

Upcoming Events

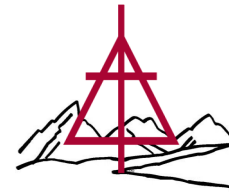
December 8	December 9	December 10	December 11	December 12	December 13	December 14
10:00am Worship service Potluck for hospitality groups after the service Sunday School story card #84 Youth at Albert and Sjoukje V.	11:30am Seniors meet in the sanctuary 12:00pm Seniors lunch in the social hall 3:00 pm Advent Bible Study at Bettie V. 7:00pm Friendship	Office: Cheri-Lynn 9:30am Coffeekbreak 7:30 Admin	8:30am Prayer meeting in prayer room 1-2:30pm Griefshare 7:00pm GEMS/Cadets 7:00pm Catechism 7:00pm Finance meeting	12:00pm Bulletin deadline 9:30am Craft Morning		
December 15	December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21
10:00am Worship service Youth Bible Study @ Harmen & Peggy H.	10:00am Advent Bible study at Bettie V. 7:00pm Friendship	Office: Cheri-Lynn 1:00pm Seniors Bible Study	8:30am Prayer meeting in prayer room 1pm Grief Share	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.

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Thank you, for all you do!	December 8	December 15	December 22
	Pastor Natasha	Pastor Ken	Pastor Ken
Serving Elder	Jessica H.	Alan H.	John M.
Serving Deacon	Ken B.	Peter B.	Jim D.
Music Team	Lifted Hearts	Mosaic	Six Track
Children's Message	Elroy L.	Pastor Natasha	No Children's Message
Nursery	Jacob & Jennifer L. Stephanie C., Caleb D.	Mark & Jessica H. Alyssa D., Chelsey B.	Justin & Courtney D., Sjoukje V., Miyah B.
Coffee Host	Peter & Josephine B.	Gordon & Bettie V.	Randy & Annette D.
Greeters/Coffee Cleanup	Peter & Trudy D. Doug & Karen D.	Ernie & Jeanette S. Glenn & Kari M.	Bill & Marilyn S. Ray & Audrey B.



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 We Have Heard on High

Children's Message - Elroy L.
Sunday School for ages 3 - Grade 5

Responsive Call to Worship

God's Greeting/We welcome One Another

♪ O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Announcements & Congregational Prayer
Offering - Mission Aviation Fellowship (Speaker)
Offertory

Advent Wreath Lighting - Ruth D., Ben D.

♪ Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Scripture - Genesis 3
Message - The Gift of Grace
♪ Blessed Assurance

Call to Confession & Prayer

♪ Emmanuel

Blessing

♪ Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Assurance of Pardon

♪ Lord You Have My Heart

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 **Nordegg Community Church**.

† December 18 please pray for **Cheryl T.** as she will be having eye surgery at the Royal Alex hospital that day. She will be staying in Edmonton with friends until after Christmas. A Merry Christmas to all!

† " Praise God! **Marilyn H.** has been given a surgery date of December 17 to fix her leg which was operated on in Sept. 2021 unsuccessfully. It is hoped that after the operation and a hospital stay of three to five days, she will be able to recover at home. Please pray for healing this time and for the hospital staff who will be involved. Our God is the ultimate healer.

† 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.



"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."

~ Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV

INDIA: Christians Banned from Eight Villages

On November 17th, the leaders of eight villages in Sukma, a district in the Indian state of Chhattisgarh, passed a joint resolution that prohibits Christians from staying in their communities. As a result of the decision, all Christian residents have been required to renounce their faith or leave. The order impacts around 100 believers, whose fields, properties and belongings were threatened with confiscation if they did not comply. One local chief who supported the decree claimed that the village council supersedes the Indian Constitution, thus negating any arguments about the believers' right to freedom of belief.

On the day after the ordinance was passed, some of the affected Christians went to the police station in Michwar. However, the officers refused to file a report about the situation. The believers then led the authorities to a field where a mob of at least 1,500 people were looting the Christians' crops. Despite witnessing the violent incident, the police refused to intervene.

After representatives from the Chhattisgarh Christian Forum approached the local authorities in Sukma, an official police report was finally filed. At last report, 40 Christian villagers from eight families have been forced to move due to the looting and are presently being housed within a church building in Michwar.

According to the United Christian Forum, there has been an increase in violence and discrimination against followers of Jesus in at least 23 of India's 28 states this year. For further reports on the persecution of Christians in India, as well as other ways in which you can pray for our suffering South Asian family in Christ, go to our [country profile](#).

Prayerfully uphold these recently displaced Christians, asking God to provide them needed protection, comfort and practical provisions as they cope with the loss of their homes, belongings and livelihoods. May the state authorities intervene in this situation, ensuring that reparations are made for all losses and damages sustained during the mob attacks. In general, pray that followers of Jesus throughout India will stand firm in their faith despite intense pressure, discrimination and oppression, enabling the ministry and witness of the church to continue

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 2: The Servant - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. This week, read the story of Mary in Luke 1:26-45. God had an important role for Mary. She responded, "I am the Lord's servant! Let it happen as you have said." Whatever God has for us to do, let our reply be the same as Mary's. No matter how young or old we are, God will give us everything we need to be a faithful servant. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Bible Story Podcast The Birth of Jesus.

Groundwork: Jesus: Our Mighty God - The prophet Isaiah next calls the coming Messiah "Mighty God." Join Groundwork as we explore Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 10:21, Acts 1:6-8, and Revelation 5:6,11-14 to discover what this title communicates to us about Jesus. Together, we'll discuss how his presence as a helpless baby displays the awesomeness of God's power and gives us hope as we anticipate his return. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - "Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel." This refrain from the beloved Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" calls us to rejoice—not because of our immediate circumstances but because of the promises we have in Jesus Christ. Ponder a few things that cause you to rejoice. Offer them up to God in gratitude. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

World Renew

Share Christ's Hope this Christmas - In two weeks, the global church will reflect on the hope that Christ's birth brings. But for people facing hunger, families in conflict zones, and communities that grapple with the effects of extreme weather, hope can seem lost. Through your World Renew offering, you can help renew hope for communities struggling with poverty, disaster, and injustice. Your gift will help World Renew equip communities with the resources and training needed, so they can move forward with faith in God's goodness—and his hope. To give a gift of hope, visit: worldrenew.ca/gifts or call 1-888-975-3769.

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

Upcoming Offerings

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.

December 15 - Wycliffe Bible Translators

Be part of what God is doing around the world in **Bible translation** by supporting **Wycliffe** missionaries. Join the mission and make an eternal impact.

Gratefully Received Nov 24 - Dec 1

Local Church Ministries \$37,247 Canadian Food Grains Bank \$2101

GEMS \$2672.25 Foodbank \$2948

E-transfers received for November

Local Church Ministries \$15,190 World Renew \$250 Refugee Sponsorship \$100

Canadian Food Grains Bank \$1700

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, 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.

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

World War II occurred in four distinct phases in the Netherlands:

- September 1939 to May 1940: After the war broke out, the Netherlands declared neutrality. The country was subsequently invaded and occupied.

May 1940 to June 1941: An economic boom caused by orders from Germany, combined with the "velvet glove" approach from [Arthur Seyss-Inquart](#), resulted in a comparatively mild occupation.

Church Announcements

Council of Delegates nomination needed.

We are grateful for Amy Nydam's service as our Classis representative on the Council of Delegates. Amy has recently resigned from that position, and we need to find a replacement.

The Council of Delegates (COD) is the governing board of the Christian Reformed Church. The COD is composed of members representing each classis in the denomination, and carries on the governance of the church between meetings of Synod.

To learn more about the COD and what is expected of its members click [here](https://www.crcna.org/welcome/governance/council-delegates) (<https://www.crcna.org/welcome/governance/council-delegates>).

If you know of a potential delegate or wish to put your own name forward, please contact Gary Duthler, Stated Clerk, at classisstatedclerk@gmail.com or 780-716-0845.

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>)

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.

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!

Pregnancy Care Centre

We're hiring a Centre Manager for our Rocky Mountain House location. If you or someone you know wants to join our team, this might be the time. We would appreciate it if you could help us spread the word about this unique opportunity. More information can be found on our website or check the info sheets on the bulletin board in the hallway.