

Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition MINUTES March 4, 2024 (Monday)
(REVISED 3-14-24)

Website: cfmissioncoalition.org

PLACE: Christ Episcopal Church, 624 Bay St., Chippewa Falls, WI

TIME: 5:00 p.m. – 6:10 p.m.

* Introductions and Prayer Requests

* Opened Meeting with Prayer ... included prayers for Bonnie Gullickson and Kelly.

* **GUEST SPEAKERS: Pastor Eddie Crise & Michelle Flint**

SUBJECT: Carelink Update and Need for Volunteers

Carelink was formed and funded by various local churches back in 2010. Its purpose is to have a central place where churches/non-profits can send people who request emergency gas cards. It is an attempt to eliminate people going from church to church and collecting numerous gas cards.

Carelink is currently housed at the LE Phillips CDC Outreach Office located at 21 E. Grand Ave., Chippewa Falls. Carelink is open from 10:00 a.m. to Noon every Tuesday and Thursday. We give out \$25 gas cards for emergencies. People can get one gas card every six months.

Carelink lost a number of volunteers during COVID and a number of them never returned. Currently we only have about 4 people that volunteer on a regular basis.

Volunteering at Carelink is a great way to be a disciple. It's about more than the \$25 gas card you give someone, it's also about taking a few moments to let someone know you care about them.

The best way to become a Carelink volunteer is to "job shadow" with an experienced volunteer. If that's something you might be interested in doing, just contact Michelle Flint and she can set you up ... michelle.flint@charter.net ... Or, I (Tom Drehmel) will be volunteering on April 2nd from 10:00 a.m. until Noon. If you would like to "job shadow" with me, just send me an email ... tdrehmel@me.com or phone 715-723-5626.

If you would like to donate to Carelink, send your check to ... Pam Moran – Central Lutheran Church, c/o Carelink, 411 N. Bridge St., Suite #101, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729. Make the check to "Central Lutheran Church," be sure to put "Carelink" in the memo line.

Mission Update: Community Garden (Roger Elliot)

With the closing of the HSHS hospital system, the future of the Community Garden is currently up in the air because it was funded by HSHS and HSHS owns the land where it is located. Roger's hope is that the new owner would allow the Community Garden to remain where it is.

However, if that doesn't happen, Roger would be looking for other options. So he wanted to plant the seed of an idea with the CFMC churches/non-profits, to see if they might have some land available for the Community Garden, or know someone that has land available to let him know, just in case they have to move.

The Community Garden needs a space of about 100' x 200' plus a small parking area. Access to water and electricity would also help greatly.

If you can help, contact Roger at ... rwelae@charter.net ... 715-562-2069.

Mission Update: APRIL "Lather With Love" Soap Mission (Tom Drehmel)

It was decided to once again do our "Lather With Love" Soap Mission in April for the local food pantries ... gathering laundry soap, dish soap, hand soap, shampoo, etc. (I will be emailing you a flyer that you can use to promote this mission.)

This year there was an idea to have the youth at the various CFMC churches spearhead this mission by having them announce it to your respective congregation, help gather the items, etc. This is purely optional, just an idea to get the youth involved.

You can deliver your soap items to Central Lutheran Church, 28 E. Columbia St., Chippewa Falls on Wednesday, April 17th and/or Wednesday, May 1st and the Central Youth will sort the items for each pantry. Please call the church to set up a delivery time ... 715-723-9336.

Participating Pantries will be able to pick up the items on the morning of Thursday, May 2nd.

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

-- The Hope Village "Welcome Home" Capital Fund Campaign is currently at approximately \$2.5 million, approximately \$200,000 short of our goal. Mike is currently meeting with various community trusts/foundations to raise the final amount. We are looking at breaking ground for the first duplexes in late summer or early fall.

-- The final tally for our “Quarter Auction” Hope Village Fundraiser came to about \$28,000. “Yay God!”

-- A Hope Village “Golf Outing” Fundraiser is being planned for Monday, July 29th at Whispering Pines Golf Course in Cadott, WI. Mike hopes that each CFMC church/non-profit will be able to send a 4-person team for this event. Details to follow in the upcoming months.

-- Gayle Klitzke will also be having a training session for new Hope Village Mentors on Tuesday, May 7th at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church from 6 – 8 pm.

Mission Update: “Lighten Your Load” Laundry Mission (Gayle Klitzke)

We offer “Lighten Your Load” four times a month on the first and third weeks of the month on Tuesday evening and Thursday afternoon.

In 2023 we had 335 guests that did laundry with “Lighten Your Load” ... 71 unduplicated. That totaled washing and drying 880 loads in 2023

LYL had a total income for 2023 of \$3,964 donated by seven churches, one charitable organization and five individuals. Expensed totaled \$4,570.50.

If you would like to volunteer for “Lighten Your Load,” contact Gayle Klitzke ... gayleklitzke@hotmail.com ... 715-723-5053. If you’ve never volunteered at LYL before, Gayle will team you up with an experienced volunteer.

If you want to know what you’ll experience as a LYL volunteer, here’s a testimonial from one of our LYL guests ...

“God has worked in wonderful ways in my life. When I feel stuck he always helps me find my way. And, without having water for 9 months, Lighten Your Load has blessed our family and definitely lightened our load. Thank you very much, we greatly appreciate it. Thank You! God Bless! – Jasmine

If you would like to donate to “Lighten Your Load,” send your check to ... Pam Moran – Central Lutheran Church, c/o Lighten Your Load, 411 N. Bridge St., Suite #101, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729. Make the check to “Central Lutheran Church,” be sure to put “Lighten Your Load” in the memo line.

Mission Outreach: CFMC Volunteering at Agnes’ Table, April 2nd (Tom Drehmel/Angela Maloney)

-- It was decided the CFMC would work together on a community project and it was decided to serve at Agnes' Table on April 2nd. The work is split into two shifts with three or four people needed at each shift. All four slots were filled for the "Serve/Clean" from 5 to 7pm, We still need two more volunteers to help with food prep from 3 to 5pm. If you're interested contact Tom Drehmel ... tdrehmel@me.com ... 715-723-5626.

Mission Outreach: Clean Clothes For Kids/Free Washer & Dryer (Angela Maloney)

Angela mentioned an organization ... "Clean Clothes For Kids" ... that is offering free washers and dryers for families in need. She didn't have the exact information at the meeting, but if you know of a family that could use a free washer and dryer, reach out to Angela for more information ... director@agnestable.org ... 715-861-3892.

CFMC Website Update: Continue to check our new website for up-to-date news on what's happening with CFMC. If you have any events or comments to add, just let us know. Thanks! – cfmissioncoalition.org

*** Next Meeting: April 1, 2024 – NOTE: April's Guest Speaker is Jennifer Schaffer, Community Education Coordinator for the Cardinal Community Learning Center ... and she has offered to host our April meeting at their Community Ed. Building (Old Korger-Chestnut School) ... 140 W. Elm St., Chippewa Falls**

* Closed with Lord's Prayer/Our Father.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Drehmel

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."