

Overisel Overview



2026 Consistory

Pastors

*Rev. Mike Pitsenberger
Pastor Ken Kleinheksel
Pastor Kevin Kruizinga

Elders

*Steve Schrottenboer
Glenn Kleinheksel
Nate Genzink
*Bob Reimink
Bruce Peters
Jeff Snay

Deacons

Lee Lubbers
David Kraker
*Dean Jipping
Craig Theodore
Scott VanHaitmsa
Jonathan Hop

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

*Executive committee

A Note From Pastor Ken

The Alpha and Omega

Revelation 22:13 - I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

January 2026. The beginning or start or launch of a new year! How quickly it comes around, with every year seeming to pass faster and faster. But the "Alpha" of a new year also makes us realize that the "Omega" of 2025 has arrived as well. The beginning and the end the Bible says.

One thing we know for sure is that our Savior, Jesus Christ, is with us in the new year just as he was in the year past. Not just at the beginning and end, but every moment in between. It would do us well to think back and remember all that has happened in the past year. Where have you seen God work in hindsight that you didn't realize at the time? Or where did you feel his presence with you and know for certain that he was walking with you all the way? Or what areas are you still waiting for him to lead you forward in the new year?

We may have some hesitation as to what will happen this year, but we can rest assured that God knows and he will be present in every situation and experience. Also, if we look at verse twelve of Revelation 22 it tells us that Jesus is coming soon. We need to keep that at the forefront of our minds as we travel this road called 2026. We don't know if he will return this year or not, but we need to be ready for that great event at any time.

So as you go into 2026 take a backward look at 2025 to remind yourself of where God has shown himself faithful, but look forward in anticipation and trust that God will be with you whatever he has planned for you this year. He is the Alpha and Omega. He already knows the end from the beginning. What better friend to put your trust in than him.

Have a great January 2026 and I'll see you on the journey! God Bless you and Happy New Year!

Pastor Ken

januару birthdays

				1	2	3
4	5 Krista Kleinheksel John Wilson	6 Carter DeJonge Clayton Kroeze	7	8 Lori Vanklompenberg	9 Mary Laarman	10 Bill Nykamp Michael Verkaik
11	12 Lisa Brinks	13 Arturo Sanchez Grace Tirado	14 Niki Dyke Eldon Schans	15 Jan Homkes Dara VandenBosch	16 Michele Bennett Loren Brouwer Kari Essink	17
18 Ginny Harrington Jeff Laarman	19 Kyle Dalman Michael VanAanholt	20 Mark Hoving Lisa Will	21 Luke Koopman Imogen Will	22 Owen Grew Gideon Klaasen Ken Kleinheksel Jonathan Verkaik	23 Elkin Helmus Jerry Herweyer	24 Bryan Immink
25 Grady Kooiker Daria Koopman	26 Kelli Genzink Clayton Genzink Riley Genzink	27 Rochelle Genzink Piper Peerbolte	28 Jesse Klaasen Dave Koopman	29	30 Kimberly Mulder Ken Nagelkirk Jonah Will	31 Tristen Lickley Rachel Lubbers

Milestone Birthdays



1/5 - John Wilson (70 years)



1/15 - Jan Homkes (80 years)



1/14 - Eldon Schans (70 years)



1/18 - Ginny Harrington (70 years)

january anniversaries

				1	2	3
4 Dave & Lori VanDussen	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Elnora & Shelley Burton	13	14	15	16	17
18 Solomon & Katie Klaasen	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Lee & Mary Lubbers	28	29	30	31

Milestone Anniversaries



Mary's Monthly Meal

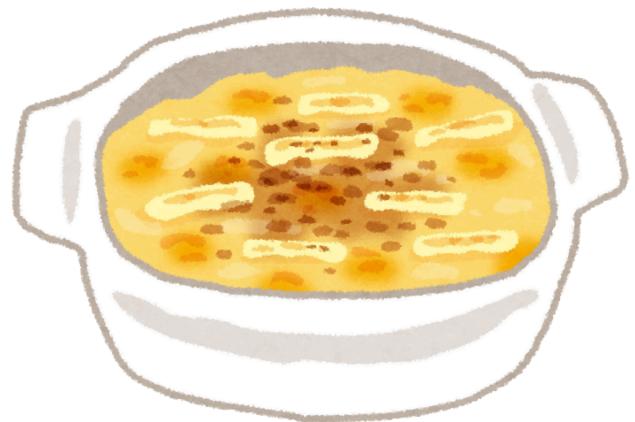
Best Frito Pie Casserole

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 oz. taco seasoning
- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup water
- 2 cans (10oz. each) enchilada sauce - red
- 15oz. pinto beans, drained & rinsed
- 1 bag (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups) Frito chips
- 8oz. Mexican blend cheese
- Sliced green onions (optional)
 - For Serving:
 - Sour Cream
 - Jalapenos
 - Chopped Cherry Tomatoes

DIRECTIONS:

- Preheat oven to 360 degrees
- Spray 9x13 pan
- Brown ground beef with onion, drain
- Stir in taco seasoning and water
- Mix well and simmer for 3-4 minutes
- Add enchilada sauce and pinto beans, mix well
- layer 4 cups of Frito chips - Followed by 1 cup cheese
- Pour meat mixture over, then the rest of the cheese
- Bake for 20 minutes, or bubbly
- Top with remaining Fritos



Missions

Updates



Spreading the Good News of
the Gospel around the world.

help bridge the gaps

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

Matthew 25:35-36



In the past 25 years, Love INC has been explained to our community many times and in many ways. While we always circle back to the stories of transformation that seem to do the best job of sharing what we do, it's not without first landing on a visual aid, a flowchart, an analogy, or something of the like.

There was a time when we often said Love INC acts as a "bridge." We serve as a clearinghouse to connect local Christian churches to individuals and families experiencing need. It's this language that led us to create what we call "gap ministries," or ministries that bridge the gaps of the unmet needs in our community.

But today, I want to acknowledge a different type of gap—the unmet needs of Love INC—a gap in our funding.

On the heels of celebrating 25 years of God's faithfulness in our community

through the ministry of Love INC, we acknowledge there are some road blocks in the way of where we want to go from here.

In order to be able to continue to share the stories of transformation in our community, we need your help to bridge the gaps of our own unmet needs.

On the back of this letter, you'll find three areas of greatest need that we hold at the moment. Could you help us bridge these gaps?

Looking forward to another 25 years of God's faithfulness in our community through Love INC with you,

Rev. Barry Lucas D. Min.
Executive Director
Love In the Name of Christ—Allegan County



To help bridge the gaps, return the enclosed envelope, scan the QR code to the left, or visit loveincnwa.org/donate.

help bridge the gaps



Meet Danielle

When I first came to Love INC's LIFE Skills program in 2018, my life was falling apart. My family had survived a devastating house fire that took everything we owned, even our pets, and though I tried to stay strong, I felt lost and stuck in the same emotional and financial struggles. My marriage was crumbling, we were on the verge of losing our home, and I had all but lost hope. I had turned down the idea of joining LIFE Skills before, afraid of being judged or letting strangers into my problems. But when I finally walked through those doors, desperate for change, I found something I didn't expect — grace, understanding, and a path toward healing.

Two years later, everything looks different. Through the love, encouragement, and wisdom I received from my mentor and friends at Love INC, I not only learned practical life skills but also rediscovered faith and purpose. I've grown closer to God, strengthened my marriage, and built a stable, loving home for our children. Most incredibly, I've stepped into my dream career as an Autism Behavioral Technician, something I never thought possible before. LIFE Skills didn't just teach me how to manage my life; it helped me rebuild it. For that, I'll forever be grateful.



Heart to Heart Store

Our Heart to Heart Resale store is known and loved by our community. It serves as our ministry's largest fundraiser, but the building was built in the 1970s, and is in need of some repairs. Could you help us re-roof a portion of the store?

Suggested donation: \$500



Homes of Hope

Homes of Hope is a transitional housing program offered by Love INC and a network of area churches that provides a caring and supportive environment for homeless families in the face of economic hardship to gain self-sufficiency and permanent housing, while seeing God's love, growing hope, and preserving dignity. Could you help offset the cost of utilities for our partner churches who host homes in this program?

Suggested donation: \$3,000



LIFE Skills

Offered as a year-round, weekly class and mentoring program, LIFE Skills provides physical, emotional, spiritual and relational support, opportunity for personal growth, financial guidance, accountability, and more. By attending classes and meeting weekly goals, participants can earn vouchers for regular access to pantry resources while being supported in accomplishing their long-term goals. Could you cover the cost of a gas card for a family to commute to LIFE Skills? Could you purchase the curriculum and materials for a 10-week LIFE Skills class?

Cover the cost of a gas card for a family to commute to LIFE Skills: \$15

Cover the cost of a LIFE Skills curriculum and materials: \$1,100

MY FATHER'S HOUSE BRAVO

5587 113th Ave. Fennville, MI 49408



Greetings, MFHB / LA CASA

What a blessing for all of us since our last update! Last July, we welcomed three new members and celebrated baptisms, which brought much joy to families and our church. We celebrated Holy Communion for our church and felt a greater commitment from our churchgoers.

As shown in the photos, new members and baptisms!!



What's in store for this coming time?

Basically, trusting in God! We've seen God's faithfulness as we take steps forward and listen to his voice. We've made progress step by step, but we're building for the future. We remain focused on multiplying COFFEE BREAK groups. Evangelism. We strengthen discipleship.

It has been a season of great blessing. A new community program has been launched and is scheduled for August 23 - Community Zumba. This is a one-day Saturday event, and there's a lot of excitement as it's already gaining momentum in the community. Our vision is to see more people connected to the church and to open the door for someone to begin their journey back to God - to discover more about Him and His Word - which can lead to a life of deep, intimate relationship with Him.



COFFEE BREAK Groups!!

We ask that you pray for us, La Casa de Mi Padre Fennville, as we continue on this path. In the meantime, we are praying and seeking opportunities for evangelistic outreach and community engagement. We remain intentional about conducting more leadership development and Bible studies for the people who spend time with us, and strengthening interpersonal relationships among us. We seek to strengthen more programs for children and youth.

Facebook: lacasafennville.com

Donate: My Father's House Bravo

Mailing Address: 5587 113th Ave, Fennville, MI 49408

Phone: 616-426-1498

E-mail: myfathershousecc2017@gmail.com

"MORE THAN A CHURCH, WE ARE A FAMILY. TOGETHER WE ARE BETTER"



IN THE GAP



Gratitude, joy, hope, excitement... only good things come to mind when look back at everything God has allowed us to accomplish during this year. And you, you play a very important role in this. Thank you so much.

Here is one story we want you to hear from a very special friend of ours from Ridgecrest Church Team about their visit last October.

What an incredible week our team had at In the Gap! This was our church's first year to do a full trip with them. In previous years, our teams were only able to spend a single day at a time at In the Gap, but last year we felt led to commit to an entire trip—and at the end of October, we finally did. Our team came and served alongside In the Gap, and it was truly life-changing.

Our week was full: a Spelling Bee (in English), home visits, a church service, a Community Festival, English classes (complete with games, lessons, Bible time, and crafts), hiking a volcano, visiting Antigua, street soccer, a Women's Spa Day, and a million things in between. I loved all the seemingly "random" moments where God showed up—moments that opened doors to share His love, build relationships, serve the community, and support the ministry of In the Gap. If I were to list every way God visibly moved, both in the trip preparations and throughout our time in Guatemala, it would fill pages.



One of the biggest things I took away from the trip was the beautiful opportunity to build relationships with the kids in the Los Seguidores program and with the community. By the end of the week, many of us went from referring to "that one kid" to calling children by name. I pray we can continue building on those relationships and become more than "that one gringo"—**that we would be known as people who share the love of Jesus**, and who genuinely love and care for them.

I'm already dreaming of new ways to stay connected with the kids **between trips!**



What I'm already missing... the smiles and giggles of those sweet kiddos, time with the Toledo family (Andrea might be one of the funniest people I know...), being surrounded by Spanish speakers, homemade tortillas, the beautiful culture of Guatemala, and sooo much more.

Te extraño, Guatemala.

Erica Kerr

Ladies SPA day

All the ladies from our church, La Misión Iglesia Cristiana, along with the moms of our students from the Los Seguidores discipleship program, had a wonderful time and truly felt the love that comes from a grateful heart.

Why does this matter? It matters because doing good shines brighter than words alone, and we use every opportunity to bear witness to the love of Christ. Special thanks to our friends at Ridgecrest Baptist Church, who helped make this possible.



La Misión 5th Anniversary

Exalting Jesus together as one. What a special evening we had of celebration of God's faithfulness! Thanking Him for letting us get this far. An anniversary is a good place to remind ourselves about our commitment of making Jesus known in our community through the acting out of our faith and to remind our church's mission: "TO LIVE A PRACTICAL LIFE OF SIMPLE FAITH... FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND FOR THE GOOD OF OTHERS"



A word of encouragement was brought through a pastoral family from South Korea missionaries to Guatemala Simon & Joana Han



Bible Verse Memorization Contest

Kids in our discipleship program understand that one of the most important things they can do is **hide the Word of God in their hearts**. The Bible provides the wisdom and strength they need to face each day's challenges. Throughout the year, we share a short devotional with the students before their English lessons and encourage them to memorize selected Bible verses that we discuss in the classroom.

This time, the prize was a pizza combo they could share with their families.

Congratulations to Ivy, Julissa, Benjamin, and Jaqueline! These kids are amazing!





Scholarship Program

This year, we had the opportunity to visit the homes of four of our most outstanding students in the program and deliver a full scholarship certificate to each of them. Although each certificate bears our name and signature, we cannot take any credit for this. Your generosity and quick response have been overwhelming, and for that we will be forever grateful.



Special thanks to Cody Wheeler, Roxanne McDaniel, Brenda Stephens, and the ZONTA Foundation of Greenville for investing in the dreams and aspirations of each of our children.



In addition to these four full scholarships, more than ten other students will receive support for school supplies, uniforms, shoes, and other essentials they will need for school. All of this has been made possible through your involvement in the scholarship program. Thank you so much!

We are also excited to celebrate a major milestone: this past October, **Jarol Mejía, Vivian Pérez, and Marilyn Sinay graduated from high school**. This is a huge victory for them and for their families, and it wouldn't have been possible without your faithful support. You have played an important role in shaping their journey, and we are so thankful for the impact you've made in their lives.

Education is key to a better life and a brighter future. If you would like to sponsor more students through monthly tuition support or full scholarships, there are always opportunities to get involved. We would love to connect with you. please contact us:

etinthegap@gmail.com

Partners In Ministry Wanted

"Perhaps we haven't always expressed well enough how important you are to us and how meaningful your partnership is, and we may never will. But this is what we want you to know: we have come this far in ministry because of your generosity and your obedience to God's leading. For that, we are—and always will be—deeply grateful."



"What we are really looking for are people who say, 'Freely I have received, and I want to be part.' **We are looking for partners, not transactions.** Help us spread the word about what God is doing here in the neighborhood of La Comunidad in Guatemala City, and let others know there are ways to be part of transforming the lives of children and their families through the love of Christ."

We also wanted to let you know we have a new giving link you can access to. Our friends (Sue & Rich) from New Song Church in Indiana, gave us a spot on their donation platform for every donation to In The Gap.

This is something amazing and will continue holding us accountable about the use of the financial support

https://mynsc.onlinegiving.org/donate/guest_donate?&fund=In+the+Gap&lf=1



Praise God for this incredible, unbelievable, indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15 VOICE

If someone were to ask you to put the message of the Gospel into your own words, what would you say? How would you respond? You might tell a story about what God has done in your life, offering a personal testimony. Or you might explain the message of salvation using an image or illustration—like when you explain something complex to a curious child. God did the same. He chose to reveal the fullness of the Gospel in the person of His Son, Jesus.

That is what the Christmas season centers on. God's greatest gift is described in just a few words in John 3:16: *"For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life"* (NLT).

Although 2 Corinthians 9:15 does not speak directly about the birth of Jesus, it does refer to God's generous gift to humankind. He was so generous that He wrapped His indescribable gift of grace in diapers. Jesus—God's indescribable gift.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Thank you so much for standing with us!

Your partnership is crucial and has been a powerful tool in God's hands to help us get where we are. May God richly bless you.

We love you all.

Elio, Andrea & the kids

...left to right

(Adrian, Madison, Allison, Benjamin)



UPENDO-MANANASI CENTER FOR CHILDREN

What an incredible journey 2025 has been. Looking back over the year, our hearts are full – full of gratitude, hope, and deep appreciation for the all who continue to stand with us. Every challenge we have faced has been met with resilience. And every victory, small or big, has reminded us why this mission matters so much.



Year of Growth, Rescue, and Restoration

This year, over 25 children were rescued, each arriving with their own stories of struggle, vulnerability, and survival. Thanks to our dedicated teams and supporters, few of these children have been placed into loving forever families, and 2 were safely reunited with their biological families after intervention and assessment. These reunions are always bittersweet but deeply rewarding – seeing families given another chance to care for loved ones.

We also had our share of heartbreak. We said goodbye to Ashley precious little one whose time on earth was far too short. This loss shook us, but also pushed us harder to hold the children closer, advocate harder, and reaffirm our commitment to providing every baby with dignity, comfort, and love.



Medical Challenges and Miracles

The medical needs at the Center continue to grow more complex every year. This year was no exception. Most of the children rescued came with recurring infections and multiple hospital admissions. Though fragile, they have shown immense strength, and we've been encouraged by improvement, once again we are thankful for standing with in prayer and giving these kids the best medical care, that they so much need.

Education: Big Steps for Our Children

2025 was a year for our older children transitioning into adulthood.

- One new student joined university, bringing our total to 5 children in the universities.
- The students' study fields now include nursing, pharmacy, teaching, and hospitality.
- One of our older students completed her bachelors in education.
- Next year, four teenagers will transition to our vocation training in our own training center we are thankful for the provision that really helps young to learn skill for self-sustenance. All children are now out of school for the Christmas holiday until 4th of January 2026 when school resumes.



The Vocational Training

The vocational training centre has continued to make remarkable progress, providing young adults and widows with practical skills that are transforming their lives and strengthening their economic independence. Through the dressmaking program, trainees have steadily advanced in both technical ability and creativity, gaining confidence as they master cutting, stitching, pattern design, and garment finishing. Many are now able to make clothing for personal use, for the children home, local market, and creating new income opportunities for families. The consistent participation and dedication shown by the learners reflect the growing impact of the Centre, which continues to serve as a safe, empowering space where widows and young adults can build brighter and more sustainable futures.



The Women's Conference

The women's conference had a truly transformative impact, empowering participants with knowledge, confidence, and a renewed sense of purpose. Through open discussions, skill-building sessions, and shared experiences, the women gained valuable insights that strengthened their leadership, personal growth, and community involvement. Many left feeling inspired, connected, and better equipped to face daily challenges with resilience. We are deeply grateful for the positive change the conference brought, and we look forward to even greater opportunities and continued empowerment in the years to come.



We would like to express our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support throughout 2025. Your generosity made it possible for us to rescue vulnerable infants, provide life-saving medical interventions, and offer stable, nurturing care to every child who entered our doors. Each smile restored, each family reunited, and each step forward for our older children in vocational training is a direct result of your kindness and commitment. You have truly been part of every story of hope for these little ones.

Your contributions went far beyond meeting basic needs; they strengthened the very foundation of our work. Because of you, our medical cases received specialized attention and our older children could pursue meaningful education that will shape their futures. The monthly donations ensured that even in the most challenging seasons, we could continue saying “yes” to the children who needed us most. We are humbled and encouraged by your faithfulness.

As we reflect on all we have achieved together, we are reminded that none of this would have been possible without your partnership. Your support has not only sustained the center—it has transformed lives and opened doors that many of our children never imagined could be theirs. For that, we say thank you, from the depths of our hearts.

Looking ahead to 2026, we remain hopeful and expectant. The needs continue to grow, and so does our vision. We kindly request your continued—and even greater—support as we expand our care for children to giving medical care. Strengthen rescue operations, and help more young adults transition into independent, empowered lives. With your help, we can reach even more children, respond faster in emergencies, and build a future where every child we receive has the opportunity to thrive. Thank you once again for walking this journey with us.

From all of us at here at Mananasi and Upendo Orphanages Centers, Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year 2026 With heartfelt gratitude.

Pastor David





FIRESIDE CHATS

Lives are **changed** at Camp, where Christ is hope!

Dear Friends,

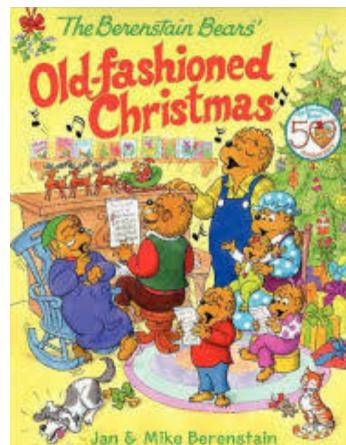
This past weekend, Camp Beechpoint hosted the 5th Annual Christmas at Camp open house in the Lodge, decked out for the season. With campers, volunteers and friends, we celebrated the birth of Jesus with live music, games, crafts, Christmas cookies, and hot cocoa.

My favorite part every year is the gift-giving workshop. Kids get to pick out a gift or two for someone they love and wrap it themselves. It's simple, but it's powerful. They walk out grateful, excited, and ready to give a gift. How often do they get that chance?

Do you remember the old Berenstain Bears books? In the Christmas book, there's a line I've always loved: "**It is better to give than to receive.**" That's exactly what this little workshop teaches...generosity in action!

Check out some photos on our Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/beechnpoint/posts/pfbid0yMnx7bbR7CeD5zeiquSjm452CD5loW9Vs8k5dh9yy9162SnrrGrIkHaA8Zi4Qr5kl?rdid=h0n4tE8b4gCkaBG6#>



As we move through Advent, a season of waiting, my prayer is this: that we receive the greatest gift of Jesus with open hands and then give that same gift back to a world that desperately needs it.

Lives are changed at Camp, where Christ is hope!

Gratefully,

Brent Boersma

Executive Director, Camp Beechpoint





PRAISE

As communicated in my last Fireside Chats email, we are seeking to raise \$85,000 for scholarships to close the gap on what has been given in faith in 2025.

Yesterday, we had a generous donor commit to giving \$50,000 to help Beechpoint finish the year well.

Thanks be to God!



PARTNER

Would you make a year-end gift to Camp Beechpoint?

Youth need a place like Beechpoint, a place where they can be kids, build lasting friendships, and encounter the love and hope found in Christ.

https://givebutter.com/beechpoint?blm_aid=16265



PRAY

Summer staff recruitment is in full swing! Applications for summer staff are now open!

If you know someone that would be interested in a summer of ministry, encourage them to be on mission at Camp Beechpoint!

https://beechpoint.org/work-at-beechpoint/?blm_aid=16265



MARK AND BERNANDETTE *Bennett*



**Psalm 107:1 says, Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
for His steadfast love endures forever!**

We're so thankful for all the Lord has done as we labor for His kingdom both here at Ferris and around the world.

*Berny met Martha two years ago and started teaching her truth from the Word, praying that she would turn from certain strongholds of sin. Honestly, it was very challenging and sometimes she felt like Martha would never find victory. But God is faithful and Martha slowly started surrendering these areas to His Lordship. Berny was blessed to be a part of Martha's baptism at the Fall Retreat. We are praising God who has delivered her from darkness and now she is walking in the light!

*Jenna, Karly, Becca, Natalie, & Lexis all recently given their lives to Christ and chose to get baptized. Last winter, the Lord was showing Natalie her need to turn away from the party scene at FSU. By God's hand, she met Carly in a class and they both came to Real Life together. While at a worship night this fall, the Lord prompted her to get baptized, doing so in her jeans and sweater despite not having a change of clothes. A few years ago Carly was given a Bible by her ex-boyfriend's mom and started reading it. This past summer she professed her faith publicly through baptism at a church she has been attending. Lexis grew up going to church but wasn't living for Jesus. She recently expressed to her friends that she wanted to be baptized and they did it on the spot one night with flashlights on the Muskegon River. What a joy it has been for Berny to encourage these new believers in their faith!!!



*Mark meets with men who need Jesus online every day.

Mike said, "I really enjoy meeting with you. You are a mentor to me." He is a nominal Muslim with lots of questions and a great heart.

Hank said, "You are my best friend."

Alan said, "Mr. Mark I appreciate you so much". He is a believer seeking to flee his country because of persecution. His father tried to kill him recently.



Would you please take a minute to thank the Lord with us right now?

We have so many other real examples of how God is at work in actual lives. We thank God for your partnership which makes this possible!

Thank you so much for your generosity to us! It means so much to us that you believe in us and pray and support us!

As we reviewed our finances for this past year, we realized that we've come up short by \$6,000 in donations.

Berny also needs to raise an additional \$3,500 for her upcoming mission trip to Italy with Thrive Ministries. She will be volunteering at a retreat where 85-100 missionaries will come to be encouraged, coached, counseled, and prayed for.

If you feel led to help with these needs, you can give in one of the two ways:

Online at this link: <https://wl.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E330949&id=152>

Write a check payable to Paraclete and send it to:

Paraclete Mission group

P.O. Box 2091

Houston, TX 77252-2091

(be sure to add "Preference: M & B Bennett Ministry" on the memo line)

We are so grateful for your prayers and giving that impacts students' lives at Ferris. Thank you for your hearts to see the lives of men in Northern Africa and the Middle East changed with the life-giving message of the gospel.

We are so grateful for your prayer and support!! We know none of this would be possible without you!!

LIFE. The Other Choice!

Volume 37

January 2026



**RIGHT TO LIFE
OF HOLLAND AREA**

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

Dr. Catherine Wheeler, a former abortionist tells her story

Dr. Wheeler arrived at an outpatient surgery center prepared to perform an abortion. She was trained to do second trimester abortions on women who were carrying babies with adverse diagnosis. Her profession had taught her that it was “compassionate” to abort babies with abnormalities. The anesthesiologist on staff at the surgical center looked at the schedule and said, “I thought this was somebody who had a fetal demise; I did not realize you were doing an abortion. I am NOT doing this!” The anesthesiologist’s words surprised Dr. Wheeler and created a newfound discomfort for her. She hadn’t even considered that there was the option for an anesthesiologist to say no.

At the time and even today, the narrative was: Anybody who was against abortion hated women. In her mind she thought, this guy is one of the most respected and kind people I know; he clearly cares deeply about women. From this moment, she decided to stop performing abortion and start referring clients to an abortion clinic – until the day her resolve was tested. Dr. Wheeler had not performed an abortion for about a year. But then she was faced with a dilemma of a 16 year old girl who was pregnant. The teen’s mother lamented that if her daughter carried the baby, she wouldn’t be able to finish school and her chances of becoming a doctor would be ruined. Dr. Wheeler declined at first; but they persisted, she felt pressured to agree, even though she would be breaking her decision not to perform abortions again. When Dr. Wheeler entered the surgery room and began the procedure, she felt the room suddenly grow dark and she felt a heavy, evil presence. Terrified she chose to finish the procedure. But it was like blinders came off, she

says. She realized she was about to kill a human being. At that moment she decided to renew her vow to never do another abortion again. Dr. Wheeler grew up in a Christian home and had a strong foundation of faith. And while in college she rejected her parents’ Biblical worldview and made a decision in college that following God wasn’t the path she wanted to take. It took another 15 years after her last abortion, before Dr. Wheeler dedicated her life to Christ and made a choice to be publicly baptized and profess her new faith in Christ. The day she was baptized she ran into a woman she had performed her last abortion on and she was persuaded to go talk with her. Dr. Wheeler started praying for her after this interaction when God began dealing with her past. Dr. Wheeler embraced the reality that Jesus paid for all her sins on the Cross and she received His forgiveness so God could use her lie for good. She wanted to tell people the TRUTH about abortion and she wanted to do it in a loving manner. “God speaks truth in a way where He doesn’t crush people.” Dr. Wheeler is now on the board of the American Association of Pro-Life OBGYN’s (AAPLOG) and started the first chapter in the state of Colorado. She is also on the medical advisory board of Save the Storks, which offers pregnancy resources and ultrasounds. She is also the newest member on the Focus on the Family Physician’s Resource Council. However the biggest movement in her pro-life advocacy journey is the random conversations she’s been able to have with both men and women. God has put her in front of people to have conversations. Dr. Wheeler prayed for God to make something beautiful out of “her broken shattered life for His glory” and He has done just that. She has been able to use her experiences for the good of others and to fight for LIFE-AFFIRMING medical care for women and the rights of pre-born babies. “God took my prayer and took everything that was a complete disaster...I can’t believe what He’s done with the brokenness.”

BE A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS! LIFE. THE OTHER CHOICE

**March For Life – Holland
Saturday,
January 24, 2026**



March begins at 11:00am at Centennial Park on the corner of 10th and Central. We will walk around the park for about 20-30 minutes.

Followed by

A DEVOTIONAL & PRAYER SERVICE FOR UNBORN CHILDREN
Devotions led by - TBD

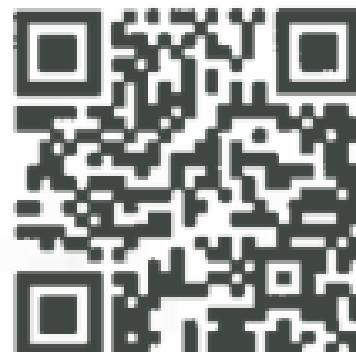
11:30am at Central Avenue CRC Sanctuary
259 Central Avenue, Holland, MI 49423

The events are FREE! – Join us with Family and Friends!
FREE WILL offering will be taken at the Memorial Service.

January 23, 2025 marks the 52nd Anniversary of the date of the infamous Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton decisions which legalized the violence of abortion throughout our country during the entire nine months of a woman's pregnancy. Since that date over 64 million+ pre-born lives have been destroyed. The Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in July, 2022. November, 2022 – Michigan's abortion ban was overturned by Proposal 3 as well as several prolife laws!

**Sponsored by Right to Life of Holland Area,
607 Heritage Court, Holland, MI 49423**

Any CANCELLATION due to weather tune into WHTC AM,
JOY FM, or WPNW AM and it will be posted on our
Facebook page!



These major corporations “care” about their female employees so much they will help murder their children. These companies will pay the expenses (shown below) to help fly women to pro-abortion states where abortionists will brutally dismember or poison their babies.

829 Studios - \$3,500	CVS Health - expenses for out-of-state abortion	Macy's - travel
Accenture, Inc. - travel	Dicks Sporting Goods - \$4,000 including for spouse/dependents	MasterCard - access to abortion termination
Adidas - \$10,000	Disney - travel	Meta - travel
Adobe - travel & lodging	Doordash - travel	Microsoft - travel
AIRBNB - travel	Dove USA - travel	Morgan Stanley - travel
Alaska Airlines - abortion & travel	Duolingo - travel	Netflix - \$10,000
Amazon - \$4,000	Expedia Group - travel	NY Times - travel
American Express - travel	Fidelity Investments - travel	Nike - travel & lodging
Apple - abortion & travel	Footlocker - travel	Paramount - travel
AT&T - travel	Ford Motor Co. - HAS for travel	PayPal - travel
Bank of America - travel	Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. - travel	Procter & Gamble - pay for abortion
Blackrock, Inc. - travel	Google - travel	Reddit, Inc. - travel
Box.com - travel & medical	Hewlett Packard - travel	Screen Actors Guild - travel and lodging, including dependents if they travel out-of-state
Bumble - has a relief fund for Texas women so they can leave the state for an abortion	Ikea - travel	Sephora, USA, Inc. - travel
Chobani - travel, lodging, and childcare for employees and their dependents	Indeed, Inc. - travel	Skechers - \$4,000
Cigna - travel for employees and their families	Intel Corp. - travel	Sony - \$10,000
Citigroup - travel	J. Crew - travel	Starbucks - travel
CNN - travel	JPMorgan - travel	Target - travel
Comcast/NBC - travel	Kroger - \$4,000	Ulta - travel
Compass, Inc. - travel for employees and companions	Levi Strauss - travel	Unilever - travel
Crocs Inc. - \$4,000	Live Nation - travel and bail for any employees arrested during a pro-abortion protest	Yahoo - \$5,000
	LYFT - travel	Yelp - travel
		Zillow - \$7,500 for travel



Dear Friends,

As we step into Christmas celebrations and New Year reflections, we want to thank you for your friendship, love, and support over these 11 years serving with InnerChange. God has sustained us through many changing life seasons.

This past summer marked five years of living in the Godfrey-Lee neighborhood. We are grateful for our home, situated at the intersection of schools, bus routes, and steady foot traffic - a place that continually invites connection. One small, tangible way we seek to love our neighbors is through our **Giving Library**, which is consistently stocked with crafts, books, and, during the winter months, warm knitted hats. We are deeply thankful for the many volunteers who help keep the Giving Library supplied.



Blessings to each of you as you celebrate, reflect, and consider ways to love your neighbor in the year ahead.

Love, Al & Lisa

STREET STORIES

A journey alongside the beloved neighbors of Heartside Park

Proximity and consistency are vital to the street ministry we practice in Grand Rapids. Building meaningful relationships takes time, and simply showing up - again and again - is foundational to this work. For a number of years now, we have been present and engaged alongside people experiencing homelessness in the Heartside Park area.



Recently, I had a conversation with Tom. He joyfully shared that he received a housing placement and that his faith was also growing as his relationship with Jesus deepened. When I asked what made the greatest impact, he answered without hesitation: the faithful commitment of a mutual friend who studied scripture and prayed with his nearly every day. That steady presence and discipleship made all the difference.

Our goal is to connect, mentor, and support a local team of ministry companions who are eager to disciple and encourage our neighbors. Discipleship within a transient community carries unique challenges. Jesus' command is ever-present - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" - and it continues to guide and compel this work.

As we grow this team, we are encouraged to be meeting regularly with those who are committed to loving and serving alongside our unhoused neighbors. We gather for fellowship, storytelling, prayer, and learning, with the hope of mutual encouragement and deepening friendship as we follow Christ together.

During these gatherings, several shared desires have emerged: gaining greater knowledge of local resources, growing in boldness when sharing our faith, and learning how to guide faith conversations into deeper places. It has been beneficial to share openly together and listen for what the Lord has placed on our hearts. Together, we bring these burdens before Him in prayer, trusting in His care and love - far deeper than we can fully comprehend.

-AI

STAFF CARE TEAM

Trauma-Informed Ministry Workshops

I am honored to serve on our global InnerChange Staff Care Team. This team exists to promote long-term resilience and sustainability so that InnerChange missionaries are well supported with the tools, connection, and resources needed to thrive in life and ministry.

InnerChange missionaries live and serve in diverse communities around the globe. Many experience trauma shaped by Chronic poverty, crime and gun violence, political and economic instability, abuse, and exploitation. In the midst of this, Scripture reveals a God who seeks shalom - not merely the absence of conflict, but the restoration of wholeness, right relationship, and justice between God, people, and creation. God's healing work addresses both personal suffering and the wounded social systems in which that suffering occurs.

Over the past eight months, my co-worker Birgit and I had the joy of creating and facilitating a six-session workshop series on biblical, trauma- informed ministry. Our aim was to support InnerChange missionaries and the communities they serve as they pursue faithfulness and flourishing amid overwhelming circumstances. Grounded in Scripture and informed by trauma awareness, this series sought to:

- Increase awareness of the nature and impact of trauma in the lives and bodies of individuals and communities
- Equip participants with practical knowledge and tools to integrate trauma-informed care into their diverse spheres of ministry.

- Foster resilience through prevention, intervention, and ongoing support
- Develop a strong biblical foundation for trauma-informed ministry

Together, these workshops created a space for learning, reflection, and mutual encouragement, offering our participants a shared language and framework for engaging suffering with wisdom, compassion, and hope as they participate in God's ongoing work of healing and restoration.

-Lisa

MINISTRY “QUICK FACTS”

We are currently involved in several key areas of ministry.

Unhoused Ministry

AI is faithfully engaged in discipleship and holistic among the unhoused community in Grand Rapids/Wyoming. He is intentionally developing and mentoring a team of people who share his heart for relational, presence-based ministry.

- AI completed his chaplain certification through the International Fellowship of Chaplains, equipping his to provide compassionate spiritual care across a wide range of settings and life circumstances.

InnerChange Staff Care

Lisa serves on the global InnerChange Staff Care Team, which exists to promote long-term health, resilience, and sustainability so that InnerChange missionaries around the world can thrive in both life and ministry.

- Lisa received training in youth and teen missionary Debriefing through Excelling Leaders. Debriefing is a preventative and focused practice that creates space to review the past, process the present, and thoughtfully look toward the future.

Church-Based Missional Spiritual Formation

AI supports churches in engaging missionally within their local context through an intentional process of spiritual and personal formation. Check out ReWire.org for more information.

Partner With Us

As missionaries with NOVO/InnerChange, we personally raise support for our salary and ministry expenses. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and generosity.

At this time, our fundraising account is operating below budget, and we are seeking additional financial partners to help sustain and strengthen our mission. Whether through a monthly gift of \$20, \$50, or \$100, or a one-time donation, your support is deeply appreciated.

If you are a current partner and feel led to increase your commitment, we would be sincerely grateful. If you are considering becoming a new partner, Al and I would love the opportunity to connect and share more about our work together.

Ways to Make a Tax-Deductible Donation

1. Online

Make a one-time gift or set up recurring donations through Novo's secure giving platform: <https://give.novo.org/novo/checkout/algemmen>

2. By Mail

Please include this PLEDGE CARD and designate FUND #4981 with your check, payable to Novo Mission, and mail to:

Novo Mission

1240 N. Lakeview Ave, Suit 120

Anaheim, CA 92807-1847

3. By Phone

Call Novo's Donor Helpline at *800) 777-6658

Family Update

It's hard to grasp the pace at which these four precious lives are changing. On the surface, school and daily life feel steady, but underneath there is a vast current of transition—new jobs, driver's licenses, relationships, graduations, letting go, and new beginnings. We are so grateful for each of them and ask for your prayers as we guide them through the next few years.



Sonia (15) 8th grade.
She enjoys cooking and
drumming class at the
Special Olympics
complex.



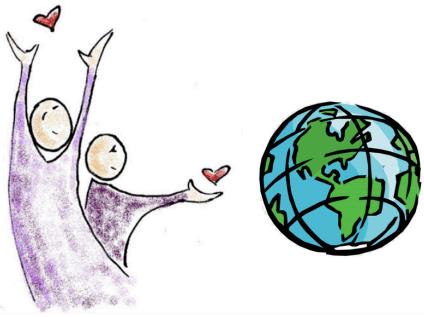
Falande (16) 9th grade.
She is learning piano,
works at New City Kids,
a music mentoring
ministry in our
neighborhood.



Gideon (16) 10th grade.
He is on the GR Run
Club and also works at
New City Kids with
Falande.



Josiah (18) Freshman
at Calvin University. He
works at Team 21, an
after school program at
Godfrey-Lee
Elementary.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

SAVIOR

The birth of Jesus can be considered one of the most world-changing events in all of history. And it occurred with some incredible circumstances, to which many rightly responded with amazement and wonder...but what about his mom? In the midst of the excitement and glory of these events, we see this curious phrase "but Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart," Luke 2:19. I wonder what was going on in Mary's heart during the first advent season: awe, wonder, curiosity, fear, anxiety, concern? Scripture doesn't say other than that she treasured and pondered. To treasure and ponder doesn't mean to deny any of the hard questions or emotions. It does involve taking time to be still and notice and to be curious with God. So, as we come to the end of this advent season, what might be going on in your heart? What might God be inviting you to treasure and ponder with Him? And what might help you slow down and notice? As this year comes to a close, and the new year begins, take time to step aside and savor with your loving Heavenly Father the good gifts of his love, joy, peace, and hope. All of these gifts are expressions of his relationship with us as he welcomes both the struggles and celebrations of this season.

PRAY WITH US

-Please continue to pray with us to grow in noticing the leading of God as we walk with missionaries and pastors.

-Pray also for us to be able to find ways to help increase our support levels in the near future

-Pray with us for discernment for Sierra as she decides on a university for next year.

-Pray with us for discernment about upcoming opportunities to serve that involve traveling on site

JOY IN SERVING

We want to continue to thank you for the joy of serving missionaries and pastors in the ministry of soul care. We are so encouraged to see the deepening work of God both in our own lives as well as the lives of those with whom we meet. God continues to open doors for us to serve in this capacity and we are encouraged to see that our spiritual life team in our mission is growing.

SUPPORT

We are thankful for God's faithfulness and your generosity throughout these years. Our support remains at 72% which enables us to meet the minimum requirements to continue to serve in this ministry. If you are interested in either a one-time gift or a reoccurring gift, then please follow the link below to find our support page.

<https://give.team.org/fundraiser/3232968>

Enjoy some fun family pictures from this past year



Sierra in color guard with her marching band. She is a senior now!



Eli enjoying some summer fishing.



Anna, Kayla, and Sierra worked together at a pottery studio this summer.



Sunflowers are a sweet reminder of our years in Ukraine.



Enjoying being together as a while family.



Eli is now driving!



Our favorite place to visit after helping with new missionary training in Chicago.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
Kurt & Rochelle and the ZurBerg family