

5 WAYS to use Stories of Faith in Action in your congregation

Stories of Faith in Action is a free, annual publication that highlights how God is changing lives through Mission Support, the percentage of your congregational offering that is shared with your synod and your churchwide organization. Together as the ELCA we serve God's people through our 10,000 congregations, 65 synods and many churchwide ministries across the United States and around the world.

How can you inspire ELCA members with this publication? Here are our top five ways:

1. As part of your annual stewardship emphasis

Order additional free copies of Stories of Faith in Action and distribute them in member stewardship packets and/or keep them near your stewardship bulletin board or display. Let your members know that their giving in 2014 helped make these stories possible.

2. In your weekly bulletin or on the bulletin board

Selected stories from this publication are available as bulletin inserts to complement your existing church communications. Download bulletin inserts for printing and find a printer-friendly, color poster to hang on a bulletin board at www.ELCA.org/Resources/Stories-of-Faith-in-Action.

3. As devotions at council meetings and other congregational gatherings

When devotions are needed, read one story and include a prompt for reflection. Questions might include:

- Where do I see myself or our congregation in this story?
- Which partnerships made this ministry possible?
- What potential for ministry do I see in our congregation?

Close your devotion with a prayer for the ministries and people featured in the story and for the continued work of the ELCA.

4. For retreats and leadership planning sessions

Looking for creative ways to spark new ministries in your congregation? Stories of Faith in Action can provide fresh ideas for retreats and planning sessions. Prior to the event, assign selected reading in Stories of Faith in Action. During breakout sessions, use the stories as a springboard for brainstorming.

5. To share with new, hospitalized or homebound members

Share the colorful, inviting features of Stories of Faith in Action at new-member orientation and with those who have limited mobility and help them feel more connected to the work of the wider church.



Get started today!

Visit www.ELCA.org/Resources/Stories-of-Faith-in-Action now to:

- Order free copies of Stories of Faith in Action to be delivered to your congregation. (All you have to cover is shipping!)
- Download bulletin insert designs containing selected stories from this publication.
- Download a Mission Support FAQ sheet for council, finance or congregational meetings.
- Download a Stories of Faith in Action poster template for printing at your congregation or at your local copy center.

