



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Rev. Robert Rasmus Named Chair of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois Board of Directors

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) recently named the Rev. Robert Rasmus, senior pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Urbana, as chair of its Board of Directors. Rasmus succeeds Eric Draut, retired VP/CFO of Unitrin, who served as chair for two years. Based in Des Plaines, LSSI is a statewide, not-for-profit social service agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Rasmus has been an LSSI Board member since 2006. He also serves on the Statewide Advisory Council of Lutheran Advocacy–Illinois, the public policy and justice advocacy arm of LSSI and the ELCA’s three Illinois synods.

“Pastor Rasmus is extremely dedicated to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois — to our work and our mission of bringing healing, justice and wholeness to people and communities,” says the Rev. Dr. Denver Bitner, LSSI president and CEO. “We are honored that he has made this commitment to sharing his gifts of leadership and time to guiding the work of our Board and our agency.”

Rasmus says, “In my four plus years on the Board, I have witnessed an agency that — while facing tremendous challenges, particularly related to the state’s economic climate — continues to do its work with focus, efficiency and an unwavering commitment to the thousands of men and women who depend on its services. This is a credit not just to the leadership, but to the care providers at every level who have made it their life’s work to attend to the needs of our brothers and sisters around the state.”

A native of North Dakota, Pr. Rasmus graduated from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in 1996 and was ordained the same year. Prior to entering the seminary, he earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota in 1982. He also served as a U.S. Army medic,

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the news director of a radio station, a congressional press secretary, and a political and public affairs reporter for a radio station in Iowa. Pr. Rasmus began his ministry at the Urbana congregation in January 2001, after serving a church in Orange, Texas. He and his wife, Ann, have a daughter.

Founded in 1867, LSSI serves people through an array of services at approximately 83 sites across Illinois. For more information on LSSI, visit www.LSSI.org and [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.