

Why Mission Interpreters Are Important to Our Synod

“The church originated as a community that gathered around a shared story. This story of life, hope, and possibility grew in a very short time into a force that changed the course of history and the face of creation, largely through the joyful sharing of story. Although the building up of a network of Mission Interpreters is a new initiative, in more profound ways it represents a return to the very heart of who we are as the baptized people of God.”

Bishop Wayne N. Miller
Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA

“Through baptism, God claims and calls us as stewards to lives that transform us, our church, and the world. We are called to share the Good News of what God has done and is doing in the world. Called to tell the stories of God working in the world through us and the many ministries made possible because of our generosity.”

Steven Homberg, Associate to the Bishop for Stewardship Development

“We Lutherans just don’t talk enough about all the incredible ways that we make Christ known through our good works and dollars. My job is to help us break the silence! I want us talking - boasting even - in order to share the glory of what God is doing among us!”

Mary Anderson
Synod Mission Interpreter Coordinator

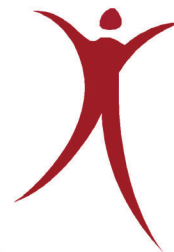
We Have a Wonderful Story to Tell!

- 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 congregations with resources.
- 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. Contact one of the following people for additional information, or to volunteer:

Mary Anderson
Synod Mission Interpreter
Coordinator,
MaryTheMIC@aol.com



Synod Mission Interpreter Team

Rev. Dawn Mass, pastordawn@yahoo.com

Héctor Garfias-Toledo, hgarfias@mcselca.org

Rev. Mark Larson,
pastor_mark@bethlehemluth.org

Jeff Drake, jdrake@mcselca.org

Mission Interpreters Metropolitan Chicago Synod



**Sharing the Good
News of ELCA
Ministries**

*Telling the stories of
our hands doing
God’s work in our
neighborhoods and
around the world.*

God’s work. Our hands.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God’s work. Our hands.

Mission Interpreters tell the stories of our hands doing God's work in the world.

What Do Mission Interpreters Do?

Mission interpreters, volunteers from congregations in each synod of the ELCA, tell the story of how our offerings and gifts are transformed into effective ministries. They remind us of how we make a difference in Christ's mission and the work of the church, and they thank our people for their faithful giving.

This is primarily done through temple talks, visits with councils and committees, and helping in any way they are asked to share information, provide resources, and give guidance on doing God's work at the congregational, synodical, and churchwide expressions. They also develop connections between the ELCA membership and its leadership and mission.

Mission interpreters are trained in the various aspects of church ministry and mission and have the resources available to carry them out as a member of the ELCA.

What Are the Qualifications?

- Be faith-filled, loving Christ and the church.
- Be knowledgeable about the ELCA.
- Be an active member of a congregation.
- Be a strong steward.
- Be willing to attend training sessions.

Congregations Benefit from Mission Interpreters

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.

The Mission Interpreter Ministry helps congregations by increasing the understanding of the work we do together beyond the congregation.

By looking beyond the congregation, members see how they are personally connected to mission and ministry around the world!

"Mission minded" congregations are growing in membership and spirit!

Mission Interpreters Receive

- Training Workshops
- Resource Materials
- Coaching
- Inspiration
- Networking
- Annual Gathering to share ideas and information

Mission Interpreters are willing to:

- 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 gatherings 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 Ministry for at least two years.

