



Newsletter September 2025

Welcome Back!

Christensen's Corner
September 2025

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2025/26 School year at St. Joseph. Last year we welcomed several new staff to our SJS family; Ms. Besplug, Ms. Kettle, Mrs. Vas, and Mrs. Thomsen all joined us in the fall of 2024. This year we will be welcoming Mrs. Crawford (grade 5) and Mrs. Ami Smith (grade 1) to our staff. We also have two intern teachers joining us in the fall. Mr. Fjordbotten will be working with Mr. Coupland and teaching some junior high science and Ms. Niemand will be working with Ms. Steinborn and will be teaching some junior high language arts. Please welcome all our new staff to SJS!

This year we start a new three year faith plan. The title for this 3-year plan is Open Wide the Doors! Sent to Share Christ's Love. This plan builds off of our previous 2 plans as well as the jubilee year of hope declared for 2025 by Pope Francis prior to his passing. In year 1 our focus is going to be to know God, by humbly walking with him. The primary scripture we will be using throughout the year is Mark 16:15, And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole of creation." I look forward to sharing more details about our school division faith plan in the upcoming months and I am excited to continue to grow in my faith with each of you and your families.

This is year two of four of our Holy Spirit School Division Board priorities. The four action based priorities are as follows: Strengthening our Catholic Faith, Living Truth and Reconciliation, Belonging in our Diverse Community, and Learning Through Quality Teaching. These four priorities will continue to drive our focus and our continuous improvement plan at St. Joseph School.

The staff of St. Joseph School is committed to bringing the faith plan and the division priorities to light in all that we do this year and we will continue to challenge our students to do the same.

Some items worth noting as we head into the new school year:

We have made some changes to our bell times. Starting in the fall we will go from 8:30am to 3:30pm on Monday to Thursday. We have also increased the length of our lunch break to provide students with more opportunities to play outside. Grade 1-3 students will eat in their classroom from 11:30am to 12pm and then play outside from 12pm to 12:30pm. Grade 4-6 students will play outside from 11:30am to 12pm and then eat in the gathering space from 12pm to 12:30pm. Grade 7-9 students will eat in the gathering space from 11:30am to 12pm and then go outside from 12pm to 12:30pm. Our Friday schedule will be from 8:30am to 12:20pm.

Our office will be open again beginning on Thursday August 21, 2025 with teachers back on August 25, 2025, the first day for students is September 2, 2025. For families who would like to come and meet the teacher, see the classroom, or drop off supplies prior to the first day of school we are offering two time slots for this. Please feel free to drop by between 9 and 10am or 1 and 2pm on Thursday August 28th. The office will be closed on August 29th as all Holy Spirit staff will be in Lethbridge at our Division opening mass with Bishop McGratten.

Looking forward to an amazing year at St. Joseph School,
Brent Christensen
Principal

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day No School for Staff and Students	2 First Day of School for students <i>welcome</i> BACK	3  <i>Grade 9 Trip to Waterton: Knights of Columbus Camp</i>	4	5 <i>Feast of St. Teresa of Calcutta</i>	6
7 <i>23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8 First Day of School for Kindergarten and ELP 	9	10	11	12 Jaguar Jamboree SV Girls Volleyball Tournament 	13 Jaguar Jamboree SV Boys Volleyball Tournament YOUTH LED MASS Kinsmen Picnic Shelter Outdoor Mass
14 <i>24th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	15	16	17	18 Opening Mass ALL are welcome! 8:45am-9:45am Welcome Back BBQ 5:00pm-7:00pm	19	20
21 <i>25th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	22	23	24 <i>Board Meeting</i>	25 Mass Grade 1-3 8:45am-9:30am <i>School Photos with Lifetouch</i> 	26 SJS Orange Shirt Day 	27
28 <i>26th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	29 <i>Feast of St. Michael</i> PD Day No School for Students	30 <i>National Day for Truth and Reconciliation</i> No School for Staff and Students				

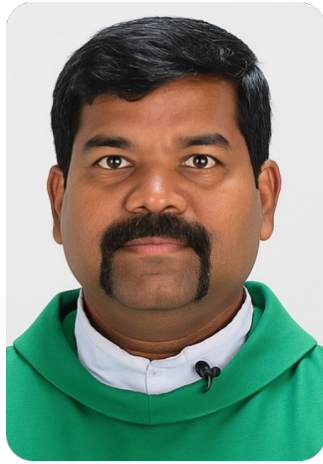
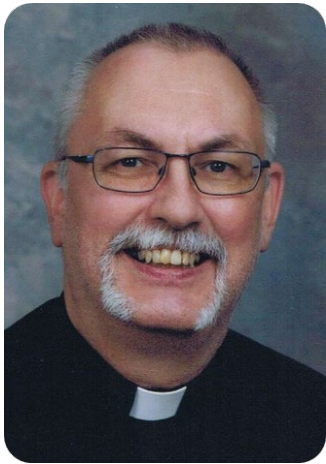


welcome

to another amazing school year
2025-2026

BLESSINGS & NEW BEGINNINGS

Let's keep Fr. Ian Gagne and Fr. Iqbal Khurshid in our prayers as they transition to their new pastoral appointments on August 1st. May they be blessed as they embark on this new chapter in their ministry—and warmly welcomed by their parish families.



With heartfelt gratitude, we bid farewell to our faithful shepherd, who has served St. Ambrose and St. Catherine's parishes since January 4, 2016. For over nine years, Fr. Ian has blessed our communities with his dedication, leadership, and uplifting ministry.

Well done, good and faithful servant. ~Matthew 25:21

Come and be part of our **Gratitude Celebration** on Saturday, June 28th at 12 noon. We will gather for a potluck lunch on the east side of the church, weather permitting. Please bring a salad or dessert to share and your lawn chairs. Let's celebrate Fr. Ian's impact, share memories, and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship. As he sets off for St. Anthony's in Drumheller and St. George in Hanna, let's send him forth with our prayers, blessings, and love.

At the same time, we await the arrival of Fr. Iqbal, who is currently serving at Holy Family Parish in Medicine Hat. We look forward to his leadership and spiritual guidance in the years ahead.

St. Ambrose Parish
1513 - 23 Avenue, Coaldale, AB T1M 1E2
website—www.stambroseparish.ca
email—office@stambroseparish.ca

St. Ambrose Mass Times

Mass

Sunday 9 am & 4 pm
Mon & Thur.....8:45 am
Tuesday..... 7 pm
Saturday 5 pm
(starting Aug 30th)

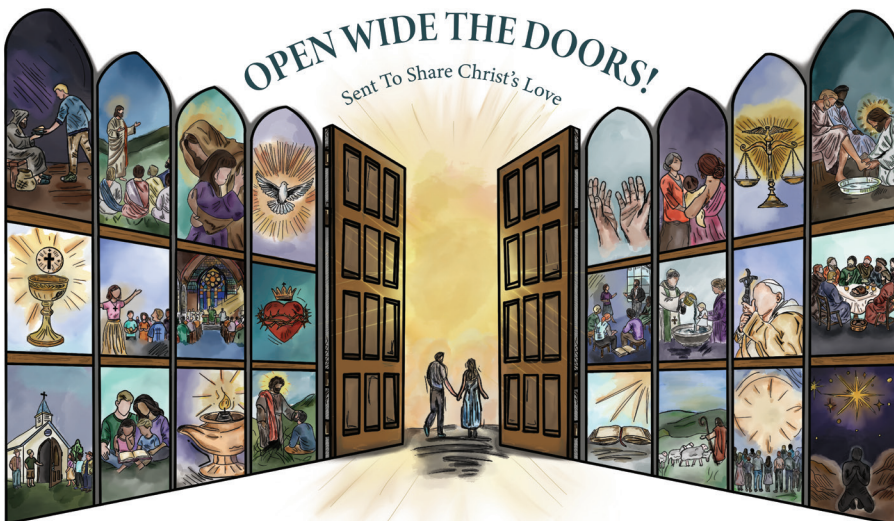
Adoration

Friday..... 7-8 pm
Reconciliation
Tuesday..... 6-6:45 pm
Friday..... 7-8 pm
Saturday3:30-4:30 pm
†

Sunny South Lodge

Mass—starting Sept.
1st & 3rd Thur at 2:30 pm

Pastor—Fr. Iqbal Khurshid: pastor@stambroseparish.ca
Deacon—Peter Lilienthal: deacon@stambroseparish.ca



Temporary Office Hours

Tuesday ... 9 am-4:30 pm
Thursday.. 9 am-4:30 pm
Friday..... 10 am-4:30 pm
Phone: 403-345-3400

After hours / emergency
Fr. Iqbal: 587-434-1937

September Athletic Report

As we usher in another school year, I am again looking forward to another year of our Jaguar athletic program. As always, we will be starting with Cross Country running and volleyball. I would like to encourage any student in grade 7-9 to sign up for the Cross Country team and have the opportunity to enjoy some running outside in September and October. If you are interested please touch base with Mr. Coupland or myself. All you will need for practice is a good pair of outdoor running shoes and some athletic clothing suitable for different weather conditions. The first practice will be on Tuesday, September 9th. I would also like to encourage any student in grade 6-9 to attend tryouts for our volleyball teams. Tryouts will occur the first week back to school on Wednesday and Thursday September 3rd and 4th as well as Monday, September 8th. Practices will start on Tuesday, September 9th for all the students who successfully made a team. For practice and game times please refer to the school athletic calendar found on our website under the banner heading "Co-Curricular Programs".

A big thank you to all of our coaches that have stepped up to help our St. Joseph athletes!

Mr. Coupland (Cross Country)

Mr. Fjordbotten, Ms. Niemand and Averie Frache (JV Girls Volleyball)

Mrs. Coles and Mrs. Abrey-McKeown (JV Boys Volleyball)

Mrs. Baron and Allison Koenig (SV Girls Volleyball)

Mr. Mulder (SV Boys Volleyball)

For any of our students who may not want to participate but still would like to be part of the athletic program, please connect with me to help with scorekeeping and other volunteer positions. The Parent Volleyball meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 10th at 4:15 in the Food's Lab, please plan on attending as there is important information for the upcoming season.

Finally, our Jagwear Online Store is up and running. To access the store, click on the following link Jagwear store. All information is found on the website. The SJS Jagwear online store is open and ready for business. If you go to the following link, you will be able to place an order for your Jagwear. The store will close on Oct. 10, 2025.

<https://st-josephfallstore2025.itemorder.com/shop/sale/>

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the school.

Sincerely,

Bruce Gal

Associate Principal

Back to School Bash

Grade 6-8

Date: Friday, September 5, 2025
Location: Lethbridge Corn Maze

Cost: \$7/ student
Time: 9:00am-11:30am

**Please bring snacks and
appropriate clothing,
sunscreen, etc.**





PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ST. JOSEPH

BACK TO SCHOOL

BARBEQUE



MENU

BURGERS
CHIPS
JUICE
WATER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH
5:00PM-7:00PM

FAMILY BLESSINGS AND MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT

EVENT SPONSORED BY FRIENDS OF ST. JOSEPH

FREE & FUN
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!



St. Ambrose Parish

Registration for 1st Reconciliation, 1st Communion
and Confirmation will take place in the gym.
Book fees are \$25 for each Sacrament



2025-2026 BELL TIMES
ELEMENTARY
Monday to Thursday



PERIOD	TIME
<i>Warning Bell</i>	<i>8:20AM</i>
<i>HOMEROOM</i>	<i>8:20AM-8:30AM</i>
Period 1	8:30AM-9:10AM
Period 2	9:10AM-9:50AM
<i>RECESS</i>	<i>9:50AM-10:05AM</i>
Period 3	10:05AM-10:50AM
Period 4	10:50AM-11:30AM
<i>LUNCH</i>	<i>11:30AM-12:00PM</i> <i>Gr. 1-3 EAT</i>
<i>LUNCH</i>	<i>12:00PM-12:30PM</i> <i>Gr. 4-6 EAT</i>
Period 5	12:30PM-1:10PM
Period 6	1:10PM-1:50PM
<i>RECESS</i>	<i>1:50PM-2:05PM</i>
Period 7	2:05PM-2:50PM
Period 8	2:50PM-3:30PM



2025-2026 BELL TIMES
JUNIOR HIGH
Monday to Thursday



PERIOD	TIME
<i>Warning Bell</i>	<i>8:20AM</i>
<i>HOMEROOM</i>	<i>8:20AM-8:30AM</i>
Period 1	8:30AM-9:13AM
Period 2	9:15AM-9:55AM
Period 3	10:05AM-10:43AM
Period 4	10:45AM-11:30AM
<i>LUNCH</i>	<i>11:30AM-12:30PM</i>
Period 5	12:30PM-1:13PM
Period 6	1:15PM-1:55PM
Period 7	2:05PM-2:43PM
Period 8	2:45PM-3:30PM



2025-2026 BELL TIMES
ELEMENTARY
Friday



PERIOD	TIME
<i>Warning Bell</i>	<i>8:20AM</i>
<i>HOMEROOM</i>	<i>8:20AM-8:30AM</i>
Period 1	8:30AM-9:05AM
Period 2	9:05AM-9:40AM
Period 3	9:40AM-10:15AM
<i>RECESS</i>	<i>10:15AM-10:30AM</i>
Period 4	10:30AM-11:10AM
Period 5	11:10AM-11:45AM
Period 6	11:45AM-12:20PM



2025-2026 BELL TIMES
JUNIOR HIGH
Friday



PERIOD	TIME
<i>Warning Bell</i>	<i>8:20AM</i>
<i>HOMEROOM</i>	<i>8:20AM-8:30AM</i>
Period 1	8:30AM-9:13AM
Period 2	9:15AM-10:00AM
Period 3	10:10AM-10:48AM
Period 4	10:50AM-11:33AM
Period 5	11:35AM-12:20PM



NOTICE TO PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF RELIGIOUS PERMEATION

Section 58.1 of the *Education Act* requires a school board to give notice to a parent or guardian when courses of study, education programs, institutional materials, instruction or exercises include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion. All of the schools in this division are Catholic Separate Schools, the essential purpose of which is to fully permeate Catholic theology, philosophy, practices and beliefs, the principles of the Gospel and teachings of the Catholic Church, in all aspects of school life, including in the curriculum of every subject taught, both in and outside of formal religion classes, celebrations and exercises. Every course of study and educational program, all institutional materials, instruction and exercises will at all times include subject matter that deals primarily and explicitly with religion.



FAIR NOTICE LETTER

Dear Parents / Guardians,

The Holy Spirit Catholic School Division is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, principals use progressive discipline to help a student take responsibility for their actions, change their behavior and learn from their mistakes.

When students' behaviors pose a potential threat to safety or serious harm, the Southwest Alberta Regional Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol assists administrators in taking the necessary steps to protect the well-being of students and staff. This protocol ensures that schools can respond promptly to worrisome behaviors or threatening incidents, such as possession of a weapon or replica, bomb threats or plans, verbal, written, or electronic (internet, text) threats to harm oneself or others, as well as other acts of violence, including fire-setting.

The protocol requires trained division staff and community partners to work together as a team to complete an Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO) whenever a student threatens to harm others. The ARTO process leverages the team's knowledge, skills, and experience to assess the level of concern and identify appropriate interventions to protect individuals from harm and ensure a safe environment in both the school and the community. A multi-disciplinary approach is used to address these concerns. Please be advised that the school team will take positive and proactive measures to address all known threats or high-risk behaviors. If you are invited to a meeting to discuss safety concerns about your child, please be assured that our protocol is being followed and that our primary goal is ensuring safety.

The Southwest Alberta Regional VTRA Protocol outlines how a school should respond immediately to threatening behavior. Principals may first assemble a School Threat Assessment Team, ideally comprising the principal or associate principal, a school-based counselor or jurisdictional lead, and local police. If the situation is serious, the principal may also consult the Superintendent of Schools and involve members of the Community Threat Assessment Team. This team may include representatives from local police, children's mental health organizations, or Child and Family Services, among other community agencies that collaborate with us to enhance school safety. Parents/guardians will be notified as soon as possible during the Stage I - VTRA Process. If parents/guardians cannot be reached, but a safety concern persists, the threat assessment may proceed. Personal information shared during this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure everyone's safety.

This letter complies with procedure 2 of *Administrative Procedure 322: Violence Threat / Risk Assessment (V-TRA) Protocol*, which states that parents/ guardians will be provided with "fair notice" that each threat will be taken seriously. Should you wish to further review this Administrative Procedure, please visit our website at www.holyspirit.ab.ca.

If you have any questions regarding the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division's use of the Southwest Alberta Regional V-TRA Protocol, please contact the Director of Support Services at the St. Basil Catholic Education Centre. We appreciate your support in ensuring our schools are safe environments for our students, staff and community partners.

Sincerely,

Chantel Axani, Superintendent of Schools

HOLY SPIRIT SC & SJ 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Aug 25 First day for staff
Aug 29 Opening Mass

O – 5
I – 0

AUGUST '25						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER '25

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Sept 1 Labour Day
Sept 2 First day for students
Sept 24 Div. Board Meeting
Sept 29 Div. PD Day
Sept 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

O – 20 (25)
I – 19 (19)

Oct 13 Thanksgiving Day
Oct 14 Spiritual Dev. Day
Oct 15 Div. Collaboration Day
Oct 29 Div. Board Meeting

O – 22 (47)
I – 20 (39)

OCTOBER '25						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER '25

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Nov 7 School PD Day
Nov 10 Wellness Day
Nov 11 Remembrance Day
Nov 26 Div. Board Meeting

O – 18 (65)
I – 17 (56)

Dec 17 Div. Board Meeting
Dec 19 Last day before break
Dec 20-31 Christmas break
Dec 25 Christmas Day
Dec 26 Boxing Day

O – 15 (80)
I – 15 (71)

DECEMBER '25						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JANUARY '26

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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Jan 1 New Year's Day
Jan 2-4 Christmas break
Jan 5 First day after break
Jan 26 School PD Day
Jan 28 Div. Board Meeting

O – 20 (100)
I – 19 (90)

Feb 16 Family Day
Feb 17 & 18 Non-operational Days
Feb 19 & 20 SWATCA
Feb 25 Div. Board Meeting

O – 17 (117)
I – 15 (105)

FEBRUARY '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH '26

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Mar 13 Div. Collab Day
Mar 25 Div. Board Meeting

O – 22 (139)
I – 21 (126)

Apr 2 Last day before Easter break
Apr 3 Good Friday
Apr 6 Easter Monday
Apr 7-10 Easter break
Apr 13 First day after break
Apr 22 Div. Board Meeting

O – 16 (155)
I – 16 (142)

APRIL '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY '26

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

May 15 School PD Day
May 18 Victoria Day
May 27 Div. Board Meeting

O – 20 (175)
I – 19 (161)

Jun 24 Div. Board Meeting
Jun 25 Last day students
Jun 26 Last day for teachers

O – 20 (195)
I – 19 (180)

JUNE '26						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

JULY '26

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

No students
Stat Holidays
School PD/Div. PD/Spiritual Dev./Collab. Days
Div. Board Meetings
First and last days for students
First and last days for teachers



2025 *LCBC IGNITE!*

Lethbridge Cougars Basketball Club

FALL PROGRAM SIGNUP

- IF YOU ARE IN GRADE 4-7, ENROLLED AT A HOLY SPIRIT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, YOU ARE INVITED TO BE A PART OF *"LCBC Ignite!"*
- *LCBC'S FALL DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM*
- **Program Includes:** Skill Development & Exhibition Games
- **LOCATION:** *Ecole St. Mary's: 422-20th Street South*

Grade 4-5 CO-ED (6 sessions) WEEKLY ON MONDAYS scheduled at 5:00-6:15 OR 6:15-7:30 (will change week to week)	PROGRAM RUNS: September 8-October 27, 2025 (not including September 29 & October 13)
Grade 6-7 BOYS (6 sessions) WEEKLY ON TUESDAYS scheduled at 5:30-6:45 OR 6:45-8:00 (will change week to week)	PROGRAM RUNS: September 9-October 28, 2025 (not including September 30 & October 14)
Grade 6-7 GIRLS (7 sessions) WEEKLY ON WEDNESDAYS scheduled at 6:30-8:00pm	PROGRAM RUNS: September 10-October 29, 2025 (not including October 15)

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR *"LCBC Ignite!"* PROGRAM:

- PLEASE ARRIVE **5 MINUTES** EARLY
- BRING PROPER COURT SHOES, SHORTS, & WATER BOTTLE.
- *"LCBC Ignite!"* T-shirt (included in \$100 program fee)
- EVERYONE IN GRADE 4 -7 FROM HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOLS ARE WELCOME
- **ONLY 40 SPOTS/PROGRAM AVAILABLE ! REGISTER FAST**→ lethbridgecougars.ca or Scan Qr Code. Deadline to Register: Friday, September 5th or until spots are filled
- CONTACT lethbridgecougarsbasketball@gmail.com for more information
- **TeamLinkt App will be used for schedule.**



Building foundations and inspiring athletes to excellence on and off the court.





LETHBRIDGE BOOK & MAGAZINE FESTIVAL

15TH ANNIVERSARY

September 20, 2025 | 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Lethbridge Public Library - Main Branch

Featuring Authors

Linda Bailey | Crave Bakery | Maggie Helwig
Ryan North | Jessica Waite | Kevin Van Tighem |
and more!

Live Music | Food Trucks | Workshops | Author Signings | Marketplace

Celebrating Reading. Advocating Literacy.

For full events details visit thewordonthestreet.ca/lethbridge



CONNECTING
YOU

