



“With Joy We Will Drink Deeply”

Artwork by: Helen Mary Carter

(May be reproduced)

A letter from the Archbishop

To delegates attending the 52nd Session of the Synod of the Diocese of Algoma

May 7th-10th 2025

The Water Tower Inn

Sault Ste. Marie Ontario

Dear Synod delegate,

Welcome to Synod 2025. Be assured of my prayers as you prepare for the 52nd Synod of our diocese and know that you will be warmly greeted when you register at the Synod office on May 7th. Orientation will take place at St. Luke's Cathedral at 4:00pm and Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 7pm.

I extend an especially warm welcome to those of you who are coming to Synod for the first time. My prayer is that the time we spend together in worship and prayer, in discussion and debate, in listening, learning and sharing ideas, and in the opportunities, we are given for fellowship and making new friends will bear good fruit to take back to your parishes and deaneries.

As we draw closer to one another in these days I pray that we will draw closer to Christ. This is at the heart of the Five Transformational Commitments of the Anglican Church of Canada, which I will be inviting us to use as a lens through which we renew our mission and purpose in the coming biennium.

Synod planning

A great deal of planning and preparation goes into the smooth running of any synod. I am grateful for the work of those involved in planning synod including the Synod office staff, for whom this has already been a very busy year.

There are several Synod Sessional Committees that we are working to populate with Synod delegates. They include the Arrangements Committee (Synod office staff), the Agenda Committee (Archdeacon Joan Locke Chair), the Resolutions Committee (Vice Chancellor Amy Bottos), the Chaplaincy and Prayer Room (Archdeacon Roberta Wilson-Garrett), Scripture Circles (Archdeacon Kelly Baetz and Rev. Peter Armstrong), Bishop's Charge Committee (Rev. Heather Manuel) Vote of Thanks Committee (Ms. Philippa Howard), Orientation Committee (Archdeacon Glen Miller), Communications Committee (705 Sound) Support of Youth delegates (Rev. Jeff Hooper and Rev. Heather Manuel). We are

only able to complete the committee lists when we receive the list of delegates from the congregations. Incumbents are asked to submit the names as soon as possible.

As an elected Synod delegate, you are asked to prepare yourself fully for Synod by reading the **Synod Convening Circular** and by attending the spring Deanery Council meeting in your area where some orientation for Synod will be provided. This will include how to craft a resolution, a presentation on the proposed changes to the Canons and Constitution as well as a preliminary look at the Diocesan budget. Canon Jane Mesich, the Diocesan Treasurer and Ms. Jennifer Baron, will be at most of the Deanery Council meetings to present the budget and answer any questions.

The dates and venues of the Deanery Council meetings are as follows:

- Thunder Bay/North Shore Deanery: Saturday 26th April at 9:00am. St. Paul's Anglican Church.
- Algoma Deanery Council: Saturday May 3rd, 10:30am to 2pm: Holy Trinity Centre.
- Sudbury/Manitoulin Deanery Council: Saturday April 12th at 1pm. Church of the Ascension.
- Temiskaming Deanery Council: Saturday April 12th at 9am. St. Mary Magdalene Sturgeon Falls.
- Muskoka Deanery Council: Tuesday 29th April at 6:30pm Church of the Good Shepherd, Emsdale.

You are also asked to attend your parish council or board meeting ahead of Synod so that you can keep them apprised of what will be taking place at Synod, including resolutions, and bring any questions from the parish to synod. Your responsibility as a Synod delegate includes reporting back to your parish on your Synod experience as well as on any decisions that are made. Your role as a Synod delegate is to be a link between the parish, the deanery and the diocese.

Theme of Diocesan Synod and an Invitation to delegates

The chosen theme for this Synod mirrors my 2025 Motto: "**With joy you will drink deeply from the fountain of salvation.**" (Isaiah 12.3). Isaiah 12 is a song of praise in anticipation of a new exodus where God miraculously saves a people who are under the control of an evil one. In the verses I have chosen for my motto the prophet shifts imagery from chaotic waters to 'wells of salvation' that give life giving water. You will recall that during the wilderness journey God's people travelling through the hopeless desert were given the provision of life-giving sustenance. Miracles are possible in challenging times if we draw on the promises of God made real in Jesus Christ.

At my invitation, Helen Mary Carter, a parishioner and artist from St. Luke's Cathedral has painted an inspiring picture which captures the Synod theme so beautifully. She drew inspiration from Psalm 42 in creating it – "As the deer longs for the water brooks, so longs

my soul for you, O God.” If you look closely, you will see how Helen Mary has incorporated the dove of peace representing the hovering Holy Spirit; a butterfly to remember the saints of Algoma who have gone before us, and a maple leaf to honour our Canadian heritage. The green within the picture evokes the idea of new life in this season of Easter and as spring approaches. The rays of light opening to the heavens and shining down on the earth tell of the access we have to God through prayer, and the assurance that light will always overcome the darkness. I hope you will share this image in your bulletins. There is no copyright as I own the picture.

Karen Nisbet is a talented potter and owner of Hummingbird studio in Sault Ste. Marie. She is also a member of St. Luke’s Cathedral. Karen has designed a large pottery bowl which will be used during Synod, along with the painting created by Helen Mary.

Algoma is an Ojibway word meaning *Around the Lake*. The first churches in our diocese were built near one of the many bodies of water in Northern Ontario as boats were an early mode of transportation. With the theme of water being so prominent at Synod this year, delegates are invited to bring a small container of water from a lake near you. At the opening service of Synod on Thursday 8th May you will be invited to place your water into the bowl. Please have a slip of paper with the name of the body of water on it to place at the foot of the bowl.

We extend a warm welcome to Synod guests as we focus on children and youth

- David Csinos is Associate Professor of Practical Theology at Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He is the founder and president of ‘Faith Forward’, an ecumenical organization for innovation in ministry with children, youth and families. He holds a PhD in practical theology from University of St. Michael’s College in Toronto as well as degrees from Wilfred Laurier University and McMaster University. David will be joining us via Zoom on May 8th to offer a Keynote Address on ‘Intergenerational Faith Formation’ teaching how children and adolescents experience and understand God; how parents, grandparents and church leaders can cultivate authentic in young people.
- Su McLeod is the Youth Engagement Facilitator with Alongside Hope/PWRDF and will be with us to lead one of the Breakout Sessions with Rev. Jeff Hooper.

Other Synod guests are:

- Dr. Roberta Bondar, medical doctor, scientist, astronaut and photographer will give the Keynote Address at the Synod Banquet on Friday 9th May. This banquet will mark the diocesan launch of the Episcopal Fund, also known as the “Anne

Germond Legacy Fund.” More information will follow about the banquet and how you can purchase tickets.

- Canon Bob Elkin, Mr. Jock Pirrie are the co-chairs of the Episcopal Fund Committee. Along with Canon Ed Swayze, Incumbent of St. Stephen the Martyr and Chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers they will be speaking to Synod about the history of the Episcopacy and merits of the Episcopal Fund.
- Michelle Hauser serves as the Development and Communications Consultant for the Anglican Foundation of Canada. She has been assisting the Episcopal Fund Committee in recent months and will join us for the launch.

Breakout sessions

In addition to the keynote address and plenary sessions during Synod, there will also be the opportunity for you to attend some smaller 'breakout sessions' on Thursday afternoon. To get the full benefit of these sessions for your parish it is often a good idea for clergy and lay members to attend different sessions.

This Synod's breakout groups will include the following:

- Focus on Youth Ministry lead by Su McLeod – Youth Engagement Facilitator with Alongside Hope/ PWRDF, Rev. Jeff Hooper and Rev. Heather Manuel.
- The Very Rev. Dr Jay Koyle will be leading a session on liturgy.
- The Diocesan Social Justice Committee will be leading a session on Food Insecurity and other issues which lead to homelessness. Homelessness has been a focus for the Social Justice Committee over the last two years.

Elections at Synod

The only elections taking place at this Synod will be for a Youth delegate to General Synod 2025 as the delegate elected in 2023 is unable to attend. General Synod is being held in London, Ontario from June 23rd to June 30th this year. In addition, we will be electing a Youth Delegate to sit on the Executive Committee. The Diocesan Executive Committee meets three times a year in March, June and November. All but one of the meetings is held online.

In the weeks leading up to Synod I would ask you to pray for the other delegates, lay and clergy, who will be attending the gathering. A 'sending forth' liturgy for delegates on Sunday May 4th. This liturgy is to be led by someone other than the Incumbent of the parish as he/she is a synod delegate.

Here is a prayer for inclusion in parish intercessions in the weeks leading up to Synod:

God our Father, Lord of all the world, through your Son, you have called us into the fellowship of your universal Church.

Hear our prayer for your faithful people that in their vocation and ministry each one may be an instrument of your love.

Give to your servant Anne, our Archbishop, the needful gifts of your grace. May she rightly serve you and share the transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ with the people in and around Algoma and beyond.

Equip us, with our Archbishop, to be a church that is joyful in worship, united in witness, and one which serves the world to the glory of your name. This we ask through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Synod will be steeped in prayer as our Synod Chaplain Archdeacon Roberta Wilson-Garrett and members of the prayer team hold a vigil throughout our gathering. The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer under the leadership of Diocesan Lay Reader Carol Knox, will also be offering prayer resources for Synod. Prayer is a necessary and vital part of all our discussions and decisions as we continuously seek to discern God's will and so your prayers for inspiration and guidance are greatly welcomed. For those delegates living in the Sault Ste. Marie area, or for guests of delegates would you please encourage your friends to come to the Water Tower Inn and offer prayers.

Time for fellowship!

It is our custom at Synod to take time away from meetings to get to know one another and enjoy each other's company. On Thursday evening, the youth delegates will host a reception in the Governor General's Suite at the Water Tower Inn.

With gratitude for your willingness to serve Christ by being involved in the life of Algoma in this way.

I remain, yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Anne: Algoma". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Most Reverend Anne Germond
Archbishop of Algoma

“Almighty and ever living God,

**Give wisdom and understanding to the members of the Synod of this Diocese.
Teach us in all things to seek first your honour and glory.**

**May we perceive what is right,
Have courage to pursue it,
And grace to accomplish it,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”**

(A Prayer Book for Australia)