



FIRST
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
ALLENDALE

FIRST IN FOCUS

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APRIL 2024

Love of Faith

Isaiah 40:31

But they that wait upon the
LORD shall renew their
strength; they shall mount up with
wings as eagles; they shall run,
and not be weary; and they shall
walk, and not faint.



Council Meeting Highlights February 2024

Present: Pastor Ken, Kevin Bosch, Herm Kloosterman, Jon Vander Wal, Scott Berens, Duke Busman, Dave Vollink, Keegan Morren, Russ Geurink, Ron Nykamp, Karl Kuzee, Jeremy Brower, Dave Schroedter
Absent: John Broene, Ken Knoper

1. Opening Prayer and Devotions: Russ, Geurink - John 1:35-42, Experiencing God Day by Day
2. Approval of Council Minutes of December 5, 2023 – MMS&A
 - Corrected names Present to include Russ Geurink
- Old Business:
3. Interim Committee
 - a. Noteworthy Items:
 1. Updated list of names for council nominations.
 - a. Identified men we felt called and capable for Deacon, Elder, or Both (either). This information was tabulated and sent to the office so the appropriate letter will be sent, informing these men of their nomination and to respond no later than March 5.
4. Pastor Ken's Monthly Report – report for January
5. Joel's Monthly Report - received
6. Reports – for approval MMS&A
 - a. Elder Report (**Minutes of Dec 5**)
 - b. Deacon report (**Minutes of Dec 5**) Monthly financials for December and January.
 - c. Education Committee (**NA**) postponed to Feb 18.
 - d. Worship Committee (**NA**) Minutes of December 14, 2023.
 - new member – Rebeka Mesbergen to Worship Comm. MMS&A
 - e. Tech Committee (**NA**) Meeting postponed to February 20.
 - f. Building and Grounds (**NA**)
 - g. Congregational Care (**NA**)
7. Reports- needing action
 - a. Letter from Ben Post regarding opportunities to volunteer at Campus Ministry.
 - i. Discussed; Duke/Dora and Phil/Eileen have recently made snacks; suggested exposing the need and opportunities in our daily emails with links to signup calendar
 - b. Chosen People Ministries – opportunity for Jewish Passover Seder
 - i. Agreed to table - to work it in later.
8. Correspondence
 - a. Letter from CRCNA with information regarding Synod. - RFI
 - b. Letter from a fellow member regarding RTL article from the First in Focus (included).
 - i. Discussed; decided to place the RTL material toward the back of the FIF so it can be easily separated; Pastor Ken will pass along to Eileen
 - c. CRC Loan Fund Offering Circular – for information. - received by Deacons; RFI
9. Round Table – Comments, Prayer Requests, Other Matters
 - a. Requests for successful job find and transition
 - b. Prayers for special needs within the congregation
 - c. Adjacent property has become available on Forest View; will pass along the information and solicit suggestions
10. Closing Prayer - Pastor Ken
11. Next Meeting: March 5, 2024, at 6:30 PM

**First Allendale CRC
Monthly Financial Report
February 29, 2024**

Beginning Checking Balance **\$101,830.14**

Revenue	February	Year-To-Date	Budget	Remaining
General Fund Collections	\$19,652.00	\$223,285.05	\$357,000.00	\$133,714.95
Christian Education Tuition Assistance	\$1,017.00	\$16,101.49	\$22,000.00	\$5,898.51
Causes	\$2,972.00	\$51,770.91	\$65,000.00	\$13,229.09
Cadets	\$334.00	\$2,809.00	\$2,500.00	-\$309.00
Gems	\$1,920.00	\$5,826.54	\$6,000.00	\$173.46
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Interest Income	\$50.01	\$393.63	\$100.00	-\$293.63
Total Revenue	\$25,945.01	\$300,186.62	\$452,600.00	\$152,413.38

Expenses				
Facilities	\$5,731.56	\$44,198.84	\$104,200.00	\$60,001.16
Worship and Music	\$593.00	\$6,301.31	\$10,300.00	\$3,998.69
Education	\$501.30	\$8,947.59	\$12,500.00	\$3,552.41
Staff	\$13,520.38	\$129,611.41	\$200,180.00	\$70,568.59
Local Ministries	\$441.61	\$57,460.64	\$88,270.00	\$30,809.36
Denominational Ministries	\$0.00	\$30,372.31	\$66,720.00	\$36,347.69
Total Expenses	\$20,787.85	\$276,892.10	\$482,170.00	\$205,277.90
Reserved Funds Used		\$0.00		
Net Income/Loss	\$5,157.16	\$23,294.52	-\$29,570.00	-\$52,864.52

Reserved Fund Balances

Restricted Bequests	\$0.00
Building Maintenance	\$0.00
Christian Education Tuition Assistance	\$0.00
Causes	\$0.00
Ministry Shares	\$0.00
Total Reserved Funds	\$0.00

General Funds Available **\$106,987.30**

Barnabas Accounts

Ministries Fund	\$0.00
General Reserve	\$0.00
Building Maintenance	\$0.00
Total Barnabas Funds	\$0.00

DID YOU KNOW....

THAT Jennie Keegstra has been involved with a program called 'Upwards' at Chapel Point Church. She worked along side two others to coach young girls in playing basketball. Each girl grows in their confidence

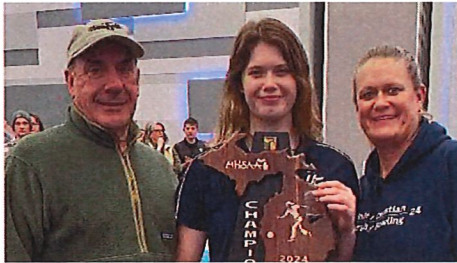


playing the game and gives it their all. Not only that, but they also eagerly learn Bible verses each week as well. If you are interested in this wonderful program for your child next year, I'm sure Jennie would love to share the information with you.

THAT the BIBLE has a great meaning -

- B. basic
- I. instruction
- B. before
- L. leaving
- E. earth

THAT Makayla Schurman was a participant of the Unity Christian Bowling Team that won the District Championship.



Several of the girls qualified for State competition.

Congrats to Makayla and the rest of the team!



THAT Life is like a camera...just focus on what's important. Capture the good times, develop from the negatives & if things don't work out...just take another shot!



THAT the Cadet program has ended its year with a great tradition and friendly competition – the Pinewood Derby! A great time was had by all who worked so hard at get their car just right to go the fastest down to the finish line! Aiden Geurink took 2nd place at the Cadet Pinewood Derby with proud grandparents, Gerald and Joan Geurink cheering him on.



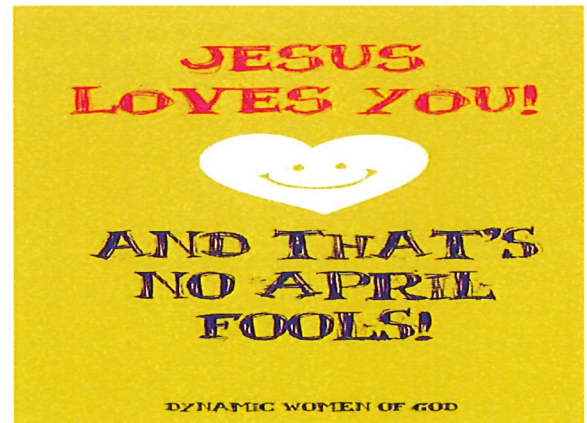
THAT You don't have to stop having fun when you get older...You get older when you stop having fun!

THAT Russ Geurink is very talented? He has now made several 'Mexican Train' domino hubs. If you ever get a chance to play the game with Annette Rosema, you will see one first hand! What will he think of next?!!



THAT It's not about being better than someone else; it's about being better than you were **yesterday!**

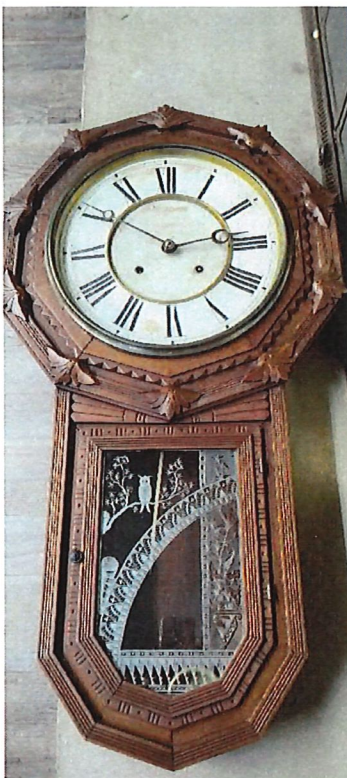
THAT Colton Sytsma took part in the Right to Life Essay competition. The essay he wrote tied for second place. We are very proud of you, Colton! May God continue to speak through you! The full essay is included in this edition of First in Focus.



DYNAMIC WOMEN OF GOD

In the late 1800's to early 1900's
this Star Drop Oak Wall Clock
was purchased for

First Christian Reformed Church of Allendale.



It most likely hung in the consistory room
until the new church was built in 1962.
When the old white church was demolished,
Cornelius & Margaret Van Dyke took
the clock to their home and enjoyed it
for many years. When they passed away,
their son Bob Van Dyke and wife Marva
inherited the clock. It stayed in their home
until they sold their home.

They graciously have given it back to
First Christian Reformed Church of Allendale
where it now hangs at the Welcome Center for many
others to enjoy.

The clock was manufactured by the
Wm L. GILBERT CLOCK COMPANY
in Connecticut.

80+ Birthday Club

Donna Knoper, 91 years young on April 10
Rog Mulder, 88 years young on April 11
Gerald Geurink, 85 years young on April 23



Dave & Nancee Kraker, 51 years on April 4
Rog & Gerry Mulder, 67 years on April 18
Duke & Dora Busman, 51 years on April 27



THINK GOD CAN'T USE YOU?

Elijah was suicidal.
Job wished he was never born.
David was depressed.
Moses was anxious.
Hanna was barren.
Paul was in prison.
Jacob was a cheater.
Peter had a temper.
David had an affair.
Noah got drunk.
Jonah ran away from God.
Paul was a murderer.
Gideon was insecure.
Miriam was a gossip.
Martha was a nervous wreck.
Thomas was a doubter.
Sarah was impatient.
Moses had a speech impediment.
Zaccheus was short.
Abraham was old.
Lazarus was dead.

But God set them free. He used their struggles and turned them into testimony. God can turn your worst seasons around when you choose to worship Him in the middle of the storm. Turn your eyes upon Jesus and away from darkness. Choose life over death.

Worship is a choice. You have to choose to worship despite feeling hopeless. You have to choose to see God as bigger than your suffering. Your worship magnifies God far above your present situation.

God does not call the qualified. He qualifies the called.

Death takes the body.
God takes the soul.
Our mind holds the memories.
Our heart keeps the love.
Our faith lets us know
we will meet again.

all-greatquotes.com



The Good Shepherd

SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

Day 1: Psalm 23:1-3
Day 2: Psalm 23:4
Day 3: Psalm 28:8-9
Day 4: Psalm 78:70-72
Day 5: Ecclesiastes 12:11
Day 6: Isaiah 40:10-11
Day 7: Ezekiel 34:2-3
Day 8: Ezekiel 34:4-6
Day 9: Ezekiel 34:7-8
Day 10: Ezekiel 34:10-11
Day 11: Ezekiel 34:12-13
Day 12: Ezekiel 34:14-15
Day 13: Ezekiel 34:16
Day 14: Ezekiel 34:22-24
Day 15: Micah 5:4-5a
Day 16: Matthew 9:35-36

Day 17: Matthew 18:12-14
Day 18: Matthew 26:31-32
Day 19: John 10:1
Day 20: John 10:2-3
Day 21: John 10:4-5
Day 22: John 10:7-8
Day 23: John 10:9-10
Day 24: John 10:11
Day 25: John 10:12-13
Day 26: John 10:14-16
Day 27: John 10:27-30
Day 28: Hebrews 13:20-21
Day 29: 1 Peter 2:24-25
Day 30: 1 Peter 5:1-2, 4
Day 31: Revelation 7:17

This writing plan can be used any month, hence the 31 days. Write each day's scriptures in a notebook or our faith journal. Feel free to underline important words, read them aloud, or use these scriptures as a springboard for your prayers.



Hello Friends and Happy Spring!

I hope this email finds you enjoying days that contain more daylight hours than night time hours. Here are some things that have happened in Young Life since my last update...

Wyldlife Winter Weekend was January 19-21 at Timber Wolf Lake, a YL camp near Cadillac, MI. We had a great time! Our area took over 100 kids and leaders and about twenty of those were from Jenison Junior High and Allendale. Many of the students who went from JJHS had never been to YL camp before, which is great. I often feel like weekend camp is good for developing deeper relationships and building trust with students and I would say that was true this year as well. We had some good discussions about what it means to follow Jesus during our cabin times but in many ways we just began to scratch the surface.

Wyldlife and Young Life club have been happening on a regular basis for the last three months, which is something I celebrate, especially for our Jenison ministries. Many of our club events have had modest participation but leaders are beginning to grasp the vision of building relationships with kids. One noteworthy thing that a few of our female wyldlife leaders organized was a Galentine's dinner for some of the girls. Again, not many came, but those who did had a great time. Our leaders are also regularly visiting school lunches, attending things like ping pong club, and one just began the spring sports season as a tennis coach.

As we continue through the school year and approach the end of our regular program season (usually end of April or early May), here are a few prayer requests...

- Kids to sign up for summer camp.
- Kids to raise needed funds for their camp trip.
- College students who recently went through leader training and that they'd say 'yes' to leading.
- Club ministries to finish the year strong and leaders to continue relationships through the summer months.

Once again, thank you for your partnership to help introduce kids to Jesus Christ! I am grateful for you and your support and I pray that God's love becomes even more real to you as we move through Holy Week and approach Easter. Christ is risen!

Peace and Love to you,
Ryan White

A couple of our Wyldlife leaders work at the local skating rink and got us connected with a free skate night. It was a great event! Thank you, Tarry Hall.



RIGHT TO LIFE ESSAY

By Colton Sytsma

I want you all to imagine someone you love. Maybe it's a parent, spouse, friend, or a kid, you love them and want them safe. Now imagine that a physician decided their life was not worth saving. They decided that your loved one's life was not worth the effort. This is the harsh reality that some people face and is being pushed for. Whether it's an elderly person, an infant or somewhere in between, nobody is immune to this decision to be euthanized, to have their life taken from them. Some people believe that euthanasia is moral and gives the patient a chance to die with dignity. However, euthanasia, also known as physician assisted suicide (PAS), should not be legal.

The arguments for and against PAS have not quite been clear between political parties, gender, or any other sort of group. However, the people who are most passionate about this issue seem to be on



the extreme ends of these groups. States that have passed legislation allowing it are very liberal states like California, Oregon, and Washington, meanwhile the catholic church is heavily lobbying against it. The main argument that people who support PAS use is that people deserve to die with dignity. They claim it is a moral action and gives the patient more bodily autonomy. Author Terry Pratchett, an author who primarily wrote English fantasy books, wrote about his personal viewpoint on euthanasia. He talked about how his father died. His father was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and at one point was given a year to live. For some time, he had some technology to keep him alive and comfortable. Terry reminisced on a memory where his father looked like he was at peace, Pratchett believes he should have died right then, in a moment of peace and fulfilment. His father later died in hospice, something he wished never to be a part of. Pratchett goes on to talk about his own diagnosis with a rare form of Alzheimer's called posterior cortical atrophy. This is a slow progressing disease with no cure. Pratchett wanted to die on his own terms, in his home,

drinking a cocktail to numb the physical pain, and listening to Thomas Tallis. That is what he, and many others, consider a dignified death, on their own terms. He then explains his proposal as to how **we** should go about physician assisted suicide and giving it legislation. "That is why I and others have suggested some kind of strictly nonaggressive tribunal that would establish the facts of the case well before the assisted death takes place. This might make some people, including me, a little uneasy as it suggests the government has the power to tell you whether you can live or die. But, that said, the government cannot sidestep the responsibility to ensure the protection of the vulnerable and we must respect that." (Pratchett). His proposal would not allow the patients to choose when they die, it would allow the government and physicians to do so collaboratively. Allowing the government, or anyone else, to choose whether we live, or die is a horrible idea.

Something that needs to be considered on this topic is the possibility of the physician prescribing a lethal dose or limiting life support to a patient for some sort of personal gain. It is no secret that there is corruption and hunger for money in the medical business, think of pharmaceutical corporations (AKA Big Pharma), manipulating their customers and distributing addictive and dangerous drugs like OxyContin. This is not saying to never go to hospital again, but for major decisions like our death, it is important to be the only one making that choice. What is stopping physicians from helping patients get euthanized who may have a chance to survive or persuade them into asking to be euthanized? Here is a

more important question: Do we really want an option to be euthanized? People who claim to be in their right mind may just not see alternatives to being euthanized. The story of Lois Cardinal, a Canadian who asked to be euthanized, is a perfect example. Lois, who is a self-described transsexual, had a surgery done to make his genitals imitate a females. He went to his doctor to see if he was eligible to be euthanized and his reasoning was pain and anxiety due to the gender reaffirming care. He was rejected because he did not meet the current criteria in Canada to be euthanized. He was later questioned online by someone wondering what made him think he could be a woman, his response was, “I needed to alleviate my dysphoria and mental disorder. We must collectively protect the children!” (Berrien). He admits that what he was going through was because of a mental disorder. That mental disorder led him to get surgery, which led him to prefer to be dead than endure the suffering and attempt to overcome it. He asked to be euthanized, and now is fighting to protect children from the same struggle he once faced. Those who support assisted suicide claim it protects the most vulnerable members of society, but by allowing them, or the doctors, to choose euthanasia, they become more considerably vulnerable. Many people who support PAS say that it is about personal autonomy and will only be for those who are terminally ill. American legal scholar, writer, and law professor, Yale Kamisar explains why drawing a line is not possible.



“A proposal to permit only terminally ill patients to enlist the aid of physicians to commit suicide is attractive because it leads the public to believe that adoption of such a proposal would constitute only a *slight* deviation from traditional standards and procedures. And, as Justice Frankfurter once observed, ‘the function of an advocate is to seduce.’” (Kamisar). What Kamisar is saying in the first part of the quote is that if we allow terminally ill people to have an assisted suicide then it is appealing because it is only a slight change, a change that will only affect the dying. Then, he quotes Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter. That quote could not be said better, advocates are there solely to persuade someone to join their cause. Think of politics, social movements, and protester groups like Just Stop Oil. They are all there in hopes you will join the cause; this is no different. Advocates for physician assisted suicide want you to join them because with greater numbers, they gain greater power to broaden the number of people who can have an assisted suicide. However, one question remains: if we give the terminally ill the choice, why stop there? If we should let terminally ill people be euthanized why not others? What about those who have progressive illnesses like ALS or arthritis like Terry Pratchett had. What about quadriplegics, victims of paralytic strokes, a fire survivor with scars that make



them unrecognizable, a mangled survivor of a car accident, a person whose family was wiped out in a fire? Those people are suffering worse than those who have terminal cancer. By limiting euthanasia to terminally ill persons, they are also limiting other people's personal autonomy. That is why we cannot allow euthanasia. If we give some people the choice to have a PAS but those who may want and need it more cannot have it, they will begin to advocate for less limits on assisted suicides, therefore giving more the option to have an assisted suicide. Nobody should be given the choice to die, that is suicide, a problem which wreaks havoc on the people of our nation, trying to legalize it will only make it worse. Miracles happen to those who are ill; we cannot let the chance of one be taken away.

WILL DOCTOR-PRESCRIBED SUICIDE THREATEN VULNERABLE SENIORS?

Sadly, elder abuse is on the rise in America.² Some relatives might push a senior citizen toward suicide for financial motives. A family member who has become exhausted from caring for an elderly relative might create undue pressure. In states that have already allowed DPS, patients seeking lethal prescriptions cite fear of "becoming a burden" more often than fear of uncontrolled pain.

In Oregon, of the top 7 reasons patients gave for seeking lethal drugs, "uncontrolled pain" was 6th (25%), while concern about "being a burden" was 5th (41%), and "loss of autonomy" topped the list at 92%.³ How many vulnerable seniors will be pressured, even if unintended, to end their lives?

WHY IS THERE NO OVERSIGHT AND SO MUCH SECRECY OF DOCTOR-PRESCRIBED SUICIDE?

Laws governing DPS give the appearance that the practice is carefully regulated. A closer look, however, reveals no meaningful oversight exists. Doctors do not have to be present when the drugs are taken. All reporting on the process is voluntary. If something goes wrong, what motive does a doctor have to report a suicide that was not so "humane and dignified?"

What is worse is that these laws don't require family members to be notified but do require doctors to falsify the death certificate. It is illegal to list suicide as the cause of death. Information provided to the state on suicides is exempted from the Freedom of Information Act. Nobody is able to monitor the law or investigate potential abuses.

Why the false reporting and secrecy, even from family members?

IS DOCTOR-PRESCRIBED SUICIDE A PATHWAY TO INVOLUNTARY, ACTIVE EUTHANASIA?

DPS advocates point to European countries that have allowed medically-facilitated death for decades as examples to follow. Yet legalizing suicide in countries like Holland and Belgium has led to outright killings of vulnerable and disabled persons of all ages, even newborns. People who never requested death are routinely put to death. Some "patients" have been given lethal prescriptions to end their "suffering" from psychiatric conditions and disabilities like being blind or deaf.

The discrimination against disabled newborns is blatant. Parents can request lethal injections for their newborn child based on the subjective opinion that the child will live a life of suffering. Early advocates for doctor-prescribed suicide were adamant that giving people the option to end their own lives would never lead to giving power to doctors to involuntarily take the lives of others. They were wrong, dead wrong.

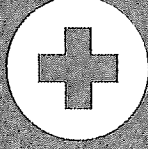
Updated 5/31/2022

REFERENCES

¹ Drainoni, M, et. al., "Cross-Disability Experiences of Barriers to Health-Care Access," Journal of Disability Policy Studies, Vol. 17, No. 2, 2006, pp. 101-115.

² Baran, L, Sommers, A, "Doctor-prescribed suicide is never the answer," Washington Examiner, 10/19/15.


³ Oregon Public Health Division, "Oregon's Death with Dignity Act - 2015 Summary," released 02/04/2016.



DOCTOR-PRESCRIBED SUICIDE

What is at stake when doctors have the power to write lethal prescriptions?



 **Better Care**

bettercaremi.org

WHY DO DISABILITY RIGHTS GROUPS OPPOSE DOCTOR-PRESCRIBED SUICIDE?

Most people don't know and wouldn't assume disability rights groups oppose DPS, yet a just and caring society should want to know why many disability rights groups oppose it.

Persons with disabilities do experience medical discrimination. There is ample evidence showing that persons with disabilities are not treated as aggressively nor given the same treatment options as able-bodied persons.¹

Persons with disabilities have opposed legalizing DPS because it will make that bias worse. How much more readily will they be offered lethal drugs as a "treatment option" once suicide becomes a legal option?

Even Hollywood reinforces disability discrimination. The 2016 movie *Me Before You* was widely denounced by disability rights groups because the story supposedly about redeeming love still ended with the main character, a disabled man, committing suicide.



chemotherapy drug by her doctor. However, the Oregon Health Plan denied the drug to Barbara. They sent her a letter saying they wouldn't pay for chemotherapy, but they would cover the drugs for her assisted suicide. She is not the only Oregon citizen to have received such a letter.

Will the growing number of people dependent on government-paid insurance be subjected to pressure? Will they even be told that more expensive treatment options exist? Or will the cheapest option, lethal drugs, be the default option?

MEDICAL MISDIAGNOSIS: CLOUDY CRYSTAL BALL?

As good as medicine is today, doctors cannot always accurately predict the course of a disease. We all know someone who was told she would not survive an illness or would "never recover" from an accident, yet they are living and thriving today.

The shock of being told about a potentially fatal disease can make it hard for patients to make reasoned decisions. Depression is a common reaction to receiving a diagnosis of an aggressive disease. When a person is in a vulnerable state, the option of legal DPS can put them at risk of choosing death when it is not warranted.

Jeanette Hall is another Oregon resident who was diagnosed with cancer and given 6 to 12 months to live. When depression initially overwhelmed her, she asked her doctor for a lethal prescription to commit suicide. Her doctor thankfully recognized her depression, and instead steered her away from suicide.

The prognosis was wrong, and still alive 14 years later, Jeanette said, "If my doctor had believed in assisted suicide, I would be dead. I thank him and all my doctors for helping me... Assisted suicide should not be legal."

DO WE NEED TO LEGALIZE DOCTOR-PRESCRIBED SUICIDE?

As medical technology advances, life-and-death decisions become more complicated and involve more choices. Many illnesses that were hopelessly terminal now have treatments that could save or significantly extend life. However, "too much" treatment can sometimes deprive patients of a peaceful and dignified death. Against this backdrop, some people advocate legalizing doctor-prescribed suicide (DPS)—doctors writing prescriptions for lethal drugs for patients to end their own lives.

Every patient is entitled to a dignified death with the right to refuse treatment they view as burdensome. But authorizing doctors to assist patients in killing themselves? Is the "need" for DPS legitimate? What are the consequences of legalized suicide?

DO SUICIDE AND MONEY MIX?

Financial interests are increasingly driving health care delivery and decisions. Which tests and treatments a patient is offered is often controlled by insurance policies or a bureaucratic decision of a company or government agency. Doctors routinely complain that money concerns are overriding their judgement and ability to serve patients.

With "cost containment" becoming a dominant theme, we must be realistic about the pressures on a person who is viewed as "costing too much." A prescription of lethal drugs will always be cheaper than life-sustaining treatments. This concern is not a theory but a fact.

The state of Oregon legalized DPS in 1994. The previous year Oregon instituted a universal health plan for uninsured residents paid for by tax dollars.

In 2008, Oregon resident and cancer patient Barbara Wagner was recommended a new



RIGHT TO LIFE
OF HOLLAND AREA

Church Update Volume 35 Number 4 April 2024

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www.rtlhofholland.org ~ https://www.facebook.com/RighttoLifeofHolland

The 2024 Election is Coming!

Are you prepared?

Only 55% of Michigan voters cast their ballot in 2022. Every election hundreds of thousands of PROLIFE Michiganders DO NOT vote!

YOUR VOTE COULD SAVE A LIFE!!

3 MI Senate seats and 5 MI House seats were decided by 1,000 votes each in 2022.

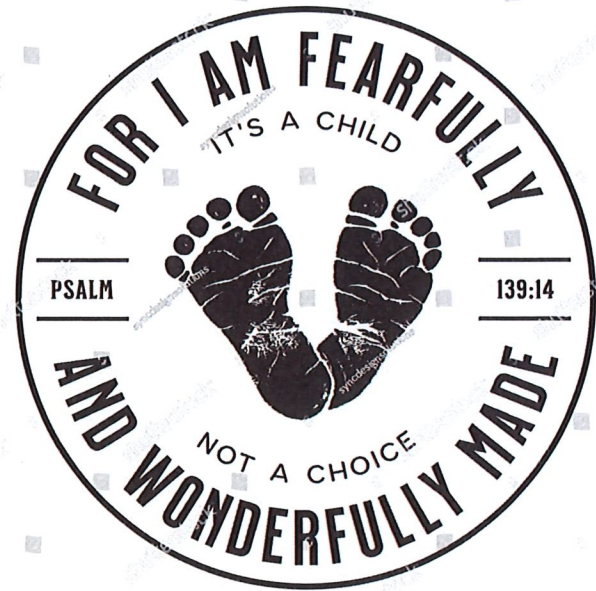
Make your plan to vote, today!

1. Get Registered
2. Sign up for your permanent absentee ballot or
3. Find your polling place

ALL this can be done at MI.GOV/VOTE

Where do I find prolife candidates?

Go to RLT.ORG/ENDORSEMENTS before every election to find a list of prolife candidates in your area!



Volunteers Needed!!

We need volunteers to help us with setup every morning and closing down every evening at our booth at the Hudsonville Fair—August 2024!

As well as volunteers to work at the booth during the week of the fair!

Setup in the mornings consists of making sure there is ice and water bottles in the cooler as well as the booth is neat, supplies are out, tv/computer turned on and change container is ready!

Closing down consists of: making sure the booth is covered (extra table cloth), TV and computer is turned off and money container is put in hiding.

Volunteering to sit at the booth is being available for 2-3 hrs. (depending on your shift) and answering questions, concerns, listening to comments with respect, handing out flyers and other prizes to children.

If Interested please contact our office ASAP, written instructions will be provide.

If you are able to help out 616.396.1037 or awilson.rtl@gmail.com



- ◆ Next Church Rep. Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 11th at 7:30pm here at our office. Guest speaker will Jolynn Patmos.
- ◆ 5k Walk/Run - Saturday, May 18th at the Lawrence Street Park . We will NOT be giving out t-shirts this year, please wear one from a previous year!
- ◆ Hudsonville Fair Week - August 19-24, 2024
- ◆ Mark your calendars: Tuesday, October 22nd— Annual Dinner at The Pinnacle. Guest speaker is George Dennehy!

Why we Vote!

1. Elections have consequences. The results of EVERY election have outcomes that span multiple generations. The cause of Life is being attacked on all sides and we need an overwhelming turnout to correct it.
2. **Your Vote DOES MATTER! A single vote can sway election outcomes. Imagine if 1 person in every township declines to vote, there are 1240 townships in MI that is a difference of 1240 votes and some of these races only lost by 1,000 votes or less. YES, YOUR VOTE MATTERS!**
3. It's the right thing to do. Even though recent elections results have been disappointing and controversial, the duty of every consciences U.S. Citizen to vote is more important than ever. **To deny this duty is to surrender innocent lives to those who them harm.**

Legislative Day 2024

Please join us on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Lansing. Hear from our exceptional keynote speaker, **Wesley Smith**, a national leader in efforts to protect against the threat of physician-assisted suicide. Mr. Smith is a sought-after speaker, lawyer, author, and bioethicist. He has authored 14 books, including *Forced Exit: Euthanasia, Assisted Suicide, and the New Duty to Die*, published hundreds of articles and appeared on thousands of TV and radio programs across the U.S. and internationally. **Legislative Day will also include the opportunity to meet with your legislators!**

Event Schedule

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

8:45 a.m. Registration

9:30 a.m. First session

\$55 per individual

\$30 per student

Location

DoubleTree Hotel Lansing

2nd Floor Ballroom

111 N. Grand Avenue

Lansing, MI 48933

Self-parking is available for \$15 in the ramp.

Special Guest Speaker Bio:

Wesley J. Smith

Lawyer, Author, and Bioethicist

Lawyer and award-winning author, Wesley J. Smith, is the host of the *Humanize* podcast and Chair of the Discovery Institute's Center on Human Exceptionalism. In 2004, he was named one of the nation's premier experts in bioengineering by the National Journal. In 2008, the Human Life Foundation named him a Great Defender of Life for his work against assisted suicide and euthanasia.

Call (616.396.1037) or email (awilson.rtl@gmail.com) to sign up. We will work on ride-sharing if you choose not to drive yourself!



“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **GOD loves a cheerful giver.**”
2 C o r i n t h i a n s 9 : 7

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

II Cor. 9:6-8

Offerings for APRIL 2024:

April 7 Christian Education
April 14 Love INC
April 21 Family Life Center
April 28 Right to Life

Christian Education Tuition Assistance:

This offering goes to offset tuition costs for families of First CRC of Allendale choosing Christian Education for their children. Assistance is available for K-12th grades.

Love In The Name of Christ:

A local organization where staff and volunteers are there to provide real assistance as witnesses of Christ by being a connecting link between churches and people with unmet physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Family Life Center of West Michigan:

A local ministry that assists young girls with unexpected pregnancies providing love, housing, Pregnancy support, food, and baby items.

Right to Life/Positive Options

A ministry that provides professional care to the men and women in our community facing an unplanned pregnancy. We offer compassion and resources to those who seek support at our center.

The greatest man in history named **Jesus**, had **no servants**, yet they called Him **Master**. Had **no degree**, yet they call Him **Teacher**. Had **no medicines**, yet they call Him **Healer**. He had **no army**, yet He **conquered** the world. He committed **no crime** yet they **crucified Him**. He was **buried** in a tomb, yet He lives today.

Sermons



APRIL 2024

April 7 – Welcome Pastor Gerry

- AM ◇ Sermon Title: “Gentleness in a Time of Anxiety”
 ◇ Text: Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-13; Luke 19:1-10
- PM ◇ Sermon Title: “Be Wise and Ponder the Love of God”
 Text: Psalm 107:1-9, 17-22, 43



April 14 – ACS Student Worship Team

New Series: Comfort and Joy

- AM ◇ Sermon Title: “1. Knowing Comfort”
 ◇ Text: LD #1; Isaiah 40:1-11, 27-31

New Series: Feasts and Festivals

- PM ◇ Sermon Title: “1. Sabbath: Rested and Refreshed”
 ◇ Text: Leviticus 23:1-3



April 21 –

- AM ◇ Sermon Title: “2. Knowing Misery”
 ◇ Text: LD #2; Romans 3:9-20
- PM ◇ Sermon Title: “2. Passover: Behold the Lamb!”
 ◇ Text: Exodus 12

April 28 –

- AM ◇ Sermon Title: “3. Creation and Corruption”
 ◇ Text: LD #3; Genesis 1:26-31; 3:1-21
- PM ◇ Sermon Title: “3. Unleavened Bread: Cleaning House”
 ◇ Text: Leviticus 23:4-8



SCHEDULES FOR APRIL 2024

TLC:

April 7 – Peggy Vredevoogd, Julie DeVries, Clara Kruithoff

April 14 – Kathy Knoper, Kevin Dyke, Malena Witte

April 21 – Carol Gulker, Dar Oom, Grady Kuzee

April 28 – Peggy Vredevoogd, Norene Knoper, Jack Kuzee



CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:

April 7 – Madison Schrottenboer, Jenny DeWinter, Kylee Morren

April 14 – Kristie Morren, Lisa Kuzee, Kirsten Keegstra

April 21 – Kristie Morren, Makayla Schurman, Logan Vander Wal

April 28 – Marcia Keegstra, Brittany Vander Wal, Annabelle Kruithoff

NURSERY:

April 7 – Nancy Pleune, Jennie Keegstra, Makayla Schurman

April 14 – Vicki Kraker, Ardy Berens, Annabelle Kruithoff

April 21 – Shelley Bosch, Judy DeVries, Madison Schrottenboer

April 28 – Marlene Dyke, Jean Christensen, Malana Witte



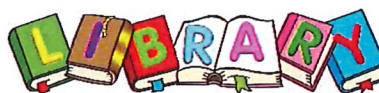
LIBRARY:

April 7 – Elaine Christrup

April 14 – Julie DeVries

April 21 – Nellie Scholma

April 28 – Lois Van Wienen



VALET PARKING/GREETERS:

April 7 – Gary & Dar Oom

April 14 – Terry & Sue Kraker

April 21 – John & Lois Van Wienen

April 28 – Jon & Jean Christensen



OPEN/CLOSE

April 7 – Jon Vander Wal

April 14 – Judy Knoper

April 21 – Bern Scholma

April 28 – Lee Scholma



Marcia Sietsema	2	
Kevin Bosch	3	
Brittany Vander Wal	3	
	4	Dave & Nancee Kraker
Kristie Morren	7	
Dave Schroedter	8	
Donna Knoper	10	
Jean Scholma	10	
Kevin Dyke	11	
Rog Mulder	11	
Jon Geurink	12	
Lori Geysbeek	14	Ken & Norene Knoper
Jon Christensen	15	
Kristi Kruihoff	15	
	18	Rog & Gerry Mulder
Deb DeVries	21	
Jack Vredevoogd	22	Brian & Vicki Kraker
Dale DeVries	23	
Gerald Geurink	23	
	24	Steve & Tina Brown
Joel Berghorst	26	
Rebeka Mesbergen	26	
	27	Duke & Dora Busman
Jennie Keegstra	29	

Looking back, it seems to me that I was clueless until I was about fifty years old.





2024 Meetings

April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 † Pray for Vicki and Danni on their mission trip	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 † Young Life	9 † TML Bible Study † Full Council	10 † Cadet-O-Rama at 2nd Church	11 † Quilting † Cadet-O-Rama Pinewood Derby Races at 2nd CRC † Wylidife	12 † Quilting	13 † Bowling
14	15 † Young Life	16 † TML Bible Study	17	18	19	20 † DRS Mission team leaves
21 † JAM/Jr JAM	22 † Young Life	23 † TML Bible Study † Tech meeting	24	25 †	26	27 † DRS Mission team returns
28	29 † Young Life	30 † TML Bible Study				