



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

*You're receiving this email because you, your congregation or your synod indicated you are a mission interpreter coordinator or mission interpreter in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), or because you've shown interest in stewardship news for mission interpreters. If you'd prefer to unsubscribe from this newsletter, please [let us know](#).*

Hello and happy fall,

This is my favorite time of the year. Here in Upstate New York we are enjoying the colorful leaves and cooler temperatures.

In August we had a very successful Mission Interpreter Coordinator's conference in Chicago. There was a good mix of seasoned coordinators and "newbies" in attendance. We worshiped together in several area congregations and learned about their mission work. We also participated in Scripture study around Micah 6:8. We learned together and even had a bit of fellowship together. We are blessed to continue to grow this ministry across our ELCA.

In October we gathered just south of Toledo, Ohio, for the first Networks for Mission regional meeting for Region 6. We had several opportunities to meet as mission interpreters, and we were grateful to connect some newcomers to the Mission Interpreter ministry. A similar event will be held in St. Cloud, Minn., for Region 3 from Nov. 13–15, so hopefully you are registered to attend. We look forward to our time together and seeing you at these events.

As you continue to grow the Mission Interpreter network in your synod, I invite you to contact me with any questions you may have, suggestions to share, or resources you may need. The work you do in your synod is important and it is greatly appreciated.

Peace,  
Denise

### Visiting congregations

Giving thanks and making commitments

Many congregations focus on stewardship in the fall, and it's at this time that budgets are being developed. It's the perfect time to make appointments to visit church councils as well as finance and stewardship committees to give thanks for all the decisions they make around mission support. To get started, don't forget to use our resource, Mission Interpreter Council Outline, found in the recruiting folder of the Mission Interpreter [Toolkit archive](#).



You might also want to invite each congregation – with joy – to participate in our collective ELCA mission. Use this [video](#) from the Rev. Margaret Payne, ELCA director of Mission Support, to help people understand where mission support dollars go.

### Two helpful resources

Recruiting and contact information

Trying to invite others to join your synod's Mission Interpreter network but don't know where to start? Being present at women's events, conference meetings, deans' meetings, young adult events, and synod assembly can be a great way to recruit new mission interpreters. See the recruiting folder in the [Mission Interpreter Toolkit archive](#) for many useful resources.

As you're having fall training events, please make sure you update your Mission Interpreter contact lists with Christina Johnson at [christinam.johnson@elca.org](mailto:christinam.johnson@elca.org). If you are looking for a helpful way to collect contact information, you may want to see the resource Form B in the training folder of the [Mission Interpreter Toolkit archive](#). Please make every effort to update and submit your lists to Christina as soon as possible.

### ELCA Mission Interpretation on social media

Connecting through Facebook

Our [ELCA Mission Interpreter Facebook](#) group is a place to share information with others in this network. If you've seen or done something that might be helpful to others, please post it on the page. It's a great way to share resources, ideas, and pose questions for the group. Please encourage new Mission Interpreters in your synod to get connected to our Facebook group as well.

### New stories of Faith in Action

Showing up and making a difference

Every year the ELCA publishes [Stories of Faith in Action](#), which features photos and stories of people whose lives have been touched by ministries of the ELCA. This resource shows how your regular congregational offering, shared with your synod and the churchwide organization, is changing lives. For many Lutherans, the ELCA is the most important organization we belong to for making a difference in the world. Inspire your members by telling those stories through this resource and the related bulletin inserts.



### ELCA blogs

Stories from across the church

Looking for more stories about the difference our church makes in the world? Here is a sampling of recent headlines from [blog posts](#) on ELCA.org.

- Nebraska youth stands with New Jersey and continues Superstorm Sandy recovery ([read](#))
- Unaccompanied and Migrant Children: A safe and caring environment for refugee children ([read](#))
- Milwaukee Ministries: Visiting Cross Lutheran Church and Alice's Garden ([read](#))
- Building the church in Zimbabwe ([read](#))

### New life for children in Tanzania

Spiritual and physical health around the world

Children in rural Tanzania are getting the medical care they need thanks to ELCA missionaries Dr. Stephen Friberg and his wife, Bethany Friberg. But "mission doctors know it is God who does the healing," they say. Share this inspiring story with congregations you visit. For a colorful Word document to display on a bulletin board or in a newsletter or PowerPoint presentation, visit [www.ELCA.org/resources/globalchurch](http://www.ELCA.org/resources/globalchurch).



### Sayings, quotes, thoughts

Margaret Mead

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

### Biblical foundations

Isaiah 43:18-19 (NLT)

"But forget all that—it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland."



Upcoming events for Mission interpreters  
(Watch the [calendar file](#) for details)

#### November 13-15

Networks for Mission regional meeting for Region 3 in St. Cloud, Minn.

**Get connected!**

#### For more information

Contact Denise Ballou, Mission Interpreter Ministry Coordinator  
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