



WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

Church Connection February 2020

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

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. Galatians 4:4-5

Mark your calendar...

Join us for "2020 Vision: Contending for the Faith, Challenging the Culture"!

Thurs., Feb. 6

6:00-8:00 p.m.
Oshkosh Pizza Ranch

Thurs., Feb. 20

6:00-8:00 p.m., Wausau City Square Center

Thurs., Mar. 5

6:00-8:00 p.m.
Appleton Machine Shed

Register at wifamilycouncil.org/events or by calling us at 888-378-7395.

Important Reminder!

Tuesday, Feb. 18, non-partisan primary election. Please be sure to vote! A Voter Information Publication is available at: wifamilycouncil.org/election-central

True Religion

What do a childless couple in Michigan, a middle-aged couple with three teenage children getting ready for the college years, a retired missionary couple homeschooling their young children and a successful young couple with a bright future all have in common? The answer is, big hearts. Each of these couples and families provided "forever families" for young children who otherwise would have been without a home, a family, a father and a mother.

Adoption is one of the most wonderful words in the English language. It evokes a strong sense of belonging and being wanted. It describes our relationship as children of God, adopted sons and daughters (Romans 8:15, Ephesians 1:5).

As adopted children of God, we have the Spirit of adoption in us. In redeeming us, God the Father adopted us into His forever family. He chose to love us and make us His own.



A married man and woman who adopt a child create a very tangible illustration of God's adoption of us into His family. A host of adopted children can testify to the many benefits that come from being adopted by a caring and loving married couple.

Christians have a special commission to care for the orphaned. James tells us that "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction..." (James 1:27a). Studies, history and plain old common sense inform us that the best place for a child is in the home of his/her married, biological mother and father. That is God's plan and the "gold standard" for families. Sadly, we live in a fallen world and that gold standard is an elusive ideal for more and more children these days.

Adoption opens up a world of possibilities for children who would otherwise be without a father and mother. Studies continue to show that adoption brings life-changing benefits to children. Adoption is a wonderful alternative for women

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Where Do We Start?

If you are considering adopting, we recommend you read *Adopted for Life*, by Russell Moore. Then contact one of the good adoption agencies in Wisconsin. Please see our website under Resources, Family, for Adoption Information Resources.

Pray For...

- The marriages in your church, that husbands and wives will love one another and be faithful to one another.
- The parents in your church, that they will have wisdom and grace for raising their children in the training and instruction of the Lord.
- Families who are seeking to adopt, that the Lord will provide for them financially, and that they will become the forever family for just the right child/children.
- Christian adoption agencies, that they will be able to continue their good work, free from government regulation that would seek to coerce them to act contrary to biblical convictions.

considering an abortion or for single mothers who are unable to raise their child.

Wisconsin has two Christian agencies that do an excellent job of facilitating adoptions: Evangelical Child & Family Agency in West Allis and Bethany Christian Services, with offices in Sheboygan, Fond du Lac, Milwaukee and Waukesha. As a note of encouragement, the Trump administration has taken steps to ensure faith-based adoption agencies can continue to operate according to their religious beliefs and don't have to either give in to cultural pressures or close their doors.

Any discussion of adoption is incomplete, however, without addressing adoption out of foster care. On any given day in The Badger State, about 7,000 children are in foster care with nearly 1,400 waiting for adoption.¹ With hundreds of Christian churches in Wisconsin, is there really any good reason the majority of these children could not be adopted into loving, Christian homes?

Wisconsin is blessed with many generous couples who have adopted children and given them a secure and loving environment in which to grow and learn. We salute all those adoptive families and encourage Christian husbands and wives to seriously consider providing forever families for children in need.

Adoptive families, especially those adopting older children, do sometimes face special challenges that other families do not. You may have one or more adoptive families in your church. We encourage you to pray for them and to find ways to provide encouragement, help and support for these families. Ideas include (but are certainly not limited to) support groups, babysitting, occasional meals and financial aid.

Get to know the adoptive parents in your church, or those who aspire to become adoptive parents. Ask them how you can help. These families are practicing true religion, caring for the fatherless, and you can help them in that endeavor.

Truly, emulating our Savior through adoption is a wonderful calling. We are grateful for the "forever families" in Wisconsin, and the precious children they have embraced. We pray many other married couples will follow their example.

¹<https://www.adoptuskids.org/adoption-and-foster-care/how-to-adopt-and-foster/state-information/wisconsin>

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.