



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Sharing the Story: An Invitation to Experience Mission Support

Written by: Georgia Suranofsky, God's Work, Our Hands Storyteller



2025 Adventure Camp, supported by a NEPA Synod Witness & Service grant received by participating congregations of the Pretzel City Parish.

DID YOU KNOW that your Mission Support helps fund important initiatives across the synod? Your contributions are making a significant impact and helping others grow in faith, supporting the synod's lanes of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the values of Loving, Healing, and Engaging like Jesus.

As a God's Work, our Hands Storyteller (formally Mission Interpreter) for over 13 years I have had the privilege to share stories and say Thank You to many congregations in our synod. Charlotte Gross and I currently coordinate the storytelling ministry. We are invited to visit congregations for worship, meet with congregation councils or be part of faith formation.

I have learned about all the ministries in our synod and the ELCA including our ecumenical partners. When I first started exploring the ministries, it was overwhelming to know the support that changed many lives by doing God's work in the world. The Witness and Service Ministry Team receives a portion annually from your Mission Support giving that is used to fund grants for outreach projects and events. My own congregation has applied and used grants for outreach in my community. If I would not have been involved and understood how mission support giving is used, our outreach may not have happened. In my role, I receive the evaluations after a grant is completed. This gives me the opportunity to contact the sponsors and find out more about how the money was used. Many of the conversations are turned into stories that are shared on the synod website at godslove.org/missionsupport or under Resources, Mission Support on the synod's website.

There are many ways you could be part of the team of storytellers. I have met many people in the pews through visits or on the phone/zoom to hear how their ministries are helping others because we all share our Mission Support giving. We can do so much more together than any individual can do alone.

When I first started sharing stories and saying thank you to congregations, I had no idea that my life would be enriched by their stories and eagerness to do more. Many times, I have heard, “I can’t believe our mission support giving helps do this. I had no idea.”

Mission Support can be understood better and communicated with the help of various resources. The resources can be found on the synod website at godslove.org/missionsupport or under Resources, Mission Support. The resources are designed to be used in various media formats. The best way to gain insight into the vital importance of Mission Support is regular sharing of stories, including an in-person visits from a God’s Work, Our Hands Storyteller. Please Contact Georgia Suranofsky at georgiasuranofsky@hotmail.com to schedule a visit from a storyteller.



2025 technology upgrades project, supported by a NEPA Synod Witness & Service grant received by Ziegels Union Church



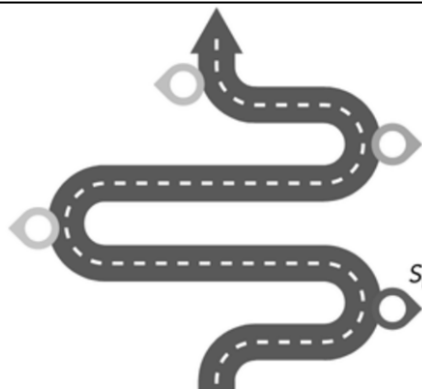
Georgia Suranofsky at the God’s Work, Our Hands Storyteller display during the 2025 Synod Assembly.



STORYTELLERS

Want to hear stories of mission support impact?

Consider inviting “God’s Work Our Hands Storyteller” to a Council meeting, faith formation, Sunday morning, or coffee break! Contact Georgia Suranofsky at georgiasuranofsky@hotmail.com



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