Q: Who can be a Mission Interpreter?
A: Anyone who loves to hear and tell stories about the ways God empowers the church to be the good news, locally and beyond.

Q: What is involved?
A: Each Mission Interpreter is going to approach the telling of a story differently. We simply ask that some form of storytelling be used every month — a temple talk, an article in the newsletter, a bulletin insert, or some other creative storytelling effort — every month.

Q: What then?
A: Training is available and the Mission Interpreter Coordinator will keep in touch with you, providing support and offering ideas.

Q: Where can I get more information?
A: Contact Suzanne O’Dea, Mission Interpreter Coordinator at MIC@spselca.com

“...for we cannot keep from speaking what we have seen and heard.”
Acts 4:20
What is a Mission Interpreter?

ELCA Mission Interpreters tell the stories of our hands doing God’s work. They follow in the tradition of the apostles by telling their congregations what they have seen God do. Real stories... carrying God’s work to people — their next door neighbors and those thousands of miles away.

They tell the story about a pallet of granola bars, a pastor, and some college students. They tell the story of two pigs, a water pump, and a motorbike.

They tell the mission stories.

The Sierra Pacific Synod’s Mission Interpreter Coordinator—MIC—has abundant, wonderful resources for those interested in being Mission Interpreters.

Mission Interpreters
Weaving together the Stories of the Sierra Pacific Synod

Why tell stories?

When we tell stories, we remind ourselves, and each other, what we hold to be important. As Christians we value our neighbors, we value service, we value doing God’s work with our hands. We want to tell others what God has done—from the projects in our congregations, to events supported by the Sierra Pacific Synod, to the international efforts sponsored by ELCA churchwide.

Our stories connect us. Our stories help us see our place in the many ministries in which we participate — places we fill with our time, our talents and our resources, directly and indirectly.

What else?

Mission Interpreters know their own congregations. They know about the ministries underway, some visible - like the community garden - and others that are not so visible - like visiting members. When appropriate, Mission Interpreters shine a light on these ministries. Through the telling of stories, these ministries are brought to life - offering examples for others and dramatizing the importance of the work we do at every level.

Making these stories available for use by our pastors, our synod and churchwide, gives them power beyond the individual congregation. MIC (the Mission Interpreter Coordinator) intentionally seeks these stories in order to tell them throughout the ELCA. In this way, Mission Interpreters are an important resource.

For more information, email MIC@spselca.org

What is the Story?

Mission Interpreters—Storytellers of the Sierra Pacific Synod