



Daily Bread for Algoma - A Simple Lenten Food Offering for Churches

The Challenge in Algoma

Nearly 1 in 4 households in Algoma faces food insecurity, higher than the provincial average. Parents skip meals so their children can eat. Seniors choose between groceries and medication. A single person on Ontario Works faces a \$243 monthly deficit after paying for food and housing. In 2025 alone, Harvest Algoma has already rescued 547,526 lbs of food and distributed 452,316 lbs—food that would have otherwise gone to waste.

How Harvest Algoma Fits the System

Harvest Algoma is the regional food rescue and distribution hub that keeps Algoma food banks supplied. Think of it as the warehouse and logistics system upstream of the food cupboards, soup kitchens, and outreach programs many churches already support.

What we do:

- Rescue food from retailers, farms, and processors before it goes to waste
- Store and distribute food at scale to food banks and meal programs across Algoma
- Handle the logistics so local ministries can focus on serving people



Funding: Harvest Algoma operates on a mix of grants, donations, and partnerships. Grants often restrict how funds can be used. Unrestricted donations from initiatives like Daily Bread for Algoma help cover operating costs—fuel, cold storage, and equipment repairs—that keep food moving through the system.

Who does Harvest Algoma support? The main food banks in Algoma (Salvation Army, the Soup Kitchen and St Vincent Place). Small rural food banks from Wawa to Thessalon. Social service agencies that serve individuals working with child welfare, mental health, addiction services, and youth programs. Direct meal programs to serve 60 daily meals for the Men's Shelter + Every Breakfast Counts summer lunch program.

What is “Daily Bread for Algoma”?

A Lenten or Easter food offering that churches designate for Harvest Algoma. It's designed to be simple, scalable, and respectful of your church's capacity.

Participation is straightforward:

1. Your church council approves a designated Lenten or Easter offering for Daily Bread for Algoma
2. Funds are collected using your existing methods (envelopes, e-transfer, however you normally receive offerings)
3. After Easter, your church sends one cheque or e-transfer to Harvest Algoma (contact Jennifer Baron regarding receipting process)
4. Harvest Algoma provides a shared impact summary showing collective results from participating churches

What This Is NOT

- ✗ Not a replacement for your church's food cupboard or meal program
- ✗ Not a household pledge campaign
- ✗ Not a special event requiring volunteers
- ✗ Not asking for tax receipts from Harvest Algoma (churches handle receipting according to their own policies, just like other community donations)

Why This Works for Churches Right Now

Fits existing practices: Lent already includes offerings and spiritual disciplines around simplicity and generosity.

Scales to your context: A church of 30 can participate just as meaningfully as a church of 300.

Supports the whole system: Strengthens the infrastructure that supplies the food ministries many churches already support or partner with.

Clear Impact Language

"\$1 helps move 2 pounds of food through the system"

"Together, Algoma churches helped move X pounds of food into local food banks this Easter"

Donations cover the cost of rescuing, storing, and distributing food – not the value of food itself.

Decision Needed from Your Council

- ✓ Approve participation as a designated Lenten or Easter offering

Questions? David Thompson, Executive Director dthompson@harvestalgoma.ca

Please indicate interest by: **February 20, 2026.**