

## Why Mission Interpreters Are Important to Our Synod

**Rev. Stephen Kanouse, Director for Evangelical Mission...** *"...our Synod Mission Interpreters create a vital link between the work we do as congregations, synods, and our church around the world. Through these dedicated people, we learn what we are doing in mission in our own back yards as well as throughout the church. With the work of mission and ministry, we find support, insight, and encouragement for the joyful tasks of ministry together. I hope these stories, shared through our Mission Interpreters, will lead you to ideas and opportunities for outreach, in-reach, and mission on behalf of the mission of Christ. We are the public and visible witness of Jesus Christ in our world...."*



## 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:

### Synod Mission Interpreter Team

Rev. Brad Carroll  
Julia Hernandez  
Irma Bañales



Email:

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# Mission Interpreters

Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana 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.

