

The Role of a Mission Interpreter in a Congregation

Most of us know how our offerings support our own congregations, but many do not know how the part of the offering that is passed onto the synod ~ what we call benevolence or mission support dollars ~ is being used by the synod and the churchwide organization. The stories Mission Interpreters share help bridge that gap, and help the “folks in the pews” better understand the mission and ministry of the church and how they are connected to it.

We ask our Mission Interpreters to share a story once a month with their congregation or with a specific ministry group within their congregation, i.e. church council, women’s group, youth group, etc. Jan Borchers, Mission Interpreter Coordinator for our synod, shares stories via e-mail with the Mission Interpreters that they can share. Many of the MI’s search out the stories they share from the Southern Ohio Synod website, the ELCA website, and various other sources.

MI’s may share stories however they like ~ through written stories in church newsletters and/or worship bulletins, or through verbal temple talks and/or announcements, or even through the use of bulletin board displays or a combination of all these.

The time commitment is whatever the pastor and MI determine works best for the congregation and the MI’s schedule.