

Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition Minutes – Monday, August 3, 2026

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

TIME: 5:00 p.m.

* Introductions and Prayer Requests

* Open Meeting With Prayer

* **Guest Speaker:** Erin Whitfield, Program Coordinator at Mentor Chippewa

Subject: Mentor Chippewa Program <https://mentorchippewa.org/>

Background:

- Started in 1988 with Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
- In 2020, they became an official non-profit with their own office in the Bay building. Now, the program is not part of school staffing.

Goals:

- Connect, grow, and empower
- Connect youth to caring adult partners so that every young person has a trusted adult in their corner.

Volunteer Commitments:

- Meet with a student one day a week, for 30 minutes. Has to be during the school day, only during the school year.
- Show up, stay curious, listen, be patient, be encouraging, and have fun.

About the Program:

- Any child in Chippewa Falls School District can participate.
 - No longer in Stanley. Only Chippewa Falls.
- They take staff-referrals, parent-referrals, and self-referrals.
- Mentors primarily are found by word of mouth. They also have posters if you have a place of business where one could be hung or postcards for sending to friends. Erin has digital copies available as well.

Numbers:

- 84 students in Chippewa Falls last year
 - 36 elementary students, 20 high schoolers, and 28 middle schoolers
- 10 students in Stanley last year
- 10% of mentors have been with the same student for 5 years or more.
 - The commitment is only for one year, but many love it so much that they want to come back.

Questions from the meeting:

Q: When and where do you meet? **A:** You will always meet at their school. Everyone doesn't meet at the same time. If you're a new mentor, staff will look at your schedule and match you with a student whose schedule matches yours.

Q: Is someone there for the first meeting? **A:** Yes, staff facilitates the first meeting/introduction. There are designated meeting places and also activities are provided, so if you don't know what to do with your mentee, there are games to help break the ice.

FAQs:

- There is always a big wait list for children. They are always looking for more mentors.
- It is NOT tutoring! You do not have to do any school work together. You are just signing up to be present.

In Search Of Community Service Projects!

- Mentor groups like to do service projects together. For example, in the past they decorated the Meals on Wheels bags. Need to be able to do the project at school. Looking for both fall and spring projects.

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

- 116 golfers
- 8 major sponsors giving at least \$1000.
- Anderson Chicken Fish provided the main meal and gave back 50% of the proceeds.
- Growing each year: Raised \$12,000 in first year. \$14,000 last year. Over \$20,000 this year!

-- Progress on finding replacement for Mike

- They have found a person! There's a special board meeting to confirm the hire. Mike says you will like him. 😊

-- Indianhead Motel, Affordable Housing Progress

- They are now starting the finishing work inside the rooms: baseboards, kitchen cabinets, etc.
- Ribbon cutting and first occupancy is estimated for the last week of September.
- They're taking applications for residents. Go through the Tiny House website to request info of the apartments.

-- Hope Village Affordable Housing Units currently filled

- All ten are currently filled. The next 16 units of Six-Plexes and Duplexes should have started this week, but there's a delay in excavation.
- By April, there should be 52 units plus the tiny houses!
 - 11 tiny houses, 26 units at the village, 26 at the hotel.
- As of Monday, 10 of 11 were filled.

-- Possible Building Project with Cadott High School?

- Project with HS may not happen. There are a few others who are planning to build additional tiny houses, but that is still in the works. Not sure if these will be added to their supply to make 13 total, or if they will move some of the tiny houses out of the village.

-- Hope Village Resale Shop

- The last thrift sale was last weekend. This renovation can't be started until the motel renovation is complete due to some grant money restrictions. Hoping to have a pre-Christmas sale, depending on the timing of a few things.
- No longer doing the Savers clothing fundraiser due to a policy of Savers'.

--On the Horizon: Maybe next spring, working on a new Hope Village Community Resource Center with more offices and also adding a playground.

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

- They always welcome detergents and dryer sheet donations, including homemade versions.
- Have very faithful volunteers, usually the same ones all the time. Can use more volunteers please! It's great for getting to know peoples' stories. New volunteers are paired with an experienced person their first time to learn the ropes.
- About LYL: 4 laundry sessions a month at the laundromat across from the courthouse. LYL provides quarters, supplies, and no questions asked. People are asked to sign in for grant writing only.
- This ministry has been going for 12 years. They operate on grants, donations from organizations, and individual donors.
- Many attendees are retirees or single parents.
- Volunteers do NOT do the laundry – just give the quarters and supplies. No limit to how many loads.
- Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/lightenyour>

*** Other Business/Announcements –**

-- Thursday, Aug 6th – CFMC Meal Service at Agnes' Table. Need a few more Volunteers. (Pass around Sign-Up Sheet.)

-- Saturday, August 15th -- "Helping Hands For Our Children" is sponsoring a "Tools 4 School" Giveaway starting at 1:00 p.m. at their Eau Claire location, 1201 S. Hastings Way. (NOTE: They are giving away things like tennis shoes, sandals, water bottles, etc. They no longer give away school supplies.)

-- Sunday, August 16th -- Valley Vineyard (910 Bridgewater Ave., Chippewa Falls) is again having their "Backpack/School Supply" Giveaway from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. If you would like to volunteer or donate, please contact Trish Houle ...
trisha@cfvalleyvineyard.org

-- Sunday, August 30th -- Weber/St. John "Harmony In Faith" Free Concert – 6:00 p.m. at English Lutheran Church of Bateman, 20588 Co. Hwy. X, Chippewa Falls.

-- Landmark is doing a mission trip to Thailand soon – open to anyone, not just members of Landmark. They are raising funds. They'll go to a youth hostel in the mountains that houses 80 Hmong children between the ages of 6-18. The group will teach English and do projects.

--Northern Apartments on Grand Ave. elevator is down about a week now. There are residents who cannot use the stairs to get food or go anywhere. Agnes' Table is providing food, and could use assistance with getting food up to those apartments. It's still 2-4 weeks before the elevator can be fixed.

-- **August 15th at 5pm** -- Trinity UMC is hosting a Hunk-a Hunk-a Fun and Food dinner with an Elvis impersonator. You need tickets ahead of time. \$18 a piece including dinner and entertainment. Portion of funds used to support St. Jude's.

-- YMCA offers free programs for people with Parkinson's, cancer, and memory loss – including a free one year family membership. In both Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire. Info is on their website - those classes aren't filling up, so they want to get the word out more. See all Health Intervention Programs here: <https://www.ymca-cv.org/hip> All these start in September - so register soon!

-- **August 9th at 9:00 a.m.** -- Pure Water Days ecumenical worship service at the Irvine Park bandshell. All are welcome!

-- **August 9th from 11:00am-2:00pm** – Charcoal Chicken meal at English Lutheran Bateman. \$15 a meal, drive through only.

*** Next Meeting – Monday, Oct. 5, 2026 ... Where? – Chippewa YMCA is checking and will get back to us.**

Guest Speaker: Shauna Hanson, Helping Hands For Our Children

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

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

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