



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Mary Beth Carlson to Perform in ‘Concerts of Caring’ to Benefit LSSI**

Between October 5 and 9, Mary Beth Carlson – composer, pianist, speaker and recording artist – will perform in five “Concerts of Caring” around the state to benefit Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) programs in the hosting communities, including services for children, families, seniors and people with disabilities.

The concerts, which will start at 7 p.m., will be hosted by the following churches: Oct. 5 at Lutheran Church of the Atonement in Barrington; Oct. 6 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Rockford; Oct. 7 at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Rock Island; Oct. 8 at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Springfield; and Oct. 9 at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Carbondale.

Carlson’s concerts, which are intimate and heart-warming, feature a wide selection of music to please listeners of all ages. She is a compelling storyteller as well.

“We are very excited to be able to showcase Mary Beth’s incredible talent and also her moving story of her daughter’s autism and cerebral palsy,” says the Rev. Denver Bitner, D.Min., LSSI president. “She’s able to not only deliver a great concert, but her personal story reflects a deep commitment to what that LSSI is all about — caring for people in need.” The agency is working towards developing supportive housing for high functioning adults with autism.

“Music is a beautiful, treasured gift from God,” Carlson says. “I know I’m on the right path when I hear from appreciative listeners who tell me moving stories of how my music has been personally meaningful in their lives.”

Carlson is also a composer, and much of her original music has been created in honor of her daughter Jody, who was born with cerebral palsy and autism. She has written and performed music specifically for the International Special Olympics, Arc, Children’s Cancer Research Fund and the Alzheimer’s Association.

Carlson’s piano orchestral arrangements have been featured on several recordings with internationally recognized artists including, among others, Sandi Patty, Darlene Zschech, Sheila

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Walsh, Kelly Willard, Jim Brickman, The Blenders, Steve Hall and J.D. Steele, who performed at last year’s Concerts of Caring. Most recently, Carlson was interviewed on KTIS radio in St. Paul, Minn., in a five-day series about her journey of faith for the *Her Journey* radio program.

Tickets cost \$15 per person. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the hosting church: Lutheran Church of the Atonement in Barrington (Oct. 5) at 847/381-0243; Trinity Lutheran Church in Rockford (Oct. 6) at 815/963-4446; St. John’s Lutheran Church in Rock Island (Oct. 7) at 309/786-6333; St. John’s Lutheran Church in Springfield (Oct. 8) at 217/793-3933; and Epiphany Lutheran Church in Carbondale (Oct. 9) at 618/457-2065. Or visit [www.LSSI.org](http://www.LSSI.org) or [LSSI’s Facebook page](#).

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**About Lutheran Social Services of Illinois**

Founded in 1867, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) is a statewide, not-for-profit social service agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). LSSI serves people through an array of services at approximately 83 sites across Illinois. 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.

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