



Public Service Announcement

For Immediate Release

March 13, 2006

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Take a stand for justice and compassion at Lutheran Day 2006. Join Lutherans from all over Illinois at the state capitol on Thursday, March 30 for a day of prayer and advocacy for poor and vulnerable citizens living in our state. Lutheran Day is sponsored by Lutheran Home and Services, Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois, Lutheran Network for Justice Advocacy and Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. To learn more about Lutheran Day or to register, visit www.LCFS.org or call 847.635.4653.

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Illinois Lutherans
Encourage Legislators to
Vote Their Convictions
For Just, Compassionate
Public Policy¶
During Event at the
State Capitol¶
Or something like this.
. . .¶

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Legislators to Fulfill
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Care for Citizens In
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2006 ¶

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**Illinois Lutherans Encourage Legislators to Vote
Their Convictions For Just, Compassionate Public
Policy**

During Event at the State Capitol

Or something like this. . .

Illinois Lutherans Urge Legislators to Fulfill Government's Moral Imperative/Obligation to Care for Citizens In Need at Lutheran Day 2006

Increasingly, government funding of human services in Illinois, and the country, is eroding. Calling Illinois legislators' attention to this disturbing trend is the aim purpose of *Lutheran Day 2006*. Using a theological context, Lutherans from all over Illinois will gather in Springfield, Thursday, March 30, to encourage bipartisan support of public policies that demonstrate compassion and justice for the poor and vulnerable living in the citizens of the state.

Now in its third year, *Lutheran Day* organizers are eager to build on the momentum from previous years' events. Lutheran Day 2006 is co-sponsored by Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois (LCFS), Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), the Lutheran Network for Justice Advocacy (LNJA), Lutheran Home and Services, Mosaic, Lutheran Senior Services, Bethel New Life, Good Samaritan Home, and Advocate Health Care.

Daniel Schwick, Director of LNJA , and other faith-based social service administrators, are alarmed by the funding trends they see and assert that government has a moral imperative to care for citizens who do not have the resources or ability to care for themselves.

More

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(Quote)

Traditionally, Lutherans have not taken a public stand on social justice issues. (You may want to make the distinction between Lutheran Church as an institution and individual Lutherans - I can think of a number of examples of the Lutheran Church as an institution taking a stand on social justice issues). But that's changing. More and more, Lutherans are looking to their theological roots for a frame of reference that supports advocacy and outreach in public life.

(Quote)

Throughout the day, *Lutheran Day* participants will engage in a wide- range of activities (see **Event Schedule**) including a briefing on social services issues in Illinois, advocacy training, theological orientation, prayer service, and face-to-face meetings with lawmakers. Later in the evening, a reception will be held in the Lincoln Museum where the **Paul Simon Courage in Public Service Award** will be presented to (recipient's name).

There are more than 500,000 Lutherans in Illinois representing the Lutheran-Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). The goals of *Lutheran Day* include three main objectives:

Build relationships with Illinois public officials to encourage wise and fruitful care of those living in the state.

Demonstrate the collective compassion and power of Lutheran congregations and agencies in Illinois.

Build camaraderie among Lutherans involved in public policy advocacy.

The cost to attend the event is: \$50 for day of activities and evening reception; \$40 for evening reception only; and \$20 for day of activities only. A portion of the event is being underwritten by a grant from Wheat Ridge Ministries. To learn more about *Lutheran Day 2006* or to register, please visit www.LCFS.org or contact Barbara Torkarski, 847.635.4653.