



# *The Saltshaker*

August 2026

Kokomo Zion Church

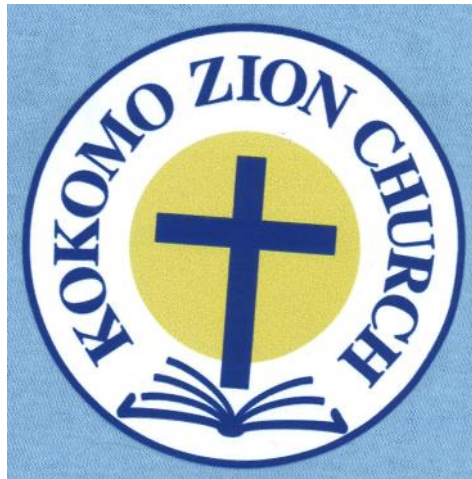
Pastor Keith

Sometimes we get the mistaken belief that if we are a Jesus follower then there should never be bad stuff or troubles that invade our lives. This is a lie from hell and in no way reflects scripture. The challenge for us is how do we react when those things happen. Over the last few weeks I have had opportunity to practice just this. Last year when we went to see Dana's mom we had ignition trouble with the Escape. We were able, praise God, to get it into a mechanic and fixed before we needed to head back. Not too long after this we began to deal with a battery drain in the Escape. If I didn't start it every couple of days it would go dead. It eventually got to the point where it was just about overnight. I am not a car guy and chasing electrical stuff was not my idea of fun so we just drove the truck more. When we recently went on vacation in May the truck developed some trouble in the front end that once we returned meant it needed to go into the shop. The repairs were more involved than anticipated and Annual Conference in Wisconsin was looming. The repairs would take longer than what we had before needing to leave for AC so Dana and I decided to try and solve the battery drain ourselves. Did I mention I am not a car guy? Dana found a youtube video that showed how to chase the drain. 5 to 6 hours later of pulling fuses we found what we believed to be the problem. I went out to start the Escape the next day only to find it dead. I got it jumped went to AutoZone and discovered the battery was now bad. In the process of learning how to diagnose the battery drain we learned that a sensor on the negative cable could also be an issue. So if I am going to have to replace the battery, I am replacing the cable. But it was a Ford priority part and could only be gotten from a dealer. I got the battery and cable and began the process of changing them. Back in the day changing a battery was easy. For this car not so much. I am of the opinion that whatever engineer designed the placement for this battery should be beaten with a stick on a regular basis until he learns the error of his way. Dana is of the mindset to stuff him in the battery compartment and leave him for a while. In order to change the battery I had to take off the windshield wipers, unmount the brake master cylinder and remove two different plastic pieces from between the hood and windshield. Even then getting the battery out was like birthing a baby.

Never the less I got it out and replaced, major victory for us. I took the car out and decided to check my wipers since I had messed with them only to have them go up and then meet in the middle of the windshield on the way down and form a teepee. Another youtube video and we had those fixed. We go to Annual Conference and the car does great. It sits all week and starts right up when we get ready to come home. On the way home it begins to miss just like it had a year ago with ignition problems. Dana finds a Ford dealer and we are able to get in on a Friday afternoon at 3 without an appointment, talk about miracles. At this point my sanctification is being challenged and burning the car to the ground or trading it off are both viable options for me at this point. The dealership diagnosed the problem, corrosion from the previous fix, and we are soon on our way. As we got ready to go see Dana's mom here recently she spent some time cleaning it up and I took it to run a few errands on Monday before we were leaving early Tuesday. As I was returning home from the errands the car began to miss again. We took the truck to Missouri and the Escape is currently in the shop for more ignition repairs. Anyone want to buy a car? As I was in town in the truck, while the Escape was in the shop, I heard and felt a pop in the interior door handle as I was getting out at a stop but the door opened and I didn't think anymore about it until I got home and the door wouldn't open. I currently have to roll down the window and open the door from the outside. The part has been ordered from Amazon but another youtube video is in my future. Prayers appreciated. On the same trip as the broken handle, I also popped a crown off a tooth with a piece of floss, dentist appointment will have been accomplished by the time you read this. I tell you all this to illustrate that I have had opportunity to practice what I preach when trials come. I have tried, not always successfully as evidenced by a desire to burn the car, to stop and ask, Lord what is it that I need to learn here? Or in the case of travel delays, is there something the Lord is protecting us from by slowing us down for a time? I think it is part of what James was talking about when he wrote to count it all joy when we fall into different trials (James 1:2-4). It isn't that the trial itself is joyous but rather that God is doing something in the situation. Whether it is growing you spiritually or protecting you from something we can be assured God is at work. The question is will we react in a way that allows us to reap the benefit of what God is doing or will we react in a way that just means there is more work to be done. The next time something doesn't go as you had planned, stop, breathe and ask God what he might be doing.

Blessings

Pastor Keith



Interested in getting a **Zion Church shirt** with our logo on it? I will be placing a church shirt order on August 10th. We will have it before the Fish Fry!

Cost is \$15.00 for size Small to X-large, 2X is \$17.00, and 3X is \$19.00. If you want to order one, please see Debbie Lavengood.

**We ordered yard signs to help advertise Kokomo Zion Church. They are available in the workroom. The cost is \$10. Take a sign and a stake. Place money in the offering plate and mark it yard sign or give the money to LeAnne.**



# BITS AND PIECES®

**COFFEE STEWARDS NEEDED:** If you would be willing to serve a month as a “coffee steward”, please let Sheila Lamb know. It involves setting up and making coffee on Sunday morning, having it ready no later than 10:00 a.m. for the 10-10:30 welcome time. On the third Sunday of the month for “Sweet Sunday”, light sweets/snacks are provided. Instructions and all supplies are provided.

**FISH FRY:** The Fish Fry is quickly approaching on Saturday, September 26th. Mark your calendar – this is a huge fundraising event for The Kokomo Rescue Mission and Kokomo Urban Outreach UP programs. Sign-up sheets for donations and workers will be posted in mid-August. Be planning where and how you can help.

**MUSIC AT THE FAIRGROUNDS:** Kokomo Zion is once again sponsoring the Greentown Main Street Association’s Music at the Fairgrounds. We have signed up to sponsor 2 concerts this year – Sept 3 (Matt Gerhard) and Sept 10 (IUK Singers, led by Matt). We plan to serve popcorn and bottled water. If you are willing to help serve either night, please let Sheila Lamb know.

**RECYCLING:** Just a reminder that Staples has a recycle program that provides incentives to the church – a great way to support the church without reaching into your pocket! Simply bring items to the church workroom – a box is on the counter. Common recyclables include ink cartridges, batteries, charging cords, crayons, markers, glue sticks(empty), cell phones, flash drives, old home phones, etc. A full list of what can be recycled in store is available at the following link: <https://www.staples.com/stores/recycling?KPSI=1> A copy of this list is also posted in the Treasurer’s Office next to the workroom.

**REBATES:** Menard’s rebates are always welcomed for the Hillsdale/Zion Food Pantry. Often a small rebate seems insignificant and not worth the stamp to mail in. But several little rebates turn into a significant rebate certificate! We were recently gifted a quite large rebate – and it bought all the supplies needed to make laundry soap and dish soap that will last the pantry about 6 months!! We also often purchase toothpaste, and yes, sometimes grocery items (they often have the best price on Chef-Boy-Are-Dee canned pasta)! Rebates can be given to Sheila Lamb.



Scripture Sisters are beginning our study of the book of James. August 3 will be James 1:1–18, August 17 will be James 1:19-27, and August 31 will be James 2:1-13. Pick up a “Simple Bible Study Methods” booklet on the bulletin board, choose your method(s) and come ready to share — 10:00 AM in the Beamer Room, enter through the kitchen door.

### *The Prayer for Today*

Just for today, help me, God, to remember  
that my life is a gift,  
that my health is a blessing, that this new day  
is filled with awesome potential,  
that I have the capacity to bring something  
wholly new and unique and good into  
this world.

Just for today, help me, God, to remember to  
be kind and patient to the  
people who love me, and to those who work  
with me too. Teach me to see all the  
beauty that I so often ignore, and to listen to  
the silent longing of my own soul.

Just for today, help me, God, to remember  
You.

Let this be a good day, God, full of joy and  
love.

Amen

## Matt's Concert

## Songs of Heaven

August 30th @ 3:00 pm

Come and enjoy an afternoon  
of music.



**2026  
Gospel Concert**

**FEATURING**  
JOSH TOWNSEND LIVE  
MATT GERHARD & FRIENDS

**ONE CHURCH**  
**Sunday, August 23 @ 6:00 PM**  
Doors open at 5:30 PM

Freewill offering benefits