On June 13th, I will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of my Ordination into Word and Sacrament Ministry with the people of Incarnation. On June 9th of 1996, the Rite of Ordination took place at my home congregation, Zion Lutheran Church in Wausau, WI. On that day, my life took an entirely new direction. Although ministry in the Church was not new to me after teaching in church schools for some 25 years, my learning at Wartburg Seminary was now complete, and my pastoral ministry at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Coloma, WI would soon begin. The mustard seed of faith that had been planted in me when I attended St. John’s Lutheran School as a child and Walther Lutheran High School as a teenager, was growing into quite a large tree. A tree larger than I ever expected when I graduated from Concordia Teacher’s College in River Forest.

Jesus often used parables such as the mustard seed in his teaching to shock his listeners into new ways of thinking. School teachers and pastors do the same thing. Parables begin with ordinary, everyday elements but then suddenly take a turn into a reality, an outcome, or a plot twist that no one expected. Perhaps that is why parables are often called earthly stories with a heavenly meaning. They are a good teaching vehicle for explaining the kingdom of heaven—a reality that requires us to open our minds to things we thought were impossible. Like me becoming a pastor.

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We would expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we have been grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup that we share. It may not be all that impressive, but while nobody is looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding, beyond our expectations.

Christ’s parable of the mustard seed reminds us that the same is true with God’s kingdom. Faith that can move mountains and ministries that change lives—these things also grow out of small and ordinary people, places, and times. As most of you know gardening is a hobby of mine but my journey in life like yours as well has been a process of growth. Sometimes growth is a painfully slow process, and it takes patience and courage to let things grow beyond our control. But that is what the Christian life is all about growing, nurturing, and harvesting. All being done for the glory of God. I look forward to June 13th and our celebration together.

May God continue to bless our growth together,
Pastor Ralph
Please join us on June 13, 2021 as we celebrate the 25th year of Pastor Ralph Hankermeyer’s ELCA ordination and 50 years of Christian Education.

The celebration will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary with a time of reflection and music. A special catered meal will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

All are invited to attend on this special day as we show our appreciation for his years of devotion and as he continues to shepherd us and share his love for our Lord and Savior.

RECYCLING EVENT RESCHEDULED

The recycling event has been rescheduled for July 31, 2021 in the Incarnation Lutheran Church parking lot. Please save your items and bring them that Saturday morning.

WORSHIP LESSON READERS

May 30th—Jean Watson          June 27th—Bonnie Zima
June 6th—Karen Nantelle        July 4th—Karen Nantelle
June 13th—Ken Anderson         July 11th—Jean Watson
June 20th—Sandy Krakow         July 18th—Ken Anderson
# Treasurer's Report

## Incarnation Lutheran Church

**Council Meeting May 13, 2021**

### Cash Balances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>April 30 2021</th>
<th>December 31 2020</th>
<th>December 31 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund Savings</td>
<td>$1,176.11</td>
<td>$1,474.36</td>
<td>$7,773.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Fund Checking</td>
<td>$729.73</td>
<td>$2,319.31</td>
<td>$113.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Cash Savings/Checking</td>
<td>$446.38</td>
<td>$3,793.67</td>
<td>$7,887.53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorial Fund Savings ($919.32 Designated)</td>
<td>$6,835.61</td>
<td>$7,094.83</td>
<td>$7,090.17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anderson Memorial Fund</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$2,990.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kesey Memorial Fund</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watkins Memorial Fund</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Fund Savings</td>
<td>$11,518.62</td>
<td>$10,518.23</td>
<td>$10,270.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday School Fund (Snell Memorial)</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach</td>
<td>$38.89</td>
<td>$38.89</td>
<td>$38.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seasons of the Church Banner Fund</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quilter’s Fund</td>
<td>$59.34</td>
<td>$59.34</td>
<td>$59.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Womens Group Fund</td>
<td>$410.21</td>
<td>$410.21</td>
<td>$410.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Fund</td>
<td>$329.72</td>
<td>$329.72</td>
<td>$329.72</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Fund</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology Fund</td>
<td>$1,261.80</td>
<td>$1,261.80</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Special Events & Fundraisers

- Rally Day Picnic Fund - (T Shirt Sale 2018) | $240.95 | $240.95 | $240.95 |
- Fundraisers - Garden Ministry | $47.91 | $47.91 | $47.91 |
- Fundraisers - Property Improvement Project Fund | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
- Fundraisers - Property Improvement Project Fund (Parking Lot) | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
- Fundraisers - Property Improvement Project Fund (Sign) | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 |

### Total Checking, Savings & Fund Balances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>April 30 2021</th>
<th>December 31 2020</th>
<th>December 31 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Checking</td>
<td>$729.73</td>
<td>$2,319.31</td>
<td>$113.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings</td>
<td>$1,382.99</td>
<td>$4,033.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorial</td>
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<td>$7,474.55</td>
<td>$7,469.89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>$11,518.62</td>
<td>$10,518.23</td>
<td>$10,270.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Mortgage Note Balance

| Nicolet Bank Due 5/18/2025 (4.75%) | $62,160.46 | $67,514.06 | $82,537.86 |

- Payment 18th of the Month $1,600
- Credit Available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>($13,000.00)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### PPP Loan Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$0.00</th>
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</thead>
</table>

### SBA Disaster Advance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$0.00</th>
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</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Fund Deposits 2021</th>
<th>$32,033.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund Deposits 2020</td>
<td>$32,314.82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 2021 vs 2020 | ($281.82) | -0.87% |
WORSHIP ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES – EFFECTIVE 5-14-2021

It is with much excitement that the Incarnation Church Council presents to you the following relaxed guidelines for worship at Incarnation:

"Masking and social distancing are not required, but are encouraged."

All pews in the sanctuary will now be available during worship.

Please be understanding of all individuals and whether they choose to wear a mask or not.

Incarnation’s Church Council invites all individuals to return to Incarnation for in person worship.

Worship services will continue to be taped for online viewing through Sunday, May 30th. Recordings will resume in the future if needed.

EXTERIOR SPRING CLEANING

A very special thank you to Don Sterling for the May 8th spring cleanup of the church grounds.

The exterior of the church property looks fantastic because of you.

THANK YOU   THANK YOU   THANK YOU

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

Women’s Bible Study is being held each third Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship. Pastor Ralph is leading an in-depth study titled “Women Of The Bible”.

Congratulations to Barb Brumm who was elected to the Discipline Committee of the East-Central Synod of Wisconsin during the recent Synod Assembly gathering.

We lift up praise and prayers for Barb for her service to Our Lord.
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 13, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER—Don Kneisler at 6:30 PM.

2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS
   Present Pastor - Ralph Hankermeyer
   Present President – Don Kneisler
   Present Vice President – Judy Trow
   Present Treasurer – Myrna Herrbold
   Present Allan Kvam
   Present Rick Manning
   Present Sherry Rasmussen
   Present Aaron Hankermeyer

3. DEVOTIONS – Sherry Rasmussen (By Still Waters Devotional Book)

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA—
   a) Motion by: Judy Trow Second by: Aaron Hankermeyer Approved

5. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING
   a) Changes: None
   b) Motion by: Don Kneisler Second by: Sherry Rasmussen Approved

6. PASTOR’S REPORT – Pastor Ralph Hankermeyer
   Communion
   Individually or Phone = 3
   In-Home = 0
   During Sunday Worship = 26
   Membership Updates and Health issues
   Pastor is working with 2 individuals that are considering becoming members of Incarnation

7. STANDING TEAMS:
   Stewardship – Allan Kvam
   Letter will be included in newsletter for summer giving
   Evangelism – Don Kneisler
   No report
   Social Ministry - Sherry Rasmussen (Sandy Krakow, Jean Watson)
   Charitable Campaigns will continue (items for various food pantries)
   Painters Group will begin using the church building in the fall on Monday and Thursday
   NA Group will begin using the church building in May
   Finance & Treasurer – Myrna Herrbold
   Written reports reviewed and approved
   Christian Education - Don Kneisler and Judy Trow
   Women’s Bible Study has begun (3rd Wednesday of each month)
   Additional Bible Studies being looked into
   Technology – Aaron Hankermeyer
   WIFI— guest WIFI access has been established
   WIFI name: ILC_Guest
   Password: Incarnation2021
7. STANDING TEAMS: CONTINUED

Building & Grounds - Rick Manning
- Sound system is still being updated and worked on
- Sign Up sheet for lawn mowing
- Sign Up sheet for Spring Cleanup May 8, 2021
- Recycling Project has rescheduled for July
- Sanctuary Area—musicians to be relocated to rear in front of piano / organ
  - back two pews in front of piano relocated to front of church (one pew each side)

Worship & Music – Aaron Hankermeyer and Myrna Herrbold
- Pews and musical instruments to be rearranged
- CDC Health and Covid changes
- Communion and distribution will be reviewed in July (we have enough kits until then)
- Fellowship and Adult Bible Study will resume in the fall
- Masks and social distancing will no longer be required but will be encouraged
- Church materials can be put back in place (Allan Kvam has volunteered to do this)
  - Lutheran Book of Worship will be placed in pew racks
- Online Sunday Worship will end after Memorial Day

Summer Services
- Sunday—in the Sanctuary unless air conditioning is needed (locate to Fellowship Hall)
- Midweek service—at be recorded at Pastor’s discretion and available on online
  - beginning Wednesday June 2, 2021
- Linda Grezca has volunteered to play the organ beginning in the fall

Mailing of worship materials to individuals who are not attending in-person services will be
- Reviewed on a case by case basis.
- Bibles may be purchased and located in each pew next to the Lutheran Book of Worship
- Aaron Hankermeyer to research costs

Events - Don Kneisler & Sherry Rasmussen
- Pastor Ralph 25th Anniversary of his ELCA Ordination
- See newsletter for details

8. OLD BUSINESS:
- Synod Assembly—May 14th & 15th (ZOOM MEETING) Judy Trow and Pastor Ralph delegates

9. NEW BUSINESS:
- Open Doors Grant—Don Kneisler
  - In reviewing the details, it was decided that it would not a good fit for Incarnation

10. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, June 10th at 6:30 pm—Devotions by Allan Kvam
- The council wants to invite all member to join us!

11. ADJOURMENT: 7:50 p.m. Motion by: Sherry Rasmussen / Don Kneisler
- Approved YES
- Adjourn at: 7:30

12. LORD’S PRAYER
Hold On To Me Lauren Daigle

When the Best of me
Is Barely Breathing
When I’m not Somebody
I Believe in, Hold on to me
When I Miss the Light
The night has Stolen
When I’m Slamming
All the Doors You’ve Opened
Hold on to me, hold on to me

CHORUS
Hold on to me when
It’s too Dark to see You
When I am Sure
I have Reached the end
Hold on to me
When I Forget I need You
When I let go, hold me again

When I don’t feel like
I’m Worth Defending
When I’m Tired of all the Pretending
Hold on to me
When I start to Break in Desperation
Underneath the Weight
Of Expectations
Hold on to me, hold on to me

I could Rest here
In Your Arms Forever
‘Cause I know nobody
Would Love me Better
Hold on to me, hold on to me

Lauren Daigle CCLI #7130439
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED CCLI LICENCE #11358955

“I want people to listen to this song and be reminded that even when they don’t feel like themselves, they can find comfort in knowing that there are people who can see beyond their darkest moments. We need to remind others that they have an army of people standing behind them, supporting them through the best and worst of times.”

Lauren Daigle
PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP IN THE NEWLY REMODELED SANCTUARY EACH SUNDAY AT 9:00 A.M. NO RESERVATIONS NECESSARY; MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING NOT REQUIRED BUT ENCOURAGED. COMMUNION IS OFFERED THE FIRST AND THIRD SUNDAY. WHEN ENTERING THE CHURCH ON COMMUNION SUNDAY, PLEASE TAKE AN INDIVIDUAL SERVING OF THE SACREMENTS WHICH WILL BE USED DURING THE SERVICE. THE OFFERING PLATE IS LOCATED AT THE ENTRANCE FOR YOUR GIFTS WHICH WILL BE BROUGHT TO THE ALTAR DURING THE OPENING HYMN.