



FIRST  
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH  
ALLENDALE

# FIRST IN FOCUS

Published by First CRC of Allendale  
5734 Country View, Allendale, MI 49401

▪ Phone 616-895-4969 ▪

E-mail: [info@firstallendalecrc.org](mailto:info@firstallendalecrc.org)

[www.firstallendalecrc.org](http://www.firstallendalecrc.org)



## SEPTEMBER 2026

to EVERY THING  
there is a  
SEASON  
and a TIME for every  
PURPOSE  
under Heaven  
ECCLESIASTES 3:1



# Council Minutes

**JUNE  
2026**

**Present:** Pastor Ken, Russ Geurink, Keegan Morren, Dave Vollink, Kris Keegstra, Dale Knoper, Ken Knoper, Bob Knoper, Lee Scholma, Rodg Brower, Kurt Schurman, Ed Goen, Duke Busman

**Absent:** Mike Wohlford, John Broene

1. Opening Devotions: Lee opened with devotions and prayer. Rev. 3:1-6 and a reading "Grace without Christ"
2. Old Business:
  - a. Approval of Council Minutes of May 5 20206 MSA
  - b. Approval of Congregational Meeting minutes of May 5 2026 MSA
  - c. Reassignment of care groups: Reduce the number of care groups to 4. The President, Clerk, Chair of Deacons and Treasurer tol be in charge of one care group and an elder and deacon to be in charge of the other ones.
3. Discussion and approval of Pastor Ken's sabbatical June 21-August 1, 2026 MSA
4. Pastor Ken's monthly report read for information
5. Joel's monthly report read for information
6. Reports for approval: MSA
  - a. Interim report read for information
  - b. Elders report read for information
  - c. Deacons report and financial report read for information
  - d. Safety committee report read for information
7. Motion and discussion to suspend the evening services for the summer months. Defeated
8. Correspondence:
  - a. COD Highlights read for information
  - b. Ministry Board meeting highlights read for information
9. Round Table:
  - a. A proposal from Sara Keeny asking to rent the church classrooms for Home School purposes.
    - i. Motion not to approve MSA
  - b. Discussion on a post office box to replace the mailbox due to missing checks in the area through the mail Cost \$376 per year. MSA
  - c. Next Interim meeting June 30
  - d. Next Council meeting July 7
  - e. Lee thanked the retiring Elders and Deacons for their service
    - i. Elders: Duke Busman, Ken Knoper and Russ Geurink. Deacons: John Broene, Keegan Morren and Dave Vollink
10. Russ Geurink closed with prayer.



# Council Minutes

JULY  
2026

Council minutes

July 2026

Present: Rodger Brower, Lee Scholma, Dale DeVries, Kurt Schurman, Ed Goen, Kris Keegstra, Bob Knoper, Steve Kuzee, Mike Wohlford

Absent: Keegan Morren, John Broene

Guest: Jon Vander Wal

Opening Devotions: Rodg Brower read Colossians 3:12-17 "Faithful in Everything

- A. Jon VW updated the issues on the projector, i.e. the fuse blew out and is part of the motherboard. This is irreplaceable and will take a long time to get it repaired. Tech committee found quotes to replace this, ranging from \$16,000 and up.
  - 1. Motion was made to bring it to the congregation to replace the projector, only up to \$16,000.
  - 2. Moved and supported.
  - 3. Motion passed.
  - 4. Meeting to be held July 26 following the morning service.
- B. Care Groups revised to four groups, and approved.
- C. Deacons Report
  - 1. A lock box will be used for the evening offerings, located at the Information Center.
  - 2. Kris explained a new format for the budget. Report to show more actual expenses.

Closing Prayer: Kurt Schurman



**AUGUST  
2026**

**Present:** Pastor Ken, Kris Keegstra, Dale Knoper, Bob Knoper, Lee Scholma, Rodg Brower, Mike Wohlford, Kurt Schurman, Ed Goen, Dale DeVries, Steve Kuzee

Present: Rodger Brower, Lee Scholma, Dale DeVries, Kurt Schurman, Ed Goen, Kris Keegstra, Bob Knoper, Steve Kuzee, Mike Wohlford, Dale Knoper, Pastor Ken

Absent:

Opening Devotions: Dale DeVries read Titus 2:6-15 "Men as Leaders"

- A. Discussed the attempted break-in.
  - 1. Motion was made and supported to move forward with the charges of vandalism so the individual can get help and prayers through the police department and be able to move forward by law.
- B. Worship Coordinator report read for approval.
- C. Pastor Ken welcomed back and reported.
- D. Reports read for approval
  - 1. Interim, elders, deacons, family night.
- E. Discussed using Open Door Bakery for cookies for events, an outreach of De'gage'.
- F. Discussed working with GVSU for outreach opportunities.
- G. Discussed starting a focused prayer direction for our community.

Closing Prayer: Dale DeVries

# "Thank you" to the many volunteers, servants and "body parts" of this congregation

*You are one of the angels that works so hard to make our church the wonderful, caring reflection of Jesus that it is!*

*"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body. ... We have different gifts according to the grace given us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*  
(Romans 12)

Each of you is amazing! Some servants of this congregation are very visible, and others are working in the background but are equally important. Read the following list to know that you are appreciated and see what the members of the body of believers at First CRC of Allendale can accomplish:

- ♥ Each committee member: Building and Grounds, Education, Funeral Serving Committee, Nursery Committee, Technology and Worship Committee.
- ♥ Participants in worship teams, leading us in worship.
- ♥ Anyone who serves as a valet, part of the safety crew or opens and closes the church building.
- ♥ Those who run our audio and video equipment during worship.
- ♥ All elders, deacons and the many people who have ever stepped into these positions.
- ♥ The people who decorate our worship space each season.
- ♥ Those who volunteer for the spring and fall clean-ups around the church grounds.
- ♥ If you have volunteered to help paint the narthex or any other group project.
- ♥ If you take a leadership role in a classroom, GEMS, Cadets or a Bible Study. Helpers, too!
- ♥ If you help organize events for the JOY group.
- ♥ Do you prepare a meal for the JAM/Jr. JAM group? Thank you.
- ♥ Or bake cookies for the Sunday School classrooms? You are appreciated by so many.
- ♥ Are you part of the meal train that brings meals to those recovering from surgery?
- ♥ Have you participated in a mission trip?
- ♥ Have you supported those on mission trips with food, fundraising or prayers?
- ♥ Do you help support the Family Life Center? Hope Unexpected Ministry? GVSU?
- ♥ Did you ever volunteer to serve at Degage?
- ♥ Have you given a card or spoken words of encouragement to a fellow church member?
- ♥ Nursery workers who care for our littlest church members. Even clean to toys!
- ♥ Library workers who keep our library books moving and introducing new materials.
- ♥ If you help maintain our sprinkler system.
- ♥ If you provide cut wood for our firepit.
- ♥ Do you volunteer to help at church picnics and the upcoming car show?
- ♥ \_\_\_\_\_ (for any servants who are not mentioned in this list)

*Thank you!*  
We are church together!

And very importantly, if you support this congregation with any monetary gift; if you lend prayer support to our efforts to serve this congregation or the church of God at large, you are immensely appreciated.

*Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.*

*Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact, God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.*  
(1 Corinthians 12)

Serving   
from the  
Heart



## Writing List for Missionaries

**SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER**



### DAVID & BLANCA GIFFORD

Cerro el Vigilante 149  
Col. Romero de Terreros, Del.  
Coyoacan  
C.P. 04310, Mexico D.F., Mexico  
E-mail: [giff@giffmex.org](mailto:giff@giffmex.org)

Dale & Judy DeVries  
Ed & Darlene Diemer  
Craig & Marie Fazakerley

### MISS BRENDA VANDER SCHUUR

PO Box 438  
Conakry  
Guinea, West Africa  
E-mail: [bvanderschuur@cs.com](mailto:bvanderschuur@cs.com)

Deb DeVries  
Gary & Marlene Dyke  
Gerald & Joan Geurink

### BEN & STACY POST

130 W. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Holland, MI 49423  
E-mail: [sstarkcm@gmail.com](mailto:sstarkcm@gmail.com)

Julie DeVries  
Kenny & Gwyn Ellens  
Russ & Cheri Geurink

### RICARDO & YULEIDA TRANQUINI

5587 113<sup>rd</sup> Ave.  
Fennville, MI 49408  
E-mail: [ricardoyuleuis@yahoo.com](mailto:ricardoyuleuis@yahoo.com)

Jennifer DeWinter  
Rog & Bev Ezinga  
Tom & Lori Geysbeek



God doesn't  
call the qualified,  
He qualifies  
the called.

"God has a plan for your  
life. The enemy has a  
plan for your life.

Be ready for both and  
wise enough to know  
the difference."



# Surrender

## SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

Day 1: Ruth 1:15-16  
Day 2: 1 Samuel 1:21-22  
Day 3: 1 Samuel 1:26-28  
Day 4: 1 Kings 21:25-29  
Day 5: 2 Kings 5:10-12  
Day 6: 2 Kings 5:13-14  
Day 7: 2 Chronicles 33:9-13  
Day 8: Daniel 4:30-32  
Day 9: Daniel 4:34-35  
Day 10: Daniel 4:36-37  
Day 11: Psalm 51:1-3  
Day 12: Psalm 51:7-9  
Day 13: Psalm 51:10-12  
Day 14: Psalm 51:14-17  
Day 15: Proverbs 3:5-8  
Day 16: Isaiah 64:7-8

Day 17: Luke 1:35-38  
Day 18: Luke 7:2-3, 6-7  
Day 19: Luke 7:8-10  
Day 20: Luke 9:23-24  
Day 21: Luke 22:41-42  
Day 22: John 12:49-50  
Day 23: Romans 8:5-7  
Day 24: Romans 8:8-10  
Day 25: Romans 8:12-14  
Day 26: Romans 12:1-2  
Day 27: Galatians 2:19-20  
Day 28: Philippians 2:5-8  
Day 29: Colossians 2:9-12  
Day 30: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12  
Day 31: James 4:7-10

This unique scripture writing plan includes 31 days of scripture, so you can use it during any month. We recommend reading for context first, then writing each day's verses in a notebook or our faith journal. Feel free to make this study your own by reading each passage aloud, highlighting or color-coding important words, or jotting down questions for further research.

# 80+ Birthday Club

**Shirley Goen**, 91 years young on Sept. 9  
**Phil Pleune**, 85 years young on Sept. 20  
**Bonnie Nanninga**, 86 years young on Sept. 22  
**Ellen Bosselaar**, 94 years young on Sept. 25

celebrating  
50 YEARS



**Eric & Elaine Chrstrup**, 55 years on Sept. 11  
**Bern & Nellie Scholma**, 62 years on Sept. 11



## Back-to-School Blessings



Remember to stick close to Jesus this year through prayer and reading the Bible with your parents.



Color your school year bright by being the light of Christ to someone else by being kind and sharing with others.



Practice writing your name and remember that Jesus knows your name and loves you.



Use this notebook as a Gratitude Journal. For each day of school, draw something you are grateful for.



Use the bookmark to mark your favorite Bible story or favorite verse.



Enjoy learning the alphabet and coloring these Bible ABC coloring pages.



Enjoy this sweet treat and remember that Jesus makes your life sweet!



**STOP BEING A FAN  
 OF A CELEBRITY WHO  
 DOESN'T EVEN KNOW  
 YOU. BE A FAN OF  
 JESUS CHRIST WHO  
 DIED FOR YOU. †**



## Prayer for September

*May You Have:*

Enough happiness to keep you sweet,  
 Enough trials to keep you strong,  
 Enough sorrow to keep you human,  
 Enough hope to keep you happy,  
 Enough failure to keep you humble,  
 Enough success to keep you eager,  
 Enough wealth to meet your needs,  
 Enough enthusiasm to look forward,  
 Enough friends to give you comfort,  
 Enough faith to banish depression,  
 Enough determination to make each  
 day better than yesterday.

*And God to Keep You going..  
 Bless You & Your Loved Ones.*

inspire. Prayers. soul. inspiration.

# DID YOU KNOW....

**THAT** Dawn Morren was inadvertently left off the college graduation list. Dawn graduated from Spring Arbor University on May 2<sup>nd</sup> Summa Cum Laude with a 4-year degree in Nursing. She enjoyed making new friends while at college and started her job as a registered nurse on August 17<sup>th</sup> working at Trinity Health, formerly Saint Mary's.



**THAT** we were blessed to witness the baptism of Wade Robert Zwart, son of Clay and Robin Zwart. What a wonderful blessing from God to bring our children up in the Lord!



**THAT** Death couldn't hold Him, Grave couldn't contain Him, Satan couldn't stop Him, every knee will bow to Him. He is risen, and He's coming back again as the King of Kings!

**THAT** The Community Church Picnic and Car Show is going to be on Wednesday, September 16 from 4-8 pm. Come for food, fellowship and maybe enjoy some unique cars of the past!



**THAT** Only God can turn a  
**MESS** into a **MESSAGE**, a  
**TEST** into a **TESTIMONY** a  
**TRIAL** into a **TRIUMPH**, a  
**VICTIM** into a **VICTOR**.

God is Good...ALL THE TIME

**THAT** there were several weddings during this summer: Congratulations to Tom and Carrie Broene, Zach & Braedy Sytsma, Jared and Danni Dau. May God richly bless their marriages to be centered in Him.



**THAT** we were also blessed to witness an adult baptism and 10 young people Professing their Faith! How encouraging it was to hear their testimonies and favorite verse from the Bible. May God walk side by side with them throughout their life, that they would be a great witness of His love to all they encounter.



Congratulations to Dylan Brown, Trevor



Keegstra, Peter  
 Keegstra, Kirsten  
 Keegstra, Grant  
 Keegstra, Annabelle  
 Kruithoff, Clara  
 Kruithoff, Grady

Kuzee, Kylee Morren, Chris Morris.



**FAITH**  
in **GOD**

**CHANGES**  
**EVERYTHING**



## Give Thanks *with* Music



Music is one way to give thanks to God. Make these simple instruments to accompany your singing!

**What you need:**

- 3 small coffee cans with lids
- 1/2 cup dry pinto beans
- 1/2 cup unpopped popcorn
- 1/2 cup uncooked rice
- Heavy-duty tape
- Construction paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons for decorating



**What you do:**

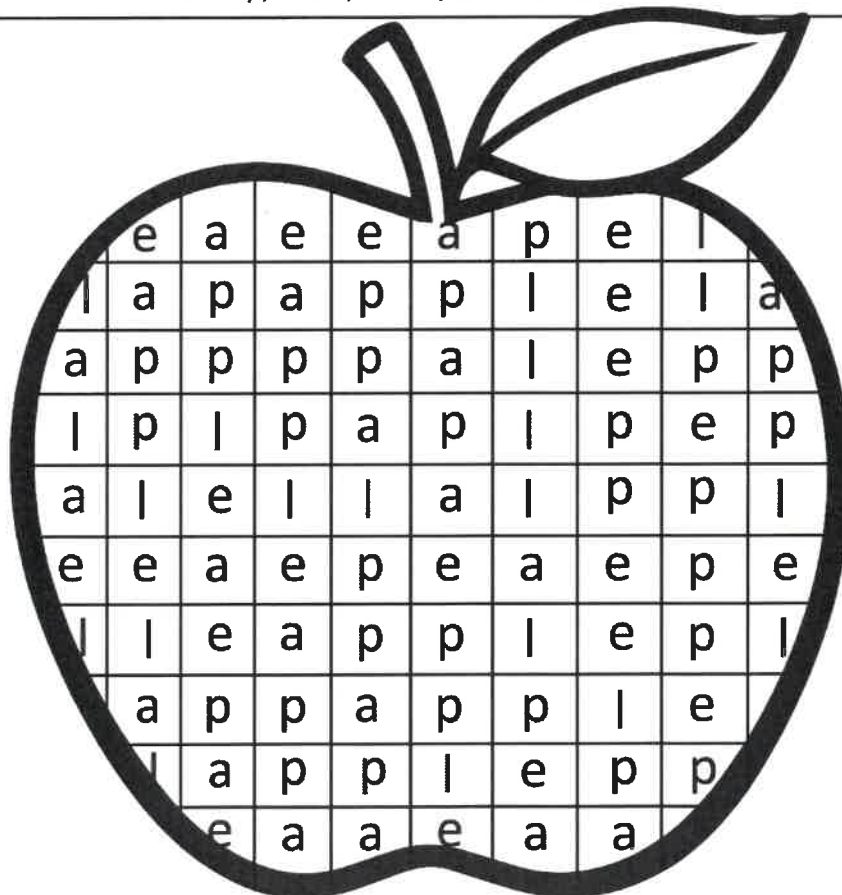
1. Put the beans in one can, the popcorn in another, and the rice in the third.
2. Secure the lids and tape around the rims.
3. Cover the cans with construction paper and glue it in place.
4. Decorate the cans with markers or crayons.
5. Shake the cans to hear the different sounds, then use them to make joyful music for the Lord!




## Apple of Your Eye

“Apple of your eye” means something very special that you protect. As school starts again, remember what God says in Proverbs 7:2 (NIV): “Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye.”

*Can you find the word “apple” 12 times in the puzzle?  
Look up, down, across, and even backward!*



## Dave and Blanca Gifford

Resonate Global Mission  
Mexico City  
dgifford@crcna.org  
<https://giffmex.org>

### Seminary news

The new semester starts this month. I will be teaching Acts and Paul's letters. I prepared a 123-page course packet this summer.

### Two big bummers

1. The turnout for the COMPA camp this summer was low, so they canceled the workshop I was going to give. I dedicated the time to the aforementioned course packet on Acts and Paul.
2. Because of World Cup busyness and a health situation, Brave Heart suspended their activities in June and July. Blanca did get to participate in a meal for the volunteers and pantry gifts for the indigenous families.

### Vacation

August 5-14 we are having friends here from New York and we will be showing them around Mexico City and beyond.

### Tabasco and Veracruz

In June I traveled to El Paraíso, Tabasco to observe the TLT trainings done by graduates and attend the Reframe Mexico board meeting in Villahermosa. I also got to spend a day with old friends from COMPA in the state of Veracruz.

### Support news

The official numbers are in! Thanks to God and to our generous supporters and prayers, our support was 113% of our goal. And as of August 3, we have 11% of the goal for next June.

### Upcoming!

In September Blanca plans to visit her family in Honduras for a couple of weeks, and Abe Lee and I plan to visit our newest missionary, Micah Schuurman in Costa Rica for a few days.

### Spanish materials

Besides the course packet, the Lord gave me the time and energy to produce numerous materials on the New Testament since our last prayer letter. I am writing more now than ever.

### Projects

In the last fiscal year, our vehicle fund project received \$4500, the COMUNI grant project received \$4,500, and the Dreams grant project received \$1,100. Please read about our projects at [giffmex.org](http://giffmex.org), and pray for these needs.

### Our kids

Daniel moved to Wyoming, MI in June for work, and Alexandra continues to live with us and works here in Mexico City. Please remember to pray for our kids.

### Service and learning teams

There is still time to contact us about a service and learning team from your church to Mexico City next Spring break or summer! We had a great time with the LaGrave Ave CRC team here in April. They visited and prayed for twelve different ministries, and helped Blanca organize an ocean-themed mini-VBS for the Brave Heart kids! (photos on back)

Highlights of the May team from  
LaGrave Ave CRC.

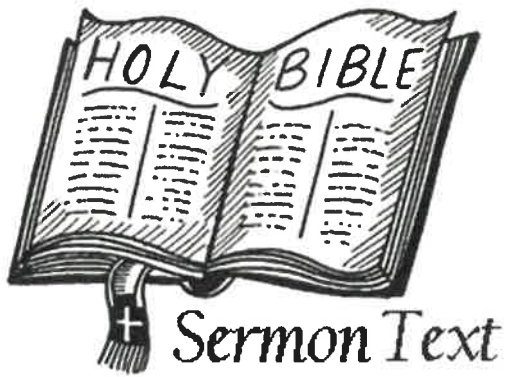
First two photos: The VBS  
program for the Brave Heart kids,  
Tuesday, Wednesday and  
Thursday.

Middle right: Prayer at the  
National Presbyterian seminary.

Bottom: Prayer for Katie and  
Magaly from Partners in  
Community ministry.



**Resonate**  
GLOBAL MISSION



# SEPTEMBER 2026



**Sept 6 –** Labor Day Weekend; Guest Pastor Pete Byma  
AM ♦ Sermon Title: "Faith Over Sight"  
Text: Genesis 13  
PM ♦ Sermon Title: No evening service  
♦ Text:

**Sept 13 –** Church program commissioning  
**Evening service time change to 5:00 pm**  
AM ♦ Sermon Title: "11. Humble in Christ"  
♦ Text: Ephesians 4:1-16 (1-6)  
PM ♦ Sermon Title: "12. Gifted in Christ"  
♦ Text: Ephesians 4:1-16 (7-13)



**Sept 20 –**  
AM ♦ Sermon Title: "13. Growing in Christ"  
♦ Text: Ephesians 4:1-16 (14-16)  
PM ♦ Sermon Title: "14. New in Christ"  
♦ Text: Ephesians 4:17-32 (17-24)

**Sept 27 –**  
AM ♦ Sermon Title: "15. Holy in Christ"  
♦ Text: Ephesians 4:17-32 (25-32)  
PM ♦ Sermon Title: "16. Adopted in Christ"  
♦ Text: Ephesians 5:1-21 (1-7)





Hey friends!

We've been home for a few days now, but actually, Ry just left to head to Timber Wolf Lake for our assignment, and the girls and I will follow tomorrow after church. It's been good to be home, and filled with lots of gear cleaning, flea house work/prepping, unpacking, and repacking! We got to see a few people during that time, but not enough!

Back to our last week in Wyoming, we were so thankful to have some awesome people on the trail with us, and it was a great week. The weather was unseasonably warm for Jackson (which was crazy, as literally 10 days earlier, we'd had highs in the 50s!), and so we did not have to deal with any rain or severe weather, but did find it pretty hard to keep up with hydration in that heat and sun! The groups were great, and we hope that their experience on the trail was significant, and something that taught them a lot about the way that God takes care of us and wants us to follow Him.

I did have one bumner incident on the trail - on the last night, as I was making my last dinner, I accidentally spilled boiling water on two of my toes on my left foot. BUMMER! I am so thankful that, while it hurt pretty bad for a couple of hours, and will take some time to heal, it was the last night, it was manageable, and it didn't really impact our trip at all. At one point, my group asked how I was doing, and I told them that it was feeling a little bit better, and that I knew that there were many people praying for us and for these trips - and I was so thankful. Students are always so amazed to know that strangers are praying for them and for us, and care so much about who they are, even though you all haven't met.

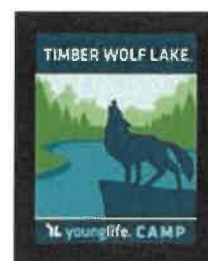
So - now we head to TWL, where Ryan is the outdoor crew work crew boss. He will have a group of 5-6 high school students that he'll get to know and lead throughout the 3 weeks there. They will mow and weed and powerwash - lots of things to make camp look amazing on the outside. It's actually the assigned team job that he has always wanted! :) The girls and I will mostly just be there, enjoying our time, being helpful when we can, and then, on July 30-August 3, Sierra will be a camper in the 3rd wyldlife week. She is very excited, and we are so excited for her!

Prayer requests for our time at TWL:

1. Continued healing for my toes, and no infection.
2. Ryan's ODC group - that they would be ready for an awesome experience and grow close to each other and God.
3. During the first week, I'll be participating in something called Real Life - it's just a quick morning session where a couple of assigned team folks share their story with the campers. I've done it before, and it's a cool experience - and also very vulnerable. Pray that that goes well for me, and that my story is helpful for others.
4. Sierra's camp week - that she would hear the gospel with new ears, and would be open to the life change of God's love!

Thanks for praying, friends!!

Ryan, Karina & Girls





*"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**

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### **Offerings for SEPTEMBER 2026:**

|         |                     |
|---------|---------------------|
| Sept 6  | Missions            |
| Sept 13 | Family Life Center  |
| Sept 20 | Christian Education |
| Sept 27 | Love INC            |

#### **Missionary Support:**

Direct financial support for our missionaries both in Home Missions and World Missions.

#### **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.

#### **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-12<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**I will count and give thanks for my blessings, forgive those who wrong me,  
pray for those who need it, love with all my heart, begin each day with a smile  
and hold faith within my soul that God will guide us, protect us,  
bless my family, and make a way.**

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## SCHEDULES FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

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### **Summer TLC:**

Sept 6 – Kay Schout, Kyleah Brower, Clara Kruithoff

### **CW:**

Sept 13 – Jennie Keegstra, Marcia Keegstra, Reka Mesbergen

Sept 20 – Mallory Kuzee, Dora Busman, Ellie Scholma

Sept 27 – Marlene Dyke, Jenny DeWinter, Kirsten Keegstra



### **NURSERY:**

Sept 6 – Gwyn Ellens, Judy DeVries

Sept 13 – Shelley Bosch, Alison Vroegop

Sept 20 – Robyn Zwart, Jan Mohr

Sept 27 – Ardy Berens, Conni Vollink, Clara Kruithoff



### **LIBRARY:**

Sept 6 – Jean Christensen

Sept 13 – Nellie Scholma

Sept 20 – Lois Van Wienen

Sept 27 – Elaine Christrup



### **VALET PARKING/GREETERS:**

Sept 6 – Bob & Judy Knoper

Sept 13 – Gary & Dar Oom

Sept 20 – Terry & Sue Kraker

Sept 27 – Lee & Jean Scholma



### **OPEN/CLOSE**

Sept 6 – Lee Scholma

Sept 13 – Jon Vander Wal

Sept 20 – Bern Scholma

Sept 27 – Judy Knoper



### **Audio/Visual**

Sept 6 – Kevin Dyke, Keegan Morren

Sept 13 – Brent Schrottenboer, Jon Vander Wal

Sept 20 – Peter Keegstra, Trevor Keegstra

Sept 27 – Bob Knoper, Judy Knoper



### **Safety**

Sept 6 – AM: Reka, Ryan, Kurt, Darrell PM: Judy

Sept 13 – AM: Ken, Carrie, Judy PM:

Sept 20 – AM: Herm, Brent, Makayla, Judy PM:

Sept 27 – AM: Ed, Dar Diemer, Laura, Jan PM: Judy



# Life. The Other Choice!



**RIGHT TO LIFE**  
OF HOLLAND AREA

Volume 37 August 2026

607 Heritage Court, Holland, MI 49423 ~ 616.396.1037 ~ [rtlholland@egl.net](mailto:rtlholland@egl.net)  
[www.rtlhofholland.org](http://www.rtlhofholland.org) ~ <https://www.facebook.com/RighttoLifeofHolland>

## **Welcoming All Humans Throughout Life**

Abortion is one of the most divisive issues in modern society, with strong opinions on both sides. At Americans United for Life (AUL), we believe in the sanctity of human life, and that every human being has inherent dignity and worth. That's why we advocate for pro-life policies that protect both women and their unborn children. We're working hard towards the day when all humans are welcomed in life and protected by law.

## **The Humanity of Pre-Born Children**

At the heart of the pro-life view is the belief in the sanctity of human life. In opposing abortion, we acknowledge the humanity of the child in the womb which fuels our effort to protect the pre-born child's life. From conception, the preborn human being has a unique and complete genetic composition derived from both the mother and the father. As early as five (5) weeks' gestation, the preborn human being's heart begins beating. The preborn human being begins to move about in the womb at approximately eight (8) weeks' gestation.

## **Every Human Life Matters**

We believe that every human being, from conception to natural death, has inherent dignity and worth. This belief is based on our understanding that human life is a gift, and that we as a society have a responsibility to protect and cherish human life. We reject the notion that some lives are more valuable than others, and that it is acceptable to end the life of an unborn child for any reason. We believe every human is valuable and should be protected. All humans, including babies in the womb, deserve the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. One human's pursuit of happiness does not allow them to end the life of another.

## **Protecting Women and Children**

We believe that protecting women and children is essential to building a culture of life. We never advocate for harm to come to women. In fact, abortion is what harms not only the pre-born child but also the mother, both physically and emotionally. Women who undergo abortions are at increased risk for a range of health

complications, including breast cancer, infertility, and psychological trauma. The child, on the other hand, is denied the right to life and the opportunity to fulfill his or her potential. In our support of mothers, we're working to ease the burden of childbearing by making birth free. We believe that every woman deserves access to comprehensive health care that respects her dignity and protects her health and well-being.

## **The Reality of Abortion**

It is important to understand the reality of abortion: it ends a human life. Consider the impact of over 60 million human lives that have been ended. How many future presidents, sports stars, or cultural icons have been aborted? We will never quite know the impact of the reality of abortion because our potential as humans is so infinite. Abortion is not a simple medical procedure, but a life-changing decision that has significant consequences for women, their future families, and our society. In the United States, more than 60 million abortions have been performed since Roe v. Wade legalized abortion in 1973. That's 60 million lives that were never given a chance to live and make a contribution to society. We believe that this is a tragedy that must be addressed. Americans United for Life works in advocating for pro-life policies and programs that provide alternatives to abortion and support for women and their families.

## **Building A Culture of Life**

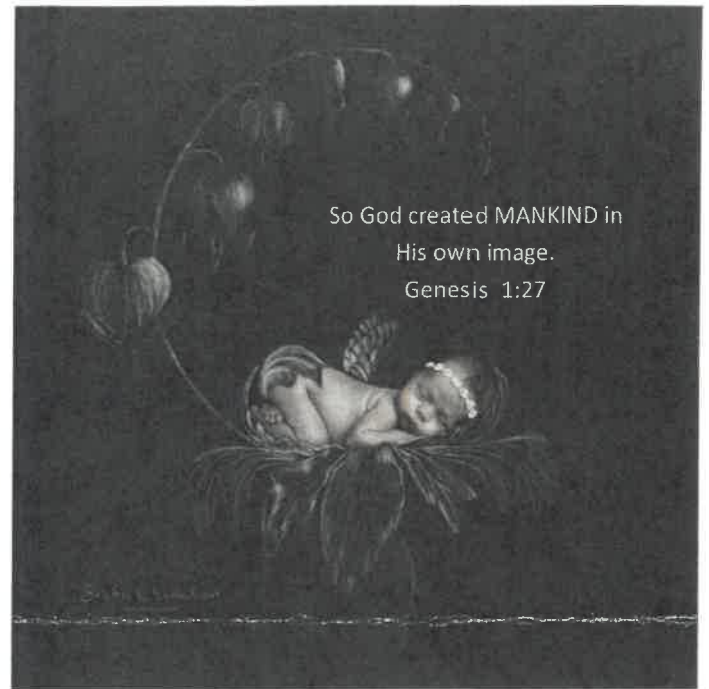
At Americans United for Life, we are committed to building a culture of life that respects the dignity of every human being. We believe that every life matters, and that it is our duty to protect the most vulnerable among us. We advocate for pro-life solutions that promote the health and well-being of women and their unborn children, and we work to raise awareness about the reality of abortion and its impact on society. Join us in this important work, and together, we can build a world where every life is cherished and protected.

*~By Americans United for Life~*

**Did you know about  
Right to Life in MI?**

**There are:**

- ♦ 289,550+ members in communities across our state
- ♦ 80+ affiliates throughout MI and growing
  - ♦ 229 Electoral victories in 2024
- ♦ 269,633+ lives saved through just one law (no tax-payer funding of abortion)
- ♦ 50+ Life affirming protections for women and children passed into law



**To visit our website directly: Use your cellphone camera, center on the QR code below (should see a yellow square) and press OPEN on your camera screen.**



~August 24-29 Hudsonville Fair

~ October 20th - Annual Focus on Life Dinner with guest speaker Lydia Taylor, she is a pro-life activist, social media influencer, and national spokesperson for Students for Life of America.

**Prolife Ballot Generator Instructions:**

1. Visit - [www.rtl.org](http://www.rtl.org)
2. Scroll down to Elections and click **GET INVOLVED**
3. Click **GENERATE YOUR BALLOT**
4. Type in y our information
5. Click **GET MY BALLOT**



July 1, 2026

This July 4th is our nation's 250th birthday... the semiquincentennial, for you Latin teachers and students: it's a handful to write, let alone say.

I have to be honest, I'm not sure as a nation that we're treating this momentous day with all the pomp and circumstance that it deserves. Without dating myself here, I can't really tell you much about our country's bicentennial celebration back in 1976, but I know that it was a big deal.

What I do remember clearly are all of the Fourth of July festivities in my hometown of Milford, Michigan. Families would line the streets with blankets and lawn chairs the morning of the parade to claim dibs on the best seats. Kids would bop up and down sidewalks in their red, white, and blue clothes—flags in one hand, with the other stretched out to catch candy tossed by the passing floats and candidates running for office. As bad as politics can get, Independence Day always renews my faith that the spirit of what it means to be an American lives on!

**So, what does it mean to be a pro-life citizen living in America today, looking back at 250 years and considering what the future holds?**

America is a special nation. We were founded on an aspiration, grounded in truth, dedicated to the idea that every human life has value: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

**I also love how the signers of the Declaration of Independence ended their world-changing document: "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."**

For me, that means honoring you for the commitment you make to our mission. To be a pro-life citizen in 2026 requires a constant recommitment, and it's not without cost... I don't just mean financial, but the costs of friendship, even family, and sometimes our peace of mind.

In no other time is that cost more visible than during election season, when we ask you to go forth and talk about elections, politics, and voting.

Guess what? It's here, too! **Early voting in our Primary Election starts in days in some locations!**

We must always remember that the issues to which we devote our lives, fortunes, and sacred honor really do transcend politics! They mean life and death for those whom we serve: the unborn, the disabled, the elderly, and the infirm.

Hopefully, you don't need me to tell you that elections have consequences, but I am sure that you, like me, need encouragement during the familiar struggles of election season. Midterm elections are often our toughest cycles, without a big-name on the presidential ticket. For example, pro-life voter turnout dropped 19% from 2016 to 2018, and then 26% from 2020 to 2022.

**Imagine how many more elections we could win if just 10% more of our pro-life voters show up?**

**When pro-life voices go unheard at the ballot box, life loses ground. Our mission will face another setback, and most importantly, lives will be lost.**

### **Our Declaration of Dependence**

**As we swiftly approach our Primary Election on August 4, I am asking you to please once again renew a pledge of your life, fortune, and honor to the vulnerable people we serve, just as I pledge to do my best to honor your sacred gifts and make the most out of them.**

It is imperative that you **stand for life by voting in both the August Primary Election and the November General Election**. Turnout is essential! Early in-person voting in the August 4 Primary Election starts statewide on July 25. Statewide in-person voting in the November 3 General Election starts on October 24. Find your personalized pro-life ballot at [rtl.org/vote](https://rtl.org/vote).

I ask that you **continue to pray for this mission**. Just as the founding fathers wrote in their final line, "...with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence..." we have confidence in the days ahead, knowing that the mission of saving lives is God's mission and our guidance and protection comes from Him.

Above all, **advocate on behalf of life!** Share this letter with your friends and family and learn more at [rtl.org](https://rtl.org).

**Your support today and in the days ahead is critical to our ongoing efforts to save lives! Please fulfill your July pledge as soon as possible to aid this mission.** Thank you for representing the best of what America has to offer and honoring our founding principles by standing for LIFE. I hope you have a blessed summer!

With deepest appreciation,



Amber Roseboom

President

Right to Life of Michigan



|                  |    |                          |
|------------------|----|--------------------------|
| Craig Fazakerley | 2  |                          |
| Herm Kloosterman | 5  |                          |
| Ardy Berens      | 6  |                          |
| Vicki Kraker     | 6  |                          |
| Marie Fazakerley | 7  |                          |
| Joan Geurink     | 8  |                          |
| Shirley Goen     | 9  |                          |
| Dale Knoper      | 9  |                          |
|                  | 11 | Eric & Elaine Christrup  |
|                  | 11 | Bern & Nellie Scholma    |
| Ryan Oom         | 12 |                          |
| Fred Vedders     | 13 |                          |
| Jon VanderWal    | 15 |                          |
|                  | 16 | Kris & Jennie Keegstra   |
| Phil Pleune      | 20 | Craig & Marie Fazakerley |
| Bonnie Nanninga  | 22 |                          |
| Ellen Bosselaar  | 25 |                          |
| Eric Christrup   | 26 |                          |
| Russ Geurink     | 26 |                          |
| Kathy Knoper     | 27 |                          |
| Makayla Schurman | 27 |                          |
| Michael Wohlford | 27 |                          |
| Clara Kruithoff  | 29 |                          |

Happiness is a choice,  
not a result. Nothing will  
make you happy until you  
choose to be happy. No person  
will make you happy unless  
you decide to be happy. Your  
happiness will not come  
to you. It can only come  
from you.

-Ralph Marston



## Welcome September

New month, new chapter, new  
page and new wishes.

May the month give you courage,  
strength, Confidence, patience,  
self-love & inner peace. May  
everyday in September fill your  
days with Hope, love, sunshine  
and energy. Let there be Joy,



# 2026 Meetings

| Sun                                                                        | Mon           | Tue                                                                                                              | Wed                             | Thu                                                                | Fri | Sat                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                            |               | 1 † Council                                                                                                      | 2                               | 3                                                                  | 4   | 5                                                     |
| 6                                                                          | 7 † Labor Day | 8 † B&G Committee                                                                                                | 9 † Picnic<br>Committee         | 10 † Softball—6:15                                                 | 11  | 12                                                    |
| 13 † Start of CW/SS/<br>Cat<br>† Commissioning<br>† Update from<br>Melissa | 14            | 15                                                                                                               | 16 † Car Show/<br>Church Picnic | 17 † Softball—8:15                                                 | 18  | 19 † Trey & Jenna<br>wedding<br>† M-45<br>Celebration |
| 20<br>SNL Bible Study                                                      | 21            | 22 † Tech Committee                                                                                              | 23                              | 24 † JOY Group<br>Grand Lady<br>River Boat<br>† Softball—6:15<br>† | 25  | 26                                                    |
| 27 † Communion<br>Prep<br>GEMS Counselor<br>meeting                        | 28            | 29 † TML Bible Study<br>† Interim<br>Committee<br>† Zeeland Classis<br>Deaconal<br>Safety/Medical com-<br>mittee | 30                              |                                                                    |     |                                                       |