St. Andrew's News

Responding • Restoring • Rejoicing

www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

November 22, 2026



CHRISTMAS CONCERT



An annual tradition returns as St. Andrew's presents The Sounds of Christmas: A Community Christmas Concert on **Sunday, December 6th** at **4pm**. Come out and enjoy a selection of holiday favourites (including some sing-a-longs), performed by a variety of talented local musicians, all within the atmosphere of our beautiful sanctuary! This event is a fundraiser for our church. Tickets are $25, and children under 10 are free (no ticket required). Tickets can be purchased on our website, at standrewspres-tbay.ca, or through the church office. Posters are available for pick-up in the front office - please help us spread the word!

PRESENTS FOR PEACE

Within the next week or two, a small Christmas tree will appear in Rowand Hall, under which donations for two local women's shelters can be placed. Gifts may include children's toys, games, puzzles, colouring items, or scarves, gloves, mitts, and hats. Personal care and small household items are also welcome, as are small denomination gift cards. This has been a St. Andrew's tradition for years, and a deeply appreciated way to express our love and compassion for those in our community who are struggling this year. Please keep it in mind as you do your holiday shopping.

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN

207 Brodie Street South
Thunder Bay, ON; P7E 1C1
Phone: (807) 622-4273

Rev. Joyce Yanishewski
minister.standrewspres@tbaytel.net
(807) 632-8348

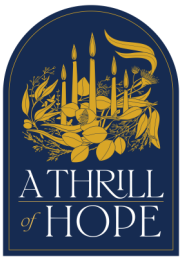
Church Office E-mail:
office.standrewspres@tbaytel.net
Sunday Worship - Available online at
standrewspres-tbay.ca

Office Hours:
Wednesday - Friday, 9:00am - 1:00pm

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Mon Nov 23 - Event Planners @ 9:30am
Wed Nov 25 - Fun & Fitness @ 10am
Wed Nov 25 - The Music Class® @ 4pm, 5:15pm
Thurs Nov 26 - The Music Class® @ 11am
Thurs Nov 26 - The Music Class® @ 5:15pm
Sun Nov 29 - Advent I @ 11am

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES



This year, the theme for our Advent series is **"A Thrill of Hope."** Advent services will begin on November 29th, and continue each Sunday at 11am leading up to Christmas. Celebrate the season by joining us for Advent and other seasonal services, as outlined below.

Advent I: Keep Awake
Sunday, November 29th, 2026 - 11:00am
Communion service

Advent II: Prepare the Way
Sunday, December 6th, 2026 - 11:00am

Advent III: Among You Stands One
Sunday, December 13th, 2026 - 11:00am
Children's Sunday and potluck lunch

Advent IV: Let It Be With Me
Sunday, December 20th, 2026 - 11:00am

Christmas Eve: Good News of Great Joy
Thursday, December 24th, 2026 - 7:30pm
Candlelight service

First Sunday After Christmas:
My Eyes Have Seen Your Salvation
Sunday, December 27th, 2026 - 11:00am
Wassail service (hot cider & cookies)

CONGREGATIONAL POTLUCK



On **Sunday, December 13th,** the Seekers will be hosting a **congregational potluck** immediately following the worship service. December 13th will also be our final **Children & Youth Sunday** for 2026. If you are able, please bring a dish to share, and join us for this special intergenerational service, followed by a time of fellowship and some holiday cheer!

From Joyce

It has been another week of witnessing this church truly being the church. Time and again, people have stepped forward to serve, care, and contribute in ways both seen and unseen. From all ten elders on Session to the members of the Facilities and Finance Team who spent more than three hours together on Thursday afternoon carefully reviewing and shaping the proposed 2027 budget, I continue to be inspired by the commitment and generosity of this congregation.

There are far too many people to name individually, yet each contribution matters. Today, however, I would like to highlight and thank Shelley Macaulay, our financial guide and a member of St. Andrew's as well as the Facilities and Finance Team, and Barb Silvey, our church bookkeeper. Their dedication, expertise, and countless hours of preparation provide the financial information that enables the team to engage thoughtfully and responsibly in the budgeting process. Their work often happens behind the scenes, but it is essential and deeply appreciated.

The proposed budget is still being finalized. Once this stage of the process is complete, it will be presented to Session for review and discussion. Following Session's review, the proposed budget will be brought before the congregation at our Annual Meeting on **February 21, 2027**. Please mark that date on your calendar.

The Annual Meeting is an important part of our shared life together. It is the opportunity for the congregation to review the proposed budget, ask questions, offer feedback, and express support or suggest changes. The budget does not become our working budget for 2027 until it has been approved by the congregation through its vote.

The financial realities before us are challenging, but they are not overwhelming. We place our trust in a generous God who continually provides and who inspires generosity among God's people. If you are considering ways to help St. Andrew's finish the year in a strong financial position, this season offers a meaningful opportunity to give thanks for God's provision in your own life and to support the work God is accomplishing through this congregation.

Together, we are responding to needs, restoring both people and this building to wholeness, and rejoicing in worship, service, and faith. Thanks be to God for all that is being accomplished through the gifts, generosity, and dedication of this church family.

FOOD BANK DRIVE



As we enter the holiday season during which food plays such an important role for many, we consider those for whom food security is not a guarantee. Donating to the Thunder Bay Food Bank can offer much-needed support to many families this Christmas. Popular items include pasta and sauce, Kraft Dinner, peanut butter, rice, tins of tuna, salmon, ham, and chicken, soups (both canned and instant), cans of beans, lentils, chickpeas, and vegetables. Cereals and instant oatmeal, Mr. Noodles, pudding cups, and other quick lunch items are popular. Baby food and formula are always needed. Please include St. Andrew's Food Bank Drive on your grocery list over the coming weeks!

PRAYER FOR NATIONAL HOUSING DAY

We pray for all people who face barriers to safe, adequate, and affordable housing. We give thanks for advocates who work to ensure that every person lives with dignity, security, and belonging.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

"Gratitude is the antidote to pride,
that life is not our achievement but a gift."

- Walter Brueggemann,
"Gratitude as Subversion"

Donations to St. Andrew's can be sent via e-transfer to
offerings.standrewspres@tbaytel.net

SHORTBREAD URGENTLY NEEDED



We still **currently need nearly 200 dozen more** shortbread in order to fulfill all orders, which are going to start being picked up this Friday, the 27th. Your support of this fundraiser is vital, and would be most appreciated! Butter can be signed out from the church freezer, and printed copies of our traditional shortbread recipe are available in the front office. Shortbread can be dropped off at the church during office hours. Please be sure to label your containers. If you have any questions, contact the office.