



From the Rector's Desk: A Season of Resurrection

Dear Gathering Table Family,

Our long winter has finally retreated, and the world around us is awakening. We see it in the lengthening days, the return of the birds, and the first buds on the trees. Here in our corner of the world, we hear it in the roar of high-water gushing over the falls and see it in the rivers rising toward their banks.

It is no coincidence that this natural awakening aligns with our Easter season. The common thread is unmistakable: the promise of **resurrection life**. Resurrection promises us a fresh start, freedom from what is behind us, and the potential for new fruitfulness.

The Vision of a Healthy Parish

Recently, I have been preaching about what makes a healthy and vital parish. My heart's desire is that we continually strive to be a "salt and light" church. This means remaining deeply devoted to the essentials:

- Discipleship and Teaching
- Fellowship
- The Breaking of Bread and Sacramental Life
- Constant, Empowering Prayer

As we commit to growing together, we share our unique gifts and train one another. We grow personally so that we are free to love and serve in the specific ways God has called us. While Gathering Table is doing well, we cannot stay stationary. We must continue to grow in love and effectiveness, challenging ourselves to go higher.

View yourself as limitless. **Dream big**. Step over the obstacles, remembering that holy risk requires faith. After the resurrection, Jesus' first words to His disciples were, "*Peace be with you,*" followed quickly by, "*As the Father sent me, so send I you.*" In other words: **Be at peace—then get out there and do the work of God.**

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Signs of New Life Among Us

I have every confidence that we will maintain our momentum through the power of the Holy Spirit and the gifted people God has connected to this parish. Everywhere I look, I see signs of resurrection life:

- **Learning together:** Many of us engaged deeply in our Lenten Study of *Hunger for Righteousness*.
- **Spiritual Growth:** Our Lay Readers participated in the Deanery Lenten retreat, and we have just launched a new Adult Confirmation class.
- **Milestones of Faith:** Through the *Life in the Eucharist* class, we celebrated Evelyn, Toby, and Rory receiving their first communion, as well as a beautiful baptism of John Kirchen on Easter Sunday.
- **Community Impact:** Our Food Cupboard leader, **Sharon Sparkes**, was recently recognized as a "Hometown Hero" for her incredible 20 years of volunteerism.
- **Connection:** Our Tuesday afternoon study group is beginning a new journey together through *The Chosen* television series.
- **Compassion:** The overwhelming support shown to Alex Kostecki following the loss of his dear wife, Sylvia—filling our church to overflowing—was a powerful testament to our love for one another.
- **Sending Forth:** On Easter Sunday, we sent off our Huron Seminary student, Sandy Drindak, with a flood of prayers, hugs, and gifts. Like many of you, I am still adjusting to her absence. I am profoundly thankful to God for providing such a gifted leader-in-training, especially during the time when my own health was a challenge.



Looking Ahead

As we move toward summer, my prayer is that we enjoy every opportunity the warmer weather affords. While we rest and recreate, let us remain focused on deepening our love for God, our care for each other, and the service to which He calls us.

With peace and confidence,

Your Rector

Rev Ann Camber





Wardens Spring Message

Although there were some white flakes as we pen this spring message, the tulips in the side garden are getting ready for their display. If you have cleaned the leaves from your home garden new plants are emerging and the earth is renewing and preparing for the return of summer.

What a joy it was to have Sandi Drindak, our Huron student, with us at such an opportune time. She immersed herself fully in the worship and ministries of Gathering Table and we can't thank her enough for all she gave of herself to us. Please take time to read the thank you note she sent to the congregation which is on the welcome board inside the parking lot entrance. She has returned to her home parish at St. Michaels in Thunder Bay and I'm sure she will relay many fond memories of her Gathering Table adventures to her friends and colleagues there.

As we enter into the summer months we encourage those cottagers who may not be on the EOP (Electronic Offering Program) which automatically deducts your regular church offering to consider enrolment. Currently we receive a little over 50% of offerings this way and it allows cash flow to remain consistent through the summer when people might not attend regularly. Anyone can donate through the EOP. Simply fill in the form available at the back of the Church. The form also allows donations to any and all Gathering Table's ministries as you wish and the form can be modified at any time.

Plans are underway for a Parish Picnic on Sunday June 7th and a "Dinner Church" which we hope to announce some time in May. There will also be a Parish Weekend at Camp Gitchigomee some time in August where you can stay for the weekend, an overnight, an afternoon or just visit for a few hours of fellowship and relaxation on beautiful Sandstone Lake. Swimming, canoeing, fishing, exploring and sunbathing can all be enjoyed with your Church family.

Recently we hired Adapt, our snow removal company, to clean up the winter encampment on the south side of the Gathering Hall. They did a great job of cleaning up the site which had a broken tv, old sewing machine, basketball net discarded clothing and plenty of garbage.

As we have now completed the first quarter of the year, we find ourselves in a fragile financial state coming into the summer months where attendance generally drops off. Our accounts (St. Johns rectory and St. Lukes Church and rectory sales) held in the Diocesan Consolidated Fund have returned to us a paltry amount of interest. We are seeking an answer to the figures we have been given but if the figures hold true, we will be unable to pay back the "loan" from the Church Investment Fund. This will result in the fund being substantially decreased.

We always thank parishioners and visitors for the treasure, talent and time so freely offered to and for the ministries of Gathering Table. As a congregation we must always show the love of God and his beloved Son in our actions, worship and acceptance of all in our midst.

Your Wardens,
Audrey, Brenda, David, Murray



Age Friendly
THUNDER BAY

A Great Community for Seniors

agefriendlythunderbay.ca

Age Friendly is a circle of community partners devoted to helping older adults in Thunder Bay thrive—supporting independence, nurturing connections, and enhancing the comfort, safety, and joy of aging in place.

If you'd like a presentation email: seniors@agefriendlythunderbay.ca



Altar Guild News

A most unusual past couple of months for the Altar Guild and our services. Everything organized and ready for Ash Wednesday. A Blizzard! Imposition of Ashes held on the following Sunday.

Into Holy Week: A lovely Palm Sunday service with the procession of children and adults waving the green palms when parading or from the pews. A nice addition to the service.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday proceed smoothly with some willing extra helpers.

The Guild and church was all set to welcome deanery guests to the Holy Saturday evening service. Good grief, an all day blizzard which prevented people from getting out of their driveways to attend. We'll try again next year.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Easter flowers. It made for a beautiful display of spring flowers for up to three weeks.

The Altar Guild now begins a fairly quiet time of year. Upcoming special services include Red Dress Sunday May 3, Pentecost Sunday with balloons May 31, and National Indigenous Day of Prayer June 21.

Our summer planning meeting is on June 2 at Maple Crest Towers.

Thank you Rev. Ann for guiding us through another year of services.

Erminie Reid and Marg Boone co-chairs, Rose Jardine, Lisa Long, Audrey Love, Elaine McKinnon and Cyndi Roy - Treasurer.



*Stuart Chisholm
playing the
organ for a
Sunday service*



Children and Youth Ministry

Sunday School Teacher –
Ellen Teahan

Children are important at Gathering Table. Ellen carefully prepares a lesson each week for the children who attend church. Lessons are based on the revised common lectionary readings. A mixture of teaching, crafts, and songs are part of the curriculum.

In addition Children's sermons are held each week during Sunday worship. Huron student, Sandy Drindak, handled that aspect until Easter as part of her training.

Life in the Eucharist Classes with 3 children were held from fall until on Sunday March 1 when Evelyn, Toby and Rory received their first communion in a special service.

Their parents and the parish promised to continue to support these children in their growth in faith looking toward the day they come before the bishop for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Good Friday was a special day with a dedicated family service in the morning. 19 adults and children gathered and shared a short service remembering Jesus' death and sacrifice followed by creating Easter Gardens (a first for Sandy) and yummy homemade hot cross buns.

Thank you to Sarah Pyne and Sheila Chisholm for your help with this service. Sunday School will continue until June 7 when we have our annual indoor Sunday School picnic and camping Sunday.

During the summer season we will have craft materials and puzzles available in the church for the children to use either at the back of the church or in the side room.

Thank you parents for your support and for your dedication in raising up your beautiful children in the love of the Lord. We love to have children in church. They are an important part of our family as a parish.

Rev Ann



Prayer Requests

Phili. 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in every-thing by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made know to God, and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Urgent Prayer Requests

Call the church office or contact Rev Ann (807-285-9865, rector@gatheringtable.ca), or call Frances Sutton at 807-622-6263. email prayerchain@gatheringtable.ca

Sunday Prayer

Personal prayer is available after each Sunday Service, let Rev. Ann or one of the Lay Readers know that you would like *Intercessory prayer* that day, and come to one of the front pews after the service ends.

Each Sunday, you can add prayer request to the list at the back of the church. Look for the blue bowl and the iron cross. The Lay Reader will add those prayers during the prayers of the people. If you wish, you can put a glass pebble into the basket to represent a prayer for yourself, or some else or the world.



Brenda O'Neill is your contact for this Ministry

(brendaoneill@shaw.ca).

If you feel the call to knit/crochet the prayer shawls or if there is someone you know who would benefit from one, please let Brenda know.



Alongside Hope

Anglicans and partners working for change
in Canada and around the world

Alongside Hope works in countries around the world where needs are greatest.

It supports projects in Canada and around the world in collaboration with local partners who understand the cultural, social, economic and political contexts of the communities and people they serve. This knowledge is invaluable for designing and implementing programs that respond to the specific challenges community members encounter. Some of the specific projects that Alongside Hope is involved in are the following:

On Oct.28, 2025 **Hurricane Melissa** made landfall in Jamaica causing massive destruction. You can donate to the **Jamaica Emergency Appeal**. Give online, by phone or by mailing a cheque to Alongside Hope and indicate "Jamaica" in the memo field.

You can support Alongside Hope's **2026 solar suitcase campaign** bringing light and safe childbirth to 25 clinics in Mozambique.

The **Gaza and West Bank Emergency Fund** is looking for donations. You can go online, phone or send a cheque with "Gaza / West Bank" in the memo field.

With **Ukraine Relief Efforts** your gift will help Ukrainians who have been forced to flee or who need assistance in their homes.

Your gifts to Alongside Hope and its partners serve vulnerable people around the world. Undesignated donations to Alongside Hope give the flexibility to allocate funds where they are needed most.

Donations can be made online at alongsidehope.org

by calling toll free 1-866-308-7973

or by mailing a cheque to

80 Hayden St. 3rd floor,
Toronto, On M4Y 3G2.

Linda Rintamaki (rep)



Mission to Seafarers

It's been a busy time for the volunteers with the Mission to Seafarers.

On April 17, 2026, the well attended fund raising supper took place. This year's excellent presentation highlighted the development of the elevators that we all see at the port.

The orders are now in for this year's meat sale and the items will be available May 13.

Thanks to everyone who supported this mission through their participation in these two annual fundraisers as well as those who support this important mission throughout the year.

Looking ahead, the Blessing of the Fleet will be on June 20, 2026. Plan to support this event either by attending and observing the service or by participating with a boat in the procession.

Another busy season of shipping is anticipated for the Port of Thunder Bay.

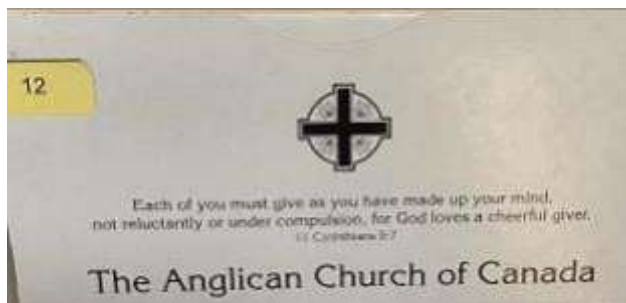
If you are interested in volunteering as a driver, watch keeper etc. please let me know (mboone@tbaytel.net 807-345-2184)

Margaret Boone, parish representative.



Ways to make Church Donations

- Use the envelopes at the back of the church – pick up the box number you have been assigned or if you are new, there boxes you can choose and sign for.



- Use the envelopes next to the Treasure Box!
- Sign up for EOP located at the back of the church.

Etransfer to: office@gatheringtable.ca
 etransfer password = Church

DONOR REGISTRATION/AMENDMENT FORM
 Electronic Offering Program

Name: _____ Parish: _____
 Treasurer: _____ Fax: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City/Town: _____ Postal Code: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

On the 15th of _____ give _____
 (month) _____
 direct mailed by electronic offering
 mailed mailed direct

My monthly donation will be as follows:

Parish Operating Fund	\$ _____
Parish Property-Building Fund	\$ _____
Special _____	\$ _____

Other church activities you may wish to contribute to:

Anglican Mission Service Committee	\$ _____
Camp Gethsemane	\$ _____
Camp Marston	\$ _____
Camp Tevinkling	\$ _____
Mission to Seafarers	\$ _____
Prisons World Relief & Development Fund	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

PLEASE ATTACH A VOIDED CHEQUE

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please fill in this form and put on the collection plate at your church or give to your church office or mail to the Diocese of Algoma office.

Diocese of Algoma—Electronic Offering Program
 819 Wellington St East
 Sault Ste. Marie ON P6A 2S8



Screening in Faith

Consider volunteering as a Gathering Table Greeter

In this role, you help establish a welcoming tone for the worship experience by offering a friendly greeting and providing assistance as needed. You may also support newcomers by answering basic questions to help them feel comfortable and better understand the service. By extending a genuine welcome upon arrival, greeters reflect the heart of the church and the love of Christ, helping both parishioners and visitors begin worship with a sense of hospitality and care.

Mary Ripley, Screening in Faith



Help Needed to Transfer Old Archives

Are you or someone in your family driving To or Through Sault Ste. Marie between May and October?

Could you take a couple of boxes of archival material, in a paper size box and deliver them to Algoma University at 1520 Queen St. East? The University keeps all of the records from every church in the Diocese.

We really need to move the history's of St. John's and St. Luke's out of the church basement. All the extra paper is a potential fire hazard. It will also free up space for Gathering Table information and files that must be retained.

If you can deliver some boxes please contact the church office with your travel date. The University needs a heads up on when you are arriving so the office will make the contact.

Algoma University
 Arthur A. Wishart Library
 c/o Krista McCracken
 1520 Queen St East
 Sault Ste Marie, ON
 phone 705 949 2101

Thank you from the Wardens.



Camp Gitchigomee Report

As of April 22, the camp is very much snowed in, but the buildings appear to be in good shape. Our local beavers, mice and moose have made themselves known at the camp, as have the snowmobilers “playing” in the large snowdrifts in the yard! But we know spring is on the way because there were some butterflies out in the warm spots they could find.

The ice and snow on the lake are still high, and we hope not to have a repeat of the very high water levels of 2022, which caused some flooding of the chapel / Rec hall.

Registrations are now open for the three weeks of camping we offer, and nine rentals are booked so far. Fellows from Gathering Table and St. Paul’s will give up their monthly Men’s breakfast and head to camp for a work day on June 20. Other helpers are welcome!

We’re looking to hold our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday May 19 at 7 PM at St. Thomas’ church. At that time, three members of the Board will step down, as they will have served their three year term. Three new members will be elected. Board members provide servant leadership and wisdom in directing all affairs of the camp. If you are interested in this opportunity to serve in this rewarding, front-line mission, or have any questions, contact us via email: campgitchigomee@gmail.com

Our “Two-Bit Auction” will be held this fall instead of this spring, date TBA. Camp funding also comes from camper registration fees, parish and corporate donations, other fundraisers, and individual offerings from supporters like John, here from Thunder Bay. He filled up half of a large pickle jar with toonies – worth over \$1K! He simply wants the kids to have a great time in God’s creation. And the camp has been blessed by a third contribution from the Salvation Army, this time of \$5,873.54, which can be used as needed – including camper registration fees.

Many of the camp volunteers are recruiting staff, arranging work days, praying and planning for the fast approaching camping season. We appreciate all the support from the Diocese, Deanery, Parishes and individuals. Thank you!!

Jim Sutton



Four Essential Spiritual Tasks for All Leaders

By Mariann Budde

Can we approach our work with clarity and humility, a willingness to listen and learn from those who disagree, while remaining true to the vision entrusted to us?

On April 25, lay leaders from congregations across the diocese gathered for a learning day focused on their spiritual well-being. What follows is an edited version of a plenary session I offered.

The spirituality of leadership is not confined to those who work in the church or other religious institutions. It's a quality found in all who step forward to lead by accepting responsibility so that something larger than themselves can flourish.

Leadership is a vocation. We are called to it, summoned by an inner prompting or an external need. Often, the call becomes clearer over time: why we, with our particular temperament, relationships, and gifts, are needed now. We are where we are, as Scripture says, "for a time such as this."

Leadership carries four essential, non-transferable tasks, which is why abdication or self-aggrandizement is so damaging. Faith communities, organizations, and countries need leaders who will lead. Because no one can do everything well, leadership is best exercised in teams.

1. Care for the whole, not just for some.

However strong our personal interests, leaders are responsible for the entire community. At times, this requires focused attention in one area, especially when resources are limited. It also includes the often unseen work of building capacity for the good of all.

2. Steward vision.

Leadership is always oriented toward a preferred future and, spiritually, toward discerning God's guidance. We may not be the first to see or articulate the vision, but we are responsible for moving the community toward it. It is challenging work.

3. Raise up new leaders.

This is often neglected, particularly when the work feels all-consuming. Yet leadership is not about doing everything; it is about creating conditions for others to offer their gifts and recognize their own leadership potential. When we assume no one can succeed us, it is often because we haven't invested in other people. When our identity becomes too bound to our role, letting go becomes difficult. And if, in fact, no one is ready to lead next, hard questions about long-term viability must be faced.

4. Tend to our own relationship with God.

Often the hardest person to lead is ourselves. We may focus on others to avoid our own struggles, or feel our identity and worth is defined by our leadership. If we overwork, fatigue can harden into cynicism, which harms everyone. Spiritual renewal is essential for leading well.

One of the most challenging aspects of leadership is navigating conflict and resistance to change, especially for those of us who don't like to disappoint others. We may be tempted to abandon the vision to preserve peace, to the detriment of the whole.

Early in my leadership, I encountered the concept of the "diffusion of innovation." It helped me understand why change is always resisted, and how communities can be led toward a new vision.

The basic premise is that new ideas are typically introduced by a small group of visionaries energized by possibility. They are always in the minority and may lack strong relational ties in the very community they seek to change.

For any change to gain traction, trusted leaders must recognize its value. These are people with deep relationships and credibility. When they lend their support to a new idea, another group, the “early majority,” typically follows. Now momentum begins to shift in favor of the change.

The “late majority” joins more slowly, often reluctantly. Yet once the change is widely accepted, many come to support and even defend it, as if it had been their idea all along. When they are on board, the change is firmly established. Still, some in the community will resist, even to the point of leaving. At times they organize opposition; if they are successful, polarization can result.

This framework is morally neutral. It doesn’t judge whether an idea is good but simply describes how change happens. That’s why the spiritual dimension of leadership matters, so that we remain grounded in something larger than personal preference, politics, or ambition. In the end, leadership is a form of submission to the greater good.

The diffusion of innovation reminds us that leadership depends on both vision and relationships.

The most effective response to resistance is not talking louder, but the patient work of building trust across differences.

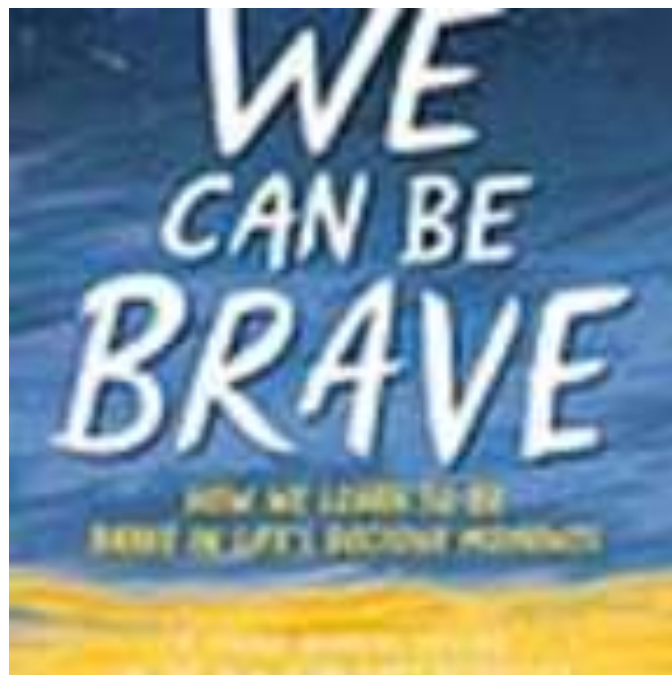
Not every good idea will come to fruition. Timing may be wrong, support insufficient, or key elements missing. Most importantly, as leaders, we learn there will always be people who don’t like the direction we’re taking.

How we lead in the face of resistance is key. Can we approach our work with clarity *and* humility, a willingness to listen and learn from those who disagree, while remaining true to the vision entrusted to us?

Leadership is rooted in discipleship and our promise to strive for justice while honoring the dignity of every human being.

We aren’t meant to lead alone, nor can any of us lead perfectly. We place our trust in the Holy Spirit whose power working among us will accomplish far more than we could ask or imagine. The One who calls us is faithful.

Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Philippians 2:4





228 Pearl Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 1E4

Gathering Table's Mission Statement

We are on a spiritual journey as a dynamic, inclusive, diverse community rooted in the life-giving, life-affirming and life-changing love of God, reaching beyond ourselves, caring for creation and making a difference for others. Come and meet us, we'd love to meet you.

Phone: 807-345-6898

E-mail: office@gatheringtable.ca

Facebook: Gathering Table

Hall: 807-345-6088

Web: gatheringtable.ca

Service Time: Sunday at 10:00 am

Food Bank Open: 2nd and 4th Sundays starting at 11:30 am

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10:00am to 2:00 pm
Friday 8:00 am to noon

Pastor: Rev Ann Camber

Phone: 807-285-9446

Email: rector@gatheringtable.ca

Lay Readers: Kim Bienvenue, Rose Jardine, Brenda O'Neill ,
Frances Bennett-Sutton, Jim Sutton, Lisa Long

Rector's Warden: David Reid

Deputy Rector's Warden: Audrey Love

People's Warden: Brenda O'Neill

Deputy People's Warden: Murray Butler

Music Director: Donna Hamill (Pianist)