

The meeting was called to order by Kelly Haeska, with our opening prayer to Our Lady. Members in attendance: Anne Beckman, Stephanie Durand, Jen Tepley, Kim Solheid, Ann Braun, Rachel Rath, Nancy Denzer, Judy Burfeind, Denise Drews-Doyle, Roberta M Benedict, Barb Kobs, Gina LaBonte, Barb Schmidt, LaVada Reckman, Deb Rolbiecki, Ruth Holmstadt, Bonet Olson, Gail Huppert, Dolores Berg, Dorothy Arendt, Ann Nibbe, Kelly Haeska.

Guest speaker Mara Sorenson from First Choice Clinic came to explain the First Annual Chili Cook-off on January 24th sponsored by the Lake City Knights of Columbus. First Choice Clinic is celebrating their 20th year, being incorporated in 2006. Plans are for awards, including a People's Choice award, for submitted crock pots of Chili, and a Meat Raffle. Meat and tickets will be provided by Kevin Altendorf. Ballots and voting box for the Chili to be supplied by the First Choice Clinic. Set up to be at 4:30, drop off of food prior to Mass, with Cook-Off to follow the Mass at 6:30 pm. The fundraiser will be a free will offering. Advertising has included the FCC newsletter to 300, with 700 digital receivers, covering Red Wing, Ellsworth, Goodhue, Lake City and the area churches. Up to thirty are expected from outside of Lake City for potential numbers of people coming.

Discussion of details included serving Chili from the steel tables near the kitchen, where adequate outlets are available. Small containers will be used for tasting of a sampling size and Church bowls and silverware used for serving larger portions. Chili will be labeled as to spiciness or mild. Coffee and water will be offered for beverages. Sign-up sheets set out for volunteers to bring Cornbread muffins and bars/cookies for dessert. Eight crock pots of Chili will be needed, 2 committed from FCC, 5 CCW members, Barb, Robbie, Jen, Bonet and Ruth will bring Chili, and the KC's will meet tomorrow for supplying the additional pots. A motion was made for the CCW to purchase and provide cheese, crackers, onions, sour cream, butter, and honey, with the cost to be split with the KC's. Motion was seconded and carried.

Secretary's report was read by Anne Beckman. A motion was made, seconded and the minutes were approved as read.

There was no Treasurer's report.

Old Business

Staff Appreciation Dinner is January 23, 6:00 pm. Three women will be needed from the CCW, and three men from the KC's to help serve and clean up. Sign-up sheet will be set out.

Lenten Book Study: Six have signed up so far, Holly has ordered 20 books to have on hand. There is a notice in the Bulletin with a full description. The CCW is covering the cost of the books, that will be added for clarification.

Weekend Masses: On Saturday January 17th Bishop Baron is coming on his visiting the parishes in the diocese rotation. Wine and Cheese will be served after Mass. Kelly will need 3-4 people to help. Cheese and crackers have been purchased, Kelly will get the wine and the meat will come from Huettl's.

On Sunday donuts will be served after Mass, with Ann Braun coordinating. The donuts have been ordered and will be delivered. Thank you in advance for all the volunteer help.

New Business

Food Shelf: Donations from the CCW are made in the fall and again in March. Linda Harvey is suggesting a larger donation be made in March. Will look for a motion at the Feb meeting.

A question was raised about a donation for the Cemetery Board. Judy Burfiend spoke to recent expenditures of \$30,000 for black top and road resurfacing, and \$8,000 for surveying the H and I Sections on the Platt map for 4 feet by 4 feet graves. They will accommodate 2 cremations, so will be less expensive than a full size which accommodates a casket, and flat or upright stones can be used. Judy and John Mueske are re-verifying all the sites. Lots purchased in the 1860's with descendants difficult to contact, monuments without burials, and first burials hard to probe are some of the challenges they face. Six lots were sold last year, many more were sold in 2024. The Cemetery Board uses interest for the yearly \$20,000 needed for upkeep and maintenance. Cleaning of headstones is hired out. A question was raised about future projects, and do they include a directory to locate graves. Judy explained that all the burial records now are digital, on excel, and can be located on a Find a grave app. The blacktop is marked in increments of 10 with signage on the rows. The 150th Anniversary Committee is planning for tours of the Cemetery. A motion was made for \$2,000 from the CCW to be given to the Cemetery Board to be used at their discretion, with the understanding that the Board could return to the CCW in the future with specific needs for more funds. The motion was seconded and carried.

Twenty-two members from the Culture of Life Club from St Mary's University in Winona are attending the March for Life in Washington DC the weekend of January 23rd. Fundraising to cover their flight costs is being done by two students from the Stoltz family who are going. A motion was made to donate \$1,000 from the CCW to the Culture of Life Club for their trip to DC. The motion was seconded and carried.

The 100-mile Garage Sale: April 30th, May 1st and 2nd are the 2026 dates for the sale. Denise Drews-Doyle will be the Chairwoman. The BBQ's sold last year were popular and will be offered again.

Packing for the Weekend needs additional volunteers to deliver food to 6-7 stops on four routes in the Lake City School District. The deliveries are packaged at Redeeming Grace Church on Friday afternoons. Please contact Ann Nibbe if you can help.

Thank you notes were read from the Lake City Food Shelf volunteers for the CCW donation of \$500, and from Deb Rolbiecki and family for the luncheon, desserts, serving and kindness.

Prayers requested for the families of Bill Ogle and Mike Green.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Beckman

