



"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness."

2 Corinthians 9:10

As we enter the fall of 2026, I want to begin by thanking everyone who is part of **Gathering Table** for the wonderful and fulfilling four years I have had the privilege of serving as your Rector. I am grateful for all that we have accomplished together, and I look forward to continued fruitfulness as we journey together in love and service.

The verse from 2 Corinthians comes in the midst of Paul's discussion about generosity and our commitment to ensuring that the work of God continues and flourishes. For us, fall is a season when the fruits of our labour become most evident. Gardens have produced their harvest, crops are being gathered and stored, children and youth are returning to school, and churches are once again resuming their full slate of activities after the slower pace of summer.

Here at Gathering Table, we too are seeing a **harvest of righteousness** taking place in our community.

We have a harvest of love for one another. Individually and as a parish, we stand with each other through difficult times and celebrate with one another in times of joy. We visit those who are in hospital, give rides, check in on our neighbours, pitch in when help is needed, and volunteer in the many roles that keep our parish active and welcoming.

We also strive to welcome everyone who comes through our doors—from our neighbours who use the food cupboard, to those seeking a church home, to those who are searching for God. We seek the good of all, not simply our own needs.

And now, after years of planning, prayer, and behind-the-scenes work, we are approaching another important milestone. **Very soon there will be a groundbreaking for the WInGs project.** It has taken three years of hard work to reach this point. We are looking toward a harvest that will come in January 2028, when **62 affordable housing units for seniors** are expected to be ready in a brand-new building next to the church.

This will immediately open the door to a new and significant ministry opportunity right next door to us. It is an exciting development, and I believe God is calling us to consider how we can build relationships and offer welcome, friendship, and practical support to our new neighbours.

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Recently, we have also seen a rapid increase in people from the Muslim community coming to our food cupboard. Why are they coming? Certainly, there is a need for food support, but I believe something more is happening. People are experiencing the love of God and the acceptance we seek to share with everyone who comes through our doors.

Sometimes it is the small things that communicate Christ's compassion: offering more fresh fruits and vegetables, providing food that respects different dietary restrictions, and finding ways to overcome language barriers. These simple acts demonstrate the compassion and love that Jesus commands us to show.

This growing ministry places additional demands on our parish—not only in terms of our time and volunteer efforts, but also in our need for generosity and additional resources. Yet I believe we are up to the challenge. God has given us abundant gifts, and I trust that together we can continue to respond faithfully to the needs around us.

Looking Ahead This Fall

As we begin a new season, I will continue working with our parish on our objectives and goals. There are five areas in particular where I hope we will continue to grow:

1. Dynamic and meaningful worship

Through our Sunday services and other opportunities for worship, we seek to deepen our relationship with God and create worship that is meaningful, welcoming, and engaging.

2. Discipleship and spiritual growth

This includes confirmation classes, Lay Reader and Eucharistic Assistant training, our Tuesday afternoon study using *The Chosen* videos, and our Advent studies. These are opportunities to learn, ask questions, grow in faith, and discover what it means to follow Jesus.

3. Fellowship and connection

Our faith is strengthened through relationships. Visits, after-church coffee, special meals, and opportunities to spend time together help us build the bonds of friendship and community that are so important to parish life.

4. Service and compassion

Our food cupboard, Alongside Hope, Mission to Seafarers, and Dinner Church are important expressions of our Christian calling to serve others. Through these ministries, we put our faith into action and reach beyond the walls of our church.

5. Children and family ministries

We will continue supporting Sunday School and developing special events and activities that welcome and encourage children and families to be part of our parish community.

Each of us has a part to play in these ministries. Some may serve through volunteering; others through prayer, hospitality, teaching, visiting, or simply offering a listening ear. And all of us can contribute to the financial resources needed to sustain and grow our ministries.

As we enter this season of harvest, may we remember that **God is the one who provides the seed, gives the growth, and brings forth the harvest.** Our task is to be faithful with what we have been given—to sow generously, to serve faithfully, and to share the love of Christ with those around us.

I pray that each of us will prayerfully consider how God is calling us to share our time, our gifts, our prayers, and our financial resources in the year ahead.

There is much to be thankful for at Gathering Table, and there is much to look forward to. **May God continue to bless our parish and make us fruitful in love and service.**

With prayers and gratitude,

Rev. Ann

Rector, Gathering Table



Wardens Fall Message

The wardens at Gathering Table hope that you had a wonderful summer and that you were able to spend time in relaxation, sitting in the sun, and recharging for a busy fall.

We have lots going on at Gathering Table this fall and we would encourage you to get involved. There will be Tuesday afternoon book study, confirmation classes, food cupboard prep and distribution. You can get involved as a reader on Sunday mornings, join the choir who practice on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm, help out with the altar guild, or join a hospitality team for coffee hour after church. The prayer team welcomes people to pray with them for parishioners and others who need our prayer. The lay readers and eucharistic assistants have training and fellowship, and you'd be more than welcome to learn about and maybe even join these important

ministries. This is a sampling of our activities here at Gathering Table, so please reach out to Rev. Ann or one of the wardens to get started on a new venture with us this fall.

The wardens would also like to remind you that if you have fallen behind on your givings over the summer months, we would really appreciate it if you could make some extra donations over the fall. We understand that the economic times have made it difficult for many, but these issues affect the parish as well. We are tightening our belt as much as possible, but we are worried about a shortfall come year end, so any help that you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Most importantly, welcome back to those who have had much needed time away this summer and we look forward to catching up with you all!

Your Gathering Table wardens,
Audrey, Murray, David, and Brenda.

Your Wardens,
Audrey, Brenda, David, Murray

Much thanks to Adam, Jim, Dave, Ted, Bob and Alex, the WINGS lot was cleared Wednesday, September 2nd.



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

Last Sunday, September 6th, the Collect for the day began with these words “Stir up, O Lord”. Hearing them brought me back to my BCP days and the rector calling it Stir Up Sunday, a time to get back to church and all the related activities that go on hold over the summer. Almost like the start of a “new year”.

The Altar Guild will begin their busier activities with Harvest Sunday, September 27. We will be decorating the church on **Saturday, September 26th at 10:00am**. Your donations of vegetables or fruit or even canned goods can be brought to the church on the Friday morning between 9:00 and 11:30 or Saturday morning at 10:00.

Sunday 27th is also the day we recognize National Truth and Reconciliation a day when it is suggested to wear orange. Any orange flowers or produce would enhance this theme.

Your help in sorting and filling these items into baskets is always appreciated.

All the donations are taken to the food cupboard following the service.

The fall continues at its normal pace for us. Our **next meeting is Saturday, November 14th at 10:00 am** in the hall. We will be planning our input for services over the next three months. You are welcome to attend to get a better understanding of our ministry at Gathering Table.

Keep in mind if there is any special occasion or a memorial when you would like to put flowers in the church to contact Audrey Love.

Erminie Reid and Marg Boone, Co-chairs.



Children and Youth Ministry

I plan to start the fall session of Sunday School on October 4th. Sunday School Teacher – Ellen Teahan

Food Cupboard

This past summer we have welcomed many new clients from Eastern Asia to our Food Cupboard. We ask our congregation to please be kind to them by giving them a warm smile and a hello. We also ask for your patience with our volunteers as we navigate the difficulties of communicating with a new language, learning about their culture and dietary needs as well as try our best to serve everyone with the limited space that we have available.

From May to the end of August we served approximately **1,035 persons including 309 children**.

We recently received a shipment of clothing/personal supplies from an Anglican church in Eastern Ontario. We have kept what we could handle and are sharing it with some agencies in our community to distribute to the needy.

We are now accepting clean, gently used winter clothing. It can be dropped off at the designated clothing area in the hallway.

The following food is currently needed to replenish our dwindling supply:

- Cold or Hot Cereal
- Cookies
- Crackers
- Canned Potatoes
- Jam
- Rice
- Stove Top Stuffing
- Dried legumes i.e: Dried Navy Beans/Chick Peas/Lentils etc.

We always have need for volunteers to help with unloading our order from RFDA or helping with packaging on food delivery days. Please contact me if you have an interest.

We are so grateful for everyone's support of our Food Cupboard Ministry and for our dedicated volunteers.

Sharon Sparkes, Team Leader

RFDA Thunder Bay Regional Food Distribution Association

Community Hero: Sharon Sparkes

Many of you know Sharon Sparkes for her incredible compassion and dedication to helping others through Gathering Table, one of the RFDA's valued member agencies.

When Sharon learned that our delivery truck had broken down last week, preventing us from making food deliveries to our member agencies, she didn't hesitate. Her response was simple: "I want to donate \$500 toward the truck repairs."

That single act of generosity is about so much more than a donation. It's about ensuring food continues to reach the organizations and people who depend on it every day. Sharon's kindness reminds us that when our community comes together, we can overcome unexpected challenges and continue serving those who need us most.

Sharon, thank you for believing in our mission and for your generous personal contribution.

If you'd like to join community heroes like Sharon in supporting the RFDA, we'd love to hear from you. Visit www.foodbanksnorthwest.ca or give us a call to learn how you can help ensure food reaches families across Thunder Bay and the Northwest.



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.





Alongside Hope

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

Alongside Hope's Wild Ride Deanery 2026

Alongside Hope's Wild Ride is back in 2026. This year, we're raising funds to provide solar panels at St. Luke's Hospital in the West Bank, in partnership with the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem. The hospital serves a population of about 455,000 people, including 57 marginalized villages and four nearby refugee camps. But unreliable and costly power sources make health care a challenge during the best of times or a crisis during the worst of times. As a peer-to-peer fundraiser within the larger Light for St. Luke's campaign, the Wild Ride is an opportunity to support the hospital in a hands-on way.

This year's campaign — Watt's Possible — builds on the spirit of the 2025 Wild Ride, which raised more than \$60,000 to provide Solar Suitcases in health clinics in Mozambique and Madagascar. In 2026, we're shifting the focus to St. Luke's Hospital and its transition to a reliable source of energy — solar power. This will help ensure quality health care can continue despite frequent power outages and expensive diesel fuel.

Riaz Diab is a nurse in the emergency department at St. Luke's Hospital. He describes the challenges of caring for patients during the power outages. "I remember one time I was working in the ER, we had multiple patients connected to monitors and other patients needed suturing. The electricity suddenly went out. We had to use flashlights and manual equipment."

The Wild Ride fundraising goal is \$60,000, enough to purchase and install 70 of the 407 solar panels that are part of this project. Each panel will cost roughly \$865, which includes delivery, installation and training. Every gift will be matched by a generous donor, doubling the impact!

As a supporter of Alongside Hope, you can participate in the deanery wild ride this fall. **Our deanery team name is**



Mission to Seafarers

As we experience the end of summer, it is time to begin looking ahead to upcoming events. For the Mission to Seafarers that means preparing for the annual Christmas Bags to be delivered to the ships. Some people have already donated hand knit toques and neck warmers and, of course, we can always use more. It is also a good time to start collecting other items such as candies, toiletries, etc. A box for collecting items will be placed at the back of the church in mid-October with final collection day Sunday, November 23rd. I will announce more information about volunteering for sorting and packing as the plans unfold.

Looking ahead to other events, an Open House will be held at the Mission on Sunday, October 18th from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to see the facility, talk to others about the role of the mission and enjoy a light lunch which is usually hot dogs, burgers and home baking. On Wednesday, December 2nd is the annual St. Nicholas Day Eucharist.

Thanks to everyone for your support and interest in this vital Mission.

Margaret Boone, Parish Rep.

"Thunder Bay-North Shore Deanery Suncatchers" and our goal is 5,000 dollars. We will have a walk on **Sat Sept. 19 at St. Stephen's Anglican Church from 1:30 to 3 pm.**

Following the walk in the neighbourhood there will be refreshments. **Donations** can be made the following ways: Go **online to alongsidehope.org/wildride**

Then scroll down to Join a team. Then select **the team name**

It is in thanksgiving for the Missions to Seafarers Ministry.

Cheques can also be made to Alongside Hope Wild Ride with the team name in the memo line.

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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

ettransfer password = Church

DONOR REGISTRATION/AMENDMENT FORM
Electronic Offering Program

Ref # _____ Parish _____

Surname: _____ First Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

On the 15th of _____ please _____ start _____ amend any electronic offering _____ suspend/cancel _____ (month) _____

My monthly donation will be as follows:

P parish Operating Fund	\$ _____
P parish Property Building Fund	\$ _____
Special _____	\$ _____

Other church ministries you may wish to contribute to:

Anglican Mission Service Committee	\$ _____
Camp Gitchigounee	\$ _____
Camp Manitowish	\$ _____
Camp Temiskaming	\$ _____
Mission to Seabrook	\$ _____
Prizes 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 2M8



Screening in Faith

Volunteering is a wonderful way to serve our parish community, meet others, and help create a welcoming church for everyone. Please consider sharing your time in one of these important roles. Contact

Church Greeters: Offer a warm welcome to parishioners and visitors as they arrive for worship. A friendly smile and helpful presence make everyone feel comfortable.

Altar Guild: Help prepare the worship space and care for the altar, linens, and other sacred items. This quiet, rewarding ministry supports the beauty and reverence of our services.

Coffee Hosts: Prepare and serve after worship, helping create a relaxed space for conversation and fellowship. This is a simple and enjoyable way to bring people together.

Food Cupboard Volunteers: Help receive, organize, and distribute food to neighbours in need. Your time and friendly assistance can make a meaningful difference in our community.

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

Well, the camping season is nearly over for another year – and what a year it has been!

It started well with great work days on May 23 and June 13, plus many trips to haul out various items (batteries, fire extinguishers, food, supplies, etc.) and do necessary things like cut up beaver-downed trees. Then there was all the staff recruitment, planning and camper registrations to attend to for the three weeks of camping.

On July 5 - 11, the first (Senior) camp had lots of the usual swimming, canoeing, games, campfire, Chapel, Bible studies, food consumption and duties. Junior camp started the next Sunday, but the smoke, heat and proximity of the forest fires triggered an evacuation on the Monday. Kudos to the staff and First Student bus lines for a methodical, safe exit from the camp. On the Thursday of that week, the Board met and decided that Intermediate camp the following week should be cancelled for the same reasons. This was very disappointing for many campers and volunteer staff ☹.



Because of the evacuation and cancellations, registration fees needed to be refunded. It was encouraging that several camper parents requested that the fees not be returned, but kept as a donation. In addition, kitchen and waterfront staff did not have to be hired for the days camp was cancelled; additional food did not have to be purchased; bursaries not given out and the generator not used. For these reasons, expense were kept

down and the camp is doing OK financially. Much of the food already purchased went to the RFDA and our Food Cupboard.

On a happy note, the electrical, exhaust and propane for new generator were hooked up this spring and it has proved to be much quieter and fuel-efficient than the old one. ☺ Many thanks to supporters that made this a reality.

Another happy note was GT's retreat at the camp on Saturday August 15th. We made this a one day event, rather than the weekend – which was financially more doable. It rained a fair bit, but we really enjoyed visiting in the Dining Hall, the heat around the wood stove, playing board games, munching on pumpkin loaf, goodies and hot bevies and napping. Some of us went canoeing and fishing between and during the rain drops and one brave person tested out their floaty in the rain. The 19 of us capped off the day with a feast of burgers, smokies, hot dogs, salads, and a great rhubarb crisp. Thanks to the contributors.



The camp continued to be a blessing to the 10 groups and families that rented it this summer, including the Sea Cadets, the Muslim Association, the Salvation Army and Confederation College. This is a good income source for the camp, and no-cost advertising. Some folks are already booked in next summer.

We are planning another work day or two sometime in October. We hope to install metal roofing on the First Aid post and the Gate House, and put the camp "to bed" for the winter. If you would like to lend a hand, please see me. Thanks.

Jim Sutton



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)