



WLCFS

Christian Family Solutions™

healing. helping.

Member Connect Newsletter

Spring 2013

In This Issue:

- Premarital Counseling
- MAP During a Vacancy
- MAP Highlighted in *Forward in Christ*
- Live MAP Demonstration Available
- Video Conferencing Now Using OmniJoin
- WLCFS Welcomes Jeremy Long, LMHC
- MAP Reaches Milestone
- Welcome to Our New Member Organizations

New Service: Premarital Counseling

Members of partnering organizations now have access to a new service through their congregation's Member Assistance Program—**Premarital Counseling**. We've all heard the statistics on the rising divorce rate in America, and the amount of time pastors spend on marital counseling always seems to be increasing. Premarital counseling received from the pastor is a common practice in most congregations. A wide variety of resources are used by pastors to help couples prepare for their marriage (not just the wedding day).



Now pastors can further assist couples by providing them access to premarital counseling through their Member Assistance Program. The new Premarital Counseling service uses the [PREPARE/ENRICH™](#) online couple assessment. This is one of the most widely used programs for premarital counseling and identifies a couple's strength and growth areas. Counselors on staff at WLCFS who have been trained as PREPARE/ENRICH facilitators will meet with the couples to review their results. Here's how it works:

1. The pastor refers the couple to their Member Assistance Program and provides the couple with their online intake link (only one of them will need to complete the intake).
2. The couple is scheduled with the trained PREPARE/ENRICH facilitator for an initial appointment held in-person if the couple is located near a WLCFS clinic location, or via a secure video connection from a home or church.

continued on next page

Premarital Counseling cont.

3. Meeting 1—The couple meets with the counselor and provides a history of their relationship with the counselor. The counselor discusses what they feel are strengths and potential areas of challenge in their relationship. Finally, the couple is given access to the online PREPARE/ENRICH assessment to complete prior to the next meeting (cost is \$35 per couple and is paid for by the couple when they log into the PREPARE/ENRICH website).

4. Meeting 2—The counselor reviews the comprehensive PREPARE/ENRICH report that outlines results on relationship and personality scales (communication, spiritual beliefs, conflict resolution, roles, sexuality, finances, and more).

5. Meeting 3—The counselor provides recommendations to the couple on ways they can improve their relationship based on the results of the premarital process.

Once the meetings have been completed, the counselor provides the PREPARE/ENRICH report and recommendations to the pastor. The pastor can then follow up with the couple to help them improve on relationship areas that need to be addressed, or the pastor can allow the counselor to provide some additional sessions with the couple and provide the couple with specific strategies and skill-building techniques to make improvements.

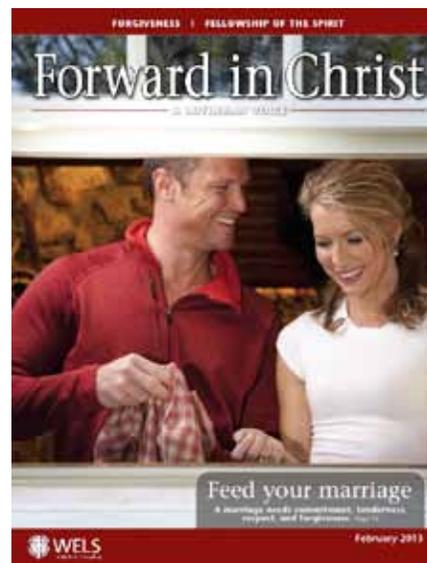
For each couple referred, the cost to the congregation is three hours of service. The cost to the couple is \$35. If you are interested in referring couples for premarital counseling through your congregation's Member Assistance Program, simply contact us at 800-438-1772.

Consider MAP During a Vacancy

One way the Member Assistance Program can be of benefit to congregations is by assisting with counseling services during a pastoral vacancy. Vacancy pastors are asked to take on many additional duties when there is a vacancy at a nearby congregation. In the transition time before a new pastor is installed, ongoing counseling with members of the congregation might be difficult due to the vacancy pastor's lack of time or proximity to the congregation. A referral to MAP meets an immediate need and allows the counseling ministry to continue at the congregation. With a signed release, MAP counselors will update the vacancy pastor on progress and give the new pastor an update.

Member Assistance Program Highlighted in Forward in Christ

The WELS publication *Forward in Christ* recently published two articles on the Member Assistance Program, including one called "[God Works for the Good](#)" written by Pastor Ben Sadler, and another article was listed in the WELS News briefs under the topic "[Where are they now?](#)" as a follow-up to an article on MAP published in 2008 when the program first began.



We thank *Forward in Christ* for helping us update our Synod on the Member Assistance Program.

What Is the Member Assistance Program?—Live Demonstration

Having trouble describing MAP to your church council or school board? Although we've been providing services through MAP since 2008, the natural paradigm of in-person counseling is tough to change at times.

If you'd appreciate a live demonstration by video and a description of the program and benefits, we'd be happy to assist you. We can meet by video with the staff/board/committees/Bible class or other groups in your organization and provide an overview.

To schedule a free demonstration, please contact us at 800-438-1772 or assistance@wlcfs.org.



Video Conferencing Updated— Now Using OmniJoin

The Member Assistance Program has been uniquely beneficial to members who reside in areas of the country (or world) where there is limited or no Christian counseling available. Counseling services through MAP are always available in person at one of our [Christian Family Counseling clinics](#), but since 2008 we have used a secure video service to meet with people from churches or homes using standard webcams. Up to this point, we have been limited to Windows users. More people are using their Mac. We are now using a very similar web conferencing solution called [OmniJoin](#).

With OmniJoin we can now connect with members who have Windows or Mac. OmniJoin meets our high levels of security and encryption, has improved audio and video capability, and is very easy to use. Members do NOT need to be technologically gifted to connect with a counselor by video! The connection process is the same—the counselor will call the member and provide a conference ID and password to enter in the “Join Conference” box here—<https://wlcfs.omnijoin.com/>. After clicking Join, the member will enter the meeting room. We can continue to meet with multiple people in a meeting room—for instance, counselors can invite the member from his/her home and also the pastor from his home into a meeting room for a three-way conference.

Our goal is to continue to make the connection process to a counselor very easy for your members and provide an even better experience that remains secure and encrypted. A good audio and video connection is essential for a relationship with a counselor to be established. We have been using OmniJoin with new members since February 1 and have had great feedback. If you'd like to test out OmniJoin, just give us a call 800-438-1772 or e-mail assistance@wlcfs.org.



WLCFS Welcomes Jeremy Long, LMHC

WLCFS-Christian Family Solutions is proud to welcome Jeremy Long as a counselor in our Member Assistance Program. Jeremy is a Florida Board Certified E-Therapist (CET) and is working at The Center for Drug-Free Living, Inc., where he counsels teens, young adults, and their families. He received his Bachelor's of Science in Psychology from the University of Central Florida in 2004 and then continued his education at NOVA Southeastern University, where he received his Master's of Science in Mental Health Counseling in 2007. Jeremy also teaches college courses and has a private practice serving adolescent and adult populations. His specialties include trauma, addictions, adolescent counseling, couples counseling, and family therapy. He will provide video-assisted counseling services through the Member Assistance Program at WLCFS starting in May. Jeremy, his wife, and their daughter are members of New Hope Lutheran Church in West Melbourne, FL.

MAP Serves Member 1,000!

An exciting milestone has been met—we have now served the 1,000th member in the Member Assistance Program! There were no prizes or fanfare for this referral, but it does point to the continued growth and success of the program in the WELS/ELS. What a blessing that 1,000 members of congregations, schools, districts, and other organizations have had the opportunity to meet with one of over 20 WELS/ELS Christian counselors and make changes in their lives.

These 1,000 members have felt the love of their organization as the financial obstacles to mental health care have been removed. It is our prayer that these 1,000 members continue to maintain progress, grow in the Word, and serve the Lord through their congregation.



Welcome, New Member Organizations!

Zion Lutheran Church, Chesaning, MI
Christ the King Lutheran Church, Port Charlotte, FL
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Plymouth, NE
Peace Lutheran Church, Loves Park, IL
St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Port Washington, WI
Divine Word Lutheran Church, Nepean, Ontario Canada
Emanuel Lutheran Church, New London, WI
Light of Life Lutheran Church, Greenwood, IN
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Arlington, MN
Sonshine Lutheran Church, Leamington, Ontario Canada
Victory Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, FL
Trinity Lutheran Church, Kaukauna, WI
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Salt Lake City, UT
Winnebago Lutheran Academy, Fond du Lac, WI
Christ the King Lutheran Church, Bremerton, WA
Christ Lutheran Church, Port St. Lucie, FL
Morning Star Lutheran Church, Jackson, WI
Christ Lutheran Church, Eagle River, WI
Grace Lutheran Church, Manitowoc, WI
Living Hope Lutheran Church, Redmond, WA
Pompano Lutheran Church, Pompano Beach, FL
Crosswalk Lutheran Ministries, Laveen, AZ
Christ the Lord Lutheran Church, Brookfield, WI
Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Pooler, GA
Deer Valley Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ
Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Boise, ID

Available MAP Services

- Emotional counseling (individual, couple, family)
- Career counseling
- Premarital counseling
- General substance abuse counseling
 - Consultation
- Educational presentations
- Senior care consultation
- Online support groups
 - Crisis response

To make referrals for any of these services, please call 800.438.1772.

MAP/WLCFS Contact Info:

Dan Nommensen
800.438.1772
dnommensen@wlcfs.org
www.ChristianFamilySolutions.org