



Dear Co-worker in Christ:

It's certainly not earth-shaking news. These are difficult times. We are surrounded by suffering people. We are constantly being made aware of the growing number of poverty-stricken people and of the increase in our homeless population. We see the painful growth in the numbers of hungry children, of confused teens, and all too often, of the exploited elderly, among others in need. Serving them all and others in need is the ministry of Lutheran Services Florida. We even state it as our mission: The purpose of Lutheran Services Florida is to bring healing, hope and help to those in need in the name of Jesus Christ. We are determined to be faithful to that ministry; we are constantly seeking ways to become more effective in carrying it out.

Someone has said that LSF is one of the most effective social ministry agencies in our state, but also one of the best kept secrets around. LSF needs to develop what politicians call "name recognition."

We are taking a step to do just that.

Both President Walton of the Florida-Georgia District, LCMS, and Bishop Benoway of the Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA, have enthusiastically endorsed the recognition of LSF through a special **Lutheran Services Florida Month, designated as March 2010**, during which each congregation is asked to pick one Sunday to celebrate the ministry of Lutheran Services Florida.

That is where you come into the picture. Your ongoing references to this occasion and your enthusiasm for it will make the difference we need!

It is not too early to begin planning your observance of this special day. We will be providing newsletter announcements, bulletin announcements, a bulletin insert with a special litany and even some helpful suggestions for the sermon for the Sunday of your choice in March. These materials will be sent to you by email and are also available online at [www.lsfnet.org/LSFMonth.htm](http://www.lsfnet.org/LSFMonth.htm).

We will also have a number of guest speakers available, including some of our staff members and our Voices of Hope pastors who can help to tell the story of LSF through Temple Talks, Adult Forums or preaching. If there is anything else we can do to help make the celebration more meaningful in your parish, please notify us, and we will do everything in our power to assist you!

*Please set aside a Sunday in March now to celebrate Lutheran Services Florida Month and our joint ministry of outreach bringing healing, hope and help to those in need.*

If you have questions, call 1-813-875-1408.

Faithfully, in His service,

Sam Sipes, President and CEO, Lutheran Services Florida  
Eric Tillich, Vice President for Advancement, LSF  
(The Rev.) James Guelzow, member of the Board of LSF  
(The Rev.) Jack Palzer, member of the Board of LSF

**Central Services**

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