

**Diocese of Algoma Synod
Breakout Group Sessions for Thursday May 8th, 2025**

To Synod delegates:

Diocesan synod will soon be underway. This email has the DRAFT Agenda which may be subject to slight changes as Synod unfolds. This is the information about the three Breakout Groups for your consideration and attendance. There is one with a focus on Music in Worship and the new Lay Readers Manual, a second with a focus on Youth Ministry, and a third on the social justice issue of hunger.

Each Breakout Group will have two sessions (first session from 2:30pm to 3:30pm on Thursday afternoon and the second session from 3:30 pm to 4:30pm).

This means that each delegate is able to attend two different Breakout Groups. Congregations should work together to ensure that all three Breakout Groups are attended by lay delegates or clergy.

Breakout Group One

**Singing our Faith: Music in Worship
*with Jay Koyle and Norm Blanchard***

This breakout session will consider how music forms us as members of the Body of Christ. In our reflections we will include principles and practicalities for choosing music for the liturgy beyond simply picking hymns we know or like. Best of all, we will have fun singing together, including being introduced to selections from “Sing a New Creation,” the hymnal supplement of The Anglican Church of Canada.

**Introducing the New Lay Readers Manual
*with Jay Koyle and Alison Weir***

An opportunity to become familiar with the new manual, the evolving ministry of Lay Readers in Algoma, and how congregations can support the nurture and training of those called to serve in this capacity.

Breakout Group Two

With Jeff Hooper, Heather Manuel and Su McLeod (Alongside Hope)

So, Elephants Destroyed Your Well — Rebuilding with and for Youth

In a Northern Kenyan community in Marsabit, people share their only water source with a herd of elephants. Each morning, before they can draw water,

community members must first rebuild the well—because every night, the elephants trample and destroy it.

This image is both literal and symbolic. In many ways, it mirrors the experience of youth in marginalized communities— broken systems, limited access, and the heavy weight of survival. And yet, like the people of Marsabit, they show up to rebuild.

In this breakout session we will explore:

How do we rebuild with youth, not just for them?

Exploring practices of healing, trust-building, and co-creation in ministry

The well as a symbol: resilience, community, and sacred space

The Gift of Youth – Rebuilding the Well.

In this breakout, we'll explore what it means to draw deeply from the well of wisdom, resilience, and community, especially through the lens of our youth. A well can only serve its purpose when it is whole—each part, each stone, each drop of effort and care helping to hold it together. In the same way, every young person, every elder, every voice contributes to making the “bucket” strong enough to carry the clean water we all need. So we ask ourselves: What does clean water look like? Is it safety, opportunity, healing, hope?

Breakout Group Three

Huddle up to Handle Hunger.

Presented by the Social Justice Committee of the Diocese of Algoma and Dr. Ryan Weston (Lead Animator for Public Witness for Social and Ecological Justice, Anglican Church of Canada)

Description:

Food insecurity is a rapidly growing concern in Canada as 2 million people access food banks and 23% of the population is classified as food insecure.

It is part of our Gospel calling to feed the hungry and care for the vulnerable. What can we as individuals and parishes do to help alleviate hunger?

The Social Justice Committee of the Diocese of Algoma has prepared a workshop to look into the background and social determinants linked to food insecurity. We will look at education, advocacy and actions that can impact this problem, which touches each and every community we live in. We will share what is happening in our parishes and communities.

We will look at changes in the social safety nets that are necessary to make a difference for those experiencing food insecurity, and how we can advocate positive policy changes to improve the lives of many.

