

St. Augustine's Sunday Service in the Woods
A Weekend of Faith, Fellowship, and God's Beautiful Creation

Each summer, the parish family of St. Augustine's Anglican Church in Ogden eagerly looks forward to one of its most cherished traditions, our annual Church Camping Weekend. This year's gathering, held from July 10–12, 2026, brought parishioners together at the beautiful River Cove Group Camp in Bragg Creek, just a 49-minute drive from northeast Calgary.

More than simply a camping trip, the weekend was a joyful celebration of faith, family, friendship, and the beauty of God's creation. From Friday afternoon through Sunday, parishioners of all ages embraced a time of rest, recreation, worship, and meaningful fellowship in the great outdoors.

The campground quickly came alive with laughter and excitement as children rode their bicycles along forest trails, explored the surrounding woods, and splashed in the refreshing cold waters of the nearby river. Families pitched their tents, parked their RVs, prepared shared meals, and warmly welcomed one another into a weekend filled with joy, hospitality, and community.

As evening settled over the campground on Friday, everyone gathered for a shared supper before coming together around the campfire. The night was filled with singing, storytelling, laughter, and the rhythmic beat of traditional Igorot gongs beneath a canopy of stars, celebrating both our Christian faith and our rich cultural heritage. One of the evening's highlights was a lively country music jam session with **Topyu**, whose music brought everyone together in song, dancing, and joyful fellowship.

Saturday offered another full day of outdoor adventure and relaxation. Children eagerly returned to the bike trails and river while adults enjoyed peaceful walks through the campground, visited with friends, and simply paused to appreciate the tranquility and beauty of God's creation. Throughout the day, the campsite echoed with cheerful conversations, bingo games, shared meals, and the warm spirit of Christian fellowship that has become the hallmark of St. Augustine's camping tradition.

The weekend reached its most meaningful moment on Sunday morning as campers gathered beneath the shade of towering trees for the celebration of the **Holy Eucharist**. Surrounded by the beauty of nature, the congregation worshipped together in an outdoor sanctuary where birdsong replaced church bells and the strong winds served as a constant reminder of God's presence among His people.

St. Augustine's Parish was deeply honoured to welcome **Rev. Charmaine Evans** of the Anglican Diocese of Calgary, who graciously celebrated the Holy Eucharist for the camping community. Her presence and ministry were a true blessing, reminding everyone that the Church is not confined within the walls of a building but flourishes wherever God's people gather in faith and love.

As prayers were offered, Scripture proclaimed, hymns sung, and Holy Communion shared beneath the open sky, the congregation experienced God's presence in a profound and tangible way. Creation itself became a sanctuary, bearing witness to the Creator's glory while strengthening the faith of all who gathered there.

The annual Church Camping Weekend continues to be one of St. Augustine's most treasured parish traditions. It is a time when families grow closer, friendships deepen, children create lifelong memories, and faith is renewed amid the peace and wonder of God's magnificent creation. It reminds us that Christian community is built not only within church walls but also around campfires, shared meals, joyful laughter, and worship offered beneath the open heavens.

St. Augustine's Parish extends its heartfelt gratitude to **Rev. Charmaine Evans** for leading our Sunday worship, to every volunteer who generously shared their time and talents throughout the weekend, to our musicians, **Douglas, Ruel, Rusty, Karen**, especially **Topyu**, for enriching our fellowship with music, and to every family whose presence and participation made this year's camping experience so joyful and memorable.

As the weekend drew to a close, tents were folded, campfires extinguished, and RVs slowly made their way home. Yet each family departed with far more than photographs or camping gear. We carried home hearts filled with gratitude, faith renewed through worship and fellowship, and treasured memories that will continue to inspire us long after the campsite has grown quiet.

Until next year's **St. Augustine's Church Camping Weekend**, may God continue to bless our parish family, strengthen the bonds that unite us, and keep us growing together in faith, hope, and love wherever He leads us.