

Upcoming Events

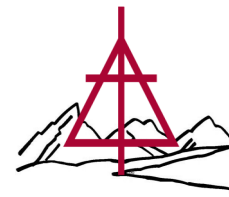
September 15	Sept. 16	Sept. 17	Sept. 18	Sept. 19	Sept. 20	Sept. 21
10:00am Worship Service Lord's Supper 1:15pm Clearwater Centre service 2:30pm Westview Lodge service Youth Group @ VanderMeer's		Office: Cheri-Lynn 7:30 pm Elders	8:30 am Prayer walk meet at tennis courts	12:00pm Bulletin deadline		
September 22	Sept. 23	Sept. 24	Sept. 25	Sept. 26	Sept. 27	Sept. 28
10:00am Worship Service		Office: Josephine 7:30 pm Full Council	8:30 am Prayer walk meet at tennis courts	12:00pm Bulletin deadline		

All bulletins can be found online www.firstcrocky.ca

Check out our Facebook page (@FirstCRC.RockyMtnHouse) or website (firstcrocky.ca) for links to sermons.

Thank you, for all you do!	September 15	September 22	September 29
	Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken
Serving Elder	Alan H.	Karl H.	Jessica H.
Serving Deacon	Ken B.	Lorraine A.	Peter B.
Music Team	Lifted Hearts	The Experience	Six Track
Children's Message	Corinne S.	Elroy L.	Pastor Natasha
Nursery	Janelle V., Corinne V. Sara D., Teslynn A.	Annette D., Rita B., Brenda B., Shanelle T.	Justin & Courtney D. Marisa P., Caleb O.
Summer Sunday School	Corinne S. Penny B.	Sunday School begins for Ages 3-Grade 5	TEACHER NEEDED HELPER NEEDED
Coffee Host	Alan & Jacqueline H.	Richard & Marlene O.	Gary & Shirley V.
Greeters/Coffee Cleanup	Rita B., Deb S. Aaron & Colleen T.	David & Stephanie C. Devon & Erin S.	John & Nancy O. Kyle & Trina A.

HELPING HANDS



FIRST CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

RR3 Site 4 Box 6, Rocky Mountain House, T4T 2A3 403.845.6067

Our **MISSION** is to worship God faithfully, nurture one another to grow in Christ, joyfully tell others about Jesus, develop our gifts to serve and pursue stewardship, justice and peace in every area of life.

Pastor Ken Douma – kgdouma@gmail.com 780.728.8148

Pastor Natasha Specht- pastornatasha@rockycrc.ca (Monday -Thursday)

Church Office: Tuesday — Friday 9:00am to 12:00pm office@rockycrc.ca



Morning Worship Service

Welcome

♪ I Lift My Eyes Up

Children's Message - Corinne S.
(Sunday School for ages 3 & 4)

Call to Worship Psalm 24:1-6

God's Greeting /We Welcome One Another

Announcements & Congregational Prayer for Offering
Offering - Resonate Global Missions
Offertory

♪ All Creatures of our God and King

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

Scripture - James 2:1-13
Message-Throwing Out the Stats

♪ Lamb of God
Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)

♪ May the Mind of Christ My Saviour
Blessing
♪ My Tribute

Welcome to First CRC Rocky

If you are visiting we want to offer a warm welcome!
We pray you will encounter God today as you worship and bring him praise!

Nursery is available for infants & small children. Sunday School for Ages 3 and 4 during the service.
Join us for coffee in the fellowship hall following the service.

For more Information view: www.firstcrocky.ca or [FirstCRC.RockyMtnHouse on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCRC.RockyMtnHouse)

CHURCH FAMILY

*"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.
With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."
Ephesians 6:18*

† As a ministerial church, each church has been asked to pray for our brothers and sisters in our community, today, we are praying for **Mountain Bible Chapel** .

† Congratulations to **Henry A.** who will celebrate a birthday **Sept. 20**. May God bless you in the year ahead.

† Congratulations to **Jerry** and **Lena F.** celebrating 50 years of marriage on **Sept. 20**. May you be blessed with many more years together.

† Please pray for healing for **Preston D.** who had emergency surgery on Wednesday due to a collapsed lung. He is in the hospital in Fairview AB.

† We pray for those at home: **Pearl V., Sylvia D., Gus & Margaret V.** and **Joe & Lena V.**. For those at the local care facilities: **Tonia T., Joan S., Seenie B.**. For all the caregivers: who are able to assist those who require a little extra help and care.

† Please keep **all missionaries** in God's care, wherever they may be serving. Join us in praying that: God will open doors of ministry, blessing partnerships and friendships, for strength and stamina, that the Holy Spirit will provide them with words that communicate effectively in other cultures and languages, that God will keep them safe, for an abundant harvest that will be produced as more people learn about the love of Christ, and for restoration — physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually — that can only be found in Jesus.

Check out the Missions bulletin board, in the social hall, for updates on the missionaries that we support.

If you know of anyone that we should be keeping in our prayers for various reasons, council asks that you please call Pastor Ken, an elder or deacon.

Your *Elders* are Anthony B., Randy D., Alan H., Karl H., Jessica H., Alan O., John O., Dave S., Chris T. and Albert V.

Your *Deacons* are Lorraine A., Peter B., Ken B., Doug D., Justin D. and Lowell S.



***"Our business is to spread our cases
before the Lord, in childlike simplicity;
to pour our hearts out before God."***

~ George Mueller

RWANDA: Thousands of Churches Face Closures

In 2018, the Rwandan government introduced legislation requiring churches to comply with new regulations. At the time, more than 7,000 churches were closed due to alleged health, safety and noise issues. Other restrictions banned pastors from encouraging long fasts, mandated increased financial disclosure, and required church leaders to hold a degree in theology. While thousands of churches were closed at the time, other congregations were given five years to comply with the demands.

Starting in July of this year, the governing officials began a campaign to further enforce their regulations. According to a statement from the Rwanda Governance Board, which oversees the country's places of worship, 14,000 prayer houses were inspected in July. As a result, 70 percent of the investigated church groups were closed for "noncompliance with established regulations, including registration, building codes, safety, hygiene/sanitation, and financial or other exploitation of followers."

Many of the affected congregations are small, independent Pentecostal churches; some of which had been meeting in caves or by riverbanks. By contrast, the more established churches (including those that are part of an umbrella organization) were, for the most part, unaffected. This is likely due to the fact that smaller congregations without an association of affiliated churches usually lack the financial resources required for meeting the authorities' expectations – whether it be adequate greenery, painted walls, air conditioning, security cameras, and other expensive upgrades. The leaders of at least one denomination have since called on their churches to contribute to a fund that aims to help reopen the forcibly closed places of worship.

Along with shutting down congregations for noncompliance, the country's president, Paul Kagame, recently condemned "mushrooming churches" that supposedly "squeeze even the last penny from poor Rwandans." During his speech, he also proposed a tax on church collections in order to prevent Christian leaders from allegedly enriching themselves on the backs of Rwandan citizens.

Pray for greatly needed encouragement on behalf of the many believers throughout Rwanda who have been forced to close down their places of worship. May God mightily intervene in each of their situations so that our Rwandan brothers and sisters in Christ will be granted opportunities for fellowship and spiritual growth. Additionally, pray that the country's governing officials will be willing to work with the congregations that are not able to meet the strict requirements, reaching an amiable resolution so their churches will be permitted to reopen. Ultimately, despite the barriers that have recently been put in place by the authorities, pray that the message of salvation through faith in Christ will continue to spread across the nation of Rwanda.

Church Announcements Cont.

Praise and Harmony Worship Weekend - October 5th at Rimbeby CRC - using the book 'Resurrecting God' for 4 part acapella harmonies. Coffee and lunch provided. For more information OR to register - sygrab@gmail.com

Do you enjoy Hospitality? Our church has been growing and council would like to help us welcome new members and deepen existing relationships in our church. We are looking for people to sign up as Weekly Hosts who will be prepared to invite guests and/or others over for lunch after Church. We are hoping to have enough people sign up that your turn would only come up every few months. Please sign up on the bulletin board as you enter the fellowship hall. This would begin in the fall, but in the meantime, we encourage everyone to take time to get to know our new members and to spend time deepening the relationships we have with each other.

Reframe Ministries

Groundwork: Understanding God's Judgment - Judgment and consequences can feel unfair and mean. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Ezekiel 14 and 22 to better understand God's judgment: where it comes from, what it means, why it's necessary, and why it's also a source of grace. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Kids Corner: Heart Checkups - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. As you sit in church or go to Sunday School, try to listen for something you can do during the week to come. God does not wait to use you until you are older, so as you are listening for something you can do, listen for someone you can encourage this week as well! Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Church in Action comic book.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - We all do things that are wrong and not pleasing to God. Paul writes in Romans 3:23 that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (NIV). When we do wrong, people get hurt by our actions, words, and even the things we should do but don't. How have your actions brought others harm? To whom do you need to say you are sorry this week? Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

Diaconal Ministries Canada

Are you a Deacon? - Then there is training and support for you! Being a deacon is an exciting opportunity to lead church members to share Christ's love and mercy with those both inside and outside of their church walls. Since 2001, Diaconal Ministries Canada has provided relevant and practical training and resources to deacons to support them in their role. Through the generous support of Canadian CRC churches, Diaconal Ministries offers a network of Diaconal Coaches and regional staff, as well as our NewGround Program (formerly Operation Manna) which helps churches love their communities. Visit our website and contact us today - www.diaconalministries.com. We are here to help!

Deacon's Corner ~ Lorraine A., Peter B., Ken B., Doug D., Justin D.

Upcoming Offerings

September 15- Resonate Global Mission

Resonate Global Mission, your Christian Reformed mission agency, goes with you on this mission to every town and place. When you look for new ways to engage with your own community, discover where God is moving, and join God on mission around the corner and around the world, Resonate is here for you. God has given us all we need to fulfill his call to mission-- what does that mean for you and your church? Your most important partners on mission are all around you, and your mission field is just steps away!

September 22- Rehoboth

We serve people with disabilities and help them flourish by providing services and support through our programs

Gratefully Received September 1-9

Lord's Foodbank- 100.00, Mountain Rose Women's Shelter 2057.00

Local Church Ministries 8816.00

The Deacons will be hosting a Fall Kickoff pancake breakfast on Sunday, September 22 at 8:30am .

From the Deacons & Treasurer

There are several ways to give to the church:

Coupons allow you to give to the weekly offerings, without having to use loose change. They come in \$2, \$5 and \$10 coupons. You will be receipted for the amount of coupons you purchase. Coupons can be directly purchased from a Deacon, in the Council room on Sunday morning, after the service. They expire at the end of each year.

Budget/Local Church Ministries - Write to "First Christian Reformed Church of RMH". If you wish to have your cheque allocated to a specific cause approved by the deacons or otherwise announced please indicate that cause on the memo line of your cheque.

E-transfers - send to treasurer@rockycrc.ca on the memo please specify the cause you would like money allocated to.

Pre-Authorized Bank Withdrawals - Contact Marlene O. to sign up or get a form from the office.

Prayer Ministry

There are times in life when everything seems overwhelming- times when you can't find answers or you don't know where to turn. But in every season of life the Spirit invites us into a relationship with God through prayer.

This is how we align our hearts with His. It is reassuring to know He is there and is listening.

Whatever you are going through-times of beauty or ones of trouble - we'd love to pray with you. Contact the team through email, the church office, phone call or through the website anonymously.

Visit www.firstcrocky.ca (via the CONTACT link or Prayer Ministries link)

From Council

It's the time of year again where we start the process for finding **new Council members**, we ask for your prayers for those who will be receiving nomination letters. Pray for discernment as they decide if serving the church in this way is God's will for them at this time. Pray that there would be no fear in serving for those who are being nominated for the first time and pray for a desire and willingness to serve, that it would not be a burden but rather a joy.

Please also be in prayer for Pastor Natasha as she prepares for her Classical Examination coming up in October.

From the Office

The fall season is here and church ministries are beginning. If you are looking to book the church facilities for your ministry, meeting or music practice, please contact the office to make sure what you are looking for is available. Thank you!

Are you technology oriented? We are in **DESPERATE NEED** of some more people to join our sound team for our Sunday Services. If this is something you may be interested in, Please contact **Kelly B.** for more info.

From Safe Church Committee

Attention Volunteers! Would you know what to do if you witnessed abuse? Please join us after the service in the sanctuary on September 28 for an overview of what you need to know about our safe church policy. If you have any questions please reach out to our safe church committee: Alan O, Rita B or Marisa P.

Church Announcements

Church Photo Directory The Photographer will be taking photos at the **church social hall October 23-26**. The next couple of Sundays there will be a table in the social hall where ladies will help you book a suitable time for you and your family. Please help make this process go smoothly by booking early. Thankyou for your cooperation, Marlene Korver.

Grief Share Ministry will begin on **Wednesday, September 25 @ 1:00 pm** at First CRC. This is 13-week grief support. You are welcome to join at any time. More information, contact Pastor Natasha or Jeanette Sandstra.

You are invited to come join us **Saturday, October 5 at 10am** at the Kraay Family Farm for a fun get together! You must book your date specific tickets in advance online on the Kraay Family Farm website due to their fall hours. They are 25\$/ person, under age 3 is free. We will have a tent rented with snacks and refreshments for everyone! Please RSVP to Krystal , Cailyn or Kelsey .

Bridal shower for Carmen d., fiancé of Mark B., on **Saturday, September 21 at 10:30am @** Covenant CRC. It would be appreciated if ladies could bring a snack to share.

Family Chats: September 25 at 7:00 p.m. at Inglewood Christian Reformed Church: The Topic is Synod 2024 and Where Do We Go from Here? We have invited our Classis delegates, Rev Henry K., Rev. Ken D., Art V., and Daniel H. to report on the important events at Synod and the key decisions made. Based on their observations and understanding, we have asked them to reflect on where this leaves our churches, especially those who sent overtures, and communications, and where we go next. This is a live event and we encourage you to attend, but it will also be livestreamed on the YouTube Chanel of Inglewood CRC.

Join the **Red Deer Prolife walk-a-thon** to be held on **Saturday, September 21 @** Cranna Lake in Lacombe. Help us raise awareness and money for this important cause! For more details and to register go to reddeerprolife.com so you can get signed up and get a T-shirt. You can also print off a pledge form to raise money and win prizes! After the walk there will be a BBQ lunch. Thank you for your support!

Storytelling Night Tuesday, Oct 1st, 2024, 7:00 pm - EduDeo Ministries, ActFive, and Gateway Christian School host a Storytelling Night at Woody Nook Christian Reformed Church. Hear from Canadian, Nicaraguan, and Malawian storytellers, as they reflect on the idea of "who is my neighbour." Join us in celebrating the global Kingdom of God through an evening of fellowship and unique stories. Please RSVP here at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/1003661096357?aff=oddtcreator> Email info@edudeo.com for questions.

Calling all Men – Nov 1-3rd, Frontier Lodge is hosting another Sons and Brothers Men's Retreat. Talk to those who have gone the last couple of years to get a taste of what it all about. There's great food, engaging teaching, personal time, optional outdoor activities and times to connect with the other men from our church. Arrive between 4 and 6pm on the Friday and it all wraps up at 2pm on Sunday. The cost is \$199. Register online at Frontierlodge.ca/sons-and-brothers. Don't miss it! Let Pastor Ken know if you are interested or if you have any questions.