Trinity United Church
30 S. Algoma Street
Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 3A8
phone: 807-345-5621
email: trinityu@tbaytel.net
website: www.trinityunited.church

Thanksgiving 2026
TRINITY *united*

using our gifts and strengths in the service of something greater than ourselves



"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" – Psalm 95:2

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. – Psalm 107:1

Wishing you all a happy Thanksgiving and a joyful Fall.

GREETINGS FROM OUR NEW PASTORAL CHARGE SUPERVISOR

Dear friends at Trinity United Church:

It's a pleasure to be serving as your new Pastoral Charge Supervisor since this summer.

You may appreciate knowing that I grew up in Port Arthur before my family moved down to the Toronto area when I was in public school. Although my family were members of Christ Lutheran Church, I also have memories of attending Trinity United Church as a young boy. For a period of time, my family worshipped at Trinity because my parents particularly enjoyed the preaching of one of your ministers.

My husband, Rev. Steven Loweth, and I moved from Jackson's Point, on Lake Simcoe, to Thunder Bay in February 2023 to begin serving in our new calls—myself at First-Wesley United Church and Steve at Westminster United Church.

I have been enjoying my ministry at First-Wesley among a dedicated and faithful community working hard to respond to the needs of its inner-city neighbourhood. Steve and I have also been enjoying the quality of life here in Thunder Bay, along with the wonderful opportunities for camping and hiking in our beautiful part of the country.

I am looking forward to serving as your Pastoral Charge Supervisor during this important time in Trinity's journey. As you explore new possibilities for revitalizing your ministry and strengthening your presence in the wider community, I am glad to be walking alongside you in the months ahead.

With many blessings! Rev. Lionel Ketola

Editor's Note: As we welcome Lionel, we also extend thanks to our previous PCS, Christina Stricker, for the work she has done with us over the past several years. We look forward to a continued relation with Christina, in our pulpit from time to time, and as part of our wider church community.



FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE **– Pat Jackson**



This season encourages us to remember that even the commonplace should be celebrated and I would like to share words from Helen Lowrie Marshall in her Hallmark book Expressions of Faith, Love and the Glory of God.

"Thank the good Lord for the commonplace, the thousand and one little ways
That lend contentment and gladness and warmth to all of our everydays.
Thank the great Giver of happy gifts – of sunshine and rain and snow,
Of flowers and books and families and friends and every love we know."

Amen! And a thank you to the willing Reflection time providers:

Fall Worship Schedule

Oct. 4	Joint city-wide service	First/Wesley	(Trinity closed)
11	Christina Stricker	Trinity	
18	Rev. Bert Vancook	Pinegrove	
25	Rev. Kerry McLaughlin	Trinity	
Nov. 1	Christina Stricker	Pinegrove	
8	Robert Cosbey	Trinity	
15	Rev. Bert Vancook	Pinegrove	
22	Rev. Bert Vancook	Trinity	
29	Christina Stricker	Pinegrove	



Multi-Site Fellowship

We are blessed to be partnered by so many sister churches. As usual, St. Paul's hosted us while Trinity was closed in July, and we returned the favour in August. Harmony also joined us in our pews twice in August. And joining us through our multi-site technology, in addition to our usual co-hosts at Pinegrove, we also welcomed the Chapleau congregations of Trinity United and St. John's Anglican twice in August. The multi-site connection to Chapleau was recently upgraded, and the connection is much clearer now.

Live Streaming

When you can't attend in person, be sure to join us online. You can go to trinityunited.church and select "Trinity Live" from the drop-down menu. Or, you can get to the same place in one step by visiting tbayunitedmedia.ca/?trinitylive. (Yes, you need the question mark!) Either way gets you to a version of the page tailored for Trinity folks.



If you don't catch the service "live", it may take **several minutes** before the archive file is ready for replay. We aim to have it available within 10 minutes or so, for your convenience.

PROPERTY NEWS **– Jim Jackson**

The following list combines things we've done, things in progress, and things waiting to be done.

Office /Trinity Hall Level

- ➢ Kitchen: triple-sink plumbing repair and new countertop needed.
- ☑ Trinity Hall Park Street Entrance Doors were adjusted during the summer.
- ☑ New flooring for lower hallway, kitchen & ramp entrance will be laid in October.
- ➢ Accessible Washroom planning is still ongoing.

Basement/Boiler Room

- ➢ The wet Basement is back. Assessment of possible action is being determined.
- ➢ Basement washrooms need a facelift. Maybe a do-it-ourselves work party?

Sanctuary Level

- ➢ The elevator project is moving forward slowly.
- ➢ Ramp plans are being drawn up so we can start the approval process.
- ☑ Ceiling lights have been replaced in the Music Directors office, stair landing, back hallway, vestry, east front entrance and stair landing in the balcony.
- ☑ All wall sconces will be installed before Thanksgiving.
- ☑ Chandelier Bulb replacement will take place in October.

Outside

- ➢ The storage and garbage shed needs a new roof, or more likely should be replaced.
- ➢ Signage at the front of the church and on Algoma needs to be refurbished. One idea under consideration is an electronic sign that can be updated through an app.

IMPROVEMENTS TO TRINITY HALL **– Shane Judge**

Earlier this month, Amik Technology (Ross McCubbin's business) installed our new Epson, cinema-quality projector in Trinity Hall.

Together with the new 16-foot wide, retractable screen we installed earlier this year, Trinity has now opened the door to a host of new rental opportunities and increased revenues.

The new technology isn't cheap. We've invested over $25K. However, we've already begun to earn that money back.

On September 18th and 19th, Trinity hosted a silent movie film festival. It was co-sponsored by Trinity and the North of Superior Film Association. About 300 people came to listen to pianist Bruce Vogt improvise to half a dozen classic black and white silent movies from Hollywood's earliest days. Not all the financials are in yet, but Trinity can expect to earn $1,000 acting as a co-host.

(continued on next page)

IMPROVEMENTS TO TRINITY HALL – continued

Going forward we hope to attract other groups wanting to show movies to a larger audience. It's also going to be a great experience as we move our own movie nights from the Assembly Hall into Trinity Hall.

The new hardware will also allow us to host large, in-person gatherings of business and government agencies requiring internet connections.

MUSIC NEWS – Sandra Cosbey

On September 18 to 19th, Trinity hosted the Festival of Silent Films in Trinity Hall, with live improvised music provided by pianist Bruce Vogt. The turnout was good and the organizers were happy. This was an important event for Trinity for a number of reasons. It showed the value of recent upgrades, including the new chairs, the new screen, and (for the very first time) the new projector. It sparked the donation of Ernie Dojack's piano, valued at $5,000, including an initial tuning. It earned $1,000 for Trinity. And it was fun!

Other musical events of note since the last newsletter include the late-June Applauze production of Cinderella in Trinity Hall, and Ross McCubbin's mid-August Bluegrass Festival at Camp Duncan. As well, we enjoyed the leadership of various soloists at our worship services in August, while the choir was "on vacation".

Now that a new musical season has begun, Trinity is positively teeming with musical renters. The Symphony Chorus, Community Orchestra, Youth Orchestra, Junior Strings are rehearsing weekly at Trinity, as well as one or two private teachers. The Songwriters Group meets monthly. Seven recital dates have been booked so far for October through December. One or two private music teachers will be using Trinity weekly. And of course Applauze will be booking Trinity Hall for their rehearsals and productions.



That's on top of Trinity's own weekly Senior Choir and Youth Choir rehearsals. The Youth Choir also has a Christmas production planned for December 6th. We are indeed making "a joyful noise to the Lord" at Trinity!

RECENT COMINGS AND GOINGS

We were happy to welcome two new faces in August, sitting together near the front: Kevin and Frances. Frances is moving to Kenora, but hopes to visit us now and then.

Joanna Jiang, who has been contributing her keyboard skills to our worship services for the past year or two, has moved to Sioux Lookout, to be with her husband Alex

We were sad to lose long-time members Janet Buckley, on July 6, and Marlene Perrier, on September 11. We give thanks for their life and work among us. They will be missed.

SOCIAL NEWS **– Josie Salonen**

Our first fall activity was to organize the WELCOME BACK LUNCH after church on September 20th. 29 people signed in to enjoy a menu of hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, ice cream and watermelon. Some simple activities took place with lots of prizes given out.

The first LADIES' LUNCH of the fall is on Wednesday, October 14th at Dawson Diner (noon). These rotating lunches are informal and friends are always welcome. Sign-up sheets are up or you can contact Josie at 807 344-7302 or j-salonen@shaw.ca

The COFFEE TIME set for the first Wednesday morning of each month was not a successful venture as attendance was very low. So as a replacement we have planned an ACTIVITY AFTERNOON, on Wednesday, October 21st in the Assembly Room (1:30 – 4pm). There will be snacks and a light lunch served mid afternoon. Board games and various card games will be available….even a puzzle set up. If enough partners are on hand, bridge or canasta could be played. The purpose is to see if there is sufficient interest in setting up regular groups of 4 people who would come together on their own to enjoy their specific activity. This event would be set up much like supper club only no supper involved and perhaps afternoon activities taking place. Please consider coming out and bringing a friend. Again this is another attempt at having people reconnect.

November is a busy month with the Christmas Bazaar taking place, so the November Ladies' Lunch was cancelled. Instead a DESSERT & SPEAKER is planned for November 18th in the Assembly Room starting at 1:30 pm. "Decluttering" will be the speaker's topic which is something that will interest many of us.



December will see the traditional Ladies' Lunch held at Vanderwees at their Tulip Café on December 9th which will give everyone the chance to view the beautiful Christmas displays.

The Social Committee comprises Josie Salonen and Paula Leach and we are always open to hearing suggestions for social activities.

FALL FLEA MARKET **– Cynthia Loos**

The Fall Flea Market was a big success, with sales and donations totalling $3,233, with expectations of a bit more to come. We received quite a substantial quantity of items donated for sale. Many thanks to the donors; to the men who set up and took down the tables; and to the lead person on each table and their wonderful crew, who spent many hours making sure that everything was displayed to entice buyers. Thanks also to those who baked muffins; to the kitchen crew, who once again served great hot dogs; to Melida, our coffee chef; and also to Jan, our willing office administrator.



Thanksgiving 2026

Dear Trinity Friends,

Happy Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving is a time when we reap the harvest of our efforts, take a good look at our prospects for the seasons ahead, and give thanks for our blessings. This letter is an attempt to do just that.

Financially speaking, **we are doing ok**, but there are some **new and recurring challenges**.

We are still open to calling clergy to serve Trinity – but we are not sure we can afford a full-time person without help. Also, the number of candidates is small. Fortunately, our worship, music and tech teams along with partner churches work tirelessly to ensure that Trinity and its partners have **exemplary, technology-supported Sunday worship** (including superb music) each week – calling on retired clergy, lay leaders and others to lead worship for us and our partner churches each week. Thank you!

Our congregation has welcomed some new members, but overall, our **numbers are shrinking at an accelerated rate**. (I can't recall a year with more funerals than 2026!) Among church treasurers, it is well known that it takes 3 to 5 new contributors to replace each long-time contributor lost. **Can you help us attract and retain new members?**

We are blessed to have **significant bequest dollars** in the bank to make our **building more accessible**, and to **reinvent ourselves**. We thank you for your patience as we work on the largest of these projects (elevator, new washrooms, permanent ramp at the Waverley entrance, and more). We can look back on the last 18 months with satisfaction and gratitude, as the time we made **plans to move ahead**, and began work on these plans.

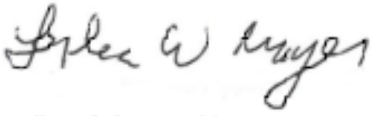
Change takes resources and time. We have only 3 part-time staff to help our shrinking pool of volunteers to do the work of Trinity. That does not leave much in the way of people and time to implement the changes suggested in the "Futures" planning report. Part of the plan is to hire 2 new staff to work on the goals of becoming both a Heritage (tourism) Hub an Arts Hub. We are moving ahead – albeit much slower than needs dictate. **Can you help?**

I believe that we have been given **opportunities** that most other churches would envy. It is up to us to do the work to ensure that Trinity (the congregation and the building) have a promising future and a growing, important role in our community, and in our world.

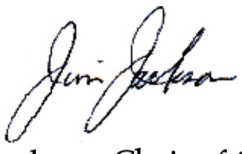
We are **grateful for the generosity of Trinity givers**. It is remarkable that many Trinity people continue to give more of their time, talents and resources each year. **THANK YOU!**

Wishing you and yours a meaningful and uplifting Thanksgiving. Please continue to give as you able, and remember that **"Trinity matters"**.

Sincerely,



Les Mayes, Treasurer



Jim Jackson, Chair of Council