

FEBRUARY 2025

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

La Junta

February 1, 2025

Issue 4

A Message from Pastor Brandon

It is February and on the 14th of the month we celebrate love. We give our Valentines little things that let them know that we love and care for them.

However, have you ever considered God's love for us on this day? When we do, we can know that every day is Valentine's Day with our Lord.

The Bible is rich with passages that explain just how much God loves us, here are just a few examples.

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow--not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below--indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order the world might be saved through him." John 3:16-17

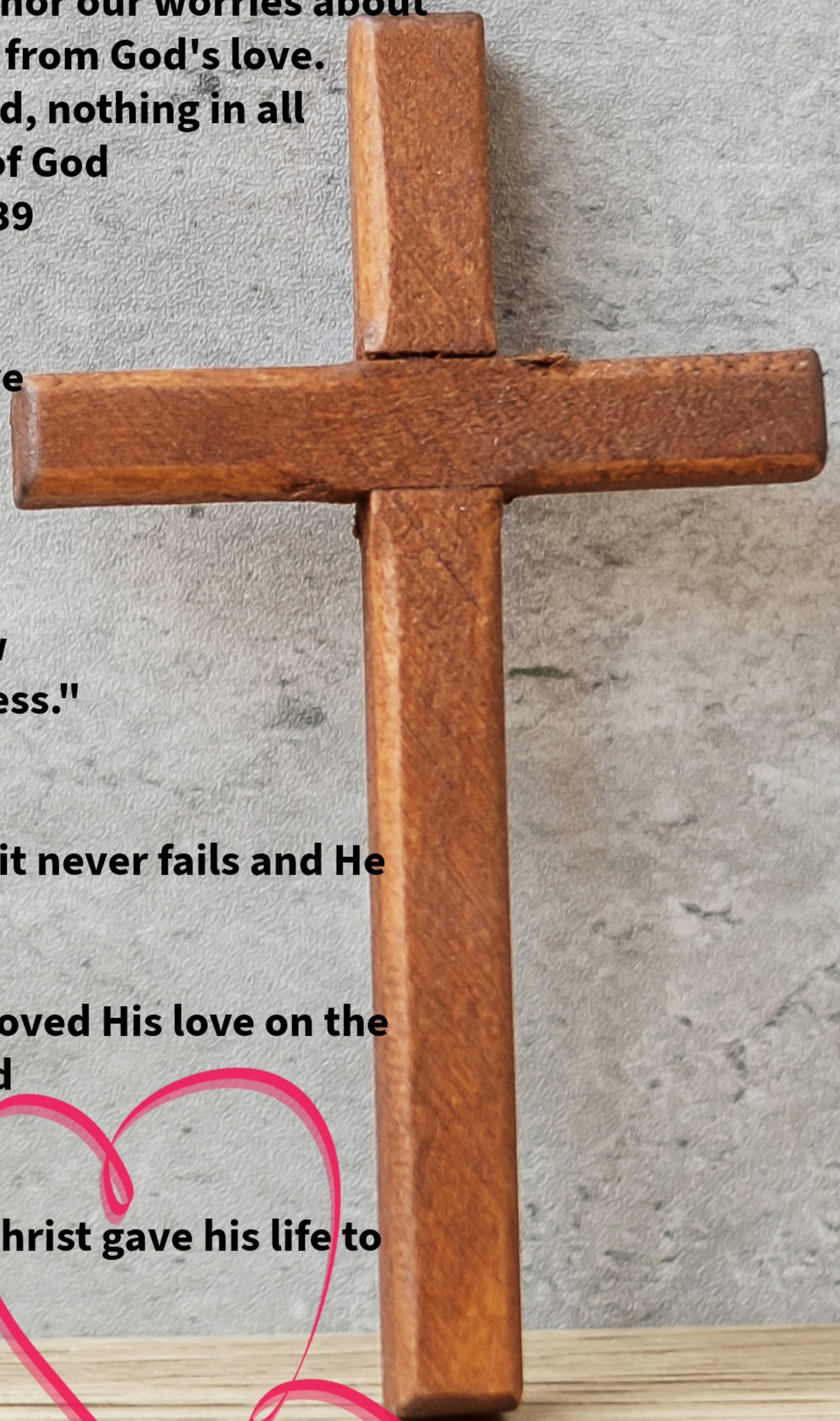
"But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness." Psalm 86:15


God's love for us is never ending is it never fading, and it never fails and He shows it to us every day.

I am reminded of this quote from Billy Graham "God proved His love on the Cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, I love you."

We can take comfort and have great joy knowing that Christ gave his life to show us just how much.

God's Blessings,
Pastor Brandon



A pair of hands is shown holding three wooden blocks stacked vertically. The top block has the word "JESUS" in black, the middle block has "LOVES" in black, and the bottom block has "YOU" in red.

JESUS

LOVES

YOU

SERVICES



Sunday School (all ages)	Sunday	9:30am
Morning Worship	Sunday	10:45am
Evening Worship	Sunday	6:00pm
Children's Worship	Sunday	6:00pm
Youth Group	Sunday	6:00pm
Women's Bible Study	Wednesday	6:00pm
Prayer Meeting	Wednesday	6:30pm
Men's Bible Study	Wednesday	7:00pm

The phrase "GOD IS LOVE" is written in large, colorful, 3D block letters on a light-colored wooden surface. To the right of the word "LOVE" are two red hearts.

GOD IS LOVE 

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Brandon Mills
Pastor

Tim Knabenshue
Deacon

Jim Collins
Deacon

Kathy Butler
Children's Leader/VBS
Coordinator

Jim Gabler
Deacon

Allen Lasater
Worship Leader

Wilma Collins
Youth Leader



PRAYER

CHURCH PRAYER LIST



- Bob Blair*
- Bill Remick Family*
- Ken Pierson*
- Jeff Reader's Father*
- Steve Graham*
- Carolyn Hayes*
- Ida Mondragon*
- Helen McClure*
- Amber Mills*
- Carolyn Gerhart*
- Haley Kristine*
- Amanda Martin*
- John George*
- Jack Gorman*
- Pat Pedigo*
- Sue Malott*

- Kristin Lucero*
- Dr. Shand*
- Family of AJ Quick*
- Police Officers*
- First Responders*
- Military & their Families*
- Our Nation*
- Son Buyruk Church*
- Our Leaders*
- Israel*
- CA Fire Victims*
- Hurricane Victims*

IF YOU BELIEVE
YOU WILL RECEIVE
WHATEVER YOU
ASK FOR IN

prayer

MATTHEW 21:22

- Our Church Leaders and support teams*



*A Celebration Of Life,
Are God's Events
IN OUR LIVES*

February 2025

Please share the upcoming events in your life that will happen in March by emailing to
benzshirley@ymail.com
Birthdays, Anniversaries, wedding announcements, births, passing or graduations.

FOREVER...
Everyday, celebrate God's Love for us.

IMPORTANT DATES

February 2025

February 02, 2025 - Groundhog Day

February 14, 2025 - Valentine's Day

February 15, 2025 - Women's Morning of Inspiration at Silo Christian Fellowship
(formally Cheraw Baptist Chapel) 302 Grand Ave, Cheraw, CO 9:00 a.m. - 11:00
a.m. Welcome to any women to attend.

February 17, 2025 - President's Day

March 2025

March 05, 2026 - Lent - Ash Wednesday

March 09, 2025 - Daylight Savings Starts

April 2025

April 13, 2025 - Palm Sunday

April 18, 2025 - Good Friday

April 19, 2025 - Holy Saturday

April 20, 2025 - Easter

April 22, 2025 - Earth Day

Church Family: Please, I need help. I need celebrations to list here. I'm sure God is providing life celebrations to us
all, let's give Him the Glory. Birthdays are an easy one. ~~~Thank You!

Email to: benzshirley@ymail.com
or text to 719-469-1870. Or call. Due by the 29th of each month.

February 2025

NOTES

Join the Ark Encounter Tour... Don't miss the **Boat!** Deadline is May 25, 2025.

Email- benzshirley@ymail.com. The sooner you sign up, the better seats on the bus and better hotel rooms! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/401368309350988>

Operation Christmas Child -

Next item needed: is scissors, we need 80 pairs of scissors.



As for the men to help with - all this year, be on the lookout for free hats. The kind they give away for advertisement, maybe you don't need another hat in your collection, but OCC does, please grab it!

Church Contact Form - you will find a link to fill out the contact form on the FSBC website. This will provide a way to send you information about church happenings, weather delays or cancellation, and receive the digital copy of the church newsletter.

<https://www.fsbclajunta.com/newsletter/>

<https://www.fsbclajunta.com/contact-forms/>



Printed copy of newsletter - If you need a printed copy of the newsletter, look for a paper printed issue of the newsletter in the entry of the church on the table. Or contact Shirley Benz.

benzshirley@ymail.com



Several Volunteers needed - If you would like to help with running the audio/video system, please see Pastor Brandon. Several volunteers are needed to help to fill the schedule rotation. It's easy to learn, about 30 mins of training. Plus the seats are pretty good in the Sanctuary.

raise your hand...

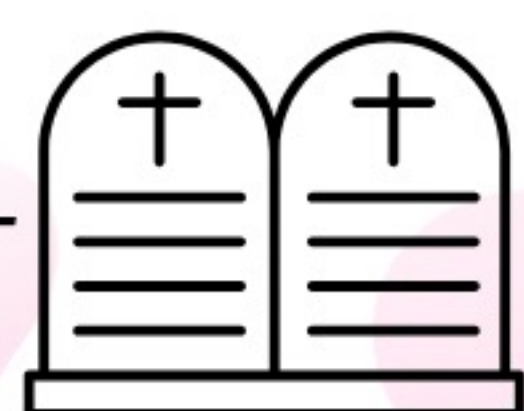


VBS - Looking for a kindergarten teacher. Organizing has started for the army of helpers that will be needed to have another successful VBS year. You can start committing your time and choice of what you would like to help with. Shirley B. has committed to being the photographer, helping with decorations and with crafts. Can't wait to see the look on the kid's faces while they are learning about Jesus!

June 2-6, 2025, mark your calendar!



Kid's Sunday School -



Kids will be learning the Ten Commandments.

Please help your kids with the learning at home.

Recite over and over...

Miracles and Praises to God

February 2025

For the safe travels of our church families during their recent December holiday travels, Praise God

For all the Church Family Members, Praise God

Bob Benz will join the video and audio team, Thankful for all the volunteers, Praise God

For the Sunday services Security Team and the Nursery child caregivers, Praise God

Thankful for the members who clean the church, Praise God

Thankful for all the kids attending church and learning to live for Jesus, Praise God

Church Family: Please, I need help. I need praises to list here. I'm sure there are praises out there. Don't be shy, let's send Him the Praises. I would love to see this page full.

Email me: benzshirley@ymail or text to 719-469-1870. ~~~~Thank you!

Count Your BLESSINGS.

Name them one by one.

Count your
MANY BLESSINGS...

See what GOD HAS DONE.



God Loves us



***Greater love has no one than this:
to lay down one's life for one's friends.
John 15: 13***

*If you would like more information on God's love - visit
First Southern Baptist Church for Sunday Service that begins at 10:45 a.m.
Everyone is welcome to hear God's Word and the love He has for you.*

*First Southern Baptist Church
2006 Smithland Ave, La Junta, CO 81050
Located directly across the street from La Junta High School*



You are invited to join us for a

Women's Morning of Inspiration

Saturday, February 15, 2025

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Refreshments, Fellowship, and the Word of God

“Love with Actions and In Truth”

Inspiration by – Paula Williams

Mission Focus – Arkansas Valley Pregnancy Center

Director, Phileana Brown

Music – Dawsen Kouba

Hosted by:

Silo Christian Fellowship

(formerly Cheraw Baptist Chapel)

302 Grand Avenue, Cheraw, CO

and the

Wednesday Women of the Word (WWOW)

Bible Study Group

Meeting Wednesdays at 6:00 pm, First Southern Baptist Church, La Junta

For more information, contact

Julie: 719-384-7656 or Anita: 719-469-0386

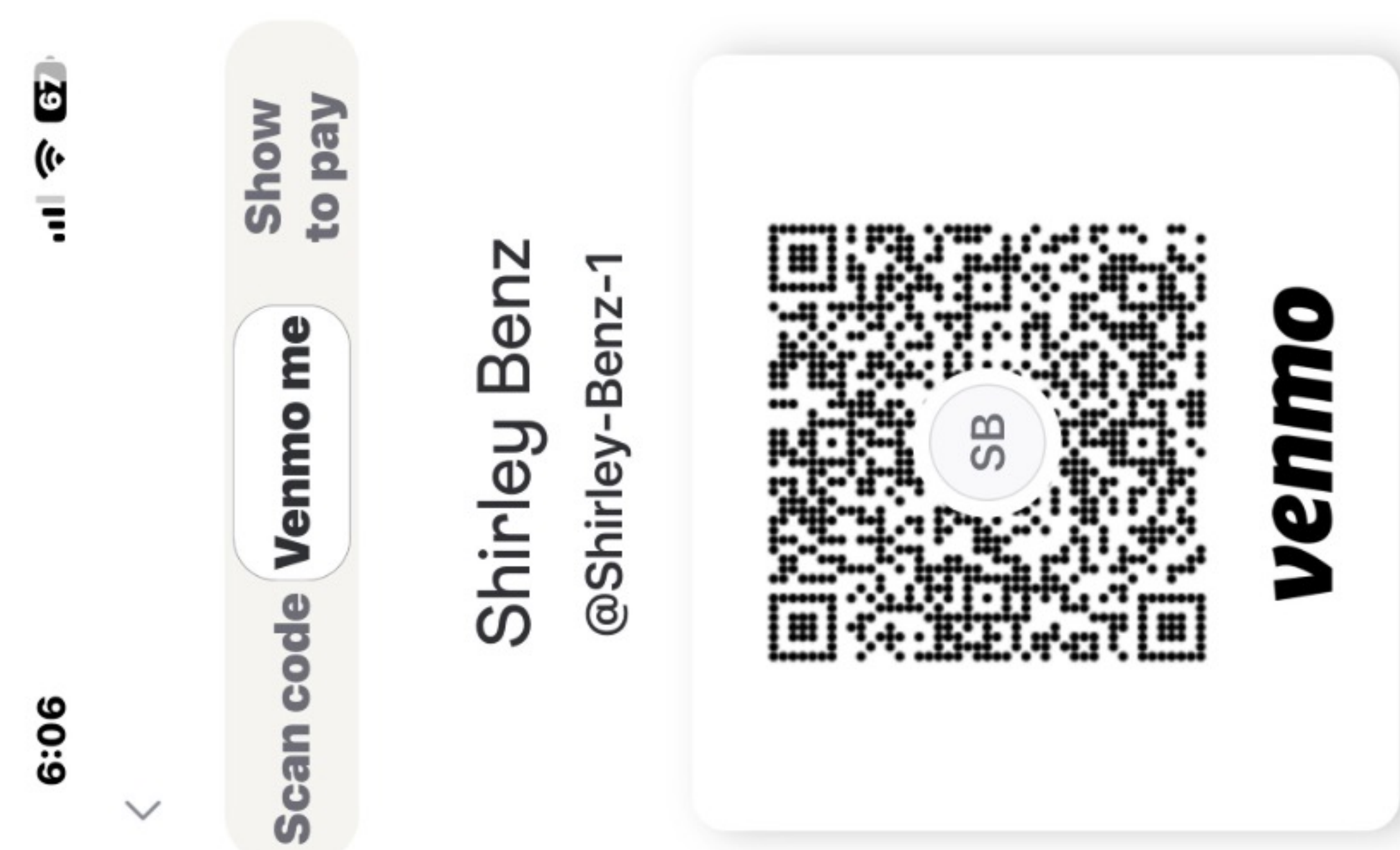
THE ARK ENCOUNTER TOUR

It's about 6 months until the THE ARK ENCOUNTER TRIP.
Trip dates are Aug 4-8, 2025, this is a Monday-Friday.

As soon as we get several more people signed up on the bus, we can choose and set up our hotel. The reason we want to get this done ASAP, is so we will be close to first in line for hotel selections. If we wait, then we might get in a hotel that is further away and we wouldn't want that. That would eat into our Ark time. Location, Location, Location!

If you are going on the trip to the Ark, now is a good time to place your deposit. Deposit is \$75.00 per person for a double or triple *occupancy. If you will be getting a private room the deposit is \$199.00. Yes, the deposit is refundable. Make deposit check out to Shirley Benz, Money order or cashiers check or Venmo Shirley Benz. Make sure to include name of person(s) that the deposit is for.

And contact me to give me your type of room you want and your bus seat choice.



Another reason to get in early on the trip, if for example you really want a room on the first floor, booking early helps with the chances of getting on that floor. OR, if you are traveling with a friend and you need two beds, best to get in early or you could be sharing a King or Queen bed.

OR, if you need a low entry shower room for your ability, they go fast!

Another reason to get signed up early, seat assignments on the bus are first come first serve. There's a bathroom on the bus, who want the seats next to it?

There are 6 seats taken already.

*FYI: there are NO "four people" to one room. Or more than that per room.

Please read the next two pages for more information. And give me a call when you are ready to pick you bus seats.

Shirley Benz 719-469-1870



Possible t-shirt for purchase

ARK ENCOUNTER TOUR 2025

Dates: Aug 4-8, 2025 (Monday-Friday)

INCLUDES:

- ▶ 4 nights lodging in the Cincinnati area (like a Holiday Inn)
- ▶ 8 meals: 4 breakfast and 4 dinners
- ▶ Transportation IN THE Cincinnati area, including to and from the airport in Cincinnati on a video and restroom equipped motor coach bus.
- ▶ Admission to the Stunning ARK ENCOUNTER!
- ▶ Admission to the Famous CREATION MUSEUM!
- ▶ And a second 1/2 day at the CREATION MUSEUM - so much to see!
- ▶ BB RIVERBOATS SIGHTSEEING along the Ohio River. After the 2nd day at Creation Museum.
- ▶ The tips for the Bus Driver and restaurants are in the tour price. (so no need to add a tip)

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED? You must get yourself from your home location to the Cincinnati International Airport. No air flights are included for the tour price. Also, lunches are not included, because the tour company will not be with us at the attractions. The Ark has a great restaurant! But we pay for our lunch meals.

CAN I DRIVE MY CAR? Yes you can drive your car. I plan to drive. It's about a 17- hour drive from La Junta. However, you will need to park your car at the airport (and pay for your own parking) and get on the bus at the pickup location, which is at the airport. Once the hotel has been chosen and booked, I will see if we get lucky to have extra parking and then maybe we can meet the tour at the hotel. But as of now, I can't answer the parking question. But plan on parking at the airport. If you are flying in, just go out and meet the bus.

WHAT IS THE TOUR PRICE?

For a DOUBLE OCCUPANCY ROOM- \$726.00 per person

For a TRIPLE OCCUPANCY ROOM- \$706.00 per person

For a PRIVATE ROOM FOR ONE PERSON- \$925.00 for the single person.

THE ARK ENCOUNTER TOUR continues :

CAN I BRING A PERSON THAT DOESN'T ATTEND THE CHURCH? Yes, the tour is open to all.

CAN KIDS COME? Yes, Kids are welcome. Kids rates are the same as adult. The tickets are not based on age of a person, but on the seat itself. All the attractions on this tour are very good for kids.

WHAT COMPANY IS PROVIDING THE TOUR? Diamond Tours, Inc, is the tour company. Our La Junta Senior Center has been using them for years. This trip is also posted at the La Junta Senior Center. Many area churches are sharing the flyer for the tour.

IS THERE TRAVEL INSURANCE OFFERED FOR THE TRIP? Yes there is, through Travel Insured International . The cost varies with your total price for your tour.

Trip cost per person

\$701.00-1,100.00 per person

Insurance per person

\$72.00 per person

HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR THE TOUR AND RESERVE MY BUS SEAT AND MY HOTEL? Just let Shirley Benz know: 719-469-1870. OR EMAIL to benzshirley@ymail.com

HOW MUCH MONEY DO I NEED TO RESERVE MY BUS AND ROOM? Only \$75.00 per person. Unless you want a PRIVATE ROOM, then you need \$199.00 per person. The balance will be due May 25, 2025

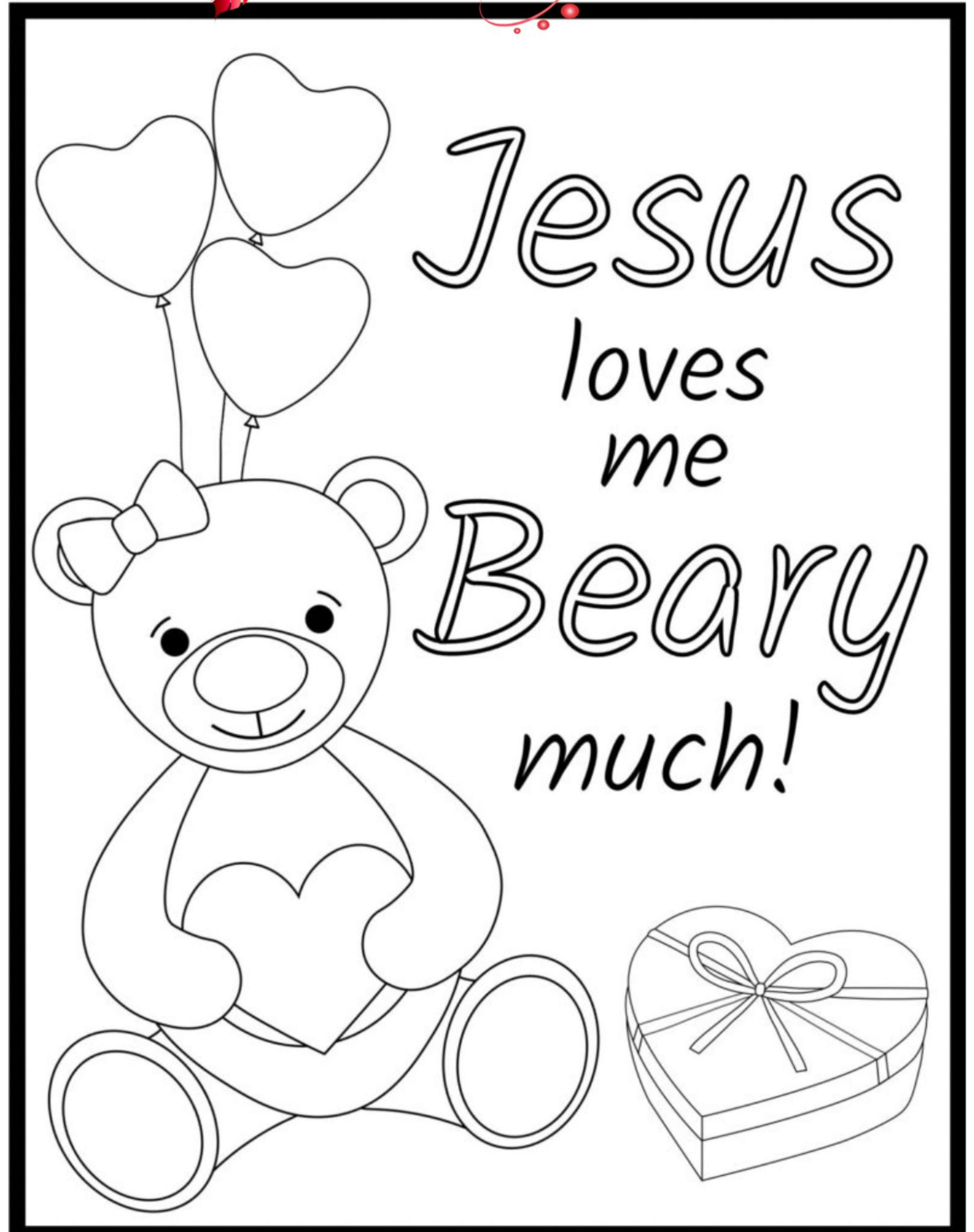
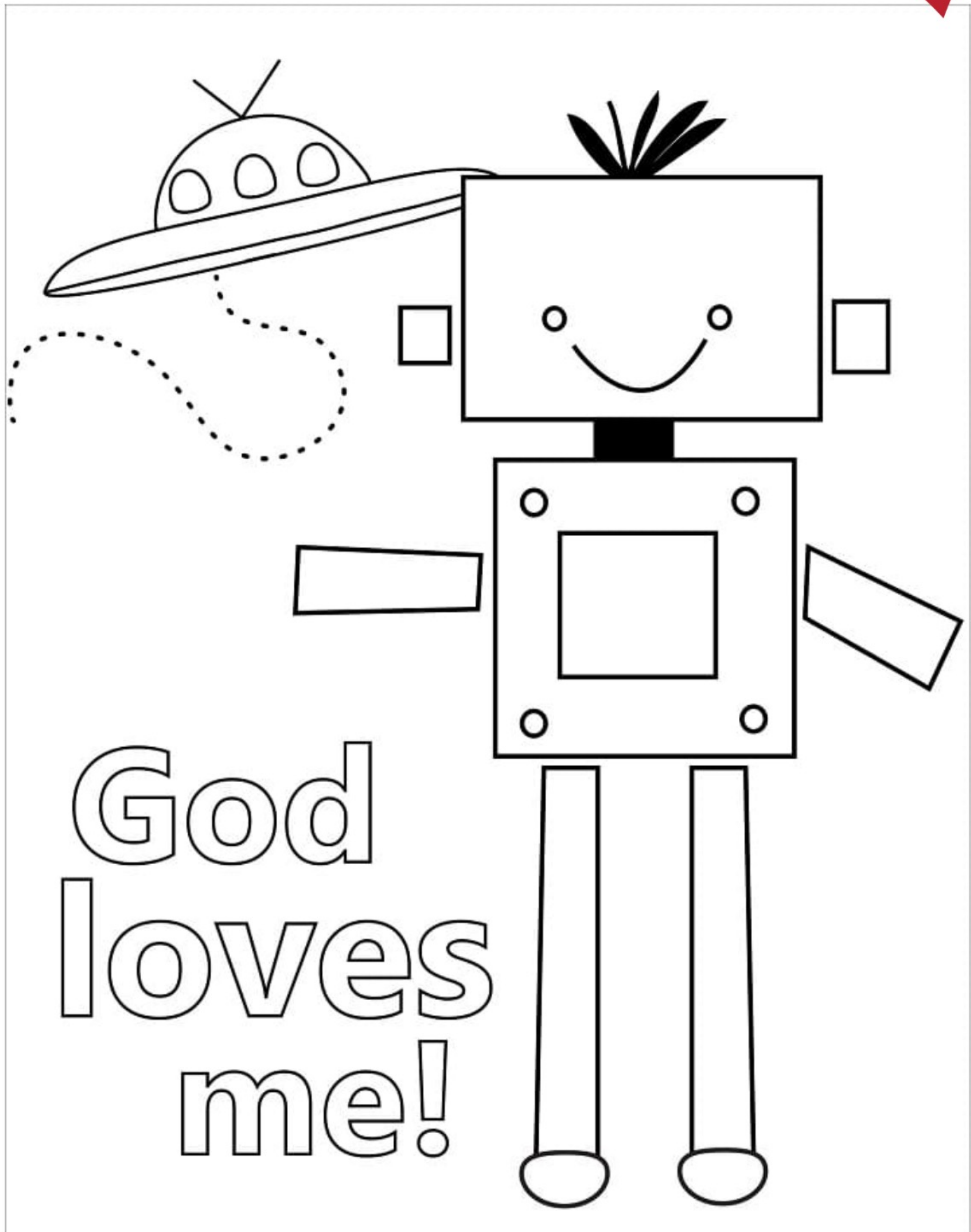
WHEN CAN I RESERVE MY ROOM? Now.

WHAT ABOUT CANCELLATION OF THE TRIP? As long as the bus has at least 30 passengers left on the bus when you cancel, you can cancel up to 14 days before the start day of the trip. But if the number dropped under 30, the whole tour will also be cancelled. No cancellations within 13 days of the trip, but cover yourself with the travel insurance.

HOW MANY PEOPLE NEED TO SIGN UP FOR THE TRIP TO GET ONE BUS? In order for DIAMOND TOURS, Inc. to provide a tour bus they need at least 30 people on the bus. The bus has 52 seats. But if the tour fills 72 seats, they will add a second bus. The people who sign up and are numbers 53-74 in line, will go on a waiting list, they will only go if we reach a count of 75 people. So it's better to sign up first! To be assured a seat on the first bus. If we get to the second bus with a total of 75 people, there will be plenty of room on the buses, as each bus holds 52 seats. That would be about 38 people on each bus, leaving an extra 14 seats on each bus.

If you would like a printed tour flyer or a printed Insurance flyer, please let me know.

KIDS KORNERS



God's Love

G	H	L	I	G	H	T	N	A	V	A	A	A	M
R	T	T	R	U	T	H	F	S	A	I	A	O	O
A	L	E	R	E	S	E	F	E	H	E	E	A	D
C	G	E	T	E	R	N	A	L	T	G	G	A	E
E	H	P	R	N	M	R	I	A	Y	O	J	V	E
F	E	F	N	E	F	V	T	H	J	I	O	G	R
F	A	T	E	E	A	A	H	R	E	S	N	T	F
U	V	H	O	L	Y	S	E	P	S	E	E	P	C
E	E	I	F	P	L	I	F	E	U	H	F	I	I
G	N	U	E	P	S	I	T	I	S	R	N	O	A
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E	J	A	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	N	E	S	S
E	L	E	R	E	P	E	N	T	A	N	C	E	G

- HAPPINESS
- HOLY
- JESUS
- LIFE
- FREEDOM
- JOY
- TRUTH
- FORGIVENESS
- HEAVEN
- FAITH
- GRACE
- LIGHT
- AGAPE
- ETERNAL
- REPENTANCE

JESUS
is my Valentine

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