

Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition Meeting Minutes – Monday, Jan. 6, 2025

PLACE: St. Charles Fellowship Hall, 810 Pearl St., Chippewa Falls, WI

TIME: 5:00 p.m.

* Introductions and Prayer Requests

* Open Meeting With Prayer – Lay Pastor Ed Williams

* **Guest Speaker:** Julia Jilek-Proue, Interim Executive Director of Agnes' Table

Subject: Update on Agnes' Table New Direction – How Can CFMC Help? (July Meal Service?)

- Julia is in an interim position.
- Pantry - Massive increase in numbers in the past few months, especially turning the pantry service into a drive-thru pantry. Nov. 2024 – 304 unique households (In 2022, 153 households.) – which is a huge increase since moving to the YMCA. Ages 18-30 is a large population since they don't have children and can't receive that support.
- Meals – Only Tues and Thurs nights. No longer serving breakfast meals. Then, giving away sack lunches/breakfasts at those meals to take home with folks. Nov 2024 – 81 unique individuals, almost 1000 meals.
- Doors open at 3:30. Start serving food at 5:00. Seconds/take-out meals at 5:45.
- Need items like: to-go containers, gloves, other wish list items coming soon.
- Food pantry: donations help with costs to purchase through Feed My People. Just got a new refrigerator.
- Calendar: Meal sponsors come in to serve. There are a lot of open dates especially in February. \$150 to sponsor a meal. (\$25 if you bring in the food, but it must be prepared in a licensed kitchen. Expect to serve 180-200 meals. AT can help you figure out ingredient amounts.)
- No Thanksgiving or Christmas meals this year to give staff time off. (NOTE: CFMC picked up those dates for 2024, possibly 2025.)
- They do food rescue every Sunday from places like Walmart and Festival.
- Question: Why give the meals away as take out and not stay for social connection? That's how it started. Answer: We don't know why they don't come in. Sometimes folks deliver to others.
- Have been hiring recently – have found a kitchen coordinator. Looking for an executive director currently.

* **Mission Report:** Community Christmas Meal, Dec. 25th (Tiffany Wogahn)

– How many served?

– Future plans for Thanksgiving and Christmas community meals?

- 84 dine-in. 53 to-go. Only 7 people came up for seconds, so they got plenty of food on the first round.
- 15-20 volunteers and they had to turn volunteers away, there were so many!
- Great feedback.
- Rutledge paid for the food and has been thanked.
- First Presbyterian will continue this Christmas meal annually.
- Feel that Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter should be days where the church is feeding people. If any faith communities want to take on Easter, that would be a great opportunity!

* **Mission Update:** Hope Village/Tiny Houses (Mike Cohoon)

-- Indianhead Motel pending purchase and next City Council meeting concerning purchase?

– Hope Village building progress -- Still on track for April 2025 opening?

- Upcoming Quarter Auction, March 1st, Lake Wissota Golf.
 - Solar is up and running. Producing some of their own energy needs. Should save \$8,000 a year!
 - Have two houses that are not occupied, so please refer folks to the CDC if they need housing.
 - Just had annual retreat and put together some 5- & 10- year plans. Indianhead motel – converting them into efficiency apartments. Seeking a state grant for community development, similar to what was used for the community center. Approx. \$40K per room to refurbish with all the necessary updates.
 - Annual Fundraiser - Quarter Auction, March 1. Only 6 tables left!
 - Jan 21 at 6:30pm City Council meeting – first reading of the ordinance to make the motel a residence. **February 4 at 6:30pm is the public hearing at the council chambers. Good to have as many supporters of Hope Village as possible there.** Just have to wave your hand to show your support, don't have to speak.

* **Mission Update:** Chippewa Co. Hunger and Homeless Council – Have you come in contact recently with any homeless people looking for help with food or shelter? (Mike Cohoon)

- Mike needs numbers in the next couple of days.

* **Mission Update:** “Lighten Your Load” Family Laundry Mission. (Gayle Klitzke)
January-March 2025 Volunteer Schedule? Funds?

- New 2025 calendars are available for posting in your spaces.
- 46 sessions in 2024. All numbers are higher than in 2023. Total number of participants – 433 (99 unique). Washing more than 1,057 loads and drying those loads.
- Cost of washing machines - \$2, \$3, \$4, and \$6. Cost of dryer - \$.25 for 10 minutes.
- Average number of participants is 9, compared to last year's 7. Average 36 participants per month. Average 22 loads each session. Most participants at a session: 14 which occurred 5 times. Most loads by 1 participant: 8.
- Have had enough funding, so LYL doesn't say “No, you're washing too many.” And, people understand to stagger their arrival times so they don't have to wait for machines.
- Tuesday evenings 213 participants attended. Thursday afternoons 220 participants attended. Numbers are about the same now; Thursday afternoons used to be more popular.
- 17 volunteers in 2024. 1 person volunteered 14 times! And 3 others volunteered 10+ times.
- **NEED more new volunteers.** New volunteers are always partnered with experienced volunteers to learn the ropes.
- THANK YOU: Mark sets up the sign-up genius. Pam at Central gives out the money each time. The first volunteer on the list gets the quarters and returns them. Volunteers at Christ Episcopal make homemade detergent. Dan Olson is the manager of the laundromat, and it is a good relationship. Thank you was sent to him as well, along with testimonials of those being helped by LYL.
- Thank you to your churches and organizations for donations. It is more than \$5,000 a year to run LYL, and we anticipate more people in 2025. If your congregations or friends are interested, LYL is interested in volunteers, donations, and detergent/dryer sheets.
 - Income: 6 churches - \$2,813.30; 4 individual donors - \$320; organizations - \$50; Burke grant - \$600. Total Donations: \$3,783.30.
 - Expenses: Quarters for laundry sessions - \$4,500; Suds Hub debit cards - \$801.25. Total Expenses: \$5,301.25
- More than laundry – it's a social connection.

- Gayle had several testimonials about how LYL has made in difference in the lives of our guests. Here are two of those testimonials, exactly as they wrote it ...
- *“Lighten Your Load continues to help me balance my finances, so I can wash my clothing and linens to maintain a healthy home and health. The regular cost of washing clothing is very expensive, so in the past, I was washing clothing every couple of months and washing bed sheets and other cloths – maybe once a year. That was not healthy nor was I happy. Thank you for the program.”*
- *“Lighten You Load helps me out a lot because I have 3 young children and they get clothes pretty dirty! And currently playing catch up. I had 2 major surgeries this year and was off work for 6 months. I am very thankful for the help! Thank you!”*
- October 2025 will be 10 years of LYL ministry.
- There’s also a prayer request jar, which is disseminated through the CFMC email.

* **“Lather With Love” Soap Mission REMINDER – February 2025** (Tom Drehmel)

It was decided at our Oct. meeting to do our “Lather With Love” soap mission in February 2025. It will begin on Feb. 1st and end on Feb. 26th with all soap items delivered to Central Lutheran Church on Wednesday, Feb. 26th by 4:00 p.m. and picked up and/or distributed to area food pantries on Thursday, Feb. 27th between 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. (I will contact local food pantries to see who needs these items.)

- Can your youth groups get involved with promoting and organizing this at your congregation?

* **Other Business/Announcements**

-- What other mission projects/community events are happening at your church/non-profit? How can we help? Include on Website and/or Facebook?

- **Carelink:** Need more volunteers for Carelink. (A central location for emergency gas cards) \$25 Kwik Trip Gas cards are distributed to those in need every Tuesday and Thursday at the LE Phillips CDC Chippewa Outreach Office from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. People are eligible for one \$25 gas card every 3 months for emergencies.
 - Maybe we could have a rep from Carelink come to speak to the CFMC about this?
 - One congregation does a tree with envelopes to put money for Carelink cards.
 - Carelink donations go to Pam at Central – **Make check out to Central Lutheran Church, put “Carelink” in the memo line. Send to Pam Moran-Carelink, c/o Central Lutheran Church, 414 N. Bridge St., Suite #101, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729.**

* **Next Meeting – Feb. 3, 2025**

- **At Central Lutheran Church** ... 28 E. Columbia St., Chippewa Falls.
- **Guest Speaker:** Kris Malecha ... **Subject:** CESA 11 Head Start Program

* **Close with Lord’s Prayer/Our Father**

Respectively Submitted by Kari Allen

CFMC Mission Statement: “Faithful people joining hearts and hands to be God’s Love in action for our neighbors near and far.”

CFMC Bible Verse: Psalm 60:12 – “With God’s Help We Will Do Mighty Things.”

WEBSITE: cfmissioncoalition.org -- **FACEBOOK:** facebook.com/cfmissioncoalition