



# *The Saltshaker*

June 2025

Kokomo Zion Church

Pastor Keith Chanley

As I mentioned last month I struggle with what to write for Mother's or Father's Day. It doesn't matter if it is newsletter or sermon. But here we go and I think this is applicable whether it is dad's or mom's hands. In the final moments of Jesus' life (Luke 23:44-46), Jesus says, "into thy Hands I commit My Spirit". Obviously, there is something significant going on here. In His final moments of life Jesus surrenders the essence of His being into the hands of His father. It is not what He surrenders but rather where He surrenders that I want us to focus on. He surrenders into the Father's hands. What is it about Father's hands? The first characteristic that I want you to see in father's hands is love. How do we see love in Father's hands? Love is a verb so perhaps we see it in the things that hands do. The giving of self in work and play, skinned knuckles, calluses, untangling fishing lines, teaching how to ride a bike or throw a ball, a gentle stroke when he thinks no one is watching or hands that hold a child tight when the fear is too great. Dad's hands not only show love but they also show compassion and understanding. These are hands that pat the back when strike three is called. These are hands that clap in pride for the child that failed but had the courage to try. These are the hands that buy the Happy Meal and shake when the child is not invited to play or is mocked. These are the hands that wipe away the tears when the young heart is broken. These are the hands that surround a child in hugs when dreams are shattered by the harsh reality of our world. These are hands that say I understand and believe it or not have been there as well. These are the hands whose heart breaks over the suffering of the child. Another mark of Father's hands is that of devotion and caring. These are the hands who work onward with a task because of its need for his family. I remember my dad after putting in a long day's work logging, coming home at dark and putting on his hunting light to go outside and till the garden. I used to think that he was a bit eccentric but now understand that he was doing what needed to be done when it needed to be done out of his commitment and devotion to his family. These are the hands that strive to comfort the child with fever and illness. These are the hands that hold a child in his lap while they sleep when nightmares or thunderstorms intrude into peaceful nights. These are the hands which ball unconsciously into fists when someone slights or puts down their child. These are the same hands which unclench so that their child understands that violence is not the answer and that following after the teachings of Jesus is a far better thing. These are the hands that sit untold hours on sidelines and in audiences to watch a child perform or sit on the bench. These are the hands which try to heal the bird with the broken wing or some other injured member of God's creatures that just must be saved. These are the hands that at times put aside their own dreams and ambitions for the child's interest and dreams. While not applicable in the life of Jesus, Father's hands are also marked by discipline. It is through discipline of his children that He enforces the teachings and guidelines he has set forth for his children. In many ways this aspect brings together all of the others. It is in discipline that the father shows his love, compassion and devotion to his children. He shows it through discipline because he loves the character and integrity of his children and so he disciplines them. He shows it in discipline because he has compassion on how they will treat society and on how society will treat them. He shows his devotion to them through discipline because he is committed to the values and morals of his children and their welfare. I am not just talking about corporal punishment, which I do at times believe has its place, but rather effective discipline, which may differ from child to child, that enforces the teachings of God and family. I would also submit to you that unless love, compassion and devotion are present in discipline it is nothing more than child abuse. A father's hands are marked by many different characteristics. I have given just a few but they are by no means exhaustive or limited to only fathers. There are two thoughts that come to mind. The first is that as I think about the good characteristics of a father's hands, I have noticed how applicable they are for the hands of our Heavenly Father as well. I don't know everyone's story who will read this newsletter but this I can tell you with confidence, if your earthly father's hands were not marked by these characteristics, I would love to introduce to you a heavenly father whose hands are marked with love, compassion, and devotion. If you do not know THE FATHER's hands, come to Jesus and discover the touch of a loving heavenly father. The second thought is for those of us who are fathers. These characteristics are found in God's hands. I have tried to describe them in words that make sense to me and hopefully to you. Can we strive to emulate any greater example for fatherhood than God? Could we ask for our hands to be found resembling anyone worthier than God? Let each of us strive to have our hands look like those of God. Let all our hands, men and women alike, be marked with the marks of The Father's hands. Let us use those hands not only in serving our families but also in serving all of the children of this world who need to know God's love and His hands.

# 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 Dalrymple, Family Ministries Director

Teri Lavengood, Custodian



## **Zion Work Camp at Henderson Settlement**

**June 1-7, 2025**

The time has arrived to leave for Frakes Kentucky! Twenty-five (25) campers are headed to Henderson Settlement to help the Appalachian people. This is a great group, and we are looking forward to a great time of fun and fellowship together. We have divided our group up into teams for various improvement projects. Together we will remove and repair a deck on a home near the Settlement, and we will also be completing the interior room addition of Maddison Hurst of whom we built the 12x16 room addition last year. We will be sanding drywall seams, painting the walls, installing vinyl flooring and trimming. In addition, some of our team will be painting the equipment shed roofs and others will be installing lights in the youth center. We also have a group who will be installing new cattle gates around the barn at the lower farm.

Wednesday afternoon is a day of fun to enjoy various activities in nearby cities, like the Cumberland Gap National Park or Cumberland Falls State Park or Pine Mountain State Resort Park or many other attractions.

On Wednesday evening we have planned to visit Pastor Eddie Johnson's church in Fonde Church of God in Fonde, Kentucky and surprise his Wednesday evening service by having our team sing a song to his congregation. Fonde Church of God Mountain Assembly was Established 1917. In 1933 The "Little Log Church" was constructed. February 2024, they moved into their new sanctuary where they continue to worship and spread the good news of Jesus Christ. You are welcome!



We are grateful to the Zion congregation for your generous support in prayer and gifts and financial donations in order to bring the love of Jesus to the people of Appalachia.

## Mission News



Narrow Gate Horse Ranch is one of our missions that we support with our Mission 50 giving. Narrow Gate provides a counter-cultural experience in a rural setting for children to learn life and relational skills with the Holy Spirit and horses. They are a group of counselors, lay ministers, moms, horse trainers, and horse lovers who want to help **mentor** and **disciple** at-risk youth. They use **therapeutic** experiences with the horses to teach biblical truths and life skills. Narrow Gate is a non-profit organization and they are able to operate only by donations and their big Derby Ball fund-raiser they do each year.

The Derby Ball is a yearly fund-raiser and Zion Church has donated a basket for their silent auction for the last 2 years. We have had the winning bid for the last 2 years of the Battle of The Baskets. For winning the battle, Zion Church received an opportunity to participate in Narrow Gate's Team Building/Leadership Program. It was decided that the Staff would be the ones who attended the program.

On Saturday morning, May 17<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Keith, Melissa, LeAnne, Sheila, Matt & Teri navigated our way to Narrow Gate Ranch on the West side of Kokomo. To our surprise, not knowing what to expect, it was an amazing morning. We worked together to solve problems and saw how the horses help us solve those problems. The horses were really amazing and the staff was wonderful. We learned that we were the first church to participate in this program and so their staff was learning right along with our staff.

We learned that in order to obtain the end result, we needed to communicate, listen to one another and work together to find a common goal. It was amazing how it worked when we did all of the above. We came away seeing that it takes all of us working together to achieve the goals of Zion Church. We all would highly recommend Narrow Gate Horse Ranch for any child who may be struggling and we would also recommend the Team Building/Leadership Program to any small group who wants to learn more about themselves and see how the Holy Spirit works through animals. If you have any question, don't hesitate to talk to one of us!

If you would like to learn more about the programs at Narrow Gate go to their website [www.narrowgatehorseranch.com](http://www.narrowgatehorseranch.com)



Can a children's ministry reach 100 million children every year with the Gospel message? That's the goal of (CEF), Child Evangelism Fellowship, which announced the ambitious goal. The "backyard" ministry is well known for its ministry evangelizing children through school or backyard bible clubs.

"Children grow up quickly, so the time is short when they are most receptive to the Good News," CEF Executive Vice President Moises Esteves says. "It's a narrow window and the need is great, so CEF feels an increased urgency to teach millions of children around the world about the Good News of Jesus Christ."

CEF has a long track record of reaching children, not only in the United States but globally. It officially began in 1937 by Jesse Irvin Overholtzer, who had a burden for bringing the Gospel to children. In 2019, it reached 25.5 million children worldwide, including in sensitive countries. The reach of the ministry suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic, but it is rebuilding and in 2022, it reached 19.5 million with the message of salvation and 6 million made professions of faith. And in 2024 the Child Evangelism Fellowship reached 27 million children worldwide!

**Our Foundation:** CEF is founded on the Bible, dedicated to the Great Commission, and focused on reaching the next generation. Our foundation verse is Matthew 18:14 "So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."

**Our Mission:** Our mission is what we do: To evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, disciple them in the Word of God, and establish them in a Bible-believing church for Christian living.

**Our Vision:** Our vision is the scope of what we do: Every Child, Every Nation, Every Day. We must pursue the goal of taking the Gospel to every child in every nation as Jesus commanded. And we must do so every day.

**Our Strategy:** God has given us a three-fold strategy: to train, equip, and support. Training prepares men and women to fulfill the mission. Equipping provides tools needed to fulfill the mission to evangelize and disciple children. Supporting provides financial resources so workers can focus on fulfilling the mission. This God-given strategy is logical, but its power is theological as He works in and through us to accomplish His will.

**Our Goal:** Our goal is to move beyond reaching 27 million children in 2024 to reaching 100 million children in 2032. If the number of children we reach grows by 18 percent annually, we will be able to achieve this goal. To do this we need a total of 10,000 dedicated workers and an army of over one million committed volunteers of all ages. There will be many resources required, but God will provide. Our confidence is not in our strategy, but in our God on whom we depend so that we might reach the next generation.

This Strategy will be reached through our 7 Highways:

- Christmas Party Clubs
- Good News Clubs
- 5-Day Clubs and Christian Youth in Action
- Children reaching Children and Go and Tell
- Junior Youth Challenge
- Digital Ministry
- Literature Distribution
- Other Highways.

... a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.... Crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" REVELATION 7:9-10

[Volunteer](#)

[Donate](#)

<http://www.cefindiana.com/>

*Thank You!!*  
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We want to thank you for the beautiful Easter basket delivered by Pastor Keith and Dana.

Many thanks for the tasty treats and surprises we found in the basket. We appreciate the cards and notes you continue to bless us with each day.

May God bless you for your generosity and caring.

Your Grateful Friends,

Bill & Jane Keaffaber

It is hard to believe that it has been 1 year since I became Kokomo Zion's new church secretary. God's timing was perfect as usual and this has been a blessing.

Thank you so much for your cards, gifts & words of appreciation. They have meant so much to me.

May God continue to bless Kokomo Zion Church!

LeAnne Donson



**Matt's Concert**  
**June 22nd**  
**3:00 pm**  
**The Music of America**



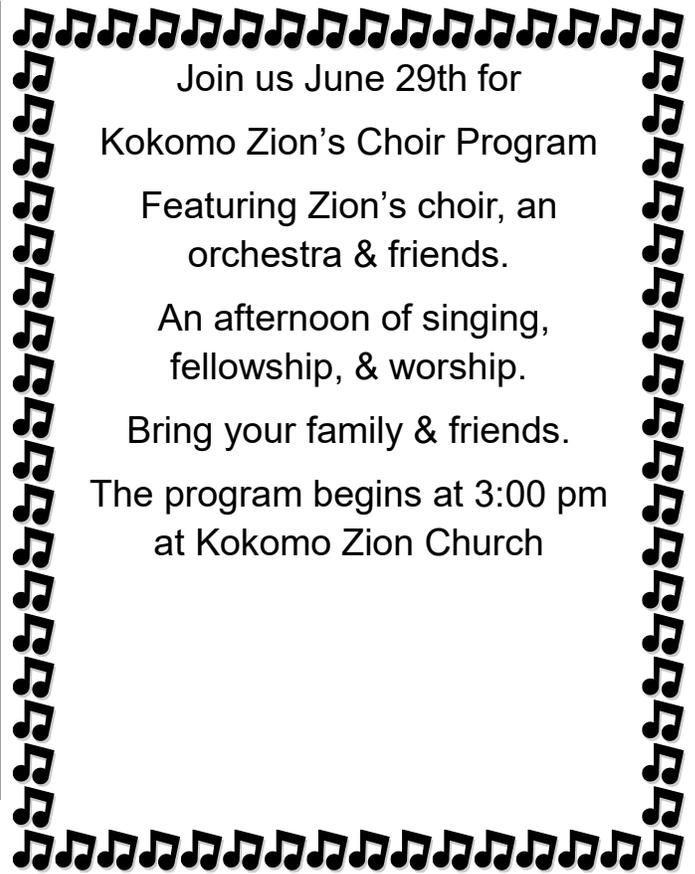
Scripture Sisters will not meet in June but will begin again in July. We'll meet July 7 and 21, 10:00 AM, Beamer Room, for a 2-part study on the "Sword" method of Bible study. See you then!



## ON THE CALENDAR @ ZION

June

- 1-7 Henderson workcamp
- 8-13 Great Lakes General Conf.
- 15 Father's Day
- 22 Matt's Concert @ 3:00 pm
- 26-28 VBS in Greentown
- 29 Choir Program @ 3:00 pm



Join us June 29th for

Kokomo Zion's Choir Program

Featuring Zion's choir, an orchestra & friends.

An afternoon of singing, fellowship, & worship.

Bring your family & friends.

The program begins at 3:00 pm at Kokomo Zion Church

Traveling Tabernacle by Messiah's Mansion: If you would like to experience the tabernacle, visit [www.messiahsmansion.com/events-and-exhibits](http://www.messiahsmansion.com/events-and-exhibits). They will be in Cicero June 1-7 and Crown Point June 14-22. It's free, but you need a reservation.

### 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.

## FAMILY MINISTRIES

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

Every season brings new adventures. Have you ever decided not to do something, because you felt ... (fill in your excuse here)...? I was invited (more than once) to join the monthly Greentown Ministerial Board breakfasts. I ignored that invite for 2 years before finally giving in. My inhibitions were unfounded, as I quickly learned.

What I did find was a group of men (with an occasional female besides me) that welcomed my presence and valued my input. It's been fun to discuss the fair service – I even led a devotion last year in the fair office on Friday morning. We established the CEF's Good News Club at Eastern - it's been fun getting to know those kids. In fact developing relationship with the kids on Tuesdays is what led to me giving in and leading this year's Greentown VBS. (We still need volunteers.) You see, we want to continue the relationship we began. We want to provide touchpoints over the summer for those kids. And maybe, a few more kids will join us next year. VBS is our June touchpoint, and we are also providing a July touchpoint by holding a CEF 5-Day Club at the Northview fellowship hall in Greentown. Since my dad, my brother, my kids, and me graduated from Eastern, it's that much sweeter to have an impact there. (My mom also taught at Eastern for over 20 years!) I've been praying for over a year that we can get a club going at Howard Elementary. Then, there's Lifewise Academy that has already established a program at Northwestern Middle School and is hoping to establish programs at Howard and Northwestern elementaries. I spoke with Harry Kenworthy about next steps to be a teacher. Our administrative council gave them permission to use our facilities to meet with the kids during school hours – pending approval by Northwestern.

In addition to my deacon ordination on June 12, Warren and I have lot of motorcycle rides scheduled this summer, especially since we are the state chaplains for AMVETS riders. We want to hold a Blessing of the Bikes here at KZC next spring. We also play pool (9-ball, mostly). We are establishing a lot of relationships with people outside of "church."

Oh, and are you enjoying the current sermon series? I stumbled upon a traveling tabernacle that will be in Cicero June 1-7 and Crown Point June 14-22. It's free, but you have to make a reservation. Here's some info and a link to their site: [www.messiahsmansion.com/events-and-exhibits](http://www.messiahsmansion.com/events-and-exhibits)

### **Why Tour the Tabernacle? An Opportunity Like No Other**

Travel back over 3,000 years into the desert between Egypt and the promised land where more than two million people banded together to build a tabernacle for their God. Each element inside this sanctuary had deep significance to the Hebrew people and this tour brings each symbol to life. Touring Messiah's Mansion provides a unique opportunity to learn more about ancient history through a living museum. Instead of learning about history from books, participants get a chance to see demonstrations of life long ago. This tour can engage children and adults alike.

On a sidenote, did you know that Zela Showalter was my Dad's aunt (mother's side) and Ruby Fawcett (Peggy Rush's grandmother) was his aunt on his dad's side? My connections to this congregation go way back, as many of yours do.

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