

Upcoming Events

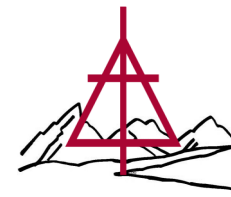
December 1	December 2	December 3	December 4	December 5	December 6	December 7
10:00am Worship service 1:15pm Clearwater Centre 2:30 pm Westview Lodge 6:00pm Community Christmas Service (bring snacks to share for coffee after) Youth at Adrian & Tammy B.	10:00am Advent Bible study at Bettie V. 7:00pm Friendship	<i>Office: Josephine</i> 9:30am Coffeekbreak 1:00 pm Seniors Bible Study	8:30am Prayer meeting in prayer room 1-2:30pm Griefshare	12:00pm Bulletin deadline	3-7pm Global Wonders Sale in church social hall	9:00am Youth Bottle Drive 1:30pm Christmas Community hymn sing @ Nazarene Church 5:30pm Family Skate at Arena
December 8	December 9	December 10	December 11	December 12	December 13	December 14
10:00am Worship service Potluck for hospitality groups after the service Sunday School story card #84 Youth at Albert & Sjoukje V.	10:00am Advent Bible study at Bettie V. 11:30am Seniors meet in the sanctuary 12:00pm Seniors lunch in the social hall 7:00pm Friendship	<i>Office: Cheri-Lynn</i> 9:30am Coffeekbreak 7:30pm Admin	8:30am Prayer meeting in prayer room 1-2:30pm Griefshare 7:00pm GEMS/Cadets 7:00pm Catechism 7:30pm Finance Meeting	12:00pm Bulletin deadline 9:30am Craft Morning		

All bulletins can be found online www.firstcrocky.ca

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

HANDS

Thank you, for all you do!	December 1	December 8	December 15
	Pastor Ken	Pastor Natasha	Pastor Ken
Serving Elder	Karl H.	Jessica H.	Alan O.
Serving Deacon	Lorraine A.	Peter B.	Ken B.
Music Team	The Experience	Lifted Hearts	Mosaic
Children's Message	Pastor Ken	Joel S.	Pastor Natasha
Nursery	Sara D., Rita B., Marlene O., Shanelle T.	Jacob & Jennifer L. Stephanie C., Caleb O.	Mark & Jessica H., Alyssa D., Chelsey B.
Coffee Host	Hank & Bettie K.	Peter & Josephine B.	Gordon & Bettie V.
Greeters/Coffee Cleanup	Robert & Brenda B. Pierre & Ria J.	Peter & Trudy D. Doug & Karen D.	Ernie & Jeanette S. Glenn & Kari M.



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 🎵 Angels from the Realms of Glory	Children's Message - Pastor Ken Sunday School for ages 3 - Grade 5
Responsive Call to Worship God's Greeting/We welcome One Another 🎵 Hope of the Nations	Announcements & Congregational Prayer Offering - Local Church Ministries Offertory
Advent Wreath Lighting - Joanne T. & Rita B. 🎵 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus	Scripture - Genesis 1:1-3, 20 – 24, 31a; Psalm 104 Message - The Gift of Creation 🎵 This is My Father's World
Call to Confession & Prayer Assurance of Pardon 🎵 Joy to the World/Our God Saves	Blessing 🎵 He Shall Reign Forevermore

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 - Grade 5 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 **New Life Fellowship**.

† Congratulations to **James H.** (Dec. 3) and **Marlene K.** (Dec. 4) celebrating birthdays this week. Blessings to you on your special day!

† Our deepest condolences to **Elmer & Joanne O.** and family as Joanne's mom passed away last week.

† We pray for those at home: **Pearl V., Sylvia D., Marvin W., 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. Missionaries deal with many of the same stresses you face in life, like overwhelming workloads, conflicts in relationships and financial uncertainties. Often, however, missionaries struggle with these issues alone, without the fellowship and support of other Christians. Living and working cross-culturally adds an additional element that can challenge their emotional, spiritual and physical vitality. Pray that God will provide opportunities for missionaries in isolated areas to spend time with other believers, that God will provide times of peace and relaxation to refresh workers, 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, Pastor Natasha, an elder or deacon.

Elders are

Anthony B., Sheldon B., Alan H., Karl H., Jessica H., Cody L., John M., Alan O., Joel S., Chris T. and Gary V.

Deacons are

Lorraine A., Peter B., Ken B., Jim D., Justin D., and Mark H.



"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." ~ Psalm 23:4 ESV ~

NIGERIA: Abducted Christians Escape Captivity/Sources: Church in Chains, New York Times, Open Doors

On March 1st, 2018, Islamic militants attacked a displacement camp in Borno state. As a result of the attack, three UNICEF workers were killed, along with eight soldiers. During the attack, a Christian woman named Alice Loksha Ngaddah, who worked as a nurse in the camp, was taken captive – along with two Muslim midwives, Saifura Khorsa and Hauwa Liman. Having been declared "apostates" by their captors merely for working with the Red Cross, the two midwives were killed a few months later.

The militants responsible stated at the time that they would be holding Alice, along with a Christian student named Leah Sharibu (whom they had captured only ten days earlier), as "slaves for life

For more than six years, Alice had patiently waited for the ideal opportunity to safely escape her abductors. During that time, she gave birth to a son who is now three years old. When the chance to flee finally arrived on October 24th, Alice, along with her young son and another abductee named Fayina Ali Akilwus, quietly slipped away from the militants' camp.

After travelling for more than three days, the weary escapees safely arrived at a military outpost in northeastern Nigeria. As Alice and Fayina neared their destination, they broke out in praises to Jesus, shouting, "We are really saved!" Then, following their arrival at the outpost, they expressed thankfulness to God for the military, asking Him to further strengthen Nigeria's governing authorities and give them victory over the plight of terrorism in their country.

Reportedly, the two women have since been transferred to the Borno state government for rehabilitation. While Alice's long-awaited escape is good news, a source within the United Nations has expressed concern over the many challenges her family must now face following her extended captivity. At the time of her kidnapping in 2018, Alice was a married mother of two children. Her husband, however, believing that she had been killed by the abductors, has since remarried. "Alice and her children will need ongoing emotional, physical and spiritual support if she is to be integrated back into society," reports a local trauma care worker.

Unfortunately, the violence and resulting atrocities of persecution continue to erupt in many areas of Nigeria where Christians have frequently been kidnapped and/or killed. More recently, a group of attackers, believed to be Fulani militants, raided two villages in southern Kaduna state on November 8th and 16th. As in the many other reported cases, the outcome is devastating: five Christians were killed, three have been kidnapped, and several others are presently suffering from serious injuries.

Praise God that Alice and Fayina were able to safely escape their abductors after many years of captivity. Ask our compassionate Lord to help these former captives throughout the difficult processes ahead as they try to re-integrate into life outside of the militants' camp. In particular, pray that the Lord will grant wisdom, healing and hope to Alice and her family as they navigate through their very challenging and complex situation. Also continue to remember Leah Sharibu and the many others presently remaining in captivity, praying that they too will soon gain their freedom. In the meanwhile, may the Nigerian military actively work to stem the influence of militant groups and bring lasting peace, stability and safety to this beleaguered nation.

Church Announcements

Dave Ramsey Financial Workshop The Bethel CRC, Lacombe Deacons are excited to offer a 3-part workshop led by a Dave Ramsey presenter. During this workshop, we will learn:

- How to deal with debt
- How to invest wisely for the future
- How to give generously
- How to live our biblical truths regarding money.

If you are interested, please mark your calendars for **January 11, 18 & 25, 2025** from 9 - 3:00pm. Registration is \$80.00 per participant (includes lunch on all three Saturdays, book, and workbook) To register please use the QR code, or email bchurch2@shaw.ca Registration deadline is December 14.

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner: Advent Week 1: The Prophecy - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. During this Advent season, we can remember God's faithfulness and our hope in Jesus, our Lord. Think of the names of Jesus in Isaiah 9:6: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. How do these names bring us hope? How do they express God's faithfulness? Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Bible Story Podcast The Story of the Prophets.

Groundwork: Jesus: Our Wonderful Counselor - The prophet Isaiah calls the coming Messiah a "Wonderful Counselor." Join Groundwork as we explore Isaiah 9:6, Proverbs 1:1-7, 1 Corinthians 1:18-24, and Colossians 1:15-19 to discover what this title communicates to us about Jesus and its connection to the biblical wisdom tradition. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Advent is a season of waiting. We wait expectantly for the birth of Christ, and we wait with hope for his coming again. Yet this season is often marked by hurried consumerism and overfilled calendars. How might you practice "waiting" in new ways this Advent season? Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

The Banner

Canada Post and The Banner - With the Canada Post strike affecting mail delivery, please note that the December Banner delivery might be delayed in Canada. Additionally, please note you can still support The Banner despite the strike. You can make your year-end gifts quickly and securely online (thebanner.org/donate) or by phone (888-827-5272).

Deacon's Corner ~ Lorraine A., Peter B., Ken B., Jim D., Justin D., Mark H.

Upcoming Offerings

December 1- Local Church Ministries

Local Church Ministries goes to cover all our budget commitments: staff, office expenses, power, heat, insurance, children's programs, mission support and ministry shares.

December 8 - Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)

Whether it's transporting relief supplies to a refugee camp, or flying doctors to a remote village, MAF brings more than just tools and supplies to a hurting world – we bring the gospel of God's love in a tangible way.

Mission- Serving together to bring help, hope, and healing through aviation.

Vision - To see isolated people changed by the love of Christ.

Gratefully Received Nov 10 - 17

Local Church Ministries \$27,855

Refugee Sponsorship \$743

Cadets \$2000

Foodbank \$100

From the Deacons & Treasurer

There are several ways to give to the church:

Coupons - see a deacon to purchase

Cheque - to "First Christian Reformed Church of RMH".

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.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 1 Worship services at Clearwater Centre (1:30pm) & Westview Lodge (2:15pm)

Sunday, December 1 (6:00 pm) Community Christmas Service

(please bring snacks to share for a time of fellowship following the service)

Sunday, December 22 - Lord's Supper

Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day worship at 10:00am

Wednesday, January 1, 2025 - New Year's Day Worship at 10:00am

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)

Highlights from the Full Council Meeting November 26

- The Finance committee will be working on the 2025 budget on Dec 11. If there are changes from past budget requests, please contact a member of the Finance Committee.
- Brenda B. gave an update on the 75th anniversary celebration plans. There will be multiple events throughout the year. Pray that God uses these celebrations to bless current and past members.
- Deacons are seeking suggestions for organizations to be included in 2025 mission support.

Memories leading up to our 75th Anniversary

* The Germans invaded Rotterdam on the first day of the campaign and captured several bridges intact. Unaware that negotiations were taking place, the Luftwaffe struck the city. Between 800 and 900 Dutch civilians were killed in Rotterdam and 25,000 homes destroyed. In the next days of the war 2,300 Dutch soldiers were killed and 7,000 wounded and more than 3,000 Dutch civilians died. The German army needed to take over the Dutch airfields on the North Sea to launch air raids against the United Kingdom. The Dutch put up a good fight, destroying significant numbers of transport aircraft that the Germans would need for their planned invasion of Britain. In the eastern Netherlands, the German advance was slowed by Dutch fortifications. The Germans lost 2,200 men to death and 7,000 Germans were wounded. In addition 1,300 German soldiers captured by the Dutch during the campaign had been shipped to Britain and remained prisoners of war (POW's) the rest of the war.

* The armed forces of the Netherlands were insufficient with outdated weapons and equipment and were also taken by surprise. They also realized that neither British or French troops could reach the Netherlands in sufficient number to halt the invasion. Under threat that Germany would do to the rest of the country as they had done to Rotterdam, and having had 65 of their 140 aircraft destroyed, the Dutch commander-in chief Henri Winkelman gave permission to surrender. Thus, the war in the Netherlands only lasted four days. Queen Wilhelmina and the Dutch government succeeded in escaping from the Netherlands before the surrender and formed a government- in - exile. Princess Juliana and her children went to Canada for safety. THE OCCUPATION of the country began.

Church Announcements

Sunday School Families - the songs the children are practicing to sing during the services on December 22 & 25 are: **He Made A Way in a Manger** - only the chorus (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jGNhKdjdRO8>), **We Wish You (A Merry, Peaceful, Wonderful Christmas)** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kggGVIPsIRQ>) and **He Shall Reign Forevermore** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NVN2bnjBICU>)

Thank you - The GEMS Chili Supper was a great success and that is all because of our amazing community! Thank you for your continued support and prayers, we are so blessed.

Friendship has been blessed with several new friends (5 in the past few weeks) and is **REALLY** in need of more teachers. It would be wonderful if each friend had their own teacher. Please prayerfully consider helping in this outreach for our community. If you have any questions or want to volunteer, contact Corinne S. or Sjoukje V.

Pregnancy Care Centre Annual Dessert Evening Fundraiser - will be on **Thursday, December 5th**. This is a free event, but please register, (RSVP to 403.871.5111), so we can ensure you and your guests are seated comfortably. For more information check poster on bulletin board in the hallway.

Global Wonders of Hope is a social enterprise of the SA Foundation. Join us on **Friday, December 6 from 3-7pm** in the social hall for some ethically and socially conscious shopping and support survivors of exploitation! (www.beaglobalwonder.com) The SA Foundation provides skill development training, as well as, safe and fair employment opportunities to women survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. All of the products are handmade by survivors and 100% of the proceeds from each sale are invested back into the program.

Family Skating at the Rocky Arena on **Saturday December 7 from 5:30-6:30 pm**. We will have snacks and hot chocolate! Ask Cailyn B., Kelsey O. or Krystal H. if you need more info. See you there.

Hospitality hosts - This past summer, 10 people signed up to be Hospitality hosts. These families and individuals will be part of a rotation that will be intentional about welcoming people to their homes after church to help enfold newer members and build community in our church. If you signed up, please plan on staying after church on **December 8** for a potluck lunch to discuss how we can make this ministry of hospitality most effective. We hope to officially begin this in the New Year. If you would still like to be part of this ministry, please feel free to join us. You will be contacted about what to bring for lunch.

Attention Seniors - we are planning a Christmas Social for **Monday, December 9**, in the social hall. Plan to come at 11:30am, we'll gather in the church sanctuary and then to the social hall for lunch at 12:00pm. Everyone is welcome - cost for the lunch is \$10 - hope to see you all there! There is no need to sign up - just come!