

## Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition Agenda – Monday, Feb. 2, 2026

PLACE: Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 1300 Mansfield St., Chippewa Falls, WI

- \* Introductions and Prayer Requests
- \* Open Meeting With Prayer – Pastor Chad Anderson

\* **Guest Speaker:** Josh Kilde ([josh.kilde@lifespringfellowship.org](mailto:josh.kilde@lifespringfellowship.org)) & Krystle Zakrzewski ([chippewavalley@safefamilieswi.org](mailto:chippewavalley@safefamilieswi.org))

**Subject:** Safe Families For Our Children

- Local, National, and International Effort
- Now 9 service areas in Wisconsin
- Founded in 2003; Wisconsin launched in 2014

### A Family Preservation Mission:

-- Goal is to keep children safe and families together ... and reduce the amount of children who enter the foster care system through radical hospitality, disruptive generosity, and intentional compassion

**Matthew 25:40** - “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

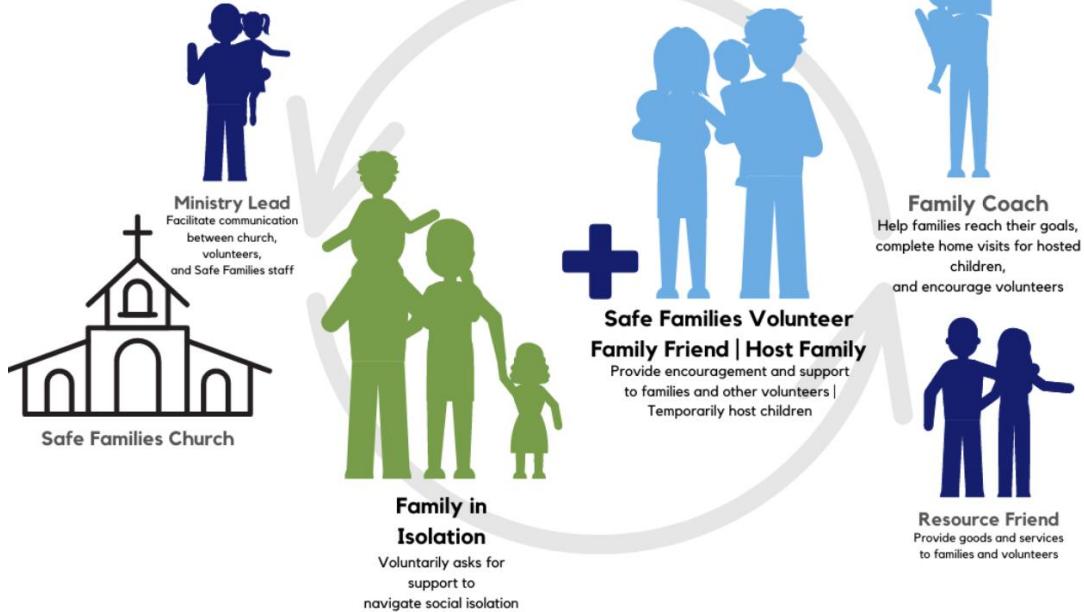
**What we do: Support families in social isolation** (with background checked volunteers from our congregations)

### Who We Host:

- Children: newborns through teens (0-18 years)
- About 70% of children we serve are less than 6 years old
- Sometimes, hosting arrangements have been made for teenage mothers and their children
- Referrals come from hospitals, daycares, schools, police stations, Department of Human Services, self-referrals, etc.
- Parents do NOT lose custody

### Circle of Support:

- Volunteers are supported and families are supported
- Families would be connected to the closest geographical church to them.
- Various ways to become involved with Safe Families For Our Children ...
  - **Family Friends:** provide friendship and support to parents or host families through getting together, encouragement, transportation, hot meals, etc.
  - **Family Coaches:** walk alongside and encourage parents to help them set and reach their goals, as well as support volunteers
  - **Host Families:** are screened and approved by Safe Families staff to host children for short periods of time. (Average length is 4 weeks, and can be as short as a few hours.)
  - **Resource Friends:** provide tangible items to families such as meals, diapers, cleaning goods, etc. as needed
  - **Ministry Leads:** recruit and support volunteers in their church



### Fundraising effort going on currently:

- Once fully funded, they will hire a local director for Chippewa Valley.
- Onboarding volunteers right now at 2-3 churches and hope to be ready to start in the next three months
- Safe Families pays the expense for background checks
- All funds stay in state and local
- Bringing on an Advisory Board soon

**A majority of families could have avoided the child welfare system if they had support; even one single support person makes a difference.**

### Q: You're having a kick-off event?

**A:** SFFC can do workshops with your group so they know next steps and training. It's only a workshop, not a commitment. If you would like to learn more about this mission, they will be having an informational meeting on February 15th at St. James in Eau Claire, 2502 11th St., at 11:30 a.m.

### Q: Does SFFC cover liability?

**A:** Yes, umbrella liability policy for driving and other coverage

### Q: What if a host has concerns about the family?

**A:** Family Coach volunteer role supports families with their goals. Families can step away from the SFFC program if they are not working towards goals. They can come back when ready.

**Q: How often or how many families will be partnered with a church?**

**A:** A church might have multiple families; it depends on your capacity. Your church may have several 'circles of support' for different families. The ministry lead determines capacity for additional partnerships.

National website: <https://safe-families.org/>

Local website: <https://safefamilieswi.org/>

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**\* Mission Update:** LSS Reopening of the former Libertas Center. (Paul Peterson, Manager of Donor Relations, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin & Upper Michigan)

- LSS WI main office is Milwaukee; Paul is local
- Residential treatment for men and women
  - Over fifty years providing services
  - 2 facilities in Eau Claire
    - Fahrman Center - 42 bed co-ed; Affinity - 18 bed women only
- When HSHS closed, so did Libertas Center.
- LSS purchased the facility from HSHS in March of 2025 and got Chippewa Falls permits. No objections from the area.
- \$3 million campaign; receiving great support. About \$1 million to go to finish renovations due to unforeseen plumbing issues.
- Hope to be done with remodel at end of February 2026
- **Will open at some point during Quarter 2 of 2026.** Will have an open house before residents and staff come in - stay tuned!
- **Will be named LSS L.E. Phillips Recovery Center**
  - 50 bed men-only
- Here is the link to our Northwest WI campaign donate page and the info handout from the meeting: <https://www.lsswis.org/lovebig/>
  - If you have questions, please contact Paul at [paul.peterson@lsswis.org](mailto:paul.peterson@lsswis.org) or 715-828-9532
- **Q: Will this location have detox?**
- **A:** No. Partnering with Chippewa Co-op and Rogers Health. None of LSS facilities do detox.

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**\* Mission Question:** "Lather With Love" Soap Mission – April (Tom Drehmel)

- It was decided we will once again be collecting laundry detergents and other soap-related items donations in April 2026 for our "Lather With Love" soap mission.
- In 2025 we collected 2,600 soap-related items and distributed them to five local pantries.
- Our Saviour's Lutheran will be the main collection point this year.
- "Thank You" to Central Lutheran for being the collection point since 2011.
- Dates coming soon for when it starts in April and when it ends. Stay Tuned!
- **Q: Are we collecting quarters for Lighten Your Load at the same time?**
- **A:** Up to each church! LYL is willing to receive your donation, but it doesn't HAVE to be in combination with Lather with Love

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\* **Mission Question:** 2026 CFMC Community Meals for Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas??  
(Tom Drehmel)-- 2025 Hosts: Easter-St. Charles Borromeo Catholic, Thanksgiving-Central Lutheran, Christmas-First Presbyterian.

- St Charles will do Easter meal again!
- First Presbyterian will do Christmas meal again!
- Central will do the Thanksgiving meal again!
- Dates to be determined.
- CFMC will be contacted for volunteer opportunities at each of those meals.

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

- Indianhead Motel, Affordable Housing Progress
  - Some delays. Project should still finish in June
- 8 Hope Village Affordable Housing Units currently filled. 3 bedroom unit is available. One duplex is available.
- 4 Tiny Houses open, but 3 are being filled in next 7-10 days
  - Seeing more single men and women recently
- Possible Building Project with Cadott High School
- Quarter Auction Fund Raiser – Feb. 28th
  - Looking for sponsors and baskets worth \$25-\$50

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\* **Mission Update:** “Lighten Your Load” Family Laundry Mission. (Gayle Klitzke)  
Volunteers? Funds?

- Covered fairly well with volunteers/supplies
- Located at Express Mart Laundromat ... 805 N. Bridge St Chippewa Falls
  - First and third Tuesdays from 6-8pm
  - First and third Thursdays from 1-3pm
- Stats from 2025
  - 1061 loads washed and dried
  - 439 participants; more new people coming (25 new people in 2025)
  - People are bringing more loads. For example, 19 people had 5 loads
  - \$4800 expenses; \$4500 income.
  - More people come on Tuesday nights than Thursday afternoons.
  - 21 volunteers across 48 sessions. Thank you, volunteers!

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\* **Other Business/Announcements**

- “100 Nights Of Shelter” Campaign sponsored by LE Phillips CDC Outreach. (Karri Pitsavas ... [pitsavask@lecdc.org](mailto:pitsavask@lecdc.org) ... 715-861-5002.
  - Currently at 92 nights covered at \$80 a night.
- CFMC 2025 Year-In-Review available. (Tom Drehmel ... [tdrehmel@me.com](mailto:tdrehmel@me.com) )
- English Lutheran of Bateman is planning a series on Dietrich Bonhoeffer in May on Thursdays. Stay tuned for more details.
- Chippewa Falls High School National Honor Society and Future Business Leaders of America collected shoes from Dec. 1 thru Jan. 31st ... “Shoes For A Cause.” St. Charles collected shoes for this mission and passed the word to the CFMC churches/non-profit organizations to encourage them to participate as well. The students received 40 cents per pound with all proceeds going to Agnes’ Table. Update next month on final tally.

- St Patrick's Day Dinner at Christ Episcopal - Community Fundraiser – Details to Follow.
- Annual Report for the Community Foundation of Chippewa Co. was made available to the CFMC at the meeting.

**\* Next Meeting – April 6, 2026 at First Presbyterian**

**No March Meeting ... currently meeting every other month (Even Months)**

- June 1st meeting will be at Trinity UMC

**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](http://cfmissioncoalition.org) -- **FACEBOOK:** [facebook.com/cfmissioncoalition](https://facebook.com/cfmissioncoalition)