



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

NEWS RELEASE

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Our Saviour's in Arlington Heights to Receive LSSI's Ministry of Hope Award on December 2

On Sunday, December 2, 2007, the Rev. Dr. Frederick Aigner, president of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), will present the congregation of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights with the 2007 Ministry of Hope Award.

The award, which recognizes an outstanding congregation that provides leadership in supporting the ministry of LSSI and other ministries in the community, is presented annually to one congregation in each of the three ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) synods in Illinois. The other Ministry of Hope Award recipients are St. John's Lutheran Church in Rock Island and St. John's Lutheran Church in Bloomington.

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights has a commitment to social justice and ministry that is a fundamental part of the congregation's mission and identity. The congregation is in its 18th year of hosting a PADS (Public Access to Deliver Shelter) site on Saturday nights from October through April. Its newest ministry is the Green Team, which promotes environmental activities, such as recycling, and which also hosted the Metropolitan Chicago Synod's Greening Congregations workshop this year. The church also has an older adult ministry that links with Harper College's Life-Long Learning Program, and offers a Stephen Ministry program, which enables trained congregation members to provide compassionate listening to other congregation members in need of support, as well as a support group for military families.

"The people of Our Saviour's are passionate about the gospel of Jesus Christ, to proclaim it and to share it in service to others," says the Rev. Gail Heidtke, pastor of the Arlington Heights church. "We are honored by the Ministry of Hope Award, but it is a greater honor to be involved in the work of Jesus Christ."

She adds that it is an especially great honor to be presented with the award by Pr. Aigner, who previously was the pastor of the congregation.

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“Every year it’s exciting to receive the Ministry of Hope nominations and be reminded of the incredible ministries that congregations are providing to their communities and to the world,” says Lisa Hassenstab, associate director of LSSI’s Office of Church and Government Relations. “The three recipients of this year’s awards are outstanding examples of the carrying out of God’s work in the world today, and LSSI is pleased to have the opportunity to recognize them for their ministry.”

Founded in October 1867, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois is celebrating its 140th anniversary, and is a statewide, not-for-profit social service agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

For more information on LSSI’s Ministry of Hope Award, contact Lisa Hassenstab at 847/390-1447. For more about LSSI, visit www.LSSI.org.

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