



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 21, 2011

**CONTACT:** Jo Ann Dollard  
847/390-1446

## **LSSI to Honor Rev. Frederick Aigner at 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Amicus Certus ('True Friend') Celebration**

On November 12, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) will present The Reverend Frederick Aigner, Ph.D., president emeritus of LSSI, with the Amicus Certus ("True Friend") Award at the 30th Annual Amicus Certus Celebration. Founded in 1867, [Lutheran Social Services of Illinois](http://www.LSSI.org) is a statewide, not-for-profit social service agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The annual event, hosted by [The Women's Network of LSSI](http://www.LSSI.org) and chaired by Teri Colmar (Northbrook), will take place at the Meadows Club in Rolling Meadows. Orion Samuelson, WGN broadcaster and 1996 Amicus Certus honoree, will serve as the evening's master of ceremonies.

The Amicus Certus Award is given annually to individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to the human community. Aigner is being recognized for his commitment to actively serve others, his distinguished leadership of LSSI and his continuing benevolence, which exemplify the spirit of the award. He served as president/CEO of LSSI from 1997 until his retirement in 2009. Prior to that, he served on the LSSI Board of Directors from 1990 to 1996. From 1983-1997, he was the senior pastor of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights. He also served at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Florissant, Mo., and Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church in Altadena, Calif.

"Through very difficult times, Pr. Aigner always focused on providing continuity of care for the most vulnerable served by Lutheran Social Services of Illinois," says The Rev. Denver Bitner, D.Min., LSSI president/CEO. "His commitment to provide excellence of care with fiscal responsibility has become a hallmark of the service provided our agency. I am privileged to follow his leadership, which has provided a legacy of professional care reflecting the values of our Lutheran tradition."

Aigner is a graduate of Wittenberg University and received a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pa., and a Doctor of Philosophy from the Graduate

– more –

Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif. He is the recipient of several awards and honorary degrees, including the Presidential Award for Distinguished Leadership from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

Proceeds from this year's Amicus Certus Celebration will benefit LSSI's Senior Services programs throughout the state. These programs include [adult day services](#), [home care services](#), respite for caregivers, [case management](#) and medical management services, Alzheimer's and dementia care, and nursing and rehabilitative services.

The evening will feature a "The Stars Are Out Tonight" theme, with the smooth sounds of The Jodi Beach Trio during dinner and the rockin' T-Byrdz after dinner, featuring Craig Colmar on bass. Cocktails will be served at 6 p.m., with dinner following at 7 p.m.

Former Amicus Certus honorees include the late Paul Simon, U.S. Senator from Illinois; Anne M. Burke, Chicago Special Olympics founder; Rotary International; Janet Reno, former U.S. Attorney General; The Retirement Research Foundation; and The Erickson Institute. In 2010, LSSI honored Ill. State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (12th District) for her lifelong service and dedication to the needs of children, as well as adopted persons.

Tickets are \$175 per person and may be obtained by advance reservations. Sponsorships are also available. For more information or to make reservations, contact Ed Newton at 847/635-4656, or at [Edward.Newton@LSSI.org](mailto:Edward.Newton@LSSI.org). Reservations can also be made online at [www.LSSI.org](http://www.LSSI.org).

###

### **About Lutheran Social Services of Illinois**

Founded in 1867, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois is a statewide, not-for-profit social service agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. LSSI's services include foster care, adoption, pregnancy counseling, Head Start, child care services, services for at-risk families, residential services for youth, counseling, mental health, substance abuse treatment, residential programs for adults with developmental disabilities, housing and services for older adults and individuals with disabilities, nursing care and rehabilitation, and programs for prisoners and their families. For more information, visit [www.LSSI.org](http://www.LSSI.org) or [LSSI's Facebook page](#).