



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LSSI's Connections to Hold Women's Conference on Life Following Incarceration on August 20-21

Connections, a program of Prisoner and Family Ministry of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), will hold a two-day Women's Conference on August 20 and 21 at Salem Lutheran Church in Chicago. The church is located at 318 East 74th Street, and the conference will run from 5 – 7 p.m. on Friday, August 20, and from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday, August 21.

The conference, *Meet the Woman at the Well*, refers to the New Testament story found in John 4:14. It will include a variety of workshops designed for women who have been incarcerated and their loved ones, including: Spirituality, Holding a Family Together, What to Expect When I Come Home, Forgiveness, Women Working Together, The Power of You, and Love or Like (on relationships). The workshops on Saturday are only for women that have been incarcerated. There also will be special sessions for teenage girls. Door prizes will be offered, and a variety of refreshments will be served.

“The purpose of this conference is to provide an atmosphere of support and love to these women,” says the Rev. Valerie Everett, director of Connections. “The workshops are geared toward the empowerment of the women by providing them with resources, information and a spiritual focus to help in their job search, personal development and family relationships.”

Connections works with incarcerated mothers, women who are re-entering the community after being in prison, their children and the children's caregivers. It offers Visits to Mom, which transports Chicago-area children and their caregivers to Decatur, Dwight, Greenville, Lincoln and Pekin Correctional Centers, and a support group for caregivers who accompany children to the Decatur and Lincoln prisons, as well as the re-entry program. For more information on the conference, call Rita Williams at 773/783-9516.

Founded in October 1867, LSSI is a statewide, not-for-profit social service agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. LSSI serves people through an array of services at approximately 83 sites across Illinois. For more information on LSSI or Connections, visit www.LSSI.org or LSSI's Facebook page.

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