



The Saltshaker

November 2025

Kokomo Zion Church

Pastor Keith Chanley

Trick or Treat? I realize that by the time you get this article this question will have passed us by, as far as Halloween goes, but I think it is still a valid question as we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas. One of the things we know from Scripture is that the Pharisees, Sadducees and scribes were always trying to trick Jesus. They were always asking him questions that were designed to trap him. In Matthew chapter 22 we find three such attempts. In one they ask him about paying taxes. In another they ask him about the resurrection. In the third he is asked what the greatest commandment is. Jesus responds that we are to love God with everything we are; heart, mind, body, soul, and strength. We are also to love our neighbors as ourselves. In John chapter 13 Jesus gives us a new commandment. That commandment is to love one another as he has loved us and that by so doing people will know we are his disciples.

During Halloween, the cry "Trick or Treat" resounds through the air. The concept is simple. We have a choice; we can either give out a treat or suffer a trick. In short, it is a threat. Give me goodies or else. In a way Jesus was saying trick or treat to us in the above passages. It wasn't as a threat for goodies but rather as a question as to how we will live life. Will we live life as a trick or a treat to others. We can live them as a trick by only looking out for ourselves. We can live them as a trick by being ungrateful and selfish. Or we can live them as a treat. We can do so by loving God with everything we have and others as ourselves. We can live as a treat by loving as Christ loved us. We can live as a treat by considering others. We can live as a treat by being concerned about justice, peace, the poor, the care of our world, how we treat others, and being thankful for all of God's blessings. As we leave Halloween behind and approach Thanksgiving and Christmas it is easy to get caught up in all the excesses of the holidays and live as tricks instead of treats. As we enter these seasons let us be mindful as to how we live, whether we live as a trick or a treat to others.

FISH FRY 2025



God blessed us with a beautiful day and week leading up to the 2025 fish fry, seeing temps in the 80's. We had tremendous support of donations of food products, and approx. \$5000 to cover additional expenses. We had a fabulous crew of workers come together to make it all happen – it truly does take everyone! It was a true blessing to see the fellowship hall filled and to hear the laughter and chatter of the community. And, we had several 1st timers helping with fry. Their comments included, "I

came out here and didn't really know many people, and now I feel like one big happy family", and "I can't wait to help next year – I'll be back!" The Missions Committee committed 100% of this year's profits to The Kokomo Rescue Mission's Engagement Center building project. We served a total of 740—244 at the drive-thru and 496 dined in. God truly blessed this event, as we were able to send \$21,260.48 to support KRM!!! **PRAISE BE TO GOD – GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE!!**



THANK YOU to all who helped in any way – it was all greatly appreciated! Special thanks to our corporate sponsors – Herschberger & Sons, LLC who donated the use of the ice cream machine (a very popular comer!), and Peru North 31 McDonald's who supplied most of our paper products.



Mission Moments

Nate Steury will be at Kokomo Zion Church on November 5th @ 7:00pm. He will be updating us on what is happening at Kafakumba. Everyone is invited to attend!



Food Pantry Update:

October has seen significant increase in the number of families we served – last week 43 families! To put that into perspective, approximately \$1500 in food was given out. Our clients may come to our pantry once a month. As most of you are aware, SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) distributions for November are on hold until the government reopens and releases federal funds to support these programs. There are 4,971 families in Howard County receiving SNAP benefits that this will affect. The Board of the Hillsdale/Zion food pantry met Wednesday in an emergency meeting to discuss our plan to address this critical need. It is our anticipation that the volume of needy families will continue to increase during this crisis. Beginning in November and until the SNAP crisis is resolved, we will be allowing our clients to come to our pantry twice a month. This will significantly increase our food supply needs as well as increase the help needed to keep the pantry running. We are asking our local congregations to help meet this critical and local need. We appreciate your continued support of this ministry and welcome your support in the following ways: donation to Zion's Food Pantry fund, volunteer to help at the pantry on Fridays, bring food items to donate, purchase gift cards to be used by pantry personnel for inventory, gift Menard's rebate receipts to the Food Pantry. (Yes, Menard's actually has the lowest price on canned pasta, toothpaste and often times, bar soap! Just put your receipt in Sheila's mailbox and she will mail in to redeem.) If you are aware of someone in need, please direct them to the food pantry. There are multiple food pantries in Howard County that are open 7 days a week and we have lists of additional agencies that may be of assistance. Families may receive assistance from multiple pantries during a month. Finally, a reminder that if you attend Kokomo Zion, Hillsdale, or Howard Miami Mennonite Church, you are eligible to come to the Hillsdale/Zion pantry every week for assistance.

Upcoming dates for the celebrations of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Sunday, November 23rd – Thanksgiving meal - We will have a carry-in lunch to celebrate Thanksgiving. Lisa Smith and Kristen Harvey have agreed to take charge of this meal. THANK YOU! They will be getting a sign- up sheet out for you to tell them what you would like to bring. The meat will be provided.

Sunday, November 23rd – Decorating after lunch. After lunch, we will be decorating the church for the Advent season. Everyone is invited to stay and help. It goes much quicker with many hands.

Sunday, December 7th – Christmas Caroling – There will be more information coming soon!

Sunday, December 21st - Christmas Choir program – Save this date! Matt, the choir and visiting musicians present a fantastic program of Christmas music. You don't want to miss it!

Christmas Eve Services – Move information coming.



☺ Thank you ☺ !!

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all you have done for us the last couple of months. There have been ups and downs, choices, and decisions that we could not have gotten through without your prayers and support. We also thank you for all of your acts of kindness during the passing of dad. We appreciated the cards, gifts, visits, flowers, bibles, monetary donations and the funeral dinner. I am not sure what we would do without our church family. We would ask for continued prayers as we find our way through this next stage of our family's life. Thank you again!

The family of Bill Donson

Please join us as we continue our study of
Psalm 119!

Scripture Sisters Schedule:

- November 3 - Psalm 119:97-112
- November 17 - Psalm 119:113-128
- December 1 - Psalm 119:129-144
- December 15 - Psalm 119:145-160
- January 5 - Psalm 119:161-176

Thank you,
Cindy

ON THE CALENDAR @ ZION

November

- 3 Scripture Sisters @ 10:00
- 4 MomCo @ 6:00
- 5 Missions Committee Mtg. @ 6:30
- 5 Nate Steury @ 7:00 pm
- 11 Sewing Class @ 6:00-7:30
- 16 Turn in Christmas Shoe boxes
- 17 Scripture Sisters @ 10:00
- 18 MomCo @ 6:00 pm
- 18 Ad Council Meeting @ 7:00
- 23 Thanksgiving Carry-In @ 12:00
- 23 Matt's Concert @ 3:00
- 27 - 28 Office will be closed

Here are a couple of opportunities to hear Matt in Concert for the month of November

November 23rd @ 3:00 pm at Zion

November 30th @ 3:00 pm at Kemp UMC in Tipton, IN

Bring your friends and enjoy a wonderful afternoon of music.



KOKOMO ZION CHURCH

Schedule of Services

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

Keith Chanley, Pastor

LeAnne Donson, Secretary

Melissa Dalrymple, Family Ministries Director

Matt Gerhard, Music Director

Sheila Lamb, Treasurer

Teri Lavengood, Custodian



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

**The LORD is good to everyone; his compassion rests on all he has made.
Psalm 145:9 (CSB)**

Some translations say that God has mercy on creation. I liked the visual representation of compassion resting on us but wondered about the different language use. Compassion is a feeling of empathy or concern, while mercy is the act of kindness or forgiveness. Having compassion is not enough on its own. We can have compassion for others without doing anything about it. Mercy is acting upon that compassion. How have you acted out the compassion you feel?

We handed out 450 bags of candy at Kendall Farm. Thank you for all of the donations.



2nd & 4th Tuesdays (Nov 11) from 6-7:30 pm

We are looking at continuing this ministry by meeting 1x per month to sew items for other ministries. Be watching for more information.

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KOKOMO ZION CHURCH
THE MOMCO
1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Nov 4 & 18
6-8 pm



WORK with KIDS: KidsCo meets the needs of children as well as the needs of their moms. The quality care and biblical teaching in KidsCo impacts the entire family.

BECOME a MENTOR: A Mentor walks a few steps ahead. She doesn't have to know all the answers; she just needs to be willing to offer perspective on mothering, womanhood and relationships.

PROVIDE SNACKS: The best conversations often happen around a table. It's even better when that table has food on it. You can bless moms by providing a snack.

Melissa Dalrymple
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