



The Saltshaker

August, 2024

Kokomo Zion Church

Pastor Keith Chanley

pastor's Page

One of the issues surrounding Christian faith that is becoming evident in Western Christianity (Europe and the US) is what is being called practical atheism. Practical atheism is where one intellectually acknowledges the existence of God but then lives day to day as if there is no God. It is a failure of the individual to place the practices and morals of Christian faith as a central part of their daily practice. If I might be so blunt, while there is a mental acknowledgement of God, in practical living these individuals live like citizens of Hell instead of the Kingdom of God. We saw evidence of some of this as we emerged from Covid. After being forced into seclusion for weeks to years some individuals who would proclaim themselves as Christian suddenly found that not going to church to gather as the body of Christ was not something they missed all that much. Time that had once been given in devotion to God could now be spent on something else. While the argument might be made that streaming services can be utilized, it isn't the same. I would hazard a guess that many times while streaming is being watched other activities are happening as well, something else is playing on the tv or phone, work is being caught up, meals are being fixed, another cup of coffee is consumed or some other activity that distracts us from giving God our full attention. While I am grateful for streaming services and the option they offer for those who are consistently unable to join with a group because of health or work complications and for those occasional times of vacation or other activities, streaming is not the same as being present with a group of fellow worshippers. I realize that the make-up of what this group looks like is changing. Small groups or house churches are becoming an increasingly popular mode of worship. This is still a group of worshippers come together and is how the early church often organized. But it isn't just church attendance that is indicative of this practical atheism. We see it in road rage from a car displaying a Christian fish emblem on the car. We hear it in the way we talk to one another even in public places. We see it in the t-shirts we wear that promote attitudes which would not be what Jesus would do. We see it played out in business practices led by those who would proclaim a belief in Jesus. We see it in political maneuverings, both sides of the aisle, from those who claim Jesus but their treatment of

others doesn't match. We see it from those who claim Jesus but cheat on tests, bully others, take things that aren't theirs or are just plain mean.

Bishop Cardinal Robert Sarah's gave a talk on June 13th in which he warned against liberalizing values that have taken hold in European and western nations. He warned the audience of the dangers of not solely cultural leftism, but also the casualty and 'practicality,' of placing the faith aside, and failing to position faith as the central tenet of one's identity. The Archbishop emeritus of Conakry (Guinea) explained how the tenants of 'practical atheism,' do not explicitly reject the supremacy of Christ, but rather promote a lukewarm version of Christianity that does not place God at the center of daily life and the universe. He explained the danger of liberalization and increasing "paganization," expressing concern for the future and direction of European Christendom. The African Archbishop also outlined the importance and teaching of Pope Benedict XVI, who first formally mentioned the term "Practical Atheism" in a speech given near St. Peter's Square. In that speech, Pope Benedict made clear the dangers of atheism. "A particularly dangerous phenomenon for faith has arisen in our times: indeed, a form of atheism exists which we define, precisely, as 'practical', in which the truths of faith or religious rites are not denied but are merely deemed irrelevant to daily life, detached from life, pointless," Sarah quoted from a 2012 address by Pope Benedict. "So it is that people often believe in God in a superficial manner, and live 'as though God did not exist' (*etsi Deus non daretur*)." (excerpt taken from [Cardinal Sarah: 'Paganization' Threatens Future of European Christendom - Juicy Ecumenism](#)) Beloved let this not be true of us. Let us not only believe about God in our intellect but do all in our power to proclaim our faith in God in how we daily live. Christian faith is meant to be lived out in practical day to day evidence not absence.



KOKOMO ZION CHURCH

Schedule of Services

Sunday School 9:00 a.m. / Worship 10:00 a.m.

Keith Chanley, Pastor

Matt Gerhard, Music Director

LeAnne Donson, Secretary

Sheila Lamb, Treasurer

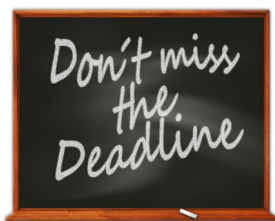


Zion's Mission **FISH FRY** will be **Saturday, September 28th** serving from 4:30-7:00 p.m. We plan to add a drive-thru line this year to accommodate our crowd's request! It will be all-hands-on-deck to make this happen. LeAnne Donson & Sheila Lamb are working on planning and preparations, so be ready to say "YES—where do you need me?" when they call. Also watch for sign-up sheets for donations of products and worker schedules soon. All proceeds from the event will support the following missions of the church: Valley of Grace, Kokomo Rescue Mission, Hillsdale-Zion Food Pantry, Joy in the Harvest (Missionaries Lowell & Claudia Wertz), Adam & Carly Wertz (Zion missionaries in India), and Kafakumba (Africa) Training Center.



Church Camping Trips: **Sept 6-7th** at Potato Creek and **Sept 20-21** at Mississinewa. Jeff Troyer has all the details you need to know!

Awakening Tour: The concert will be held in Indianapolis. If you would like tickets, please let LeAnne in the office know.



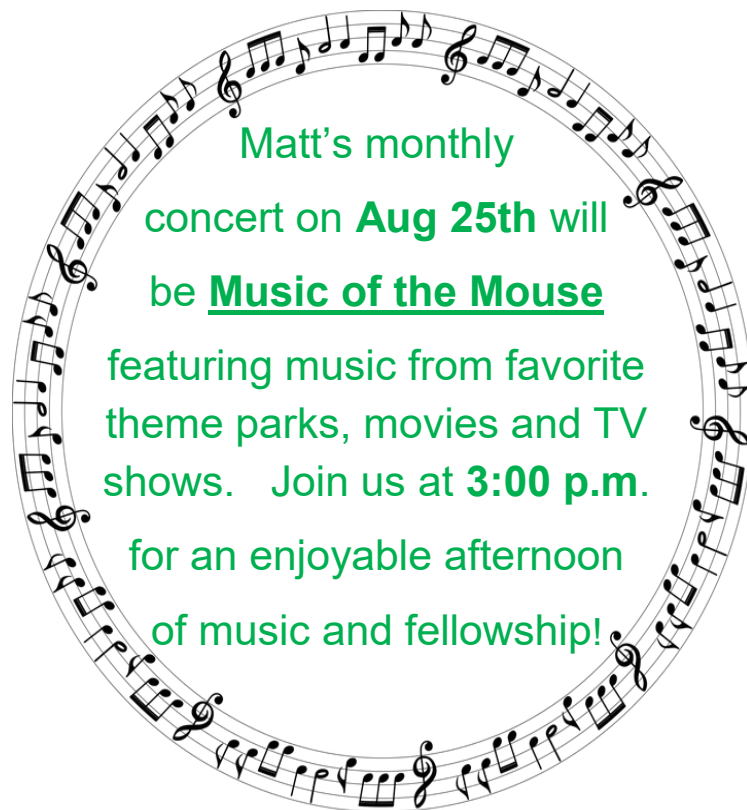
The deadline for the **September Saltshaker** is **Aug. 25th** . Please email your news to:
Leanne@kokomozionchurch.org
OR
 place in **LeAnne Donson's** mailbox.



The Hillsdale-Zion Food Pantry has continued to serve many families in the Howard County area this summer. For the month of July we served 121 families including 176 adults and 66 children. We had 48 new families. Our demands seem to continue to grow – but praise God – so do our resources. Your continued financial support of this ministry is so very much appreciated. Just a reminder of other ways to support this ministry: 1) your prayers – for our clients as well as our workers, 2) Menard’s rebates – you can give your receipts to Sheila Lamb & she will send in each month – these are used to purchase supplies to make laundry soap, 3) plastic bottles – small bottles 8 oz – 16 oz are used to portion dish soap and shampoo from larger quantity bottles for our clients, 4) meat costs are high! Farmers – would you consider donating a portion of a beef or hog? We can provide you a receipt for tax credit purposes! 5) help to serve clients on Fridays – 12-3. Talk to Sheila Lamb or Ken Spangler to get more involved with helping our Food Pantry.

ON THE CALENDAR @ ZION

- Aug 10 Scripture Sisters @ 10:00
- 22 Music at the Fairgrounds featuring Matt Gerhard—7pm
- 24 Scripture Sisters @ 10:00
- 25 Matt’s Concert– Music of the Mouse—3 pm
Fun Day @ Kokomo Adventure Park 4-6 pm



COME JOIN A SMALL GROUP!

Choir Practice: Thurs @ 7:00 pm (choir off for the summer and will resume Sept 8th)

Men's Group: Tues @ 6:30 am at Bob Evans in Kokomo. Contact Scott Boltz or Pastor Keith for more information.

Men's Group: Wed @ 6 am at Hometown Restaurant in Greentown. Contact Scott Boltz or Pastor Keith for more information.

Scripture Sisters: Meets every other Saturday @ 10 am in the Beamer Room. Contact Cindy Einselen for more information.

Knit 1 Pray 2: Meets Monday evenings via ZOOM from 7-8:30. Contact Cheryl Yoars or Jayne Boltz for more information.

Wednesday Warriors Bible Study: Wednesdays — All ladies are invited to come study. We will also need help with child care. Contact Melissa Fipps for more info.

Foodie Fridays: ages 15-22 from 6:30-9:30 on Fridays. Come for Food, Fun & Fellowship! (on summer break)

Sunday Statistics—July 2024

<u>Date</u>	<u>S.S.</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Gen Fund Offering</u>
6/30/24		63	\$6,242
7/7/24	16	66	\$6,095
7/14/24	13	60	\$5,899
7/21/24	14	72	\$10,280

Weekly Average for July: \$7,129.00

Needed Weekly to Meet Budget \$7,250.57

Designated Giving for the Month of June:

Food Pantry	\$1,125.00
Mission 50	\$577.31
Memorial Fund	\$595.00
CPF Piano Fund-in	
memory of Norma Lamb	100.00
Funeral Dinner	\$66.17
Use of Building	\$250.00
Choir Concert	\$733.00



August

BIRTHDAYS & Anniversaries THIS MONTH

* birthdays / ** anniversaries

Aug	4	*	Heather Timmons
Aug	5	*	Pam Isaac
Aug	7	*	Ken Spangler
Aug	7	*	Kory Lamb
Aug	14	**	Kevin & Sheila Lamb
Aug	18	*	Kim Bell
Aug	19	*	Rafe Combs
Aug	20	*	Brandon Patterson
Aug	23	**	Kevin & Lisa Smith
Aug	25	*	Greg Spangler
Aug	26	**	Jim & Sheri Patterson
Aug	30	*	Zachary Benson
Aug	30	*	Dave Timmons



AUGUST 2024



partnering with families to create a culturally relevant, biblically sound, safe, and fun environment for children and youth to grow in their relationship with Jesus

Backpack Blessing Tags will be available August 4. Tags will be blessed on July 28. We will need help assembling the blessing packets July 31-August 2 in the Beamer room.

IUK Prayer Walks starting this fall. If you are interested in participating, please contact Melissa.

August

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

KZC Fun Day: Aug 25, 4-6 pm, Adventure Park in Kokomo, all are welcome. This event is specifically geared towards middle/high school students, but anyone is welcome to join us!

Wednesday Warriors: Women's small group Bible study, all are welcome, 6-7:30 pm

Foodie Fridays: 6:30-9:30 pm; open to students and young adults ages 14-22; dinner, Bible study, and games included each week; adult interested in helping - see Melissa

Kendall Family Farm Outreach: we reach out to the community by going to the community, donation items will be listed next month, plan to help anytime between 4-7 pm

Melissa Fipps
 Director of Family Ministries
 melissa@kokomozionchurch.org | 765-416-1716