



The Saltshaker

January 2025

Kokomo Zion Church

Pastor Keith Chanley

What will be different?

By this time 2025 is under way. It is easy as we pass from one year to the next to go ho-hum just another year. Even with the parties and things we do to welcome another year it is quite simple for the old year to slip away and the New Year to quietly assume its place. We make a lot of noise as the year changes but what actually will be different in 2025 than in 2024?

After the wise men had worshipped baby Jesus, they were told in a dream to go home by a different route. In essence they were told to leave differently than they had come. As we have come through the Christmas season and entered a new year will we leave the one and enter the next any differently? We should not be able to spend all of advent pondering the coming of Jesus and not have any change in our lives.

A new year gives us an opportunity to spend some time reflecting. Looking to the past for education or lessons learned is profitable. Looking to the past as a place to dwell is not. We often hear talk about making or make talk about making or make resolutions and new things that we are going to accomplish in the New Year. Unfortunately, most of those New Year resolutions quickly find themselves in the trash. When they do, we find that the current year is no different that the last one. We find that we have not left any differently than we came.

So, as 2025 is getting underway, I want to encourage you to pause and take a spiritual inventory. Pause and take a look back for lessons to learn. Ask the Lord how you can leave 2024 differently than when you entered. Ask him to show you what can be different in your soul, your spirit and your life in 2025. What will be different?

KOKOMO ZION CHURCH

Schedule of Services

Sunday School 9:00 a.m. / Worship 10:30 a.m.

Keith Chanley, Pastor

LeAnne Donson, Secretary

Melissa Fipps, Family Ministries Director

Matt Gerhard, Music Director

Sheila Lamb, Treasurer

Teri Lavengood, Custodian



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

“Thank you for partnering with Operation Christmas Child and dropping off your shoebox gifts at Brookside Free Methodist Church during National Collection Week. The gift-filled shoeboxes you packed will share God’s love in a tangible way and can impact not only the child who receives it, but also their family, friends, and community. Shoeboxes dropped off at Brookside Free Methodist Church were shipped to the Processing Center in Boone, NC, and continue their journey to Ukraine and Ghana.” Teresa Waggoner, OCC Coordinator. Kokomo Zion delivered 120 boxes to Brookside! Now is the time to begin your planning for the 2025 Operation Christmas Child campaign. Prayerfully set a goal for the number of boxes you plan to fill. Begin praying NOW for the child who will receive it, and begin watching for sales! After Christmas is a great time to purchase hats, gloves and socks, as well as craft kits. If you want a box to begin collecting, you will find them in the Treasurer’s office on the shelves – help yourself. If those run out, let Sheila Lamb know and boxes will be made available to you. Kevin and I set a pretty aggressive goal for 2024 – but by shopping for 1 item for each box every month made our goal easily attainable. Thank you for your generous support of this ministry as it touches the lives of children world-wide. I can’t wait to see what God will do through this ministry in 2025!



Sheila Lamb



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Matt's Concert

January 26th @ 3:00 pm

Featuring Favorite Hymns and Classics



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Thank you for the "Christmas Surprise Sack" from our church family. We are enjoying the many treats and cards and notes! We appreciate your generosity and the love we felt for being remembered by our church family.

We are so appreciative of all the prayers and acts of kindness you have shown to us these many months. We feel so blessed by our church family.

May God Bless each one of you in the coming year.

Your Appreciative Friends,
Bill & Jane Keaffaber



Zion Church,

Thank you all for donating money, glasses & cases, toothpaste & brushes, for the people in Zambia. \$1250 was donated for the dentist to be able to come 5 times! Praise the Lord! I presented the donations & money to Nate & Elinda at the November dinner. They were so appreciative. I hope to share some pictures later on.

We enjoyed coming to tell our stories of Zambia at Zion. Thank you again Zion Family.

Jamie, Rafe, & Sydney Combs

Kokomo Zion,

Thank you for all of the gift cards. It's nice not having to eat dining court food for every meal.

Sincerely,
Rafe Combs

Zion Christmas Carolers,

You were a big hit this year! I have had several calls wanting me to be sure and tell you how much everyone appreciated you coming and brightening their holiday season. They all really enjoyed the goodie bags too! Estelle thought she was in "Heaven and listening to the angels sing." Thank you again for your willingness to go out and spread a little joy.

LeAnne



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Kokomo Zion Church Inc.
5051 E 400 N
Kokomo, IN 46901-9310
http://www.ncll.org

Dear Mr. Lavengood,

The National Center for Life and Liberty has had the privilege of assisting over 2,500 United Methodist Churches in their pursuit of disaffiliation, separation, or disassociation. As a legal ministry with a focus on the local church, our desire was to help as many UMC churches as possible. While many were able to reach agreements amicably, some required legal intervention.

In key cases:

- **North Georgia:** NCLL won an injunction that enabled over 200 churches to disaffiliate from the conference.
- **Western North Carolina:** We negotiated a settlement with the conference, resolving litigation for over 50 churches, allowing those churches to disaffiliate.

Despite these successes, certain conferences have resisted providing pathways to disaffiliate under Para. 2553, even before the clause's expiration. As a result, NCLL is currently engaged in seven major lawsuits across the country.

- **Florida:** We are appealing the deference standard to allow churches to leave with their property and not be hindered by the trust clause.
- **Maryland:** After securing a motion to dismiss, a new judge with strong UMC connections that include family, dismissed the case, prompting us to appeal. We're also working with delegates on legislation to remove Maryland's statute favoring the UMC's trust clause interest.
- **Eastern Pennsylvania & New Jersey:** We have won the motion to dismiss in both cases, and just finished the discovery process. We're now preparing for trials in early spring.

- **California-Pacific Conference:** In California, we won the motion to dismiss, allowing discovery to proceed. In Hawaii, we lost the motion but have filed an appeal, facing challenges due to the high property penalty imposed by the conference.

- **West Virginia:** We are representing over 30 churches denied the promised opportunity to disaffiliate after the General Conference.

Beyond these cases, we appealed to the Alabama Supreme Court, attempting to hold the **Alabama West Florida Conference** accountable to Para. 2553. Although the Court declined involvement in church decisions, they recognized a neutral principles analysis for property ownership. We are now representing over 40 churches in Alabama and the Florida panhandle seeking judicial confirmation of property rights.

Additionally, following a recent Judicial Council decision, NCLL is assisting over 300 churches across multiple conferences whose disaffiliation processes were terminated due to this ruling.

Our desire is to ensure that churches wishing to disaffiliate from the UMC can do so with their property, safeguarding their ability to continue Gospel ministry without interference from recent UMC leadership actions.

As a recently disaffiliated or separated church, we ask that you prayerfully consider a donation to NCLL. Your support will help cover the legal costs of this extended litigation. Although we've charged churches only a basic fee, we are raising the additional funds needed to sustain these cases.

With cases extending beyond initial projections due to UMC's legal resistance, the cost has grown. Demand for our support is at an all-time high, with churches urgently seeking assistance in their path to freedom.

A one-time donation from your church here at end of year can help these congregations continue in their fight to be free from the United Methodist Church.

Giving is easy. Simply call our toll-free number at (888) 233-NCLL (6255), return the enclosed reply card, or go to our website at NCLL.org/give-today.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to gospel ministry.
May God richly bless your church as you continue to serve Him faithfully.

Sincerely,

Thank you for partnering
with us in the gospel!

David C. Gibbs III
President and General Counsel



You're invited to a Life Line Screening event!

Where: Kokomo Zion Church
5051 CR East 400 N
Kokomo, IN 46901

When: Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk** Screenings.

Trusted by over 10 million customers.

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

Who should attend:

Anyone over the **age of 40**

Special Member Pricing for \$159

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Plus a **FREE** Hypertension Screening

4 ways to book your appointment...

Call **888-814-0466** and use promo code **HSCA001**

Visit  [LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA](https://llsa.social/hzca)



Text the word **"circle"** to **216-279-1607**

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease. Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.

ON THE CALENDAR @ ZION

January

- 1 Church office closed
- 4 Elementary Fun Day from 1-3
- 6 Scripture Sisters @ 10:00
- 7 Women's Warrior Bible Study @ 6:00
- 8 Adam & Carly Wertz will speak @ 7:00
- 14 Mission Committee Mtg. @ 7:00
- 19 Chanley Open House from 1-8
- 20 Scripture Sisters @ 10:00
- 21 Women's Warrior Bible Study @ 6:00
- 22 Life Line Screening from 9-4
- 26 Matt's Concert @ 3:00

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

From the Treasurer:

If you find the need to purchase items for the church, please be mindful that Kokomo Zion Church, Inc. is a tax-exempt entity. A tax-exempt certificate is already on file with many vendors in Kokomo – Walmart, Staples, Menards, Lowes, Hobby Lobby, Meijer, etc. Please check with Sheila or LeAnne before you purchase and we will make sure that you have the proper documentation to present at checkout to allow tax-free purchasing for the church. If a purchase is needed from a vendor that we don't already have tax-exempt status, the process is simple, but does require 24 hours to obtain the certificate. Again, contact Sheila BEFORE purchasing, and she will take care of the process. Every dollar saved in sales tax is a dollar that can be utilized for ministry. Purchases for which reimbursement is requested should be submitted to the Treasurer within 5 days of purchase and include the original receipt, including any rebate form that may be attached. Please also be sure to include your name, and the budget area from which the expenditure should be debited

Staples Rebates: A great way to use your junk to stretch the church budget is to recycle! Staples has a recycling program that awards "points" that can then be converted to cash toward purchases. A full list of items can be found at: <https://www.staples.com/stores/recycling>. As you begin 2025 and start cleaning closets, you'll likely find some of these items! You may bring them to the Treasurer's office and leave on the desk – Sheila will take them into Staples for you and they will credit the church's account. Or, you may take to Staples and give them the church's phone number to credit our account (765-628-3605). Common items include batteries, cables, computer speakers, coffee brewers, earbuds, calculators, toner & ink cartridges, crayons & colored pencils, empty glue sticks & bottles, pens, markers & highlighters

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.

Women's Warriors Bible Study: Tuesdays— All ladies are invited to come study. We will also need help with child care. Contact Melissa Fipps for more info. Starts Jan. 7. They will be studying Deborah



FAMILY MINISTRIES



JANUARY 2025



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

January

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	

February

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	

Elementary Fun Day
any elementary student is welcome
craft, snack, games, lesson
Jan 4, 1-3:30 pm

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

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

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

Parents/Grandparents/Volunteers/Anyone Else

The church has access to breakout session audio files from a kids ministry conference. We would like to offer times when you can listen and possibly discuss those sessions. They will be offered once per month during the Sunday school hour, unless you ask for more. The first session will be Sunday, January 19th at 9 am (room TBD). Childcare will be provided for those that pre-register. You get to decide the topics. Contact the church office to register.

The choices for January:

- 1 - Helping Kids and Families Through Death and Tragedy
- 2 - Helping Children Deal With Anger
- 3 - 12 Simple Truths Every Kid Should Know

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