



WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL  
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty



## Church Connection September 2018

*Strengthening,  
Preserving  
& Promoting  
Marriage,  
Family, Life &  
Religious Liberty*

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*If the foundations be  
destroyed, what can the  
righteous do?*

Psalm 11:3

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### Join us for...

*“Making Wisconsin Great  
One Family at a Time”*

A timely and informative  
challenge by Julaine  
Appling, WFC president

**Thurs., Sept. 20,** 6-8 p.m.,  
Eau Claire Pizza Ranch

**Thurs., Sept. 27,** 6-8 p.m.,  
Verona Pizza Ranch

**Thurs., Oct. 11,** 6-8 p.m.,  
Radisson Hotel, La Crosse

**Thurs., Oct. 25,** 6-8 p.m.,  
Racine, Taylor Hall at The  
DeKoven Center

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Please support the work  
of pro-life pregnancy  
resource centers in  
Wisconsin by ordering a  
Choose Life license plate.

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for details and ordering  
information.



## School Violence: Getting Back to Basics

The violence happening in our schools these days is horrific and much too frequent. Rightly, it's on everyone's mind. Many ideas have been suggested as to what we need to do, but most ideas are just band-aids. They are well-intentioned but address symptoms rather than the root causes.

One of the best responses to the question of what can government do regarding school violence and student safety comes from one of Wisconsin's own members of Congress. Earlier this year Congressman Sean Duffy (R-CD 7) was asked this question. He responded by saying we need to increase spending on school safety but also observed that as a society we need to recognize we've had guns in our homes and communities since our founding.

Congressman Duffy asked, "What's happened in the last 25 years that's causing kids to pick up these guns and shoot people at school?" In answer to his own question, he pointed out the increase in fatherless homes, which is especially hard for young boys, and that at the same time we have taken faith and morality out of the public square.



Congressman Duffy is on the right track. An honest review of the data makes it clear that fatherlessness is reaching nearly epidemic levels in our country. For example, right here in The Badger State 40% of babies are born to single moms. In Milwaukee, the number skyrockets to over 80%.

Research shows what happens when children are without a father. They suffer from a host of issues, including being much more likely to experience poverty, drug and alcohol abuse, physical and emotional problems, involvement in crime, educational struggles, and early sexual activity. Boys especially need and benefit from the discipline

*(continued on back)*

## Consider This...

The National Fatherhood Initiative observes that “there is a crisis in America. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 19.7 million children, more than 1 in 4, live without a father in the home. Consequently, there is a ‘father factor’ in nearly all of the societal ills facing America today.”

We understand and believe that the root cause of all “societal ills” is the sin nature of man. We also believe God in His amazing common grace gave to all the structure of married dad and mom families to mitigate the effects of sin.

If fatherlessness is a major contributing factor to brokenness in our culture—and the statistics demonstrate that it is—then our legislators and policymakers would do well to recognize this reality and seek to promote and support marriage and the important role fathers play in the lives of their children.

*Pray* for the fathers in your church. *Pray* for the fathers in your community. DADS MATTER!

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## We Recommend:

*The Storm Tossed Family: How the Gospel Reshapes the Home*, Russell Moore, B & H Books, 2018.

and structure that typically comes with having a dad in the home. A boy needs a role model who consistently shows them how a real man handles life, including how to deal with anger, disappointment, relationship problems, and conflict in general. An involved dad thwarts many a problem in his children’s lives.

The sad reality is fatherlessness appears to be something of a common denominator for the perpetrators of school violence. It is not the only contributing factor, but to act as if it isn’t part of the problem is foolish and shortsighted.

Congressman Duffy is also concerned about the removal of faith and morality from the public square. In the 1960s the US Supreme Court decided it was unconstitutional to pray or read the Bible in our public schools. In 1980, the high court said it is a violation of the First Amendment to post copies of the Ten Commandments in public schools, saying, “*If the posted copies of the Ten Commandments are to have any effect at all, it will be to induce the schoolchildren to read, meditate upon, perhaps to venerate and obey, the Commandments. However desirable this might be as a matter of private devotion,*” wrote the court, “*it is not a permissible state objective under the Establishment Clause of the Constitution.*” The basis for morality was jettisoned. The predictable results are being experienced.

Fatherlessness, combined with public schools being unable to use the Bible in any way to teach right and wrong, is a recipe for disaster. These are issues that ought to be explored, not scoffed at, as significant factors contributing to school violence.

Some of the measures being considered will likely thwart some violence, but to begin restoring sanity in our schools and our culture, we must get back to the basics of children being brought up in the homes of their married dads and moms and of bringing the truth of God’s Word back to our schools. Congressman Duffy gets it, but we need more leaders at every level of our society to also get it. Effective efforts to stem school violence must include getting back to the basics.

## About Wisconsin Family Council

*Wisconsin Family Council is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so that they can be involved in strengthening, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and religious liberty in our state.*

“Church Connection” is published monthly by WFC and is available to churches in Wisconsin.

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