

DEAR FRIENDS

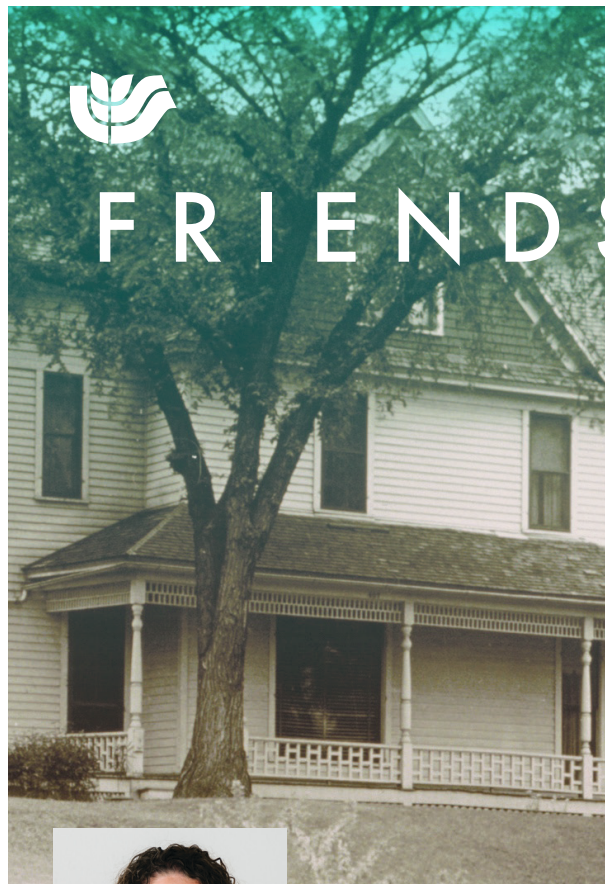
On the morning when The House of Mercy opened and the first applicants for admission appeared, a tradition of joyful acceptance and service began to unfold. Though they were not the anticipated clients, Bertha Bragstad and the staff warmly welcomed the elderly woman and young girl who needed a home. Little did they likely know at the time, this moment set into motion a longstanding tradition of our Lutheran values in action.

One hundred and four years later, God continues to compel us to value and serve all people. From our beginnings in supporting women with unexpected pregnancies to our comprehensive services today, our Lutheran values are the cornerstone of achieving our vision that all people in South Dakota will be healthy, safe, and accepted.

Today, and every day, we are Compassionate, Appreciative, Respectful, Ethical, and Strategic. These are the core values that guide our work.

I am grateful for the solid Lutheran foundation that has shaped our past and will guide our future.

Your support—through prayer, in-kind gifts, volunteering or financial contributions—is vital to continuing our mission and ensuring safe homes, stable families, and welcoming communities for all people in South Dakota.



Lutheran House of Mercy

Thank you for being a vital part of where we've been and where we're going.

In service and gratitude,

Rebecca Kiesow-Knudsen
President/CEO

LSS AND THE SD SYNOD OF THE ELCA Building on a Tradition of Service Together

The full continuum of family-centered services offered by LSS today is a testament to the vision, leadership, and dedication of Lutheran churches over the past century.

This proud Lutheran heritage is evident in our core values, which continue to drive our service delivery, fundraising efforts, and employment recruitment.

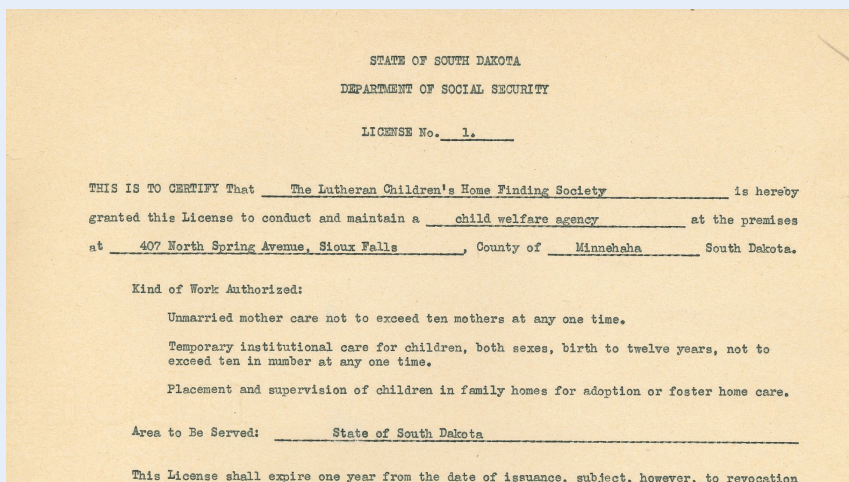
LSS's relationship with the South Dakota Synod of the ELCA continually evolves to meet the changing needs of people in South Dakota. In partnership with the Bishop, her staff, and the ministers of the Word, Sacrament and Service, we joyfully dedicate our lives to serving and supporting those in need.

Our strong connection to the Lutheran faith began in the fall of 1920. A letter from the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America recommended establishing a home for "unfortunate girls" and their children. This letter was shared with the leaders from Grace Lutheran, now First Lutheran of Sioux Falls. Their positive response led to the formation of the Lutheran Children's Home Finding Society of South Dakota.

Despite its disrepair, community members and church leaders came together in support. They painted, repaired, and decorated to make this house a home. The women of the church hosted an open house that brought in linens, china, cookware, books, food, financial support, and even a grand piano! This property was transformed into a nurturing maternity home for mothers facing unexpected pregnancies.

State of South Dakota,
Department of Social Security

License No. 1
November 1, 1939





SHINE
THE
LIGHT

of Christ's Love
Where it is
Needed Most



I AM GRATEFUL for the partnership between Lutheran Social Services and the members and congregations of the South Dakota Synod. For over 100 years, we have worked together to love and serve our neighbors and answer Jesus's call to care for "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40).

While many things have changed throughout the many years of our partnership, at least two things have not. First, the level of need—there have been and continue to be individuals and families who, often through no fault of their own, need assistance of some kind. Second, our call and our commitment to work together to meet that need. I am constantly in awe of the level of compassion and generosity of the members of the South Dakota Synod, and how our work together as the Synod, with our partners at LSS, can provide hope and shine the light of Christ's love where it is needed most.

As we look to the future, we know there will be neighbors who will need our help. But we know, too, that where this need arises, LSS and the South Dakota Synod will be there in the name of Christ, freed in Christ to live lives of love and service and meet that need.

Reverend Constanze Hagmaier
Bishop

*The women of Grace Lutheran Church,
now First Lutheran of Sioux Falls*

JOIN US!

Today, LSS continues to build on this strong Lutheran foundation, dedicated to making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. We invite you to honor our heritage by joining us today in this journey of service. Your prayerful, in-kind and financial support helps us uphold the values of compassion and dedication that have guided us for more than a century.

Together we joyfully dedicate our lives to serving and supporting those in need.



To learn more about your congregation's impact on the community, contact us:

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WE ARE HERE TO HELP

To connect your congregation members to LSS services:
Resources.LssSD.org | 605-444-7500

DONATE.LssSD.org

CONTINUUM OF CARE STRENGTHENING FAMILIES STATEWIDE

Adoption Services / Alternatives to Detention / Behavioral Health Services / Better Together / CARES Wraparound Services / Center for Financial Resources / Center for New Americans / Childcare & Education / Disaster Response Services / Foster Care Services / Independent Living Services / Kinship Services / Mentoring Services / Multi-Cultural Center / Pregnancy Counseling Services / Re-Entry Services / Residential Services for Children & Youth / Resource Family Services