

Why is this ministry important?

“As I was preparing to serve in the ELCA, I visited the Lutheran Center in Chicago. I’ll never forget asking in a meeting, ‘What would you do if you didn’t have enough money to pay the missionaries?’ Rev Michael Meier replied, ‘That would not happen here. We would take money out of our pockets and do whatever it would take.’ I had tears in my eyes and I saw a ‘bigger’ church than I had known. What was bigger about the ELCA was its heart.”

*Ed Kruse
Director of Stewardship, ELCA*

“Since becoming a Mission Interpreter more than ten years ago, I have heard many wonderful stories of how God is touching the lives of people through our giving. These stories are a joy to share and an inspiration for nurturing generosity.”

*Keith Mundy,
Assistant Director of Stewardship, ELCA Evangelical
Outreach & Congregational Mission*

“Every time I hear a Mission Interpreter I get excited about how much God is doing in people’s lives through what we give!”

*Andrea Arey
Former Director for Stewardship Marketing
& Resources, ELCA*

“I am passionate about telling stories about how our congregations’ offerings do God’s work through the ELCA in the world.”

*Shirley Gangstad
Mission Interpreter Coordinator,
Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA*

What story do we have to tell?

Working together, we are making Christ known in ways no individual member or single part of the church could do alone!

- We support Christ’s mission around the World
- We support new and redeveloping congregations
- We provide resources to congregations
- We train and equip pastors and other leaders
- We support education
- We help the poor and powerless
- We support each other as partners in ministry
- And so much more!

Are You Willing to Serve?

Please prayerfully consider becoming a Mission Interpreter in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA. Contact one of the following people for additional information or to volunteer:

Shirley Gangstad

Mission Interpreter Coordinator
507-346-7679 or sgangstad@hotmail.com

Larry Iverson

Synod Minister
507-280-9457 or 800-426-6376 in Minnesota
iverson@semnsynod.org



Southeastern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Mission Interpreters

Southeastern Minnesota Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Sharing the Good News of Christ's Mission Throughout the Church

“But you are God's chosen and special people. You are a group of royal priests and a holy nation. God has brought you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Now you must tell all the wonderful things that he has done.”

1 Peter 2:9 (CEV)

What is the purpose of the program?

- Bring the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ to light and share it with those who make it all possible the people of the ELCA.
- Tell the story of ELCA ministries to members of the church in an effective and compelling manner.
- Provide a vehicle for two-way communication.
- Provide an opportunity to thank the people of the ELCA

What is the mission of the program?

Mission Interpreters are active Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) church members who care about the mission of the church and share the message of the ministries of the ELCA.

How do congregations benefit?

- “Mission minded” congregations are growing in membership and spirit!
- By looking beyond the congregations, members see how they are personally connected to mission and ministry around the world!
- The Mission Interpreter program helps congregations by increasing the understanding of the work we do together beyond the congregation.
- When members understand their identity as partners in a wider church, they become strong advocates supporting the mission and ministry we share beyond the congregations - through the synod and then on through the churchwide organization.

What does the program provide?

- Training workshops
- Resource materials
- Coaching
- Inspiration
- Networking
- Annual gathering to share ideas and information

What do Mission Interpreters do?

- *Present at least one talk per quarter.* This presentation may be in the form of a temple talk, Sunday school lesson, address to church council, etc. You decide which method works best for you and your congregation.
- *Communicate with the congregation monthly via newsletter, bulletin board, or other means.* You may make it as simple or elaborate as you choose.
- *Attend one training workshop and, if possible, one annual gathering per year.* These gathering enable attendees to share ideas and experiences and to learn new ways to share, and thus celebrate, the message of hope in Jesus Christ.
- *Commit to the Mission Interpreter program for at least two years.*

What don't Mission Interpreters do?

- Fundraisers
- Promoting local activities