



# *The Saltshaker*

November 2024

Kokomo Zion Church

Pastor Keith Chanley

Over the past few months one of the things God has been impressing on me is the importance of prayer in relationship to what we do as a church. If we are not covering all we do as a church with prayer, we are frankly spinning our collective wheels. I think this is especially applicable when we gather together on Sunday mornings for worship. This is a primary time when we pause and listen for God to speak, when we sing our praises and share fellowship with each other. If we are not covering this time with prayer, we are missing the mark. The situation we have is that we do not have any room in our Sunday schedule to intentionally take time before worship to pray. So, the Lord has been impressing on my heart a need to change our worship time in order to make time for us to pray. He has so laid it upon my heart that I believe if we do not do this, if I do not lead us into this change, I, and we, will be disobedient to what God is wanting to accomplish in us. I so not want to be disobedient. I have also come to believe that this is a first step of obedience and God is waiting to show us what is next until we are obedient to this step. I believe God has some good things he is waiting to pour out on us, but our receiving those blessings are contingent on our obedience. This has been on my heart for some time now and I have learned over the years that when something like this doesn't go away it is something that I have to act on. I do not do this lightly or on a whim. I know how hard change is and it seems especially when we change something to do with worship. But, we need to be obedient. So, starting December 1st, our worship time will move to 10:30. Sunday School will stay at 9 and end at 9:55. Those who want to pray will gather in the prayer room at the head of the stairs in the educational wing by the elevator. We will first pray for those who will be on the chancel during worship; speaker, musicians, choir and any others who might have a role in leading worship. We will release musicians and choir for warm up around 10:10. Those remaining will then pray for all who will be in the sanctuary, that they might receive what God has for them that day, for open ears and obedient hearts. Also starting at 10 will be a greeting/hospitality time in the main hallway and fellowship hall. There will be coffee, hot chocolate, hot cider and water available to drink as you visit one another. On the third Sundays we will also have baked goods. In December Sheila will be providing cinnamon rolls. YUMMM. Another part of what God has been impressing on me about prayer is the prayer garden on the north side of the church. I am working with others to bring some renovation to the area to make it available throughout the year as a quiet place to slip away for some prayer. More details will come as we see where God is leading. Also, Melissa is starting a prayer walk on the IUK campus, details available at church office. I know change is hard, but any step of obedience to the Lord involves change. From our initial moment of salvation all throughout our sanctification, until we see Jesus in glory, obedience means change. Let us embrace this change with grace. So, mark your calendar, starting December 1st, which is the start of Advent and a new church year, worship will begin at 10:30. Still come at 10 to pray, enjoy the hospitality time and eagerly anticipate what God is going to do. Blessings, Pastor Keith

# THANK YOU!

Dear Kokomo Zion,

Thank you so much for the gift cards! It made my day to receive them in the mail. I will think of my church family every time I use one of them. It means a lot to know that I have a church at home that is thinking about me and praying for me while I am at Purdue. I appreciate everyone at Kokomo Zion. Thank you again for the gift cards!

Love,  
Alexis

Thank you to Zion for the card and gift cards. I am doing well in Oklahoma and have found a church that I like; I even have a group of friends from my dorm that I go with every Sunday. Everyone here is incredibly welcoming, so I have been able to form a network of dependable, caring students that make OSU feel like home. I miss being with all of you on Sunday mornings, but knowing that I have my church family in Kokomo supporting me in my endeavors gives me a source of strength whenever I feel my own waning. I hope everyone at Zion is doing well, and I look forward to worshipping with you again in November and during my winter break.

Thank you again, Matthew Benson

Dear Kokomo Zion,

Thank you all so much for the gift cards that I received in the mail. It made my entire week to receive them and was a great reminder of just how loved I am by my church family. I am so thankful and excited to use them!

Thanks again and I appreciate everyone at Kokomo Zion!

Love, Olivia

Kokomo Zion Church,

Thank you for all the gift cards. It will be really nice to be able to go out to eat with my friends more. I appreciate the church looking out for us here at school.

Sincerely,

Zachary Benson

Zion family,

Thank you so much for the donation of Bibles in honor and memory of Linda Matheny. It was a beautiful gesture that will continue to honor Christ. Thank you so much for the love, prayers, and support during this time. Please continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world.

Sincerely,  
Ben Matheny and family

Dear Kokomo Zion Church,

Thank you for the gift cards! It was such a nice surprise! I am so grateful to be a part of the Kokomo Zion Family. I am excited to be able to eat somewhere other than the dining hall too (haha)! It has been such an interesting experience so far. The classes are challenging but I have been blessed with good professors. I really like my Christian small group and I am excited to see how God will use me and help me grow here!

Thankful for your prayers & kindness,  
Hannah Troyer

# 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

Melissa Fipps, Family Ministries Director

Teri Lavengood, Custodian

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Kokomo Zion's collection for Samaritan's Purse **Operation Christmas Child** is quickly approaching. Shoeboxes are available in the hall outside the sanctuary – please pick up a box or two....or 10! **Filled boxes will need to be returned to the church no later than Sunday, November 17th.** If you need information or suggestions, visit the Samaritan's Purse website at:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org> - click the "Get Involved" tab, then select "Operation Christmas Child". There you will find tons of information about how and what to pack in a Christmas shoebox.

OR – talk with  
include a short

Sheila Lamb for ideas. One thing many people forget to do is include a short

personal note  
done by writ-  
way to get the



and/or a picture to the child. To save space – this can even be  
ing or drawing on the inside of the shoebox lid! This is a great  
children in your home

involved as

well. If you are unable to shop but want to participate – you can,

1) fill a box online – just go to: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/>. OR, you can make a donation in the offering marked, Shoebox Christmas, and Sheila

will build your online box for you. Finally, don't forget to include the \$10 fee for shipping. This also covers the cost of the evangelism and discipleship materials that Samaritan's Purse provides with each shoebox. The question "how do I know what to pack when I don't know where my box is going" often comes up. It is understood that you don't want to include a knitted hat and scarf for a box going to a hot climate. **But don't underestimate the power of your prayer over your box.** We

**trust in God** that the perfect box gets to each child containing the items that child needs most.

Thank you for your loyal support of this ministry!



December Saltshaker deadline is

November 22. Please have your news to LeAnne by the date. You can email your articles or news to [leanne@kokomozionchurch.org](mailto:leanne@kokomozionchurch.org) or place them in her church mailbox.



# Praise!



**Fish Fry Report:** God truly blessed us through the 2024 Fish Fry. While the weatherman said close to an 80% chance of rain in the early morning, by noon, the report was a 15% chance. We did have showers near the end of the fry – but no fierce wind and storms! The people came – the “plate count indicates 743, our largest crowd in a number of years – and they ate a wonderful meal, and stayed and enjoyed good community fellowship. And they stayed, and stayed, and..... □ The shortage of seating was the BEST problem to have! Our fry raised a total of \$9,229.75 that will be divided among the mission committee’s designated organizations, to include:

\$2768.93 Hillsdale/Zion Food Pantry	\$922.98 Adam & Carly Wertz
\$1845.95 Kokomo Rescue Mission	\$922.98 Joy in the Harvest
\$1845.95 Valley of Grace	\$922.98 Kafakumba Training Center

Beyond the record money given, please allow me to share some highlights from this year’s fry from the perspective of the coordinators.

The **ALL** of our expenses were covered by donations from our faithful congregation (\$147 profit was already in the books before the fish hit the oil!).

We had a great representation of **YOUNG ADULTS, YOUTH and CHILDREN** helping during the fish fry!

We had soon-to-be 97-year-old Judy Winger bringing home-baked cookies. And on the other end of the spectrum, we had soon-to-be 4-year-old Theo Gamble – with plastic gloves to his armpits, learning to “bruise the cabbage” and mix coleslaw. (the technique handed down and taught to my generation by Carolyn Donson’s mother, Marjorie Keim).

While several families had multi-generations of their family working -- **Winifred Wyant had 4 GENERATIONS OF HER FAMILY** – all working together at the fish fry!!

Jeff Gamble stepped up on behalf of Peru McDonalds (north 31) to help with paper and condiment products.

We had the use of Lisa & Kevin Smith’s concession trailer and golf cart to make the drive-thru line efficient.

The ice-cream center was well received – and the rental of the machine was donated by Hochstedler & Sons, LLC.

The camaraderie of the crew was amazing as everyone pitched in to make it all work.

To everyone who helped in any way – through generous giving, labor, prayer – LeAnne & I can’t say it loud enough -- **THANK YOU! God continues to do great things at Zion!!**

Sheila Lamb



## Child Evangelism Fellowship— from Pam Hall

**M**y teammates and I in Indianapolis want to reach all kids of course, but my team members and I have a special burden for unchurched kids.

These unchurched children hunger for the Truth. In one particular club, a brother and a sister would come to the teachers after the Bible lesson, not because they wanted to receive Jesus as Savior, but because they had so many questions. These children came from a religiously diverse family, and they longed to make sense of all the conflicting ideas being taught in their home.

“Is Jesus real?”

“If He is, is He really the Son of God?”

“Where does the Bible say that?”

With so many questions and so little time, the teachers had to carefully study the Bible, so they were prepared to answer their questions. One teacher had the brilliant idea of writing down verse references for them on sticky notes. The children handled those sticky notes like they were gold!

God used these experiences to show the team members how valuable His Word is. However, they are not the only ones who have tasted and seen the beauty of God’s Word.

Before she started coming to *Good News Club*\*, Jane\* had never heard of the Bible. A GNC™ volunteer gave Jane her first copy of the New Testament. Sometimes children lose their Bibles or forget to bring them to club, but Jane took her new gift seriously. Every week, she would return with her Bible, telling the team leader how much she enjoyed reading it. She also came back ready to recite her memory verse and show her

completed Quiet Time sheets. One week, Jane opened her New Testament to show the teachers she had read up to Luke 18. That day, the team learned how she had gotten so far in her reading. At her public school, students could take out any book they desired for reading time. Jane could have been reading any other book during this time, but she chose to pull out the Bible—the greatest book of all time—and read it of her own free will.

For this unchurched girl who had never heard of the Bible to have an interest and willingness to dive in and grab hold of each thing and demonstrate what it meant to her was so encouraging to all of us.

My team and I pray that Jane’s hunger and thirst for the Word will continue, and that she will be connected to a Bible-believing church.

### AN UNQUENCHABLE APPETITE—EXCESSIVE OR NORMAL?

Jane developed an unquenchable appetite for the Word of God. It seemed she was reading it at every opportunity—drinking in its truths and being comforted by its promises. Scripture clearly tells us that newborn believers have an innate hunger for the Word of God. Do you recall that hunger in your own spiritual walk? Do you recall a time when it was easy for you to spend time with the Lord and never grow tired of hearing from Him? Babies have an innate desire for milk. They cry when they cannot get it because they crave the nutrients it provides. Scripture tells us

that we should have an unquenchable appetite for truth. It may start with milk, but then we should graduate to meat. Doctors tell us that a loss of appetite is a normal part of sickness. Is it possible that a reduced appetite for truth is an indication of spiritual “sickness” that can only be reversed by the intake of the Word of God? Today, I encourage you to take seriously your time with God. Cherish it. Drink in the truths that can satisfy your soul. Claim the promises that can give you hope. Obey the commands that give you direction for life.

## ON THE CALENDAR @ ZION

November

- 4 Nate Steury @ 7:00 pm
- 6 Trustee Committee Mtg. @ 7:00
- 9 Epic Battle 1-3 @ the church
- 10 Pastor Kilembo 7:00 @ Bauson's
- 17 Christmas Child Shoeboxes due
- 18 Scripture Sisters @ 10:00
- 24 Thanksgiving Carry-In
- 24 Hanging of the Greens after lunch
- 24 Matt's Concert @ 3:00
- 28 & 29 Office Closed

If you are interested in receiving offering envelopes for 2025, please let Norman or Debbie Lavengood know. You can stick a note in our church mailbox or send us an email at [debbielavengood@gmail.com](mailto:debbielavengood@gmail.com)

### COME JOIN A SMALL GROUP!

**Choir Practice:** Thurs @ 7:00 pm

**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 @ 6:30 am at Hometown Restaurant in Greentown. Contact Scott Boltz or Pastor Keith for more information.

**Scripture Sisters:** Meets every other Monday @ 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!

*Important dates from the Worship committee:*

### All Saints Day - November 3rd

#### Thanksgiving carry in – November 24<sup>th</sup>

We will have a carry-in lunch following the church service. The worship committee will bring the meat, noodles, mashed potatoes, rolls, drinks and table service. We would like for the congregation to bring salads or desserts. Please plan on staying.

#### Hanging of the Greens – November 24<sup>th</sup>

Please stay and help us decorate the church for the Advent season after the carry-in meal. We will be done before 3:00 so we can attend Matt's music program.

**Caroling** - We hope to go caroling on Sunday afternoon, December 8th. More news later on this.

**Christmas Choir program** – December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:30 p.m.

#### More Worship committee news:

Kent Shrock will be stepping down as the head usher on November 3rd. Please thank Kent for all of his years of service. We will be honoring Kent on November 10th. I will have a basket at the welcome center if you would like to bring Kent a card.

Stephanie Gamble has agreed to be the Head Usher. Please let her know if you are willing to help with the ushering duties. Would you like to do a month at a time or a certain Sunday of each month? We appreciate your willingness to help!





# FAMILY MINISTRIES



NOVEMBER 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

**Elementary  
Epic Battle  
Nov 9, 1-3 pm**



Register Here  
<https://kokomozion.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2528131>

November

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

December

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				

**Eastern Good News Club:** We would love to have a couple more volunteers as substitutes. Training can be completed online.

**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; adults interested in helping - see Melissa

**IUK Prayer Walk:** First Thursday of the month, 1:30 pm, meet in front of the library

Melissa Fipps  
Director of Family Ministries  
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