

Classis Alberta North Meeting Report - March 6 & 7

Classis Alberta North Meeting - March 6 & 7, 2026 We thank you for your prayers for the delegates who attended the meeting of Classis Alberta North (our regional assembly of Christian Reformed Churches) on March 6 and 7. A special thank you to our hosts at Inglewood CRC in Edmonton for all they did to make the delegates feel welcome and well-nourished with amazing meals.

Once again, this meeting of Classis was a time of mixed feelings. However, overall, the meeting was uplifting. We celebrated many ministries in Classis Alberta North and the CRC denomination. On Friday, we heard of the challenges faced by the church in Cuba from the Cuba Connection Committee. We also were encouraged by the work of the Edmonton Native Healing Centre . The Classis Youth Ministry Committee presented their thoughts on how to move forward with the Youth Consultant position that has been vacant for some time - more to come!

We heard about the upcoming retirements of two long-serving leaders in our Classis - Rev. Henry Kranenburg from West End CRC and Chaplain Rick Mast from the UofA. We celebrated their work over the many years, prayed for and with them, and wished them God's blessings as they retire.

We grieved over the resignation of two Ministers of the Word, one retired Minister of the Word, and over the disassociation of Avenue Church from the denomination. We pray that the Lord of the Church will be their guide as they continue in their ministry.

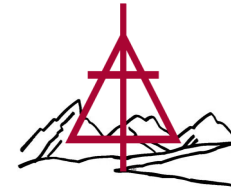
In the evening, we listened to presentations from Diaconal Ministries Canada , Thrive: Faith Formation, and Resonate: Global Coffee Break . We praise God for these agencies of the Christian Reformed Church. On Saturday, we heard encouraging stories from Resonate Global Mission, Calvin University, and Calvin Theological Seminary. Classis Alberta North sends more seminary students to CTS than any other Classis. We currently have 14 students studying at CTS!

We were led in the start of an ongoing conversation about what it means to be in a Classis together. We asked ourselves what it means to covenant with each other. This is just the start of redefining what our Mission and Vision is as a Classis – the work will continue.

Before we broke for the day, Classis Home Missions Team gave a report on the work of church planting in the Whyte Avenue area, the Multiply Conference, and the progress of Bridge Commons in Fort Saskatchewan.

Much more happened at Classis. Please ask your congregation's delegates to tell you about it in more detail.

Dan W, Stated Clerk of Classis Alberta North



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

March 15

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Service as Radical Hospitality

www.firstcrocky.ca
@FirstCRC.Rocky Mtn House on Facebook

Morning Worship Service

Welcome

♪ My God is All I Need/My God is So Great,
So Strong and So Mighty

Call to Worship

God's Greeting/We Welcome One Another
♪ Jesus, Strong and Kind

Call to Confession & Prayer

♪ Power of Your Love

Assurance of Pardon

♪ Who You Say I Am

Children's Message - Elroy L.
(Sunday School for Age 3 - Grade 5)

Announcements & Congregational Prayer
Offering for YWAM - (Coleton & Ira)
Offertory

Scripture - Luke 15:1-3; 11-32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Message - Service as Radical Hospitality
♪ Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

Blessing
♪ He Leadeth Me

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 age 3 through Grade 5 during the service.
Join us for coffee in the fellowship hall following the service.

www.firstcrocky.ca or [FirstCRC.RockyMtnHouse on Facebook](#)

CHURCH FAMILY

“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”

Ephesians 3:14-19

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

† We pray for those at home **Sylvia D.** and **Joe & Lena V.** We also pray for our members at the local care facilities: **Joan S.** and **Tonia T.** We pray 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. *“Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we ask you to pray for us. Pray that the Lord’s message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes, just as when it came to you.” 2 Thessalonians 3:1 (NLT)* Obstacles must be removed to allow God’s Word to spread rapidly and freely, and missionaries need the strength to continue on in the face of opposition or difficulties. Just as Aaron and Hur supported Moses’ arms in the battle against the Amalekites (Exodus 17:12), you can strengthen the arms of missionaries by supporting them through your prayers. Pray ...

- For strength and stamina as missionaries encounter antagonistic spiritual forces (Ephesians 6:10-18).
- That people will resist Satan’s plans to obstruct the spread of the gospel (James 4:7).
- That God’s Word will indeed spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes.

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 a deacon.

Elders are: Brenda B., Sheldon B., Alan H., Karl H., Cody L., John M., Nancy O., Richard O., Ernie S., Joel S. and Gary V.

Deacons are: Lorraine A., Ken B., Anneleen D., Jim D., Mark H. and Jacob L.

Having the Identity of a Servant

Fourth Sunday of Lent

HOW SHALL WE RESPOND THIS WEEK?

Fasting

- Consider what divides you from other members in your local congregation— politics, income levels, worship preferences, perhaps an old dispute. What would it look like to fast from these divisions? To give them up?

Prayer

- Hold your hands open in front of you and picture in them the frustrations or disputes, the sources of contention or the pain of injury that divides you from a sibling in Christ. Lift your hands and all that is in them up to the Lord, asking Him to take away that which hinders a spirit of hospitality and unity. Open your arms wide and ask God for the courage to welcome all people into your life who God brings to you.

Around the Kitchen Table

- Just like the Father welcomed home the son, so we too are encouraged to live lives of radical hospitality, both welcoming and honouring each other in the name of Christ. If you have a Christ Chair at your table this season, place on it a beautiful coat or sash or some other garment to symbolize the lavish welcome the Father bestowed upon the prodigal son.

Weekly Calendar of Events

March 15	March 16	March 17	March 18	March 19	March 20	March 21
10:00am Worship Service 7:00pm Nehemiah Study 7:30pm youth jam night in the social hall at First CRC	3:45-4:45pm Youth at Copper Creek 7:00pm Friendship	Office: Fran 9:30am Coffeebreak 6:00pm Admin. Mtg. 7:30pm Elders Mtg.	8:30am Prayer Meeting 7:30pm Men's Bible Study	9:15am Crafting 12:00pm Bulletin Deadline	6:30-8pm Church Hockey Game - Men vs. Boys Gr. 6 and up	
March 22	March 23	March 24	March 25	March 26	March 27	March 28
10:00am Worship Service 7:00pm Nehemiah Study	7:00pm Friendship	Office: Cheri-Lynn 9:30am Coffeebreak 7:30pm Full Council	8:30am Prayer Meeting 10:00am Revelation Study 7:00pm GEMS/Cadets/Catechism	12:00pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Rocky Christian School Spring Musical - "Esther Ordinary Faith"	8:00pm Youth Lock-In	11:00am Youth Lock-In ends 4:00-5:00pm Swimming

All bulletins can be found online www.firstcrocky.ca

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

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Thank you, for all you do!	March 15	March 22	March 29
	Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken
Serving Elder	Gary V.	Brenda B.	Sheldon B.
Serving Deacon	Jacob L.	Lorraine A.	Ken B.
Music Team	Six Track	The Experience	Lifted Hearts
Children's Message	Elroy L.	Joel S.	Pastor Ken
Sunday School Helpers	Lindsey B., Russell D., Caleb D.	Aila M., Landon P., Allison B.	Reid O., Cadence B., Debbie S.
Nursery	Cody & Teagan L., Marion R., Cadence B.	Mark & Jessica H., Janelle V., Lucas H.	Amber B., Corinne V., Marlene O., Travis A.
Coffee Host	Alan & Kelsey D.	Devon & Marisa P.	Aaron & Colleen T.
Greeters/Coffee Cleanup	Jo-Ann O. ArLynn O.	Ella V. & Cheryl T. Doug & Karen D.	Jamie & Rhianna M. Justin & Courtney D.

Deacon's Corner ~ Lorraine A., Ken B., Anneleen D., Jim D., Mark H., Jacob L.

Upcoming Offerings

March 15 - YWAM (Coleton & Ira)

Coleton & Ira, a Canadian/Ukraine couple, are missionaries with YWAM. They felt God's call to join their family in ministry, and serve displaced people in Western Ukraine, in Ira's hometown of Ternopil. They are actively involved in various ministries, such as receiving and sorting humanitarian aid, feeding refugees, providing food for churches and delivery supplies to other regions. Their dedication also extends to hosting teams and providing hospitality, evangelism, emotional support and visiting soldiers in local hospitals. Your prayers and support are essential to their mission. Please lift them up in prayer as they seek to make a lasting impact in the lives of those they service. Pray for peace in the Ukraine and an end to war, strength and provision for the people of Ukraine, continued growth and support for the ministries, guidance and wisdom as they follow God's direction and for good health for Coleton & Ira.

Check out the newsletter on the Deacon's bulletin board in the social hall.

March 22 - Calvin Theological Seminary

Thanks to your generous financial support, Calvin Theological Seminary awards financial aid to students each year, with ten degree programs equipping students for a diverse variety of ministry callings. Calvin Theological Seminary graduates go on to pastor churches, work as chaplains, serve as nonprofit leaders, teach theology at universities and seminaries, work in local or global missions, and so much more.

Gratefully Received March 1 - 8

The Lord's Food Bank \$50 Rocky Christian School \$50 Partners Worldwide \$1,050
Local Church Ministries \$8,557

Gratefully Received via e-transfer in February

Tribal Trails \$50 Canadian Foodgrains Bank \$2,150 First Steps \$500
Lords foodbank \$500 Canadian Justice Ministries \$50 Local Church Ministries \$7,715

Upcoming Services

March 22

Baptism of Dayne L. (Cody & Teagan)

Sunday, March 29

Worship services at Clearwater Centre (1:15pm) and Westview Lodge (2:30pm)

Friday, April 3

Good Friday Service & Lord's Supper (7:00pm)

Prayer Ministry

Would you like prayer, but are unsure how or who to ask?

In the pews there are Prayer Request envelopes.

On the outside of the envelope - you can select who you would like to pray for you

Inside - there is a card for more details and contact information if needed.

In the foyer is a prayer request box for submitting these prayer requests.

Whatever you are going through - times of beauty or ones of trouble - we would love to pray with you.

Visit www.firstcrcrocky.ca (via the CONTACT link or Prayer Ministries link) to submit a request online.

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. Coupons can be directly purchased from a Deacon, in the Council room, on Sunday's following the service.

Cheque - 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.

Church Announcements

Attention to anyone interested in an 8-week Bible study! We have begun a new Old Testament Bible study on Nehemiah, on **Sunday evenings at 7:00 pm** here at First CRC. If you are interested in joining us, please feel free to speak with Pastor Natasha or John M.

Church Janitor required - We are looking to fill a shared part-time janitor position. The position is quarter-time with Alissa. For more information or to apply please contact Tom Smid.

The annual **Staff Performance Review** is in progress. Program leaders, Council members and a random sampling of various worshippers have been asked to complete a questionnaire. If you would like to take part in this, you can pick up a copy of the questionnaire on the foyer table. Please return all questionnaires by March 23.



"Joy is not necessarily the absence of suffering; it is the presence of God."

~ Sam Storms ~

SOUTH SUDAN: Pastor and Associates Abducted and Slain

Sources: Morning Star News, VOMC Contacts, Divine Mission Pentecostal Church

For the past 10 years, South Sudan has struggled under the weight of unrest and civil war. This upheaval has led to ethnic tensions, political instability, and the ongoing trauma that accompanies prolonged conflict.

Due to economic challenges, Pastor Lino Pasquale had been working for a fishing business in Gondokoro, a region located south of the capital city of Juba. On February 19th, the church leader was returning home with three other men when they were suddenly captured by unknown gunmen. A few days later, the bodies of Pastor Lino and two of the men were discovered. At last report, the fourth victim remains missing.

Pastor Lino served faithfully as the leader of an outreach branch for the Divine Mission Pentecostal Church in Juba. Church leaders have condemned the attack as "barbaric," believing that the pastor and his associates were deliberately targeted. Those who knew Pastor Lino remember him as a devoted shepherd who was committed to sharing the hope of the Gospel.

On the same day that Pastor Lino was abducted, VOMC's Director of Global Education and Discipleship, Steven Wesley, had been visiting South Sudan to teach local believers about the theology of persecution and discipleship. Providentially, Pastor Lino's wife, Eva, was present at that very training session. It was only later that she discovered what had happened to her husband. Tragically, on the same day that she received news of his death, Eva's mother passed away following a short time of illness.

Upon his return from South Sudan, Stephen recorded an interview to share insights from his recent ministry trip. To watch this video report, go to VOMCanada.com/video/TOPAD-SSudan. More information about the challenges encountered by Christians in South Sudan can be accessed at our country profile.

- ***Prayerfully remember Eva as she now deals with the immense grief of suddenly losing both her husband and her mother.***
- ***Ask God to lovingly surround this dear follower of Christ – and all who are mourning the loss of those mentioned in this report – with His strength, comfort and peace.***
- ***As the authorities conduct their investigation into this violent incident, may they not only safely locate the missing abducted victim but also bring those responsible for committing the crimes to justice.***
- ***Pray for VOMC's "Theology of Persecution and Discipleship" ministry, asking that this training program will continue to encourage and equip Christians in South Sudan (and other areas of the world) who are enduring persecution because of their faith.***

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner Devotions: Jesus Cried - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Jesus Cried," at www.kidscorner.net. Everyone has big feelings, and learning to notice how others feel helps us be kinder friends. Just like Jesus, we can listen, care, and show love when someone is sad or happy. Prepare for Easter with all the great content at kidscorner.net, like Kids Corner's Lent Devotional.

Groundwork: Carrying Jesus' Cross on the Road to Golgotha - When we reach stations seven and eight of the Stations of the Cross, we reflect on the movement of Jesus and the cross toward Golgotha. Join Groundwork as we study John 19:6-17, Matthew 27:19-31, and Mark 15:21 to consider the symbolism of the cross beam placed on Jesus, the significance of Simon of Cyrene carrying Jesus' cross, and what it means to bear the cross with Jesus in our lives. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - The New Testament Gospels all include the account of a woman who interrupts a dinner party and pours out a precious perfume to anoint Jesus (Matt. 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; Luke 7:36-50; John 12:1-8). The disciples are offended at the intrusion. Jesus calls it a fitting tribute to His love, and a preparation for the way He will lay down His life. This week be mindful of incidents that interrupt your plans, or of individuals who intrude on your time and space. See each one as a divinely orchestrated opportunity to reorient your attention to the Saviour who poured out His life for you.

World Renew

2026 Cambodia Discovery Tour - World Renew invites you on a learning journey to explore Cambodia! Grow in your understanding of World Renew's work from communities already leading change, while experiencing the history, traditions, and culture of Cambodia. Join us from November 6-16, 2026 and come discover what God is doing in Cambodia. Registration is limited. For more information and to register, visit: <https://bit.ly/cambodia2026info>

Church Announcements

Attention all youth (Grades 9-12) - Back by popular demand! We are having a Small Group meeting at Copper Creek tomorrow, **Monday, March 16 from 3:45-4:45 pm.**

Church Hockey Game - Men vs. Boys -- On **Friday, March 20**, from **6:30-8pm** at the Rocky Arena, the men of the church will challenge the next generation (grade 6 and up) to a fun game! Everyone is invited to come and watch the fun! If you wish to play please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway going into the fellowship hall!

You are invited - for a time of **swimming fun and fellowship** at the Rocky Pool on **March 28 from 4-5pm.** No need to sign up, just show up! Any questions, you can talk to Krystal H. or Cailyn B.

Pastor Ken and Pastor Natasha are looking to see if there is interest in hosting a **Profession of Faith class** this spring. If you are interested, please contact a Pastor.

Men's Bible Study - All men are invited to come to the church every other Wednesday evening (please check the calendar for dates) at **7:30pm** for a study based on the book, "*How to Pray - A Simple Guide for Normal People.*"

Grandparents and Grandfriends, you are invited to a tea hosted by the GEMS on **Wednesday, March 25th at 7pm.** We are excited to fellowship with you.

Rocky Christian School Spring Musical "Esther Ordinary Faith" will be held on **Thursday, March 26 at 7:00pm** at the Lou Soppit Community Centre. Students have been working hard to prepare for the musical; you won't want to miss it! Invite your family and friends to join us.

Have you been heard? Our congregation has a once-in-five-year opportunity to participate in the **2026 CRC denominational survey.** This survey helps denominational leadership understand the concerns and needs of local congregations like ours. It is crucial that as many people from our congregation as possible participate. Please **visit [crcna.org/survey/396](https://www.crcna.org/survey/396)** to answer the survey questions by March 31.

Join us on **Saturday, April 4, 2026 (Easter weekend)** from **2 to 4 pm** at **Redeemer United Church** in Lacombe for another opportunity to sing with Christian men from all over central Alberta. We will come together, Lord willing, to sing Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, remembering Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. Invite your neighbours, colleagues, brothers, uncles, and friends to be part of this special time together. We invite and encourage women to enjoy the event via our YouTube livestream: www.youtube.com/@SingMenOfGod