

## The Ministry of Mission Interpreters is Important

“Mission Interpreters not only communicate what is happening with ministries beyond the congregation, but embody the meaning of the phrase ‘We are the Church.’ Walking together is more than the bishop knowing the breadth of the church’s ministries, it is all of us together taking responsibility to learn about and share the great things that are happening because we work and walk together.”

*Bishop Marie Jerge  
Upstate NY Synod, ELCA*

“Learning about all the marvelous ministries of the ELCA has enriched my life & my faith. I experience God’s amazing grace every time I visit a congregation & share the stories of God’s mission to love and bless the world. You and I, by sharing our gifts of time, talent & treasure, are making Christ known in our communities and throughout the world.”

*Nan Bader  
Upstate NY Synod,  
Mission Interpreter*

“When I was getting ready 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  
Former Director of Stewardship, ELCA*

## A Wonderful Story to Tell

Working together, the ELCA is *Making Christ Known* in ways no individual member or single part of the church could do alone! Through the ELCA we.....

- Support Christ’s Mission around the world
- Support new and redeveloping congregations
- Provide resources
- Train and equip pastors and other leaders
- Support education
- Help the poor and powerless
- Support each other as partners in ministry
- And so much more!

## Are You Willing to Serve?

Please prayerfully consider becoming a Mission Interpreter. To volunteer or set up a MI visit for your congregation, contact our Synod Mission Interpreter Coordinator.

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**Upstate New York Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

# Mission Interpreters



**Upstate New York Synod**  
of the  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

*For we cannot keep from speaking  
about what we have heard.*  
**Acts 4:20**

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*Resurrection people who pray first,  
walk together and change lives.*

## What do Mission Interpreters do?

- Go to congregations to tell the story of how offerings and gifts are transformed into effective ministries.
- Remind everyone of how together we make a difference for Christ's mission and the work of the church.
- Thank people for their faithful giving.

## How is this accomplished?

- By temple talks
- By visits with councils & committees
- By sharing information
- By providing resources
- By giving guidance on doing God's work at congregational, synodical, and churchwide levels
- By developing connections between the ELCA membership and its leadership and mission.



## What Are the Qualifications?

- Be faith-filled, loving Christ & Church
- Be a faithful steward
- Be an active member of a congregation
- Be willing to attend educational workshops
- Be willing to tell the stories of how God's Work is being done with Our Hands

## Congregations Benefit from Mission Interpreters

- "Mission minded" congregations are growing in membership and spirit!
- The Mission Interpreter Ministry helps congregations by increasing the understanding of the work and ministry of the ELCA beyond the congregation.
- By looking beyond the congregation, members see how they are personally connected to mission and ministry around the world!
- When members understand their identity as partners in a wider church, they become strong advocates supporting the mission and ministry of Christ's church beyond congregations, through the synod and through the church-wide organization.



## Mission Interpreters Receive

- Educational opportunities
- Resource Materials
- Coaching
- Inspiration
- Networking
- Opportunities to share ideas

## 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. Decide which method works best for you and your congregation.
- **Communicate** with and **Serve** the congregation monthly via newsletter, bulletin board, Temple Talk, or other means. Make it as simple or elaborate as desired.
- **Attend** one educational opportunity as offered. These gatherings enable attendees to share ideas and experiences and to learn new ways to share stories, and thus celebrate the message of hope in Jesus Christ.
- **Commit** to the Mission Interpreter program for at least two years.



Mission Interpreters interpret the ministries of Christ's church through the ELCA. They are not fundraisers.