night at Niekerk
- October 2 Men's Bible Study
- October 6 Council Meeting
- October 7 Women's Bible Study
- October 8 Senior (65+) Singles
- October 9 Men's Bible Study
- October 14 Women's Bible Study
- October 16 Men's Bible Study
- The Great Pumpkin Party
- October 21 Women's Bible Study
- October 22 Wednesday Night at Niekerk
- October 23 Men's Bible Study
- October 28 Women's Bible Study
- October 30 Men's Bible Study
- October 31 Monthly Prayer Meeting
- November 3 Council Meeting
- November 4 Women's Bible Study
- November 5 Wednesday Night at Niekerk
- November 6 Men's Bible Study
- November 11 Women's Bible Study
- Ladies Craft Getaway 11-13
- November 12 Senior (65+) Singles
- November 13 Men's Bible Study
- Red Cross Blood Drive
- November 19 Wednesday Night at Niekerk

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, 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.



NURSERY SCHEDULE

OCTOBER

- 10-5 AM** Carol Venema
Pat Texer
PM Dawn Folkert
Linda Timmer
- 10-12 AM** Melinda Kryger
Kathi Petroelje
PM Dana Hondred
Kaylin Van Dyke
- 10-19 AM** Kathie Helder
Renee & Emma Texer
PM Sara Heeres
Deb Slenk
- 10-26 AM** Sandy Van Dyke
Jenn Schierbeek
PM Jessica Schutter
Kris Roelofs

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



October

- October 5** John Timmer
Henry Bosch
PM John Timmer
- October 12** Mark & Jan Hop
- October 19** Jim Means
Denny Stoel
PM Denny Stoel
- October 26** Ric Lucas
Mike Schutter
PM Ric Lucas

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



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

POSITIVE OPTIONS

For your health, choice, and future.

HOLLAND: (616) 396-5840

ENGAGE

- Volunteer
- Like us on Facebook and Instagram (friends of Positive Options)
- Subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter at www.lpcenters.com
- 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



Church Members in Care Facilities

Royal Park Place

Judy Bosch
Ken & Verna Quist
Nonie Rietman

Royal Park Atrium

Marge Boeve
Nick Ellerbroek

Quincy Place Senior Living

Leona Scholten

Riley Grove

Jim & Lorraine Snay



**American
Red Cross**

2025

Blood Drive Dates

Thursday, November 13

Monday, January 19

Monday, March 16

Monday, May 15

One blood donation may help save three lives.

the top ten of the Michigan cities for blood donations! The average donation is 1.12 with Holland at 3.4 donations.





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



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



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

ITS EASY!

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

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

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

**How
may I
help
you?**

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

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

August 20, 2025

prolife update

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Nyhof,

The abortion pill, our judicial system, and the Whitmer Administration stockpiling abortion pills under the guise of a “critical medical reserve”...The intersection of important issues in today’s information overload can sometimes make our heads spin. But we must remain vigilant in our critical work to save lives in today’s culture. (Keep reading!)

The Abortion Pill

Today, more than 60% of abortions are chemical abortions. That means women are taking the abortion pill at home and often alone. While abortion providers and advocates tell women it is safer than Tylenol, the facts are much more concerning. **One in 10 women who take the abortion pill will have an adverse health event, and a stunning 40% of those will end up in a hospital emergency room.** (Source: *The Abortion Pill Harms Women, Ethics and Public Policy Center, April 28, 2025.*)

We know the abortion pill is dangerous, so what is being done about it? More than 100 prolife organizations sent a letter to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. Martin Makary, asking for a thorough review of the safety protocols for the abortion pill, particularly in light of the Ethics and Public Policy Center study. Right to Life of Michigan was one of the many cosigners of this important letter, and we are hopeful that a thorough review will be forthcoming!

Our Judicial System

The Good News...Just a few weeks ago, the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court ruled that West Virginia could restrict access to the deadly abortion pill. This is great news and a win for the cause of life, helping to safeguard women and protect innocent unborn lives.

The Bad News...No sooner than Congress passes and President Trump signs a bill to stop taxpayer funding from flowing to Planned Parenthood, Planned Parenthood lobs a legal challenge. **Sadly, at the time I write this letter to you, the activist courts are blocking the Trump Administration’s one-year defunding of Big Abortion.**

Unsurprisingly, Michigan’s abortion-obsessed Attorney General Dana Nessel jumped on the bandwagon, joining the legal challenge to Trump’s important defund provision.

Stockpiling Abortion Pills

In 2023, following the supply chain issues we experienced during COVID, the State of Michigan allocated taxpayer dollars to stockpile critical medications. This was done out of concern that people with serious medical conditions

(over)

wouldn't have access to their life-saving medications...*or so we thought*. Quietly, the Whitmer Administration – through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services – decided to stockpile the abortion pill under this provision!

The Whitmer Administration issued three grants totaling nearly three million dollars, allowing the stockpiling of abortion pills under the guise of a "critical medication reserve." Planned Parenthood received over \$2 million; Northland Family Planning received over \$700,000; and the University of Michigan got \$200,000 of your hard-earned taxpayer dollars. The deadly abortion drug is NOT a critical medication.

In our state, with informed consent for abortion no longer enforceable, there is no one required to tell women the facts about the dangers of the abortion pill and the truth about the development of their unborn children. AND, with abortion complications reporting now struck from the law in our state, we'll never know how many women are harmed by this dangerous drug! Abortion advocates and their puppets in Lansing have inflicted serious damage! **At Right to Life of Michigan, WE ARE COMMITTED to stand in the gap – to provide the truth to women and to save lives, one choice at a time!**

Among our many initiatives is our "Life. The Other Choice." ad campaign, which is reaching otherwise abortion-minded women online, the very same place abortion providers and advocates are targeting women with the abortion pill. And, it's having an impact! Our ads generated a 91% increase in calls to the featured Pregnancy Hotline after just one week of airing! The second week, they generated a stunning 107% increase in calls, and the calls continue to pour in. In the first three weeks alone, 145 MORE women reached out for life-saving support!

But we **MUST DO MORE**. You can help! Please:

1. **Share** this letter with your friends, neighbors and colleagues so they know the risks of the abortion pill and what their legislators in Lansing are up to!
2. **DONATE** to our critical efforts to help us stand in the gap: we must stand up to abortion-obsessed legislators and the Whitmer Administration and get the truth out in our state! Please complete the enclosed card or scan the QR code below to send in your generous donation today!
3. **Join us** this fall for one of 40 Right to Life of Michigan local affiliate dinners to get involved and have a great time. Visit rtl.org/events and check them out!
4. **Pray!** We know this is a spiritual battle.

There is a lot of truth in Napoleon Bonaparte's famed assertion, "Victory belongs to the most persevering." By the grace of God and your support, we will persevere and continue to achieve victories on behalf of the unborn and at-risk women in our state! Thank you for standing for life with us!

With deepest appreciation,



Amber Roseboom
President
Right to Life of Michigan

Hi Niekerk Family!

First, thank you for welcoming me with warm smiles and hugs when I came to visit and share about what God is doing in my life. It is always special to be with you all. I wanted to put an update in the newsletter for those of you who were unable to make it and/or those who also need a visual (like me).



Now that I have been home for a few months and have had time to reflect and process, I wanted to take time to answer the question many of you and myself have been asking — "what's next?". Although I do not have all the details, I will give you what I believe I have received from the Lord.

In short, I wholeheartedly believe that God is calling me to pursue full-time missions. Although I am still teaching part time, I know it is not where I will be long-term. I always enjoy my time in the classroom teaching, but I am extremely excited for all that God has in store for me in missions...who knows maybe it'll involve teaching in some capacity! Since being home, I believe God spoke two things over this current season of life — an extended time at home with friends and family and a season of preparation and building connections in areas I am passionate about. A few of those areas are those who are homeless, orphaned, stuck in addiction, and women in sex trafficking. In alignment with a few of these things, I am planning to go to Peru and Guatemala this October to build connections with organizations and people the Lord has led me to and that I have a special place in my heart for.

As to why Guatemala and Peru...

Peru has always been near and dear to my heart because that is where this dream of being a missionary started. As I've been dreaming with God, I have felt Him leading me to put my feet down in the place it all began. Talk about a faithful & kind Father. About a year ago, I got connected with a lady by the name of Carol who goes to Peru twice a year and has a burning passion for the lost but more specifically those who are struggling with addictions and homelessness. I am very excited to learn from and alongside Carol. This trip will take place *September 28th-October 15th*.

I visited Guatemala in 2019, and although I wasn't following the Lord at that time, my heart began to beat for the country and people there. I've never felt that way since, despite traveling to other places. Since then, Guatemala has been coming to the forefront of my mind and heart continually (through words from others and in my own prayer times). A friend from my YWAM DTS got me connected with an orphanage there, and I am on the journey of seeing where this connection leads! The orphanage is called Eagle's Nest. This trip will likely take place *October 24th-31st*.

Here are two ways you can continue or begin sowing into God's call in my life.

Prayer	Financially
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! Pray for... 1. Continued direction & clarity for where God is leading 2. Holy & divine connections 3. Patience, strength, & protection 4. My spirit to continue yielding to His 5. Financial provision 6. Eyes & ears to be opened & hearts to be softened to receive the good news	As I look forward to full-time missions, I will be solely dependent on individuals who are willing to financially partner and sow into God's calling on my life monthly. I am in the beginning stages of building a community of people who are willing to support me long-term through monthly support. If you would like to talk more about what your involvement in this could look like, I would love to connect with you in person or on a phone call. Please email or text me to let me know you are interested. I am currently fundraising for two short-term trips — Peru and Guatemala. Peru: \$1,200 Guatemala: \$1,700 Total in all: \$2,900 You can give via cash, check, or Venmo. Cash/check can be put in my parent's mailbox or sent to my home address (email or text me). My Venmo is @lhelder8.

All this being said, THANK YOU for all your support, love, and encouragement. It means the world to have each of you in my corner.

If you are not receiving updates and would like to, would like to talk about getting more involved, or would like to just sit and talk, please reach out. There is also a form in the information center where you can put your information. Please never hesitate to reach out if you would like to sit down and talk! I would really love to do so.

With Love and gratitude,
Laura Helder
269-455-9198
lshelder8@gmail.com

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 Carol Hochhalter	Char Janssen, Gary Morren, Nancy Windemuller, Pastor John Nyitray
Prayer Team Oversee Prayer Activities Worship Coordinator	Jon Boeve* Julie Mulder Ric & Karen Lucas Karen Koopman Cheryl Bosch Judy Stoel Jane Steenwyk/ Jan Hop Joe Texer Jamie Hop Jon Boeve	Ric Lucas, Jane Steenwyk, Mike Venema 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
Support Team Administrative Assistant Building Supervisors Custodian Donations Emergency Response Historian Kitchen Media Team Safe Church Abuse Prevention Physical Safety (Security)	Carol Hochhalter* Donna Lampen Linda Nyhof Kaylin Van Dyke Daryl Van Dyke Daryl Van Dyke	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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