


Upcoming Events

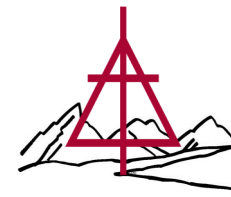
November 10	November 11	November 12	November 13	November 14	November 15	November 16
10:00am Worship Service Baptism - Theodore L. Sunday School Story Card #9 7:00pm Bible Study @ Church	Remembrance Day 7:00 pm No Friendship 	<i>Office: Cheri-Lynn</i> 9:30am Coffeek 7:30 pm Admin	8:30am Prayer meet- ing in prayer room 1-2:30pm Griefshare 7:00pm GEMS/Cadets 7:00pm Catechism	12:00pm Bulletin deadline 9:30 am Craft morning		4-5pm Family Swim at Pool
November 17	November 18	November 19	November 20	November 21	November 22	November 23
10:00am Warship service We celebrate Lord's Supper Sunday School card # 11 7:00pm Bible study @ Church	7:00 pm Friendship	<i>Office: Josephine</i> 9:30am Coffeek 1:00 pm Senior's Bible Study 7:30 pm Elders	8:30am Prayer meet- ing in prayer room 1-2:30pm Griefshare	12:00pm Bulletin deadline	12-7pm GEMS Fundraiser	

All bulletins can be found online www.firstcrocky.ca

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

HELPI NG HAND

Thank you, for all you do!	November 10	November 17	November 24
	Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken
Serving Elder	Anthony B.	Sheldon B.	Alan H.
Serving Deacon	Jim D.	Justin D.	Mark H.
Music Team	Mosaic	The Experience	Six Track
Children's Message	Pastor Natasha	Elroy L.	Corinne S.
Nursery	Marie A., Travis A. Justin & Mikala D.	Marion R., Corinne V. Annette D., Jonah D.	Janelle V., Brenda B. Marisa P., Teslynn A.
Coffee Host	Joel & Corinne S.	Randy & Annette D.	Albert & Sjoukje V.
Greeters/Coffee Cleanup	Brent & Carolyn A. Jerry & Lena F.	Thomas & Alyssa D. Don & Marion R.	Jamie & Rhianna M. Cody & Teagan L.



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

♫ Father of Lights
Beautiful Scandalous Night

Call to Worship

God's Greeting/We welcome one another
♫ We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise

Call to Confession & Prayer of Confession

♫ Encounter

Assurance

♫ Amazing Love

Baptism of Theodore Jacob Laut

♫ This is Amazing Grace

Children's Message - Pastor Natasha
Sunday School for ages 3 - Grade 5

Announcements & Congregational Prayer
Offering - Local Church Ministries (Ken B.)
Offertory

Scripture - Hebrews 9:1-15;10:1-14

Message - A Better Sacrifice

♫ My Jesus I Love Thee

Blessing

♫ Benediction

www.firstcrocky.ca

@FirstCRC.Rocky Mtn House on Facebook

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](#)

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 **Living Branches Community Church**.

† Please keep our former pastor **Len B.** and his family in your prayers this week as pastor Len's wife Nienke passed away last week. Pray for God to give His comfort and His peace as they walk this journey of grief together.

† Congratulations to **Seenie B.** as she celebrates a birthday **today** and to **Herb W.** who will celebrate his special day **Nov. 12**. May your year ahead be blessed!

† We pray for **Janelle V.** and **Margo d.** as they continue to recuperate at home following surgery, we pray for healing.

† 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. Pray for protection. In some countries, missionaries may be exposed to the possibility of danger and personal harm. Opposition to the gospel may include hatred and violence.

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.

Your 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.

Your Deacons are

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



"The greatest service, whatever your vocation, is to be your priestly intercession. God has ordained to work through the prayers of His people."

~ Wesley Duewel

The previous week's *Persecution & Prayer Alert* reported on an unusual case in which bail was granted to Saima Masih, a Christian woman who was accused of blasphemy in Pakistan. (Read the [previously published report](#).) While Saima has been freed from prison, she remains in danger from the avenging violence of militant vigilantes who are seeking to achieve what they falsely perceive as "justice." Remarkably, this past October, two similar blasphemy cases came before the Pakistani courts in which other accused Christians were also released on bail.

An ambulance driver and father of two named Chand Shamaun was arrested in June and charged with insulting Islam under the nation's anti-terrorism laws. However, a two-judge bench of the Lahore High Court ruled on October 10th that there were notable loopholes in the police case against the Christian man. First of all, no evidence had been gathered, and then the only "witness" was a known police informer who has frequently been involved in false cases. As a result, Chand was released from prison on October 23rd.

In a separate case, Zimran Asim was arrested in August 2023 and charged with three counts of blasphemy. However, Zimran's only "crime" had been his association with someone who was also accused of insulting the Islamic faith. This April and July, the Lahore High Court granted him bail for two of the three blasphemy convictions. Later, on October 30th, bail was given for the third and final conviction, resulting in his release. Once again, the judges ruled in this case that there was no evidence supporting the accusations against the Christian man.

While both Chand and Zimran are now able to be with their families, they have gone into hiding for their safety. According to Zimran's lawyer, Aneeqa Maria, his family had already fled the area after their home and all their possessions were taken by other villagers following the accused Christian's arrest. "Zimran Asim's case is a fitting example of how innocent people are implicated in false cases by individuals as well as the police," states Aneeqa. "This poor man was forced to suffer in prison, away from his family for over one year. They also lost their home and can't even think of going back to their village."

Under Pakistan's blasphemy laws, those found guilty are automatically sentenced to death, though the authorities have not yet carried out the death penalty for this crime. Unfortunately, these laws are frequently used to settle interpersonal disagreements, business disputes, or simply because of the accusers' hatred towards Christians and other religious minorities. For more details, see our [country report](#).

Praise God for the recent court decisions which have allowed these believers to be released from prison and reunited with their loved ones! Pray that the Lord will now divinely shelter Saima, Chand, Zimran – along with their families – from any further harm and harassment. May He also transform the legal system of Pakistan so that people will not be able to abuse the country's laws for personal reasons. Pray that lawmakers will reconsider the role of the blasphemy laws in Pakistani society and work towards ensuring better treatment for our Christian family in this South Asian nation.

Church Announcements

Tickets for U of A Chaplains' Festival of Lessons & Carols are available now! Start this Christmas in reverent reflection and anticipation on **Monday, December 2, 7:30 PM**. Join in this festive tradition heralding Advent and Christmas through lessons, anthems and carols! Thrill to the music of the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus and Handbell Ringers. Sing Christmas carols and hear scripture readings alongside hundreds of others - a wholesome night out, a genuine highlight. Tickets are \$25 (plus some admin fees) and can be purchased online from Winspear or by calling the Box Office at 780.428.1414

Paul's Missionary Journeys in Turkey & the Seven Churches of Revelation (May 27 - June 8, 2025)
Visit ancient sites connected with Paul's First, Second, and Third Missionary Journeys as well as the seven churches to whom John wrote the Book of Revelation. Join Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading biblical scholar, for this inspirational biblical tour. Contact Dr. Weima at weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

Dave Ramsey Financia Workshop

The Bethel 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, and 25th, 2025 from 9:00-3:00 pm. Registration is \$80.00 per participant (includes lunch on all three Saturdays, book and workbook, to register please [email bchurch2@shaw.ca](mailto:bchurch2@shaw.ca)

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:10, NIV). Today is the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. We take for granted that we can go to church each week and have the freedom to worship God. This week, pray for our siblings in Christ around the world who are persecuted for their faith. Throughout the week, say short prayers thanking God for your freedom, and pray steadfastly for believers who suffer persecution. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

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

Upcoming Offerings

November 10 - 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.

November 17 - Refugee Sponsorship

Gratefully Received Oct. 27- Nov. 3

Local Church Ministries **10,293.00** World Renew **1108.00**

E-transfers Received for October

Local church Ministries **7960.00**, Rehoboth **50.00**, Burden Bearers **200.00**, Lord's Foodbank **1100.00**
Canadian Foodgrains Bank **50.00**, Thrive **50.00**, Pregnancy Care Centre **1000.00**,
Wycliffe (Jonathan and Sara **1000.00**), Friendship **3000.00**

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.

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.

From the Treasurer

A summary of all donations received up to October 25 is in your mailbox. If there are any errors or omissions, please let me know (403.845.8924) Official donation receipts will be available in January. *Marlene O.*

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)

Full Council Highlights

Full Council met on Tuesday, October 29, it was a transition meeting, we said thank you to the outgoing elders & deacons and welcomed the new ones. Chair of council is Anthony B., Vice Chair - Joel S. and Clerk - Jessica H.. Updated District lists will be coming out shortly.

Classis Alberta North

Classis Alberta North is the regional assembly of all the Christian Reformed Churches from Red Deer in the south to Fairview and Fort McMurray in the north. On October 18 and 19, the Classis met in Lacombe, with the Wolf Creek Community Church serving as generous hosts.

This was a difficult meeting in which we faced the varied responses to the directives of Synod in matters relating to the Human Sexuality Report. The delegates spent considerable time in a conversation of disclosure, giving each other the opportunity to share how the decisions of Synod are affecting the life of the congregations, hearing our joys and griefs as brothers and sisters, now and as we move forward.

Classis was saddened by the release from Ministry in the Christian Reformed Church of two of our pastors, Peter Rockhold of New Life Fellowship in Red Deer, and Chad Vandervalk of Woody Nook in Lacombe. The delegates also grieved the dissolution of the Northern Alberta Diaconal Conference which has in the past been a wonderful resource to our deacons.

Of course, there were also celebrations. The delegates were reminded of the important work of the Student Support Committee which provides grants and encouragement to persons studying for ministry in the churches.

Our Home Missions Committee energized the delegates with their vision for church planting.

Pastor Ken Vis and four young adult leaders from various CRCs led in a discussion about ministry to young adults. This past spring they launched a website, www.TheLinkCommunity.ca, with the hope that this can be a tool that is used Classis-wide for young adults to connect what is going on in our churches.

This is just a quick summary. Please talk to your congregation's delegates to Classis for more information.

Gary Duthler, Stated Clerk of Classis

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 10 - Baptism of Theodore L.

Sunday, November 17 - Lord's Supper

Church Announcements

Updating the phone directory - if you have had a change in address or phone number (a cell number instead of a land line), or you would like to have a church mailbox, please contact Lena F. or the office.

Family Swim Night - Families are welcome to join us at the Rocky Aquatic Center for swimming fun on **Saturday, November 16 from 4 -5pm**. See you there!

Tired of cooking? GEMS are hosting a **Chili Dinner November 22, 5:00-7:00pm**. Drop by anytime throughout the 2 hours. Dinner is by donation. Feel free to contact Alyssa D. with any questions.

Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Operation Christmas Child delivers great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes. Each box packed full of quality toys, school supplies, and personal care items becomes a tangible expression of God's immense love for the child. For many, it is their first gift ever! Delivered by our local church partners, shoebox gifts provide an opportunity to present the Gospel to boys and girls in a clear, child-friendly way. There are some shoeboxes and labels on the table in the foyer. Get yours today! Bring your filled box to Living Branches Community Church the week of November 18-24.

Dunamis Essentials #1:Gateways to Empowered Ministry (The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit) you are invited to learn how to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit, the way that Jesus intended from the start. **November 21-23** at the Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton. Register before November 8. Brochures are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Pregnancy Care Centre would like to extend an invitation to join us for our **Annual Dessert Evening Fund-raiser on December 5th 2024**. This is a free event, but please register so we can ensure you and your guests are seated comfortably. For more information check poster on bulletin board in the hallway.

A Big Thank-You for the gift of being able to attend the Pastor-Spouse Retreat last weekend in Banff. It was a gift to be able to get away to such a beautiful place and to be able to connect with the other pastors and their spouses. We feel truly blessed. Pastor Ken and Sara and Pastor Natasha and John Paul.