



The Saltshaker

February 2025

Kokomo Zion Church

Pastor Keith Chanley

Valentine's day is upon us. Much has been written about the commercialization of the day and it being created by greeting card companies for profit. Valentine's day is older than greeting card companies although its origins are somewhat vague. There are those who believe that it was originally a Roman festival, Lupercalia, held in mid-February. The festival, which celebrated the coming of spring, included fertility rites and the pairing off of women with men by lottery. At the end of the 5th century, Pope Gelasius I forbid the celebration of Lupercalia and is sometimes attributed with replacing it with St. Valentine's Day.

There are a number of martyrdom stories associated with various Saint Valentines connected to February 14, including an account of the imprisonment of Saint Valentine of Rome for ministering to Christians persecuted under the Roman Empire in the third century. According to an early tradition, Saint Valentine restored sight to the blind daughter of his jailer whom he had befriended and, by some accounts, even loved. An 18th-century embellishment to the legend claims he wrote the jailer's daughter a letter signed "Your Valentine" as a farewell before his execution. There are numerous additions to the legend have better related it to the theme of love: one tradition maintains that Saint Valentine performed weddings for Christian soldiers who were forbidden to marry by the Roman emperor; to spare the husbands from war.

There is an 8th-century notation which recorded the celebration of the Feast of Saint Valentine on February 14. The day became associated with romantic love in the 14th and 15th centuries, when notions of courtly love flourished, apparently by association with the "lovebirds" of early spring. In 18th-century England, it grew into an occasion for couples to express their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards, known as "valentines".

Regardless of its origins it is clear that the church had a hand in the creation of or the background to Valentine's day. Also, regardless of its origins, it has become a day associated with love in general and romantic love in particular. It is fitting then for the church to spend some time contemplating love during this month. Perhaps it is doing something specifically romantic for the one who makes your heart go "pitter-patter" or feel like it is pumping peanut butter. Perhaps it is something you do for family or friends who are especially dear to you. But Jesus reminds us in Luke 6:33-35 that our love is not to be only for those who love us back, **"33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. 35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked."** So, as the world hurtles toward flowers, chocolate and diamonds in an attempt to express their love for one another, let us ask how we can love those who cannot or will not love us back. How can we love the homeless? How can we love the poor? How can we love the addict? How can we love the mean and angry? Perhaps it is by doing walk a mile or by serving at the food pantry or by giving away blankets or rain coats or buying a meal for someone or Let our love be greater than what we have considered before.

KOKOMO ZION CHURCH

Schedule of Services

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

Keith Chanley, Pastor

Matt Gerhard, Music Director

LeAnne Donson, Secretary

Sheila Lamb, Treasurer

Melissa Fipps, Family Ministries Director

Teri Lavengood, Custodian



Lowell & Claudia Wertz from

Joy in the Harvest will be at

Kokomo Zion Church on

February 16th during the worship service and
Sunday School hour



The heart is the home of praise, not
the lips.

“ I will praise You, O Lord, with my
whole heart; I will tell of all Your mar-
velous works.”

Psalms 9:1



There are several dishes that need to be claimed and picked
up in the kitchen following January's Funeral Dinners.





It is time to sign up for Zion's 2025 work camp at Henderson Settlement! We have room for you and would love to have you come with us! Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy beautiful Frakes Kentucky while at the same time helping families in need. Most of all I guarantee it will be an enjoyable time of fun and fellowship. We have made 15 reservations at the Baldinger Dormitory. But there is always room for more. No matter what your skill set is, there are things you can do to help. The cost is \$350, and this includes your room and meals for the entire week. We will be selecting a community project on or around the first of March, so it will be helpful to know who is coming and how many are coming. The dates are Sunday June 1 through Saturday June 7th. You also can come part of the week that works for you. One half of the registration fee is due March 8th. You can make your check to Kokomo Zion church and in the memo line include Henderson 25 Work Camp Registration. We will leave church on Sunday June 1 right after church. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. You can contact Norman Lavengood at 765-438-3537 for any questions you may have.



Mission 50-year end update

Our Mission 50 giving for 2024 far exceeded my wildest dreams. Every program met the goals that the mission committee set at the beginning of the year and over half of them exceeded their goal, some by a large amount.

The total amount raised for the 16 mission organizations that we supported through this program was \$21,200. This money is being used to spread God's word both locally and around the world in several different countries. I am so thankful to be part of a church that is so generous in helping to advance God's kingdom. Thank you to everyone!

The missions committee has decided not to make any changes in the programs we support for 2025. We did raise the goal for our 3 lowest programs to \$750.

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11

Ken Spangler
Missions chairman



MARCH 1, 2025 AT 7:00PM @ IUK HAVENS AUDITORIUM



March 1st - 7pm Havens Auditorium at IUK, Kokomo—Harmony of Heritage. The Kokomo Symphony along with a massed gospel choir will be presenting a program of music written by African—American composers.

As part of the program Matt Gerhard will be conducting one piece. Kokomo Zion's choir will be a part of the massed choir. Tickets may be purchased at the door, or ahead of time at www.kokomosymphony.com

The tickets are \$25 for adults and free for all students K-12

Dear Zion Church family,

We are truly blessed by your love and support. Thank you for your precious prayers, presence, cards, help with George's celebration of life and luncheon, and gift of Gideon Bibles. You are truly the body of Christ coming together in love.

We humbly ask for your prayers as I have knee replacement January 24.

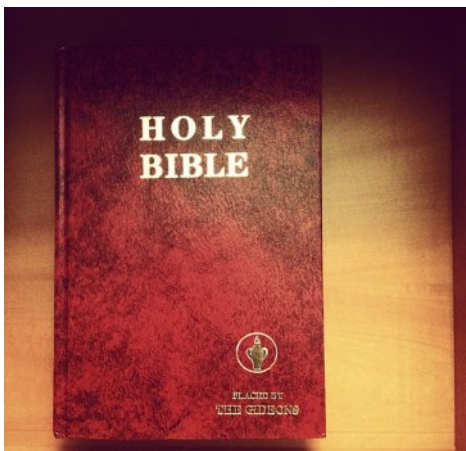
We appreciate every one of you.

Jane Ann and family

Thank You!!
😊

Thank you for all your prayers, cards and visits to dad, Also for the love you showered on us at dad's viewing and Celebration of Life service. Thank you for your donations to Zion church and the Gideon's. He would be so pleased, humbled and honored to know God's word will be spread on his behalf through your generosity.

John Troyer Family.



Kokomo Zion Church is a very giving church when it comes to reaching out to others around the world who do not know Jesus Christ's saving grace. And Birthday for Jesus results prove that! Total giving was \$2,471 which will provide 1,790 Scriptures to be handed to individuals in 199 countries, territories and possessions. Thank you for partnering with the Gideon Ministry to make this happen.

To God give the Glory!

Doug Hamilton

Gideon Ministry representative

ON THE CALENDAR @ ZION

February

- 3 Scripture Sisters @ 10:00
- 4 Ad. Council Meeting @ 7:00
- 4 Women's Warrior Bible Study @ 6:00
- 11 Worship Committee Mtg. @ 7:00
- 16 Lowell & Claudia Wertz
- 18 Women's Warrior Bible Study @ 6:00
- 22 Walk a mile in my shoes @ 8:30
- 23 Matt's Concert
- 24 Scripture Sisters @ 10:00
- 25 Women's Warrior Bible Study @ 6:00



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 @ 6:00-7:30 — All ladies are invited to come study. Contact Melissa Dalrymple for more info. They will be studying Deborah.



FAMILY MINISTRIES



FEBRUARY 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



Walk a Mile in My Shoes 2025

Saturday, February 22, 2025 - Event start time 8:30 AM
321 W. Mulberry St., Kokomo, IN

Our group will meet at 9 am at the big shoe to take a group pic and walk. You are welcome to walk at another time. Turn envelopes and money in to Melissa or the church office by Thursday, Feb 20.

One-mile route will include tours of the women's shelters.

Watered Garden Shelter (women)

Open Arms Shelter (women & women with children)

Breakfast will be available at Grace UMC from 8:30-11:00 AM.

Walk a Mile in My Shoes is a fundraising walk and educational experience. It raises crucial funds to support the women and children at the Kokomo Rescue Mission. Participants also learn more about homelessness in our area and about what it's like to live in a shelter. <https://kokomorescuemission.org/walk-a-mile/>

February						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March						
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.

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

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

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