



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 27, 2007

**CONTACT:** Jo Ann Dollard

847/390-1446

## **LSSI to Present St. John's Lutheran Church in Rock Island with 2007 Ministry of Hope Award**

On Sunday, December 16, the Rev. Dr. Frederick Aigner, president of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), will present the congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church in Rock Island with the 2007 Ministry of Hope Award at the church's 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. worship services.

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 Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights and St. John's Lutheran Church in Bloomington.

Located in an economically and linguistically diverse neighborhood, St. John's offers bilingual homework assistance to children of Spanish-speaking parents every Wednesday, followed by a free meal for them, their families and anyone in the surrounding neighborhoods. This year, the church added an after-school component that consisting of games and an activities hour. The church also supports World Relief and members have supported newly settled neighbors from Liberia, Ethiopia, Iran and Russia.

"St. John's is a high commitment church," says the Rev. Stacie Fidler, the church's pastor. "Its people are committed to the mission of Christ in this community. And the key to our outreach is members' sense of hospitality and mission."

"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 140<sup>th</sup> 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, go online to [www.LSSI.org](http://www.LSSI.org).*

###