



The LORD is good
to all,
And His tender mercies
are over all
His works.



PSALM 145:9
(NKVJ)

September Niekerk News 2026

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
**October Niekerk News is:
September 20, 2026**

Gifts for Visitors

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



***Phonebooks can be
found by the
Information Center
magazine rack.***



a letter from the pastor

GROWING EDGES

Each fall brings a season of new beginnings: a new school year, new schedules, and renewed opportunities for growth at church through Sunday School, Bible studies, Wednesday nights, Cadets, and GEMS. For Niekerk, this marks our 160th fall season! We see new beginnings on the horizon. The possibility of welcoming a new pastor. (The average vacancy in the CRC is 3 years), God continues to bring people here to grow with us in the grace and knowledge of Jesus. We're thankful for each opportunity and look forward with anticipation.

However, we're not so eager for other beginnings to appear. Some of you would rather not start walking in the circumstances that have come into your life. You may face decreased health and strength, you may be entering a changing living situation, starting new job responsibilities or beginning a new job period. These can carry with them a sense of apprehension.

We do not have to stay there. We serve the One who loves us deeply and always. We read in scripture that God's perfect love drives out fear. In the midst of each new thing, God brings the awareness of His loving presence. He has promised to never leave and never forsake us!

Let's view each new beginning and the coming changes as growing edges. Circumstances in which we are open to God's work of growing us to be more like Jesus. It's not only true of our individual lives. It's true for Niekerk Church. As he stretches us out of our comfort zones, we will be given opportunities to grow to become more and more what the Lord of the Church would want us to be.

So, then what's your place in Niekerk at this time? The word available comes to mind. Let's make ourselves available to grow in our walk with God and be used by Him as we go through this fall season filled with open doors of opportunity.

Pastor John

Total Budgeted YTD Receipts	\$	384,067.83
Total Actual YTD Receipts	\$	328,375.86
Over(Under) Budget	\$	(55,691.97)

July 31, 2026

GENERAL FUND:	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	\$519,255.41
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$46,242.00
This Month Envelopes Receipts	\$39,502.51
Year to Date Budget Envelopes	\$260,619.47
Over Budget Receipts	\$0.00
Interest	\$3,169.27
Facilities Rental Income	\$0.00
Total Receipts	\$263,788.74
This Month Disbursements	\$37,325.90
Year to Date Disbursements	\$303,023.15
Fund Balance	\$480,021.00

EVANGELISM FUND:	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	\$9,880.03
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$4,875.00
YTD Receipts from Envelopes	\$36,534.13
YTD Over Budget Receipts	\$0.00
YTD Total Receipts	\$36,534.13
YTD Disbursements	\$25,383.07
Allocated Not Paid	\$4,500.00
Fund Balance	\$16,531.09

BUILDING RENOVATIONS FUND	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	\$104,738.98
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$3,750.00
YTD Envelope Receipts	\$28,052.99
YTD Over Budget Receipts	\$0.00
YTD Total Receipts	\$28,052.99
YTD Disbursements	\$6,272.50
Fund Balance	\$126,519.47

SPECIAL FUND:	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	0.00
This Month Special Fund	7,162.00
Year To Date Special Fund	76,193.61
This Month Disbursements	7,162.00
Year To Date Disbursements	75,993.61
Fund Balance	200.00

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	24,671.77
Hand 2 Hand Ministries	6,551.53
Community Impact	1,618.83
Health Pantry	(404.54)
Family Mission Trip Fund	3,365.84
Fund Balance	\$ 51,650.99

Cash Balances	
Beginning Balance as of 1/1/2026	\$ 672,522.48
Ending Balance as of 07/31/26	\$ 679,422.55

CHURCH BUDGET	ACTUAL DOLLARS	BUDGETED DOLLARS	INCOME VARIANCE
Receipts	328,375.86	384,067.83	(55,691.97)
Disbursements	334,678.72	384,067.83	49,389.11
Allocated Not Paid	4,500.00		
Spendable Income	(10,802.86)		(6,302.86)

NIEKERK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Council Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2026, at 7:30 PM

Growing in Christ and Making Him Known

01. Devotions and Opening Prayer

02. Deacons' Meeting Summary

a. June and July Loose Offering Collections & Schedule

June 7	Holland Deacons Conference	\$1,776.00
June 14	Doors of Hope	\$1,025.00
June 21	Heights of Hope	\$1,711.00
June 28	Josh Ham	\$1,371.00
July 5	Multiplication Network	\$967.00
July 12	Positive Options	\$1,399.00
July 19	Reframe Ministries	\$1,120.00
July 26	Building Men for Life	\$1,361.00

b. September Offerings Scheduled as follows:

September 6	Appalachian Reach Out
September 13	Bravo CRC
September 20	John & Anna W
September 27	Gateway Missions

c. June Benevolent Fund Balance:	\$14,247.66
Disbursements – none	
Amounts – none	
Deposits 1	\$100.00
July Ending Benevolent Fund Balance	\$14,347.66

Benevolent Needs Discussed.

No Benevolent needs inside of the congregation known

Discussion on a few needs we could help with in our congregation

No known Benevolent needs outside of the congregation

03. Search Team Update: Dave Helder

a. Doug Gritter has joined the Search Team.

b. The Search Team has been working with the Chemistry Staffing and researching possible candidates

04. Shepherding Team: Pastor John Nyitray

a. Report and discussion

1. Thankful for a restful week of vacation.
2. Shared Lord's Supper with home members.
3. Met with young people for Profession of Faith classes.
4. Met with Jan Bos (and Bernard, disabled) and Jack and Jean Hoeksema. They will be joining Niekerk. Several other people are considering joining our family at Niekerk.
5. Pastor John and Maria plan on officially joining Niekerk CRC after we have a new pastor, and the pastor agrees that John will be the pastor of Congregational Care. John does not want to clash with the new pastor that Niekerk calls.
6. August 29-31 John and Maria will be participating in a prayer team at the Alliance of Reformed Church (ARC) held at Zeeland Community Reformed Church.

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

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Morning Worship</u>	<u>Evening Worship</u>
August 9	John Nyitray	Jim Dykstra
August 16	Cal Compagner	Tom Pettinga
August 23	John Nyitray	Cal Compagner
August 30	John Nyitray	Tom Pettinga
September 6	Leighton Seys	Jim Dykstra
September 13	John Nyitray	Duane Terpstra
September 20	John Nyitray	Tom Pettinga
September 27	Leighton Seys	Cal Compagner
October 4	John Nyitray	Tom Pettinga

06. Next Communion: October 4 and December 6
07. Discussion about Mutual Censure. Church order requires that it be done in Council meetings at least four times a year. Its purpose is to constructively resolve issues and create better unity with each other.
08. A Children's Christmas program was approved by the Elder for Sunday, December 13, and a Candlelight service on Sunday, December 20.
09. The nomination/election process of Elders and Deacons from last year was discussed. It was deferred to the Admin Team for further review and to bring back any recommendations to Council.
10. Approved Bernard and Jan Bos transfer of membership.
11. Reported that Elders approved the Profession of Faith of Reagan Boeve, Bryce Faris, Emma Texer, and Alden Van Dyke. Also approved was the baptism of Bryce Faris.
12. Report from Pine Rest.
13. Discussion on a fellowship night for September 19 called "*The Stories We Tell*". A interactive event put on by Michael Kelly Blanchard where old songs are sung and memories are shared. We will be contacting Fellowship Team about this.
14. Next meeting will be Monday, September 14, 7:30pm. Elders and Deacons Meeting at 6:30pm.
15. Closing prayer.

September Thank You Notes

I want to thank the congregation for the cards, calls, food and birthday wishes I received for my 101st birthday. Above all, I thank God for my many years.

Ida Janssen

Thank you to all who remembered my birthday with cards, calls, and good wishes. I'm grateful for my Niekerk family and for God's gracious gift of a long and healthy life.

Magda Kos

We want to thank you for all the many prayers and concerns for Caitlin Aalderink (Holly Riemersma's niece) after her auto accident. Please continue to keep her in your prayers as she will have a very long recovery. She is slowly gaining and seems to be in good spirits. I'll try to keep everyone posted of her progress.

Steve & Holly Riemersma

Thank you Niekerk for the many cards and calls I received and the prayers offered on behalf of our family in the tragic death of my grand daughter, Marie Van Haitsma.

Alan Van Haitsma

I am thanking the congregation for all the birthday cards I received. What a blessing! I am thankful to God for my strong support system here.

Virginia Alofs



At The Gate ...

The Gate in biblical times was the place that many things happened. People met to talk and get the latest news. Prophets often spoke to the people gathered at the gate. Each Sunday beginning October 4 at 11:00, we will meet in the narthex to continue to study the text of the sermon for that morning and seek to apply it to our lives.



September

- 9-6 AM** Kathi Petroelje
Sandy Van Dyke
PM Kaylin Van Dyke
Trisha Texer
- 9-13 AM** Lisa Kragt
Renee & Kayla Texer
PM Jenn Schierbeek
Jessica Schutter
- 9-20 AM** Abby Helder
Dana Hondred
PM Kris Roelofs
Pat Texer
- 9-27 AM** Margaret Timmer
Lindsey Haan
PM Dawn Folkert
Melinda Kryger

October

- 10-4 AM** Emma Texer
Deb Slenk
PM Char Janssen
Kim Walters
- 10-11 AM** Kathie Helder
Linda Timmer
PM Carol Venema
Sandy Van Dyke
- 10-18 AM** Laura Vander Zwaag
Jessica Schutter
PM Deb Slenk
Lisa Kragt
- 10-25 AM** Sara Heeres
Kathi Petroelje
PM Kaylin Van Dyke
Abby Helder

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



September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Gary Russcher	2	3 Dave Helder	4	5 Aden Tase
6 Bob Mulder	7	8 Jamie Hop	9	10 Jaxson Maas	11 Josh Wedeven Jenn Schierbeek	12 Brenda Bosch Jane Steenwyk
13	14	15	16 Deb Slenk	17 Phil Helder	18 Jack Koeman	19 Ava Kryger Chase Hoekstra
20	21 Jan Nykamp	22 Deb Eisen Nancy Roelofs Marcus Helder	23	24	25 Christine Van Gelderen	26 Carolyn Rietman
27 Cheryl Bosch	28	29	30	Happy Birthday		



September

September 6 Mike Venema

September 13 Denny Stoel

September 20 Carl Helder
Marcus Helder

September 27 John Timmer
Terry 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.



Church Calendar

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

Shared Meals



The freezer has Chicken Alfredo Casserole, Meatloaf & Cheesy hashbrowns, Chicken Pot Pie, Tater Tot Casserole, Ham & Potato Casserole, Ham & Broccoli Breakfast Casserole, Cream Turkey, and Pizza Casserole. 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.



The Stories We Tell:
Building Our Community of Faith

**Michael Kelly Blanchard
with David Blauw
Presenters Quail Ministries**



Michael



David

This fun and interactive 2-hour event for those over age 40 features the music and stories of nationally known singer/songwriter/storyteller Michael Kelly Blanchard, and facilitated by David Blauw (retired Holland Hospital Chaplain).

This time will help spark the remembrance of some of our own life stories while enjoying the privilege of listening to the stories of others on the journey of faith. Michael Blanchard's organization, called Quail Ministries, celebrates sustenance from God, just when we need it. This event will help us recognize provisions from above, sustaining us on our journey. Invite neighbors and friends to come along!

Saturday, September 19, 2026
3:00 – 5:00 PM

Niekerk Christian Reformed Church
Fellowship Center -- Door B
545 Country Club Road
Holland, MI 49423



**September & October
DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

September 7	Council Meeting
September 9	Red Cross Blood Drive
September 11	Hand2Hand Packing
September 16	Wednesday Night at Niekerk
September 19	The Stories We Tell
September 25	Monthly Prayer Gathering
	Hand2Hand Packing
October 2	Hand2Hand Packing
October 5	Council Meeting
October 7	Wednesday Night at Niekerk
October 9	Hand2Hand Packing
October 16	Hand2Hand Packing
October 22	The Great Pumpkin Party
October 28	Wednesday Night at Niekerk
October 30	Monthly Prayer Gathering
	Hand2Hand Packing



rightnow MEDIA

Our church's Bible study library **is now digital...**

AND GIGANTIC.

Over 20,000 discipleship videos for
kids, youth, and adults.

Join for
FREE

android chromecast  iPhone & iPad **Roku**  tv fireTV

www.rightnowmedia.org

Here is the QR code for Niekerk!



Lost
&
Found



September

Sunglasses
Elephant craft
Miscellaneous jewelry & buttons

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

community impact news

The team met several times this summer. The Pumpkin Party planning is under way. It's Thursday, October 22, and will be here soon. It is a wonderful way for the community to step into our church fellowship. It's a great time to invite a friend or neighbor who has not experienced this kind of community and an opportunity to share about our love for Jesus and His love for all of us.

To make it a success, we need your help! Volunteers are needed in many areas. Also needed are those willing to participate in bake-off categories. This has always been a lot of tasty fun. Look for sign ups to come in the near future.

One of the other opportunities the impact team is involved with is the Care Portal. It was set up to help children and families in the community. So far this year in Michigan, 238 requests have been submitted through Care Portal, and churches and community partners have responded to 140 of them. Together, those responses have helped serve 143 children and 95 adults, representing more than \$32,500 in economic impact. Behind each of these numbers is a family navigating a difficult season and a church or community partners choosing to respond with compassion and practical support.

Niekerk's participation is an important part of that shared effort. These past months Sara Walters and Deb Slenk were able to help with diapers and wipes, backpack, tennis shoes, hygiene items for a young high school man and a booster seat.

The Impact team will meet again in September and your prayers are always appreciated.



**American
Red Cross**

2026

Blood Drive Dates

Wednesday, September 9

Wednesday, November 11

Monday, January

Monday, March

Monday, May



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

**focus
life**

2026 Annual Benefit Dinner

**Life. The
Other Choice.**



**Please Save
the Date**

**October 20, 2026
The Pinnacle Center
Hudsonville, MI**



Lydia Taylor Davis
special guest speaker

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

If you are interested in more information or to attend this event, please see Linda Nyhof.



Church Members in Care Facilities

Royal Park Place

Judy Bosch
Nonie Rietman

Quincy Place Senior Living

Jim & Lorraine Snay
Duane & Guy Tucker

Royal Park Atrium

Marge Boeve
Nick Ellerbroek

**Resthaven Janssen
Cottage**

Bernard "Bud" Bos



**NIEKERK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
WEATHER POLICY and PROCESS
Updated 3-13-20**

1. Whenever the National Weather Service issues a tornado **warning** for Ottawa County which extends past one hour before the stated beginning time of any scheduled church activity, that activity is cancelled.
2. Whenever the National Weather Service issues a tornado **watch** or any kind of severe thunderstorm alert for Ottawa County, which extends past one hour before the stated beginning time of any scheduled church activity, the Executive Committee* shall determine whether or not that activity is cancelled.
3. The Executive Committee* shall decide whether or not congregation-wide meetings and functions (*e.g. Worship Services, Congregational meetings, and the like*) shall be cancelled in situations of severe weather, which have not produced National Weather Service alerts (*e.g. heavy snow; fog; ice; and the like.*).
4. Each group's leadership shall decide whether or not to cancel, postpone, and/or reschedule the activities and/or functions of their own groups. (*e.g. Youth Group, Cadets; GEMS; Summer Bible Club; Hockey Rock, etc.*)
5. Cancellation notices will first be send by email on the Info@niekerkcrc.org. If you currently receive the bulletin and newsletter by email, you will also received the cancellation notices also.
5. Next, the cancellation notices will be posted on local TV stations: WOOD TV CHANNEL 8; WZZM CHANNEL 13; WWMT CHANNEL 3.
6. Rescheduling of any church related function or event shall be arranged, if reasonably possible, so the postponed meeting or event is not rescheduled to conflict with already scheduled events.

*For purposes of this policy, the Executive Committee will be deemed to include the preaching pastor, President and Clerk of Council when determining the cancellation of a worship service.



2026 Race Recap: The Ultimate Throwback

What a night! The 2026 Heights of Hope 5K was a blast from the past, and our racers and volunteers went all in on the decades theme, showing up with speed, enthusiasm, costumes, props, and plenty of decades spirit!

If you weren't able to join us, we've included photos, race results, and more below so you can get a taste of the fun. And if you were there, we hope these bring back some good memories!

The course was fast this year, with 14 sub-20-minute finishes. Adalyn Raab had an especially impressive night, crushing the 15-year-old women's course record with a time of 17:53! But we celebrated everyone who crossed the finish line, including the jogging hot dog, and everyone went home with a congratulatory slap bracelet.

Our favorite traditions were back: the legendary giant case of toilet paper, Flash's themed photo booth, amazing food and drinks, and the stroller division trophies. AJ Westendorp claimed the men's stroller division for the fourth year in a row. At this rate, we're not sure whether his daughter will age out of the stroller first or simply get too heavy to keep him going that fast!

This year, Flash also shared his Toy Box, filled with toys from different decades, including View-Masters from the 1940s and a huge Hot Wheels track. The highlight may have been Harrison winning Flash's raffle and sprinting over from the playground with an enthusiasm that inspired us all!

Our SOAR Neighborhood Leadership Team transformed the Heights of Hope Community Center with an '80s and '90s theme, complete with a giant boombox that ended up in many race selfies. And we spotted flamingos dressed as Michael Jackson, MC Hammer, and Elvis throughout the evening. Pretty sure we have the most creative neighbors around!

But as much as we love the costumes, music, prizes, and all the little traditions that make this race special, the best part is seeing our neighborhood and wider Heights of Hope community come together. More than 150 volunteers helped make the evening happen, and hundreds of racers, neighbors, friends, and supporters joined in the fun.

Whether you ran, volunteered, cheered from the sidelines, sponsored a racer, donated a raffle prize, or simply supported Heights of Hope from afar, you helped make this night possible. Thank you for being part of it!

And now for some big news...

For 16 years now, the Heights of Hope 5k has been in August. But next year, we're shaking things up!

The 17th Annual Heights of Hope 5K is moving to fall!

Saturday evening, SEPTEMBER 18, 2027!

We're excited to see what a fall Heights of Hope 5K looks like, and we hope you'll mark your calendar now and plan to join us. Same great race, same incredible neighborhood, and a whole new (hopefully cooler) season to celebrate together!

But you don't have to wait a year to get involved! Heights of Hope is busy all year long running programs, making connections, and finding ways to support and celebrate our community. Check out www.heightsofhope.org/about-heights-of-hope/community for ways you can volunteer or get involved!



Heights of Hope

Celebrating the God-given gifts in our neighbors, partner churches,
and the greater Holland Heights community.

Cultivating meaningful connections between people from all walks of life.

Inviting everyone into opportunities to learn and grow.



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

New Students are arriving on UP campuses right now. Please be in prayer!

Pray for MTU: We have more of the chapter than ever coming back to help reach new freshmen. I am particularly excited for several of our students who have chosen to live in the dorms to start Bible studies. We saw several new believers from IV students inviting their hallmates into a Bible study last year. We have even more students this year hoping to do the same!

Pray for Mark Drama: The Mark Drama is truly an ambitious and exciting outreach. Read more about it here: <https://themarkdrama.com/> We are going to put on the Mark Drama at MTU on September 26 & 27. It will take a lot of work! Pray that Christians on our campus would invite their curious friends to attend and that the play would move these students to join Bible studies and start following Jesus.

Pray for NMU and Bay College: I am still driving to Marquette or Escanaba occasionally to keep these chapters active. They have both faced their challenges but by God's grace students are still gathering for fellowship and Bible study. The start of the year is critical. Pray that God will bring students to these groups who are eager to grow in their faith and to reach their friends for Jesus.

Pray for Me: I would really appreciate prayer for myself. The beginning of the school year is one of my favorite times because it's so apparent how God is at work. But it has become more challenging for me to balance all the needs of the UP chapters with only two full-time staff, along with meeting all the other challenges of life. I simply need God's grace and God's strength to be able to do the work needed. Please pray for God to pour this out!

If you are looking for some practical ways to help out in addition to praying for me, please take a look at the next page of how you can help with some of our ministry needs.

Aaron



Students gather to pray last year for the incoming freshmen class



Doing outreach on campus during O-Week last year

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



Give a gift to support Aaron
Give a gift toward student scholarships

Greetings friends of MTU InterVarsity!

God is at work on campus and ministry is thriving. Every semester we are seeing more Bible studies started, more students entering into discipleship relationships, more outreach happening on campus, and more people coming to Christ.

It is a joy working with students who are so eager to share their faith, and who are so excited that they have grown so close to Jesus in college, often telling us that getting involved in IV has helped them grow closer to God than they ever have before.

It's also a challenge sometimes. We only have two InterVarsity staff for the entire UP! We are praising God for the immense growth in the MTU chapter – but it has been hard for us to keep up with it, all while trying to staff IV chapters in Marquette and Escanaba from a distance.

One way God has provided to help us meet the needs of the ministry here is to hire student interns. We have so many student leaders who are passionate about their faith – and need to make money to pay for school!

We have five student interns for the coming year and expect we will have even more in the coming years. These student interns raise most of the funding for their pay and ministry. It's not easy for a student to raise support when they've never done this before. In order to get them funded and able to work on the campus the whole year, I help raise a portion of their funding.

I am raising about \$14000 this year to help fund these five interns. My aim is to eventually raise \$15000-\$20000 annually to fund this growing program.

My hope is to find MTU alumni and friends of InterVarsity who would be interested in helping meet our needs on campus. Would you consider setting up a recurring monthly gift of \$100, \$200 or \$300 to help fund these interns? Or a one time gift if regular giving does not work?

If you are interested, you can give to our MTU chapter account here:

<https://give.intervarsity.org/?v=A082024&g=432.o.50>

Thank you for your consideration to help these students and support the work God is doing here! In Christ,

Aaron

pro-life update

August 20, 2026

Dear Friends in Life,

With the Primary Election behind us, **our sights are now set on victory for our pro-life candidates in the General Election this November!**

We must elect a pro-life Governor, take back our U.S. Senate seat, send pro-life Congressmen and women back to Washington, D.C., maintain our pro-life majority in the state House, gain seats in the state Senate, and achieve victory for our candidates down the ballot! **It is not an exaggeration to say that LIVES DEPEND ON IT!**

This summer, Planned Parenthood announced they will spend **\$47 MILLION TO DEFEAT REPUBLICANS in key target states**, including Michigan.

Planned Parenthood in Michigan has already spent \$50,000 to support Jocelyn Benson's campaign for governor – that's before federal support. Keep in mind, two years ago, they donated more than half a million dollars to Planned Parenthood Votes, their Federal PAC.

Planned Parenthood is awash with cash, and they want more of our hard-earned tax dollars!

Planned Parenthood received about \$800 million from the American taxpayer in 2024-2025! But nearly a billion dollars isn't enough. **Unsatisfied with the millions of federal tax dollars, Planned Parenthood is seeking millions of dollars from local county commissions right here in Michigan.**

If you read my letter last month, you know that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners voted to send half a million dollars to Planned Parenthood in July. Then they considered putting a millage on the November ballot that would have generated up to another \$1.3 million over the next three years to organizations that provide "reproductive and sexual health services." Thankfully, after public outcry, they tabled that millage meaning it will NOT appear on the ballot this year.

However, on August 13, Oakland County Commissioners passed a proposal introduced by their board chair, David T. Woodward, to send up to \$1.5 million in taxpayer money to Planned Parenthood.

It's brazen! In the midst of election season, Planned Parenthood is coming to our local county boards of commissioners asking for more of our tax dollars.

Planned Parenthood is responsible for **more than 400,000 abortions annually**, nearly 40% of the more than 1 million abortions that take place in our country every single year. They tout cancer screenings and other services, but we know the truth. Cancer screenings have gone down more than 80% while **abortions have gone up more than 60% in recent years.**

We must elect pro-life candidates to push back on their anti-life, anti-family agenda!

Now the Good News!

In late July, Planned Parenthood announced three of their locations in Michigan were closing their doors immediately - Lansing, Livonia, and Warren. This is on top of the four closures last year (three outright closures and a consolidation in Ann Arbor). **Folks, half of the Planned Parenthoods in our state closed their doors in the last year and a half.** Now just seven centers remain in Michigan – seven too many!

Michiganders deserve better! That's where you and I come in!

As we head into the fall, we have **two primary objectives**, and we need your help!

- 1) **We need your support to elect pro-life candidates!** Please give your most generous donation to Right to Life of Michigan (non-tax deductible) to counter Planned Parenthood's election work and support our historic Get-Out-the-Vote efforts to achieve victory for life at the polls!

We don't have \$47 million to promote our pro-life endorsed candidates. We don't have county commissioners handing us taxpayer dollars. **In terms of funding, Planned Parenthood is the proverbial Goliath, and we are the smaller David.** But it is important to remember how the fight between David and Goliath ended. David, backed by God's righteousness, conquered the giant!

- 2) **Please support our lifesaving "Life. The Other Choice." educational ads, which are going live within weeks!** These ads reach women facing unplanned pregnancies, at risk for abortion, with a hopeful message and the resources to make a choice for life for their unborn children. The ads work! You can support these ads with a contribution to the Educational Fund (tax deductible).

I know I said, "two objectives," but let me add a few special requests. Yes, **we need your financial support during these critical weeks**, but please also:

- 1) **Join our grassroots outreach** – the largest in Michigan – and help us Get-Out-the-Vote! Email us at info@rtl.org and let us know you want to help make a difference for life in the election this year!
- 2) **Stay up to date on all important pro-life news.** On our website, rtl.org, you can sign up for our weekly email newsletter, the ProLife Update, to stay informed about what's happening in Michigan and across the country. Check back to the website for important updates and my monthly blog!
- 3) **PRAY!** God has guided us continually in this mission, and He will continue to do so every day going forward. **Pray that He continues to give us wisdom and guidance and bless the work of our hands.**

Thank you for your steadfast support! Please don't forget to donate today. We couldn't do this without you!

With sincere gratitude,



Amber Roseboom
President
Right to Life of Michigan

July 21, 2026

pro-life update

Dear Friends in Life,

Elections have consequences.

Let me guess, you've heard that before. Well, here it is again! **Elections. Have. Consequences.** And we just saw a major one right here in Michigan. Spoiler alert – it wasn't good.

Earlier this month (July 1), **the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to send \$500,000 in local taxpayer dollars to Planned Parenthood of Michigan.** Worse yet, this local elected board, made up of all Democrats, also indicated that there may be more local resources committed to the organization in the future.

And get this: in 2024, Planned Parenthood of Michigan gave their PAC nearly \$550,000 to promote political candidates who push their radical abortion agenda. **This \$500,000 gift from Washtenaw County is basically a refund from hard-working taxpayers! It is a shocking affront to the public's trust and a blatant misuse of taxpayer dollars.**

Elected county commissioners have decided they are going to divert taxpayer dollars to the nation's biggest abortion giant, the same organization pushing a radical abortion agenda on our communities and vulnerable women. **Your hard-earned money is being used to push the abortion agenda and line the pockets of providers!**

Additionally, **Planned Parenthood Votes recently announced they will be funneling \$47 million to defeat Republicans all across the country, including in Michigan! The stakes could not be higher.**

As we see time and again, it's not just the governor who has the power to push the radical abortion agenda – local elected offices matter at every level. And while county commissioners are not up for election this year, hundreds of other offices are! Races we must win to defend life!

Jocelyn Benson, Michigan's secretary of state and the Democrat's lead candidate for governor at the time this letter was sent, previously told reporters, "The challenge and opportunity is to link reproductive freedom to economic and political freedom."

This is a dangerous proposition, one that threatens to undermine the foundational principles upon which our country was built, and it would be difficult to reverse. **We must not let the left succeed in this reckless perversion.**

It's up to us to stand in the gap! To stand for the truth and to push back on the radical abortion agenda being pushed in our communities.

Two years ago, by the grace of God and against all odds, our unprecedented Get-Out-the-Vote efforts helped us regain a pro-life majority in the state House – safeguarding our state against dangerous anti-life legislation. We must build on those successes this year.

Every election at every level has major consequences. We must work to elect pro-life candidates at every level on this year's ballot. I encourage you to print your personalized pro-life ballot, found at rtl.org/vote, and bring it with you to the polls. Please make sure to encourage your pro-life friends and family to generate their own personalized pro-life ballot and vote!

We must also continue to reach women facing unplanned pregnancies, unsure what they will do, unsure that they have the support and resources they need, with a message of hope that invites a choice for life!

Speaking of hope, I have some great news! **We are currently on track to relaunch our "Life. The Other Choice." ad campaign in early September.** In fact, if we can hit our one million dollar goal this month, we will be able to run the ads for at least three months! Make no mistake – lives will be saved, by the grace of God! As we saw last year, when 145 women were connected to local pregnancy resources in just three weeks, these ads are working to save lives!

If we truly want to see a change, this is my **CALL TO ACTION** to you for the next few weeks:

1. **Stay up-to-date on current events.** If you will give me your email address on the enclosed pledge card, I promise to protect your privacy while sending you "news you can use!"
2. One of our goals is to help equip you to talk with your family, friends, neighbors, church community, or maybe the person in front of you at the grocery store. **Share what you know, with courage rooted in compassion. Pass this letter to your neighbor!** There's a start!
3. Please **vote in the August 4 Primary Election.** And, as we prepare for the November 3 General Election, please **join our grassroots Get-Out-the-Vote effort.** Email us at info@rtl.org and let us know you want to help. Can you volunteer in the critical days and weeks ahead? Can you make a few phone calls?
4. We humbly ask you to **DONATE** today. **Please put your most generous contribution in the mail today or scan the QR code below to donate online.** Whether that be a tax-deductible gift (Educational Fund) to support our life-saving "Life. The Other Choice." ad campaign or a non-tax-deductible gift (Right to Life of Michigan) to support our pro-life endorsed candidates, **your donation is essential to our work.**
5. Last but not least... **PRAY.**

We must recommit to work hard over the next few months so we don't look back at what we could have done. I want us to be able to point to some hard-fought victories this November and know that we made a difference for life, yet again!

Let's get after it!

Thank you for your commitment to our life-saving mission,



Amber Roseboom
President
Right to Life of Michigan

Niekerk Ministry Teams

Updated 8/20/26

<u>Council Committee</u>	<u>Chair/Contact Person</u>	<u>Team Members</u>
Community Impact Team	Cheryl Bosch, Dave Walters Carl Helder Sara Heeres MJ Staal Kim Walters Dale Walters	Scott Edewaard*, Deb Slenk, Ryan Texer, Margaret Timmer, Marv Venema, Sara Walters Trisha Texer Sara Heeres, Phil Helder, Steve Kragt, Jen Leenstra, Margaret Timmer
Congregational Life Team	Ken Schierbeek*	
Fellowship Team	Jan Hop & Jane Steenwyk Ken Schierbeek MJ Staal/Jamie Hop Linda Nyhof Carl Helder Julie Mulder	Curt & Marcy Brower, Abby Helder, Sue Hoekstra, Mark Hop, Bob Steenwyk Carol Keen, Bev Leegwater, Ken & Joyce Schierbeek, Bryan & Kaylin Van Dyke Jim Hondred, Vern Hoeksema, Greg Leenstra
Wednesday Night at Niekerk		
Community Groups		
Greeters/Welcome Assistant		
Pine Rest Counseling		
Newsletter Editor		
Discipleship Team		
Catechism Teachers	Trisha Texer	Brian Bosch, Stephanie Edewaard, Kurt Rigterink, Linda Timmer, Kaylin Van Dyke
Childcare/Nursery	Gary Meiste*	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	Nancy Means	Carol Hochhalter, Char Janssen, Stephanie Edewaards, Kristi Driscoll, Nancy Means, & Kaylin Van Dyke
Youth Director	Trisha Texer	
Middle School Youth Group	Trisha Texer	Melissa Dozeman, Scott & Stephanie Edewaard, Joe Texer
Youth Group	Trisha Texer	Melissa Dozeman, Scott & Stephanie Edewaard, Joe Texer
Young Adults		

Finance Team Financial/Member Secretary General Fund Treasurer	Joe Texer* Kathi Petroelje Mike Dozeman	Mike Dozeman, Ivan Janssen, Brent Kapenga, Larry Van Dyke
Missions Team Missionary Financial Support Growing Hope Globally	Scott Edewaard* Carl Helder	Dave Helder, Bev Leep, Joe Texer, Wayne Tjarks
Prayer Team Oversee Prayer Activities Worship Coordinator	Dave Helder Carol Hochhalter	Delia Gale, Doug Gritter, Carl Helder, Pastor John Nyitray, Gary Morren
Support Team Administrative Assistant Building Supervisors Custodian Donations Emergency Response Historian Kitchen Media Team Safe Church Abuse Prevention Physical Safety (Security)	Tom Staal* Julie Mulder Ric & Karen Lucas Karen Koopman Cheryl Bosch Char Janssen 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 Joyce Dalman, Elaine Helder, Verna Jansen, Char Janssen, Karen Lucas, & Linda Timmer 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 Jamie Hop Jamie Hop	Jamie Hop, Jen Leep, Dan Petroelje, MJ Staal Bonnie Nagelkirk, Jane Steenwyk Melanie Russcher, Renee Texer, Lindsey Haan Melissa Dozeman, Jan Hop, Tim Leep, Bryan Van Dyke Zeb Driscoll, Jamie Hop, Jacob Staal, Mary Jo Staal, Joe Texer

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