

# City of God: St. Augustine's - Parkland

# NEWSLETTER

May 5, 2025



**Please donate your empty cardboard flats or used plant trays to the plant sale. They can be stacked in the coat track near the door. Thank you!**



**We are collecting books for the book table! If you have books to donate, please bring them to the church hall well before the sale on the 10th.**



# *This Weekend!*



Saturday, May 10, 2025

9:30 am – 1 pm

**FLOWERS A MOTHER WILL LOVE**

Hanging Baskets. A variety of planters. Individual geraniums, dahlias, begonias, and more.

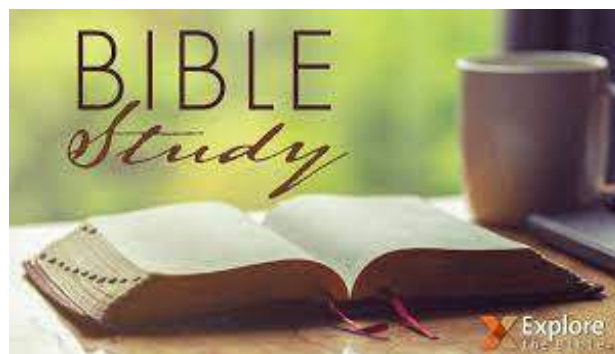
**CAR BOOT SALE**

Those who've registered will pull their vehicle into a stall, grab a table and display their treasures.

**Complete with a book table!**

*We'll have the BBQ fired up grilling hot dogs as well!*

*\* payment options: cash or cheque \**



## **Bible Study!**

Every Monday at 10:00 a.m. our weekly bible study will continue in the church hall. Each Monday the focus will be on the readings scheduled for the following Sunday. *(fun fact: this is often when Rev. Kevin & Aglaia come up with hymn selections for the service!)* The readings for upcoming service's are:

May 11 - Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

May 18 - Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 148, Revelation 21:1-6, John 13:31-35

May 25 - Acts 16:9-15, Psalm 67, Revelation 21:10, 22-22.5, John 14:23-29

# FRIDAY, MAY 9TH IS OUR NEXT COMMUNITY GAMES NIGHT!

On the 2nd friday of every month all are welcome to join us  
at St. Augustine's Parkland Anglican Church  
(131 Church Road, Spruce Grove)

Doors open at 6:30pm on a drop-in basis  
Please use the hall door closest to the parking lot.



ALL are welcome to come join in the fun so  
bring all of your friends!

Participants are encouraged to bring their favorite games,  
snacks, and beverages.

*Admission is **FREE** but Food Bank donations  
are encouraged and appreciated.*



### *What a Glorious Service!*

Yesterday we had the privilege of welcoming Miley and Makenna into the household of God, and we also got to hear Bill preach to us! It was truly a beautiful service to witness!





***Please remember in your prayers this week:***

- We pray for Acting Primate Anne, Metropolitan Greg, and Bishop Stephen. We also pray for our clergy, Rev. Kevin and Rev. Lesley.
- We pray for the Diocese of Brandon, for Immanuel, Wetaskiwin, for the Buyé Hospital Chaplaincy, for the Saddle Lake Cree Nation, and for the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean .
- We pray for those who are ill, injured, or bereaved; and for all who need God's healing presence, especially remembering Ann, Terry, Jill, Mel, Lorna, Robin, David, Roger, and Gloria.
- We pray for baptismal candidates Miley & Makenna as they prepare for their special service next week.
- We pray for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis
- In our own parish this week, we pray for Winnie, Bill & Judy, Amanda, Marie, Robert & Sharron; and their families.

***Please note: Submitted names will be kept on the prayer list for a period of two weeks unless intentionally renewed.***



# **Priests Craft Pink Stole to Honour Memory of Creative and Joyful Parkland Teen**

**By MARGARET GLIDDEN**  
**Edmonton Editor of 'The Messenger'**

*Help me if you can, I'm feeling down And I do appreciate you being 'round Help me get my feet back on the ground Won't you please, please help me? "Help" - Lennon-McCartney*

*Mullein. A delicate wildflower growing toward the sun. Mullein. A forever young daughter, sister and friend whose creativity knew no bounds. There is a joyful picture of Mullein springing up in a field of flowers, one arm raised above her head like she is dancing, a carefree smile spreading across her face. It is no wonder she was so loved by her mom Stephanie, dad Trevor, stepdad Nick, big brothers Hudson and Sawyer and little sister Brynja.*



*Baptized at St. Augustine-Parkland Anglican Church in Spruce Grove, Mullein Isabel Rosa Parko spread joy wherever she went. "Members of our parish family recall the joy of watching her dance around in Sunday school," says the Rev. Kevin Kraglund, rector of St. Augustine-Parkland.*

*But for some time, Mullein had been bullied by her peers at the school she attended in Spruce Grove. She kept her anguish hidden from those who were close to her until, on February 26, 2025, Pink Shirt Day -- when people are asked to wear pink, be kind to each other and stand up against bullying -- tragedy struck. The girl who had once filled every room and the aisles of her church with joy, took her own life.*

*During the aftermath of shock and grief, the Rev. Kevin Kraglund was invited by Mullein's family to preside at her funeral.*

*A self-described "traditionist" who had "never not worn a white stole for a funeral," Kraglund knew he wanted to wear a pink stole in honour of Mullein's life.*

*"Wearing pink," he says, "just seemed right." It was both Mullein's favourite colour and an opportunity to raise awareness for bullying and mental health.*

*"During Advent, we light a pink candle for joy," says Kraglund, which is so characteristic of Mullein.*

*St. Augustine-Parkland appealed to the Diocese of Edmonton clergy community, by way of an email from the Synod Office, for a pink stole. In her note of gratitude, Michelle Squance-Slade, office administrator, described the clergy community's response as "truly uplifting."*

*Kraglund took comfort in the many calls and emails of support he received. A priest in Camrose said she had a stole to lend, but was prevented by a March snowstorm from getting it to the St. Albert funeral home where Kraglund would lead the service for Mullein.*

*But the Holy Spirit was at work, and when the Very Rev. Alex Meek, dean of Edmonton and rector of All Saints' Cathedral; and the Rev. Robyn King, rector of All Saints', Drayton Valley and St. Paul's, Leduc; each read the email, they offered to sew a pink stole together.*

*"My heart broke for the family walking through this tragedy, and I recognized the weight that such a funeral would be for Kevin," said Meek who has three sons with husband the Rev. Dr. Canon Scott Sharman.*

*"I wanted to honour Mullein's life, and support Kevin and those who are grieving," says King who was happy to collaborate creatively with Meek.*

*King's own experiences of being bullied as a child, as well as supporting people and families who have been bullied, prompted her response.*

*"I know the pain and isolation bullying creates," she says, and "I thought a pink stole was a lovely way to hold both the hard truth of Mullein's death and, drawing on the liturgical use of pink vestments, the presence of God in hard times."*

*Both priests said it was important to support their colleague who was invited to care for the family through their grief.*

*"I wanted him to know that his work and sacrifice are recognized and supported," says Meek. "And I wanted Mullein's family to know that there is wider support for them, as well; that their story and their grief were being held in prayer."*

*To create the stole, King chose an accent fabric called "Flowers to the Sun," because it invokes "joy, movement, and made me think of music," she says. It was not until later that she learned of a profound connection between the name of the accent fabric and the meaning of Mullein's name.*

*"It was an act of the Holy Spirit, not intentional," she says.*

*Borrowing additional sewing supplies and equipment from the Patchwork Saints, Alex and Robyn spent an afternoon in the Cathedral Lounge cutting, crafting and sewing the asymmetrical print which, like Mullein, appears to be in constant motion.*

*"Spending time together and being able to use the space and tools at the cathedral was a gift," says King.*

*Kraglund was overjoyed to receive the gift of the pink vestment which, he says, will forever be known as the Mullein Stole, in honour of the young girl who touched so many lives.*

*Wearing Mullein's stole, Kraglund gave thanks to God for her life. She had loved the Beatles, and he incorporated lyrics and song titles from the Liverpool band's music into his sermon. In his message to Mullein's family, friends and St. Augustine's church community who filled the funeral chapel and reception hall, he emphasized the importance of seeking help and support when struggling with mental health issues.*

*Despite "strong efforts" to end bullying behaviours, the reality is that bullying persists today, says Shelby Loomis, a Registered Psychologist with the Cornerstone Counselling Centre in Edmonton.*

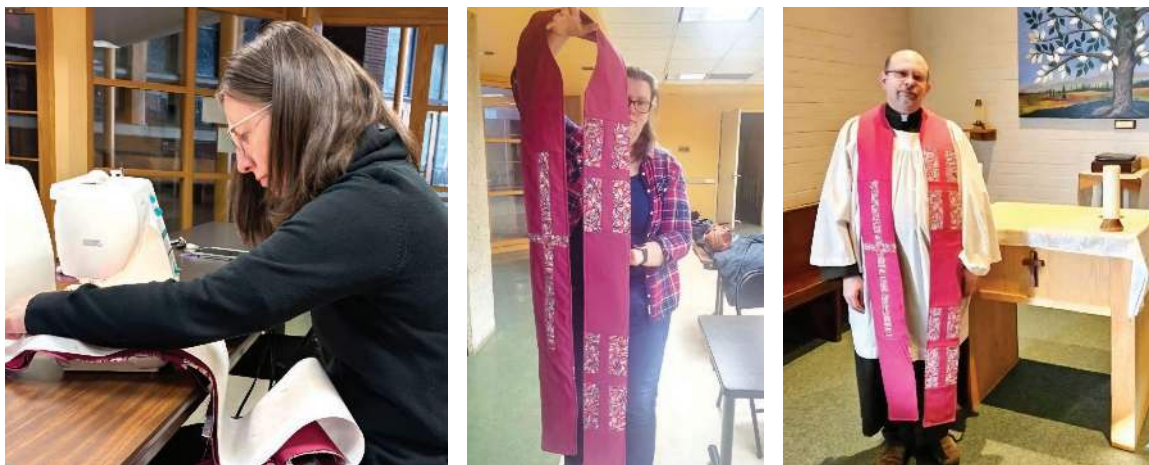
*Many social and biological factors contribute to bullying, and Loomis says adolescents often “lack the cognitive ability to see things from another person’s perspective... It can be hard for teens to fully understand someone else’s experience, evaluate the depth of their own actions/words, or to see beyond their own current situation. This is part of the reason why bullying continues to happen, and it can also be a reason why bullying affects teens so deeply. That is why anti-bullying initiatives are as important as ever; awareness does help to teach teens these skills,” she says.*

*When working with adolescent teens, Loomis says it is important that they know “you are not, and never will be, alone. There is always someone who cares about you.”*

*Kraglund, who is father to two teenage sons with his wife Brenda, presented the Mullein Stole to the St. Augustine’s congregation on March 30, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, which is known as Mothering Sunday in the United Kingdom. Going forward, he also intends to wear the pink stole on the third Sunday of Advent, and will provide a written description of the stole’s significance for the church’s sacristy.*

*Most importantly, the Mullein Stole is available for clergy in the Edmonton diocese to borrow should the need arise.*

*And whenever Mullein’s family sees an Anglican priest wearing a pink stole, or they hear a Beatles’ tune and feel an inexplicable urge to dance, it will be a reminder that she is with them. Forever dancing. Forever loved. Never to be forgotten.*



*From left: Alex Meek sewing the pink stole, Robyn King displaying the finished vestment; Kevin Kraglund wearing the Mullein Stole.*

## Rev. Kev’s Agenda:

Aside from the many regular recurring things that he does, this is what’s coming up in his calendar. Friday’s will be a regularly scheduled (& needed!) day off with the exception of pastoral emergencies and other important functions

- Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> – Regional Clericus Meeting
- Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> – Community Games Night
- Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> – Plant & Car Boot Sale
- Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> – Celebration of Life: Vi Holden

Rev. Kevin can be contacted by calling the church at 780-962-5131 or by email at [parklandpriest@gmail.com](mailto:parklandpriest@gmail.com). In pastoral emergencies he can be reached at 780-993-9985



## ***Tabernacle Candle:***

The candle was sponsored this week by Bill Courtis and family in memory of Linda (gone 18 years)



If you would like to sponsor the candle for \$10 in memory of a loved one (perhaps on a birthday, anniversary or other important date), please do let us know! We are not limited to one sponsor per week.

May 11th	· Judy & Bill Kesanko celebrating grandson Cameron's birthday
May 18th	· David Dunbar remembering his wonderful wife Paula on her birthday (May 19)
May 25th	· Jaden Eberhardt and Brenda Walker in loving memory of LeeAnn Walker
June 1st	· Bill Steinburg in loving memory of his mother, Mabel
June 8th	- Elizabeth Rushton remembering John on their Anniversary - Winnie Kennair in memory of John Eve.

# *Christian Basics Course with the Rev. Tim Chesterton*

June 2nd, June 9th, June 16th, and June 23rd (Monday evenings).

There is no fee but a free will offering basket will be out.

Christian Basics was originally designed as a four-week inquirers' course but has also proved very useful in renewing the faith of ordinary Christians and deepening their joy in the good news of Jesus.

The four presentations follow the content of the first four chapters of Chesterton's book *Starting at the Beginning*. After a session on the basic timeline of the biblical story, course participants will take a deep dive into the person of Jesus, looking at his life, death and resurrection and what they mean for us today. They will then examine the question, 'What is the Gospel and how do I respond to it?' Finally, they will look at the foundational habits that help Christians grow in their faith. These four presentations are supplemented with group discussion times, with opportunities for questions to be asked and considered.

Rev. Tim will have copies of his book available to purchase for \$10 but they are not required to participate in the course.

**Pre-registration is required. Contact the church office to register.**



The Synod for the Arctic is being brought to Edmonton in May.  
Would you please prayerfully consider volunteering to help with the children of the  
Clergy during sessions?

**Volunteers are needed for :**

**May 10th 8:30 am-3 pm**

**May 12th 8:30am- 5pm**

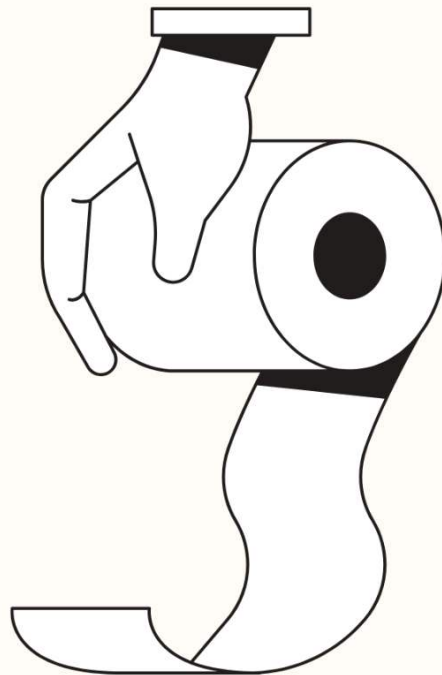
Please contact Shauna @ On Eagle's Wings Office, Tuesday - Friday  
if you are willing to take on this role.

Phone: 780-440-6594

email: [admin@oneagleswings.ca](mailto:admin@oneagleswings.ca)



## NeighbourLink is experiencing a Toilet Paper Shortage



Through the month of May, we'll be collecting toilet paper for our friends at NeighbourLink to have for clients in need. How many rolls can we collect?

Maybe 531 to match the May 31 end date?

*Thank you*



### ***You Are Invited!***

The Diocese of Edmonton is pleased to announce that the Executive Council has approved a diocesan workplan that will guide our actions as co-workers of God over the next 18 months. We are planning four great events for you to see the plan and know what we are doing.

The first is our Launch Party to reveal the plan and the logo. We will provide information about the plan, as well as live music and food.

What: Diocesan Workplan Launch Party

Where: Wildroots Coffeehouse at St Augustine of Canterbury Anglican Church, 6110 Fulton Rd NW, Edmonton, AB T6A 3T3.

When: Thursday, May 15, at 6 pm. RSVP by May 9 to

<https://synodoffice.breezechms.com/form/0872f8>

The other three events are Zoom meetings where you can hear members of the Executive Council present about the plan and answer questions.

What: Zoom Information Sessions about the Diocesan Workplan

Where: On Zoom. Find the link on our website – [edmonton.anglican.ca](http://edmonton.anglican.ca)

When:

- Thursday, May 22, 7pm: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87297688658>
- Saturday, May 24, 10am: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9398831523>
- Monday, May 26, 7pm: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89268082958>

# SAFE CHURCH UPDATES

NEW REQUIREMENTS &  
RISK CATEGORIES

2025

Criminal Record Checks (CRC), Vulnerable Sector Checks (VSC), & Safe Church training videos are renewable every 3 years.

EXTREMELY  
HIGH RISK

**REQUIRES CRC + VSC + VIDEO**

**WHO?** CLERGY; STAFF OR VOLUNTEERS  
WORKING WITH VULNERABLE PEOPLE; LONE  
PASTORAL VISITORS

**REQUIRES CRC + VIDEO**

**WHO?** NON-CLERGY STAFF; WARDENS; LAY  
READERS; TEAM PASTORAL VISITORS; ADULT  
SMALL GROUP LEADERS

HIGH RISK

MEDIUM  
RISK

**REQUIRES CRC**

**WHO?** TREASURER; OFFERING COUNTERS;  
ANYONE WITH ACCESS TO MONEY OR FINANCIAL  
FILES

**NO SCREENING**

**WHO?** VESTRY; ADULT GROUP LEADERS (LARGER  
GROUPS); SERVICE VOLUNTEERS (E.G. READERS,  
MUSICIANS); JANITORIAL STAFF

LOW RISK

FULL POLICY ON DIOCESAN  
WEBSITE:  
[HTTPS://EDMONTON.ANGLICAN.  
CA/PAGES/SAFE-CHURCH](https://edmonton.anglican.ca/pages/safe-church)

REV. LESLEY WILL CONTACT YOU  
WHEN YOUR RENEWAL IS DUE



### Our 2025 Vestry!

From left to right: *Robin Trowsdale, Terry Mernickle, Judy Kesanko, Tracy Shanmugam, Lenora Gwin, Nicole Richard, Hazel Wolfert, Randy Wolfert, Winnie Kennair*



### CHURCH BEAUTICIANS!

Joan and Marion - our faithful Church gardeners, preparing the flower beds for the summer.

*~ submitted by Bill Curtis ~*



**Important: Parkland County has moved to a FIRE BAN.**

**No outdoor fires are permitted until further notice, including screened fire pits, burn barrels/incinerators, recreational fire pits and charcoal briquette barbecues. Only gas and propane appliances such as barbecues, stoves and fire pits are allowed. All fire permits are suspended or cancelled, and no new fire permits will be issued.**

Learn more at [www.parklandcounty.com/FireHazard](http://www.parklandcounty.com/FireHazard).

## Upcoming events:

May 9th - 6:30pm Games Night

May 10th - 9:30am - 1pm Plant sale, Car boot sale, etc!

May 10th - 2pm Celebration of life for Vi Holden

