

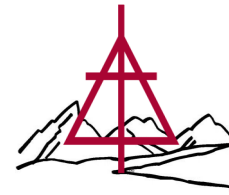
## Upcoming Events

September 8	Sept. 9	Sept. 10	Sept. 11	Sept. 12	Sept. 13	Sept. 14
10:00am Worship Service		Office: Josephine 7:30 pm Admin	8:30 am Prayer walk meet at tennis courts	12:00pm Bulletin deadline		
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		Office: Cheri-Lynn 7:30 pm Elders	8:30 am Prayer walk meet at tennis courts	12:00pm Bulletin deadline		

All bulletins can be found online [www.firstcrocky.ca](http://www.firstcrocky.ca)

Check out our Facebook page (@FirstCRC.RockyMtnHouse) or website ([firstcrocky.ca](http://firstcrocky.ca)) for links to sermons.

Thank you, for all you do!	September 8 Pastor Natasha	September 15 Pastor Ken	September 22 Pastor Ken
<b>Serving Elder</b>	Randy D.	Alan H.	Karl H.
<b>Serving Deacon</b>	Justin D.	Ken B.	Lorraine A.
<b>Music Team</b>	Mosaic	Lifted Hearts	The Experience
<b>Children's Message</b>	Joel S.	Corinne S.	Elroy L.
<b>Nursery</b>	Colleen T., Marie A., Marion R., Jonah D.	Janelle V., Corinne V., Sara D., Teslynn A.	Annette D., Rita B., Brenda B., Shanelle T.
<b>Summer Sunday School</b>	Corinne S.	TEACHER NEEDED HELPER NEEDED	Sunday School begins for ages 3 - Grade 5
<b>Coffee Host</b>	Logan & Jaylene V.	Alan & Jacqueline H.	Richard & Marlene D.
<b>Greeters/Coffee Cleanup</b>	Nic & Shi V. Jo-Ann D. & Arlyn D.	Rita B., Deb S. Aaron & Colleen T.	David & Stephanie C. Devon & Erin S.



## 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](mailto:kgdouma@gmail.com) 780.728.8148

Pastor Natasha Specht- [pastornatasha@rockycrc.ca](mailto:pastornatasha@rockycrc.ca) (Monday -Thursday)

Church Office: Tuesday — Friday 9:00am to 12:00pm [office@rockycrc.ca](mailto:office@rockycrc.ca)



### Morning Worship Service

Welcome

♪ Only A Holy God

Responsive Call to Worship

God's Greeting /We Welcome One Another

♪ God of Wonders/Holy, Holy, Holy

Preparatory for the Lord's Supper

♪ Jesus Strong & Kind

Children's Message - Joel S.

(Sunday School for ages 3 & 4)

Announcements & Congregational Prayer

Offering for Local Church Ministries

Offertory

Scripture - Exodus 24:9-11

Message - Lord's Covenant

♪ Your Will Be Done

Blessing

♪ My Friends May You Grow

## 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](http://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 **Memorial Presbyterian Church**.

† Congratulations to **Gloria D.** celebrating her birthday on September 11!

† Congratulations to **Case & Marlene K.** who will celebrate 55 years of marriage on September 12!

† 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 T., Seenie B.** and **Elly O.** 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.



**MEXICO:** Christians Face Expulsion and Extensive Property Loss

Sources: Christian Solidarity Worldwide, El Universal Oaxaca, Christian Daily

In November 2023, community leaders of San Isidro Arenal, a town located within Oaxaca State, mandated that Roman Catholicism will be the only religion permitted in their community. Following this decision, 13 evangelical families began to experience threats and violence from those opposing them. A month later, three of the families were forcibly expelled and took refuge in the Playa Vicente Municipality of Veracruz State.

On August 6th, the situation escalated when the families remaining in the community had their lands and livestock confiscated. The victims' homes and fields were destroyed, and their church building was set on fire. A group of four evangelical Christian leaders arrived at the community ten days later to provide needed assistance to those who were affected by the vandalism. However, upon their arrival, the visiting leaders were attacked by a mob, stripped, beaten and detained for over six hours.

Even anyone in the community who merely expresses support for the affected families is at risk of danger. On August 18th, Lucia Antonia, who is not a member of the church, was ordered to leave the community for demonstrating support for the victims.

The Roman Catholic archbishop of Oaxaca has distanced the Roman Catholic Church from the situation, denouncing "competition for parishioners" and stating that all people must respect each other. On August 20th, the secretary of the state government claimed that the issue had been addressed, denying the possibility that further violence and forced displacement could take place.

The next day, however, while most of the threatened community members were in meetings with state officials, their homes were looted and destroyed. Additionally, three women who remained in the community while the others attended the meeting were forcibly taken away, only to be left abandoned on a roadside a few hours away from their homes.

In tribal areas of Mexico, such as those located within Oaxaca State, aspects of Roman Catholicism have frequently been combined with traditional indigenous religions, resulting in a syncretistic religious system comprised of conflicting rituals and practices. Those who don't comply with the imposed tribal beliefs frequently face rejection from members of their communities.

***Pray that God will divinely intervene in this situation so that each one of these victimized villagers can rightfully retain their homes and possessions. In the meanwhile, as they await justice, may they be provided greatly needed practical assistance, comfort and protection. Ask the Lord to especially minister in spiritual ways throughout the region of Oaxaca State, strengthening the faith and community relations of His people despite the opposition they have endured. Ultimately, may peace, equity and harmony be restored so that the members of each tribal village can enjoy the benefits and blessings of a thriving community.***

## Thrive

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - The Bible teaches us that God is redeeming the world, reversing the effects of the fall into sin, and restoring every area that is infected by sin. God invites us to join in this redeeming work as people who have experienced God's love and grace (2 Cor. 5:17-21). One way we can join in is by reflecting God's hospitality, welcome, and love to the people around us. Consider someone at school or work who could use a friend. In what small ways can you show kindness and be a friend to the person God has placed on your heart? Brought to you by Thrive: [crcna.org/Thrive](http://crcna.org/Thrive)



*"It is wonderful that we may share in Christ's suffering; it is more wonderful still that He shares in ours. Truly His name is 'Emmanuel,' 'God With Us.'"*

~ John Stott ~

**PAKISTAN:** Christian Brothers Charged with Blasphemy  
Sources: British Asian Christian Association, Morning Star News

Shail Masih and his twin brother Rahil were celebrating at a village fair on August 26th. Along with many other community members, the 18-year-old Christian brothers went on a carnival ride and threw fake currency notes into the crowd. Unfortunately, it was discovered that some of the slips of paper thrown by the participants contained Quranic verses. It was assumed by those present that the young Christian men were the ones responsible, leading to the arrest of their mother and grandfather.

The arrested family members were released from custody when the twin brothers arrived at the police station. The complainant, Ghulam Mustafa, alleged that Shail and Rahil were making TikTok videos while throwing the scraps of paper. However, as the brothers are illiterate and come from an impoverished family, they would not have known what was written on any of the papers. One report suggests that either they or someone else may have inadvertently torn pages from a Quranic booklet.

The brothers have since been arrested and charged with blasphemy. While many blasphemy charges in Pakistan result from personal or business disputes, sometimes issues can arise as a result of ignorance or illiteracy.

***Pray that the truth will come to light in this legal case, so these unassuming young men can be released from custody. In the meantime, please remember their Christian family in your prayers, asking our Heavenly Father to provide His peace, strength and encouragement, as well as divine protection, while they deal with the aftermath of the accusations. May followers of Christ throughout Pakistan, who are frequently subjected to various forms of severe oppression because of their faith in Christ, continue to hold steadfastly onto their identity as children of God.***

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

### Upcoming Offerings

#### **September 8 - 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.

#### **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!"

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

### **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](mailto: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.

### **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!

### **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.

## 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](http://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.

## Church Announcements

**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.

**GriefShare 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 Jeannette S.

**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 H., Cailyn B. or Kelsey O.

**Church photo directory** Time has come to update the church photo directory . You will notice many changes as we look at the last directory made in 2020. The photographer is booked for **October 23-26. (NOTE DATE CHANGE)** We need 2 volunteers to assist with booking appointments with everyone in the congregation. To get your first pick of appointment time or volunteer to help please call Marlene K.

## Church Announcements Cont.

**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 Kranenburg, Rev. Ken Douma, Art Van Loo, and Daniel Harder 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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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](mailto:info@edudeo.com) for questions.

**Calling all Men – Nov 1-3<sup>rd</sup>**, 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](http://Frontierlodge.ca/sons-and-brothers). Don't miss it! Let Pastor Ken know if you are interested or if you have any questions.

## ReFrame Ministries

**Groundwork:** God's Presence With His People - God delights to dwell with his people, but he is holy and his presence cannot remain with unholy people. Join Groundwork as we study Ezekiel chapters 10, 11, and 36 to witness the painful consequences of Israel's unholy ways and hear the hope God offers even in the midst of those consequences. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**Kids Corner:** Church: We Belong to God - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). God brought all of us together so that we could be thankful for Jesus dying on the cross for our sins and to help each other live like him. The Church reminds us that we belong to God as part of his family. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like the Church in Action comic book.