

Lutheran Counseling Network 2024 Report to Synod Assembly

Here are some up to date facts about Lutheran Counseling Network:

We were organized as a non-profit organization in 1981.

We are a social ministry of the ELCA, and we are connected to the Northwest Washington Synod and the Southwestern Washington Synod.

We currently have 11 therapists on staff. We all are master level clinicians and some have their doctoral degrees.

We have a unique ministry and business model. We consider ourselves a flat organization. We do not have an official director as we all make decisions about the organization. We function with four committees and all participate in the administrative tasks of the organization.

Some of our titles are: Mental Health Counselor, Marriage and Family Therapist, and Pastoral Counselor. Some of our therapists see couples, but not all, some of our therapists see families, but not all. All of us see individual clients and some refer to the people we see as patients.

We span Western Washington from the North in Bellingham to the South in Federal Way and Enumclaw.

We have 15 offices, located in churches, and we are blessed by these congregations and their shared vision for this ministry. Two of our offices are in the Southwestern Washington Synod, and 12 are in the Northwest Washington Synod, and one office is located in a church that is a LCMC church (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ).

At the start of the pandemic, we embraced the use of tele-health for therapy with our clients. We all have continued to utilize tele-health and have been happily surprised with its effectiveness with clients and for our LCN committee and all-staff meetings.

Many of us have returned to part-time face to face therapy and most of us are planning on returning at some point to face-to-face therapy. We understand the new reality that a hybrid of online therapy and face to face will likely continue into the future.

Our collective years of experience is over 150. That gives us an average of more than 17 years of experience per therapist. And that doesn't include our newest staff!

In 2023, our ministry served a total of 7337 client hours. And 518 of those hours were subsidized by donations made by churches and individuals to our low-fee fund.

Many thanks to our Board and our Congregational Representatives for this wonderful partnership in ministry!

Learn more here: <https://www.lutherancounseling.net/>