



September 2025

Dear church,

Just a few days ago I returned, tired, from the CLAY Gathering in Saskatoon, where youth from across Canada, from both Lutheran and Anglican congregations, gathered for play and worship.



I say, "tired," because it's a challenge to keep up with the energy and passion of our young people! They were up early and still at play until midnight each day. The CLAY Planning Team did an excellent job of coordinating a wide diversity of activities and faith-filled worship.

More important than being kept busy – our young people are keenly interested in faith. They ask great questions and are yearning for their place in our ministries. Quite honestly, we simply get in the way too often. Sometimes "youth" are the last thing on a budget or on a council's agenda. With the decline in our churches - and the noticeable absence of young people in many cases – we need to prioritize young people. It's time for our communities to work intentionally to support ministry of camps, universities and youth/young adults in our churches; it's time to experiment with varied worship in style and day or time.

At the National Convention this summer in Winnipeg, young adult delegates put forward a motion to form their own council across Canada. This work has already begun. I will be proposing the same idea to our own Synod Council in October. The idea is to be intentional about affirmation and inclusion in this new way that we might all be encouraged.

What could you do differently? Try a good old Google search for ideas! It's ok for young people to experiment, make mistakes and learn along the way. Young people also have excellent skills and ideas on their own – we just need to ask them – and then let them try, even if it's not perfect.

I challenge you to make space for them. Councils and worship committees, quilting groups and property committees. I challenge you to start your September in a new way with open eyes and hearts. I believe in you – that you love these young hearts and want to see them flourish.

September blessings in these acts of faith!

Keep singing,

*Bishop Trish*

Bishop Trish



### **Synod of Alberta & the Territories at CLAY 2025**

Follow our Instagram Page, [ABT\\_FM](#) for youth & young adults  
"FM" stands for "Follow Me," Jesus' invitation in Matthew 4:19.

Youth and Young Adults Scan to follow!

