

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love endures forever—Psalm 136:1

That's who your Lord is. He is good. Through the work of his Son Jesus who lived, died, and rose again for you this good Lord is also your Father. He sent his Spirit to live and dwell within you as his personal dwelling place. You are not your own, you were bought at a price. It was the price of God's own blood and his innocent suffering and death. He has set you apart through the miracle of water and Word in baptism. So, though we still live in this world, we are set apart, his own dear children, who he promises to give every good thing (Romans 8:32). We did not deserve this. Take a look at today, last week—you were not as good as you should have been. Take a look at those times when you have been good. How often was it because you were trying to keep her happy, because he expected you to, because you knew you could get something out of it, or some other self-serving reason? Even the good we do is stained with sin.

But our Lord, he is good. What love that he would give his own child for people like us! What kindness that he gives us our daily bread—all we need for body and life—when we are often ungrateful and unaware of what he does. What patience that he doesn't abandon us when we fall into sin and temptation but leads us through it back to him. Then he forgives us, again, with no demands for you to repay him? Of course, he does. That's what he promised to do because Jesus was shamed in your place, died for you, and rose again. What love. Love that does not change. Tomorrow he won't be different. Next week he won't change his mind. His love endures...forever.

So, we give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. And in that love he has set us free; free from the burden of trying to be better, to be right. We already are through Jesus who made us what we need to be: good and right with God. He has set us free to enjoy the gifts that he has given to us—all that we do have for body and life. And in his goodness, he sets us free to use those gifts to the glory of his name with the promise that whatever we do for the least we do for him.

And so, I give thanks to the Lord that he had called me here to Valentine to serve with you. I did not seek out the call; God chose me through Zion to serve with you. And I'm so thankful he did. I give thanks to the Lord for he has let me see his goodness through your generosity in your support of this school. Incredible. I give thanks to the Lord for he has let me see his goodness in the generosity of your love evident in how you serve each other, our teachers, my family and me. And this Lord who is good continues to give us more. His love is not running out. You don't have to stash it away "just in case." His love endures. Forever.

And it's with the confidence of this promise that we close out this school year. We do not know how our good Lord will continue to bless us. We do know he will. His love endures forever. Give thanks! Amen.

-Pastor Flitter

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Open Enrollment

Do you know anyone who is looking to start preschool for their young children? Do you know someone who is curious about our school and what it has to offer for grades 3-8? Is this you? We have spots open!!! If someone is looking for an enrollment form, please speak with one of our teachers or Pastor.

**Arbor Day**

We had to reschedule our Arbor Day! We will be walking up to Cherry Hills this Thursday (May 4th) around 10 am to help clean-up some rocks. Please send your students with proper walking attire and clothes for working outside for an hour that morning. If you would like, feel free to send them with gloves for working as well.

Skit Night

It's almost here! Join us at the 4H building Thursday, May 11th at 6 pm for Skit Night. Preschool will start us off with "Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza." Following them will be the K-8 students performing "Are We There Yet?" where we get to see the humorous side of the Israelites going from Egypt to the Promised Land. Bring your lawn chair to sit on! There will be an Ice Cream Social to follow; bring a topping to share.

If you are able, we need help setting up the stage earlier that day. We will meet at the 4H Building at noon. Please speak with Pastor should you have questions.

Track and Field Day

On Friday, May 19th the students will be showing off their athletic prowess at our Track and Field day at the Valentine High School Track. We will be getting started around 9:30 am and be done for the day at noon. With the Noon-Dismissal, there will not be afternoon preschool on that Friday. Parents may pick up their students at the track.

Hot Lunch

Thank you to every who signed-up and served hot lunch this year. The students and faculty appreciated your help and the food!

Last Day of School/Preschool and 8th Grade Graduation

It's hard to believe but the school year is almost finished. Our last day of school will be May 24th. Closing Service with Preschool and 8th Grade Graduation will be at 11:30. We will have lunch served following the service.

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 9 am—Chapel	4 10 am—Arbor Day at Cherry Hills	5 Hot Lunch: Samantha Shelbourn	6
7 10 am—Church Service 11:15 am—Sunday School/Bible Study	8	9	10 9 am—Chapel	11 6 pm—Skit Night at 4H Building	12 Hot Lunch: _____	13
14 10 am—Church Service Mother's Day	15	16	17 9 am—Chapel	18 1:30 pm—Preschool Track and Field Day	19 9:30 am—Track and Field Day at VHS Track Noon Dismissal	20
21 10 am—Church Service 11:15 am—Sunday School/Bible Study	22	23 Last Day of School for Zion Afternoon Preschool	24 Last Day of School for Zion School and Preschool 11:30—Closing Service w/ Preschool and 8th Grade Graduation	25	26	27
28 10 am—Church Service	29 Memorial Day	30	31			

