

LSSI CHURCH RELATIONS MENU OF SERVICES

I /We would be interested in talking with someone from the staff of LSSI's Office of Church and Government Relations about the following (*please check the appropriate boxes*):

Social Ministry Consultations:

We can meet with members of your congregation's Social Ministry Committee; Church Council; Outreach Committee; Women's, Men's, or Youth Groups; or an *ad hoc* group in your congregation to develop, redevelop or strengthen your congregation's social ministry.

Moral Deliberation:

We can coach a leadership group in your congregation to use a model of moral deliberation that was developed by St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Park Ridge which encourages respectful conversation about social issues. The format is not intended to produce a group decision, but to help individuals look at issues from a theological and moral perspective.

Poverty Issues:

Are people in your congregation aware of poverty in your own community? Across Illinois? Across the U.S.? What can we do in our own communities and collectively to overcome the increasing gap between people with wealth and people living in poverty? We can offer an overview of poverty in Illinois or a customized, more in-depth look at poverty issues.

LSSI/Lutheran Advocacy Sundays:

Looking for an opportunity to lift up your congregation's partnership in ministry with either Lutheran Social Services of Illinois or Lutheran Advocacy-Illinois—or both? We welcome invitations to join you for your regular worship services and provide a sermon, adult forum, temple talk, or all three! If invited to preach, our sermons are based on the Word of the day and are given either by rostered or to-be-rostered members of the ELCA.

Justice Advocacy:

Lutheran Advocacy—Illinois is the ELCA's Public Policy Office in Illinois and is supported by ELCA Church in Society, LSSI, and the three ELCA Synods in Illinois. We can train and support members of your congregation to become effective advocates for social justice based on ELCA social statements.

ELCA Social Statements:

The social statements, messages and resolution of the ELCA are the basis for the public policy work of the ELCA, including Lutheran Advocacy—Illinois. Most ELCA members have little familiarity with the content of the social statements and do not know how they are developed. We offer one-session or multi-session courses on the purpose and content of ELCA Social Statements.

Disaster Preparedness and Response:

How can congregations be prepared in advance to respond to natural or human-caused disasters in their own communities or elsewhere? What are the current and on-going needs for disaster relief and reconstruction volunteers in the Gulf Coast region of the US? We can offer resources and training for your congregation on how best to plan for and respond to disasters.

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☐ **Ministry with Prisoners and Former Prisoners:**

There are a large variety of ways that churches can engage in effective ministry with incarcerated people, their families, and people who are leaving jails or prisons and making the difficult re-entry into society. We can help you find an appropriate way for your congregation to engage in such ministry.

☐ **Restorative Justice:**

This is a movement that has its roots in the faith community and recognizes that when a crime takes place, the community itself is impacted along with the victim and even the offender. Restorative Justice promotes healing for victims, communities and the offender. An introduction to Restorative Justice or a more detailed examination of this movement can be offered in various settings in your congregation.

☐ **Environmental Justice:**

Care of Creation is an important part of Christian stewardship. We can help congregations look at what that means from local, regional, national and global perspectives. We can offer information, some practical suggestions for improving a congregation's environmental stewardship and ways to be involved in advocating for public policies that promote Care of Creation.

☐ **Rural Issues:**

Some public policy issues have a very different look in rural and small town communities from the way they present themselves in urban and suburban settings. In addition, the upcoming reauthorization of the U.S. Farm Bill pending in Congress could have significant impacts on rural communities. We can help guide discussion about ways your congregation can impact the shape of that legislation and other policy issues impacting rural communities.

☐ **Adopting an LSSI Program:**

Has your congregation ever considered developing a special connection to a specific LSSI program or program site? Programs serving children, youth, families, seniors, people with various disabilities, people in prison and the families they left behind could all be connected in concrete ways to your congregation. Volunteer opportunities, youth or adult service projects, fund-raising, and educational opportunities for congregations are all possible.

Contact Name: _____

Congregation: _____

Address: _____

City, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please return form to:

Lisa Hassenstab, Director of Church Relations

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Des Plaines, IL 60018

or

Lisa.hassenstab@lssi.org

Thank you for your interest!

