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February 2021

## MY LOVE GROWS!

With Valentine’s Day around the corner, I did some research on popular gifts. Flowers were consistently always near or at the top of the list, and for good reason! There is something about giving someone something beautiful and alive that just makes it an extra special gift. For example, the image you are looking at is called the Hoya Kerrii plant. It is commonly referred to as the Hoya Heart because of its heart-shaped leaves. Because of their heart shape, cuttings of the leaves are popular gifts to give on Valentine’s Day. (For those who may not have a live-in gardener like I do, a “cutting” is a piece of a plant that has been cut off with the sole purpose of growing it into a new plant. This is very easy to do with anything in the “succulent” category, which includes cacti.)



Thinking about plants makes me automatically think about my wife Melina and the love I have for her. Her passion for plants is second to none, and she is really getting into growing plants from seed this year. Yes, this very moment, even in the month of February, she is growing little seedlings that will grow to be beautiful flowers one day. It is her passion and her desire to see life flourish in our garden that I find so amazing and lovely. And it is amazing that in every month and every season we have God’s beautiful creation both inside and outside our house.

As we think about creation, we can see how our God’s love for us continually grows amidst it. God provides us with everything we could ever need, whether it be plants, sustenance, or beautiful backdrops of creation. More than just earthly sustenance, his love grows for us as he gives us His Living Vine, His Son to bring us to the Tree of Life forever. A place where our love of the Lord will grow forever!

Just like Melina grows plants joyfully with love, in every month and season, our Lord does the same thing as he provides for us in every month and season. We see this place prophesied going all the way back to Ezekiel 47:12, where Ezekiel is given a vision of the Promise Land. About it the Lord says, “Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.” This Promise Land vision will ultimately be fulfilled in Heaven as we read in Revelation 22:2, “On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.”

So, if you did get or plan to give flowers or a Hoya Heart for Valentine’s Day, let your love grow as you take in the beauty of those plants! Let it grow for your spouse, who gave you those flowers. Or if you are the spouse who gave the flowers, let your love grow in the joy of seeing your beloved happy. And then may both of you let your love grow for the God of creation who provides those flowers, and who will one day bring us to the place where love will bloom forever next to the Tree of Life!

In the Love of the Lord,  
Pastor Matt

## Balance Sheet 01/31/2021

<b>Assets</b>				
Assets				\$226,150.59
Current Assets			\$74,513.23	
Checking Account	\$48,384.78			
Savings Account	\$21,481.05			
Facilities Account	\$3,401.77			
PayPal	\$1,245.63			
Investments			\$151,637.36	
LCEF Steward Account	\$96,250.67			
LCEF Supplemental	\$5,503.14			
Schwab Account	\$0.10			
LCMS Endowment Fund	\$49,883.45			
Imbalance-USD				\$0.00
<b>Total Assets</b>				<b>\$226,150.59</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Liabilities				\$1,009.87
Outstanding Bills			\$0.00	
Outstanding Checks			\$1,009.87	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>				<b>\$1,009.87</b>
<b>Equity</b>				
Operating Accounts				\$225,590.72
Opening Balances			\$0.00	
Operating Accounts			\$225,590.72	
General Fund	\$50,472.83			
Sinking Funds	\$56,286.31			
Local Impact Giving	\$2,124.97			
Travel	\$0.00			
Piano Organ Maint	\$200.00			
District Conv	\$624.02			
Short-Term Maint	\$5,116.88			
Landscape	\$578.74			
Long-Term Maint	\$36,746.85			
Surface Water Mgmt	\$636.82			
Property Insurance	\$1,600.92			
Parsonage Maint	\$8,657.11			
Special Funds			\$22,561.01	
Congregational Emergency Fund	\$1,818.89			
Kitchen Fund	\$3,510.60			
Memorial Fund	\$16,196.54			
Concordia Publishing	\$0.00			
Social Action Fund	\$1,034.98			
Youth Fund	\$0.00			
Emergency Fund	\$46,387.12			
Endowment Fund	\$49,883.45			
Temp Account	\$0.00			
<b>Retained Losses</b>				<b>\$450.00</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>				<b>\$225,140.72</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>				<b>\$226,150.59</b>

## REND YOUR HEART 2021 Lent and Easter Series Information



Despite feeling as though we have been in a yearlong season of Lent, we need the season; we need the observance to open us to all God has in store for us. It is worth the strenuous effort, however, as we are enabled to embrace the fullness of the promise of Resurrection and live as disciples of Jesus Christ; disciples who make disciples. Rend your hearts, so together we can claim the promise.

Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday – Yet Even Now - **OT: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17** NT: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10  
Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> - This is the Sign - **OT: Genesis 9:8-17** NT: 1 Peter 3:18-22 Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> – Walk Before Me – **OT: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16** NT: Romans 4:13, 18-25 Gospel: Mark 8:31-38

March 7<sup>th</sup> – 8 and 10:30 am Services- All These Words – **OT: Exodus 20:1-17** Gospel: John 2:13-22

March 14<sup>th</sup> – Look Up and Live – **OT: Numbers 21:4-9** NT: Ephesians 2:1-10 Gospel: John 3:14-21

March 21<sup>st</sup> – Written on the Heart - OT1: Jeremiah 31:31-34 OT2: Psalm 119:9-16 Gospel: John 12:20-33

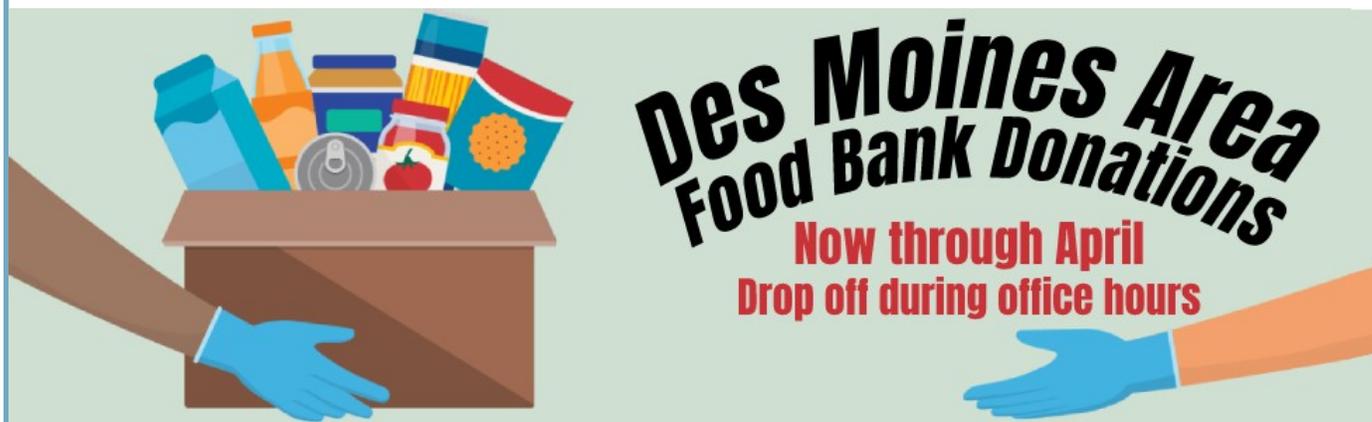
March 28<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday – The One Who Comes - **OT: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29** Gospel: Mark 11:1-11

April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Holy Week Service (Maundy Thur./ Good Friday) – A Lamb...By His Bruises –

Reading 1: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 Reading 2: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Reading 3: Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Reading 4: John 18:1-19:42

April 4<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday 8 and 10:30 am Services – Terror and Amazement – OT: Isaiah 25:6-9  
NT: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 **Gospel: Mark 16:1-8**



### Most Needed Food Items

Healthy Options, Low Sodium Soup, Pasta, Canned Corn, Fruit Cups, Cereal, 100% Fruit Juice Boxes

### Most Needed Non-Food Items

Paper Bags - Clean and Untorn, Toilet Paper, Diapers (Size 4, 5, 6), Soap, Laundry Detergent. Pet Food



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February 17

ASH  
WEDNESDAY

7 pm

REMEMBRANCE THROUGH SACRIFICE

TRADITIONAL 8:00 AM  
CONTEMPORARY 10:30 AM  
WORSHIP SERVICE

MARCH 7