

Pastor Koeller's Message

March 2015 Newsletter

PRAYING – HOW IMPORTANT IS IT IN YOUR LIFE?

One of life's little frustrations: You call a business establishment, expecting to talk with someone who can help you, but instead you get a recording that says, "This office is closed. Our hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m."

What if our God were like that? What if you could pray to Him only during restricted hours? What if we had odd-even praying, as some cities do with lawn watering when there is a drought? We can praise God that there are no time limitations/restrictions when talking to Him. We can call on Him any time we wish.

Notice what the Apostle Paul says about praying:

"Pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17)

"In every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (Phil. 4:6)

"Praying always with all kinds of requests." (Eph. 6:18)

Just as the psalmist in Scripture prayed morning, noon, and night, you and I have access to God the Father through Jesus Christ at any hour. There are no praying bans, and no office hours. Yes, the Lord's ear is always open to the cries of His children. **"He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep"** (Psalm 121:4). **"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace"** (Hebrews 4:16). We can talk to God any time, day or night.

Take time right now to pray. God is listening. He wants you to call on Him. Talk it over with the great physician – no appointment necessary. Happy Praying! –copied

During this Holy Season of Lent, we reflect on the passion and love of our Lord Who gave Himself upon that cross so we could live eternally with Him. During this Lent we are covering "Parables of our Lord" learning as much about ourselves and we do about God. We are in need of His saving, and He is capable of doing all that is necessary for us to be saved. We invite you to worship with us on Wednesday nights here at Good Shepherd. Our Lenten Suppers begin at 5:30 p.m., our hymn sings at 6:15 p.m. (where you can choose your favorites hymn to be sung), and our worship services are at 6:30 p.m. We will be adding children's messages to our Wednesday night Lenten Services this year. We pray the children will enjoy them. Each week we will be handing out a part of a set of magnets which will (after the 6 weeks) give us the crucifixion and Easter scenes all in one.

God's blessings to you all.

In Christ,

Pastor Koeller



Pastor Seabaugh's Message

Lent

Here we are in the season of Lent. Lent which comes from the old Anglo-Saxon word *lengten*, which means "springtime," named for the time of the year in which it occurs. "Lent is the Church's "springtime". Out of the darkness of sin's winter emerge the Church, a people reborn through baptism into their Lord's death and resurrection from the grave." What we now call Lent was originally a period of fasting and study for catechumens who were to be baptized on the Saturday before Easter. The 40 day fast was said by Athanasius in 339 AD to be celebrated the world over. The 40 day fast of Jesus in the wilderness was why the number 40 being chosen.

Today, the Church continues to observe Lent, and to take on the penitential character that it demands. The Church truly demands this character because we have to know the reason why we need a Savior and why He gave His life for ours. When we meditate on this sacrifice for us, we will again discover why we are sinners and that our sin separates us from God, from heaven and only leads to temporal and eternal death.

As we look at the Christian church as a whole, the talk is of repentance and contrition at most Church's? It seems like today many church's are not focusing on the eternal riches Jesus won for us through His death and resurrection; but, in many ways are ignoring sin and looking to worldly success and gain they say God promises to His followers.

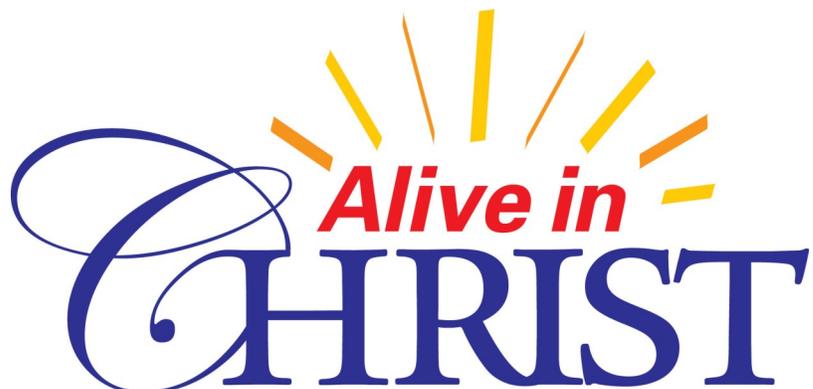
The stories and messages are about the human will surviving and thriving through a "good work" ethic and unfortunately this has become a part of what people believe is necessary for salvation. Titles of messages like, "Working with God," "One decision away," and "Obedience and Improvement." Christians living as a result of faith is great, but when a person believes it is necessary to be saved they have lost sight of what it is to be God's redeemed children. We act without receiving or without thought because we have already received what most important.

Lent helps us return to who we are, and helps us to remember what a compassionate and slow to anger God we have. No one likes to confess their sin because we know what we should do, and when we do not do it, we are frustrated like Paul and feel silly. However, when we ignore sin or try to "work out" sin through good works this is even more silly. Rather, we are to heed God's call to repent and live.

We are fortunate to live in Wisconsin during Lent because spring and life seem so far away, if impossible. But it does help us to understand and experience darkness and cold which is what our sin is, and we can further appreciate the "new life" that comes at Easter when the cold, dark tomb is open and the Life of the world conquers death once and for all!

God's Blessings,

Pastor Seabaugh



Book Club

The book we will be discussing in March is “Me, Before You,” by Jo Jo Moyes. A woman loses her job as a waitress, when the nearby cafe closes. Faced with searching for a new job, with few work skills, she takes the only job available – caring for a quadruplegic man. As their relationship develops from friendship to love, each is faced with the dilemma of how the relationship would work. Please join us for discussion if you have read the book, or want to hear more about it.

Human Care

Items are still being collected for the HELP FOR THE HOMELESS drive through the end of February. The items needed most are hygiene and cleaning. You may drop them off in the box in the hallway. This effort is being coordinated by The Family Christian radio station and will benefit **local** homeless shelters and crisis agencies. Thank you for supporting this very worthwhile cause.

Don't forget the first Saturday of each month you can visit Ruby's Pantry at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Greenville. Ruby's Pantry is a faith based food distribution program and is available to everyone who eats....sharing the love of Christ through food. The cost is \$20 (covers trucking costs, warehousing, insurance, etc.) and you'll receive \$50 to \$150 in food.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS for 2014 will expire at the end of March. Don't miss out on directing your portion. If you are a Thrivent Financial member with Choice Dollars® to direct, you can help Good Shepherd continue to minister to those in our congregation and the greater community. Simply direct Choice Dollars to Good Shepherd to be used for carrying out our mission here.

Last year, some of our Thrivent members directed over \$11,000 to our congregation! It does make a difference! It's easy and it takes just a few minutes of your time! Seriously! You can direct Choice Dollars online at **Thrivent.com**. Or, call Thrivent at **800-847-4836**.

The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program lets eligible Thrivent members recommend where some of Thrivent's charitable dollars are distributed. So far this year, churches nationwide have received **more than \$23 million** in charitable grant funds as a result of the Thrivent Choice program. So, if you have Choice Dollars to direct, we urge you to consider directing them to our congregation. Thank you to those who do.

Our motto “Cared for by Christ, we care for all others” is seen through the amazing volunteers at Good Shepherd. They're busy folks living out their faith in many ways. In addition to volunteering at Good Shepherd, they also volunteer with community agencies and non-profit organizations in our area. They are willing to step up to plan, organize, lead, participate and serve. National volunteer week is celebrated in April and the Board of Human Care would like to salute volunteerism and thank all those people who do so much.

Please take a moment to tell us what other organizations **outside of our congregation** you volunteer your time and approximately how many hours a year.

Please email to jmashbrenner@tds.net with the information by March 10th. There will be a box in the Sign-Up Center for the collection of information you wish to write on your piece of paper, your name will not be used just your information.



Prayer Partners

Cathy Adomavich	Sarah Long-Radloff
Jan Ashbrenner	Phyllis Boldig
Carolyn Berg	Joyce Beyer
Don Block	Pam Vande Hei
Joy Block	Leann Johnson
Karen Dejk	Marcia Thompson
Carol Hahn	Becky Lahti
Tom Hahn	Tanya Johnson
Bruce Kirk	Liz Stowell
Sue Kirk	Debbie Koeller
Karen Kraft	Pastor Seabaugh
Ray Koeller	Diane Simon
Linda Koeller	Liz Podvin
Pastor Koeller	Pat Piepenburg
Lisa Lawrence	Arlene Vanden Boogart
Bardean List	Gene Mason
Marsha Mahan	Sue Whalley
Barb Potaczek	Becky Seabaugh
Barb Ranger	Grace Schmall
Ron Ranger	Bonnie Sielaff
Roger Stowell	John Vander Zanden

Vital Statistics

Deaths:

Please keep these families in your prayers.

- ◇ *Bernadine Teske*, mother of Yvonne Beggs and grandmother to Tracy and Mark Beggs
- ◇ *Adeline Beggs*, grandmother to Tracy and Mark Beggs.
- ◇ The family of *Lorraine Struck*, mother of Dennis Struck, Robert and Lorraine were charter members of Good Shepherd.



March Youth Activities

- Mar. 8th: Youth Easter Cards/college Care Packages
- Mar. 18th: Lenten Supper



A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with the Spaghetti Dinner! Those of you who donated food, time, helped in anyway with the meal and especially to those who came and enjoyed the meal we couldn't have done it with out you.

Youth Bible Study Topics: Come join your fellow youth (8th grade to seniors) in the youth room for Sunday school! The doors are open at 9:30 a.m.

- Mar. 1: BEYOND OUR ABILITY
- Mar. 8: CONTROLLOING ANGER: IS IT POSSIBLE TO BE ANGRY AND YET NOT SIN?
- Mar. 15: THANK GOD FOR THE LIGHT
- Mar. 22: U R A MESS MADE CLEAN
- Mar. 29: JESUS DIED FOR ME!

March Birthdays

- Allison Van Domelen 3/2
- Trever Hoefler 3/24
- Benjamin Fahrbach 3/27



The youth blog:
[http://gsfuelstop.blogspot.com/;](http://gsfuelstop.blogspot.com/)

Our face book page
<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=121619480671&ref=ts>

Endowment News

Don't be like Howard Hughes

Ann and I met recently with Jennifer Nohelty of Gift Planning Services, accepting their offer of an estate and life plan review. We really enjoyed our time together and we learned many new things from Jennifer.

One issue we talked about struck a nerve with me that I want to share with you. How many of you have a will? How many of you have been an Executor or dealt with the estate of a loved one or family member? If you have been an Executor, can you imagine not having the will to guide you through the process! You may recall back in 1976 when recluse billionaire Howard Hughes died without a will. Many people claimed to have his last will and testament. After drawn out and expensive court cases, no one had Howard Hughes' will. One question still unanswered is why a wealthy and supposedly intelligent man did not write a will.

Did you know there are two ways your family can deal with your estate at death? One way is where you plan your wishes on whom receives what, through a will and the other is the government plan. The latter is what Howard Hughes chose. If you don't have a will, the government plan, should scare you. Distribution of assets, taxes, even the placement of minor children may be determined by that government plan. And as you guessed, the government plan is not so much for serving the interest of family and friends.

Here are some facts about how prepared Americans' are with wills. A recent ABC News poll showed that:

- 28 % of Gen X'ers (those born between 1965 and 1979) have a will. *That means 82% have chosen the government plan. If an adult has minor children where would they be placed?*
- 55% of Baby Boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964) have a will. *45% of Boomers have no will. Proper planning today means I may not have to sell all my assets if I have to go into a nursing home.*
- 76% of Traditionalists' (those born prior to 1946) have a will. *That means 24% have chosen the government plan. Through a will you have a wonderful opportunity to pass more onto family and charities without the unintended chaos and expense as Howard Hughes did.*

As God's stewards of all that he gives us, doesn't it make sense to plan for the benefit of your family, loved ones and charities, the inheritance you would like to pass on? A will is an act of love. A will, is that legal document where you express your final wishes. It can also be the opportunity to make a final statement of your faith in Christ through a Christian preamble. If you do not have a will, make the time, now, to put one in place. It's an act of love.

If you would like to learn more about a Christian gift plan, contact me, Steve Calder, Endowment Board Chairman at stevecalder76@yahoo.com or (920)540-9040.

Fox Cities Hmong Lutheran Church

Just last month, my wife, Chue and I went to Milwaukee to run a restaurant in hope that if the restaurant succeeded we might not have to worry about our financial situation. But, unfortunately the restaurant was beyond our ability. We had to hire employees to work for us. We had to take care of all expenses, and we worked more than 12 hours a day each day. The expenses and the hours we put in each day was more than what we got in return. So we have decided not to run this restaurant. We are back to Appleton. I want to thank God because He knows what's best for us, and God knows what jobs are best for Chue and myself. He wants us to do His work in the Fox Cities teach the Hmong about Him. He doesn't want us to leave His work that He gave to us.

Here at Long Cheng Marketplace Chue and I sell detergent, softener, second paper products, some women clothes, and some Jewelry. There are other stores that sell their other merchandise. Long Cheng Marketplace is also a community center where the Hmong people can come together to meet each other for special occasions. Here we feel we will have more of an opportunity to see, talk, and to carry out His ministry. Just last week I had an opportunity to witness to a Jehovah Witness Hmong woman. She was very interested to know when a Christian dies he/she is called back to his/her home in Heaven. I also had the opportunity to talk to other Hmong families with a variety of beliefs.

I want to thank every one again for your prayers and financial support to the Fox Cities Hmong Lutheran Ministry. Without your prayers and support the Hmong ministry in the Fox Cities would not be possible.

May God bless and watch over you and your family.

Your servant in Christ.

Pastor Chia Thao



The Cookie/Craft Sale proceeds were distributed to the following mission recipients:

LCMS Missions- Matt Ruesch and Dennis Denow
 Lutheran Bible Translators- P. Federwitz and Tim Beckendorf
 Immanuel Mission Fund – Rev. Brillinger
 Pastor Chia Thao (Thailand Mission Trip)
 Soloman's Porch/Guatemala (Ebbeson Habitat Mission)
 St. Joe's Food Program, Inc.
 Community Clothes Closet, Inc.
 Fox Valley Warming Shelter
 Cots, Inc.
 LEAVEN, Inc.
 Harbor House
 Victim Crisis Response Team of the Fox Valley

Thanks
 Many Thanks
 Thanks
 Thanks
 Thanks

The February meetings were held jointly as a Crafts for Missions evening. We worked with youth of the church making Soap on a Rope for King Veterans Home, T-shirts into diapers for Jakes Diapers, fleece blankets for the Victims Response Team of the Fox Valley as well as crochet lessons to make pocket prayer shawls and puppets for missions. Thank you to all that joined us to make Crafts for Missions a success! We are hoping this will become an annual event!

Our March meeting will be on Monday, the 16th at 1 p.m. in room 3 and at 6:15 in the community room. Pastor David Stevens of the Bethesda Homes will be our evening speaker. We hope you will join us!

Education News



VBS is for everyone. Parents and children attend the sessions together along with adoptive “grand parents or aunts and uncles.” Please invite your friends and neighbors to join you in attending

EVEREST June 7 at the outdoor service and picnic and June 8-11 from 6:00 -7:30 p.m. Watch the bulletin or Sunday school messages for ways to help provide assistance.

Confirmation orientation for current fifth grade students will be held in room 3 on March 11th at 5:15 p.m. March 18th at 5:15 p.m. or March 22nd after the 10:30 a.m. service in the community room. It is necessary to attend only one session. If you have any questions, please contact DCE Leann.



February started with a look at Groundhog Day. We made our own groundhogs so we could make our own predictions about winter. Next we talked about valentines which made our class think of love as we prepared our classroom for Valentine’s Day. Besides the love bugs and hearts we made, we also talked about the love of our Savior. Our Valentine’s unit ended with a celebration and Valentine exchange.

Our next unit was all about pets. We had a presentation from YMCA Nature Kids that taught us all about chipmunks. We ended the month of February with a number unit. The children practiced number identification and counting skills.

Prevent Blindness also came to do vision screenings on all of the children. We are very thankful for the volunteers that come every school year and dedicate their time for this important service. Every year that we have held vision screenings we have found children that require a professional exam and ultimately come to preschool with glasses.

Finally, the teachers had the opportunity to meet with parents on February 2nd and 3rd for Parent/Teacher Conferences. Information was shared about all the things the children have been learning and doing.

Remember to “Think Spring”!

Don’t Forget Stevi B’s School Spirit Day For Good Shepherd Preschool is on Tuesday, March 17th. Make sure to **VOICE** your support for Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool at the register when ordering.

OPEN ENROLLMENT GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

We are now enrolling for the 2015-16 school year and classes are filled on a first come, first serve basis.

We will be offering the following class schedules:

3 & 4 Year Old Program

(3 years of age and toilet trained by September 1)
Monday and Wednesday 9:00 – 11:15 a.m.

3 & 4 Year Old Program

(3 years of age and toilet trained by September 1)
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:00 – 11:15 a.m.

For further information please contact Leann Johnson, Director of Christian Education or Karla Bauer, Preschool Director at (920) 734-9643.

This and That

Churches visited by members while away:

Hales Corners Lutheran Church, Hales Corners, WI
 Holy Trinity & St. Michael, Kewaskum, WI
 Redeemer Lutheran, Willmar, MN
 Our Savior Lutheran Church and School, Excelsior, MN

St. John's Lutheran Church and School, Fremont, WI
 St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, New Milford, NJ

If you visit a church while away, please save a copy of the bulletin for me.
 Thank you. Pastor Koeller



Don't forget to spring forward and change your clocks ahead 1 hour before you go to bed on **Saturday, March 7th.**



Come join the men's fellowship group on April 5th for a pancake, sausage, and egg breakfast. Breakfast will be served by the men starting at 6:45 a.m. following the early bird service up until 10:15 a.m. just before the late service. The cost is just a goodwill offering. Hope to see you there for good food and good fellowship.

Voters' Meeting

Currently, we have two items to vote on at the Spring Voters' Meeting on April 19, 2015:

1. Council and Board chairs and officers
2. A three year contract with Gift Planning Services

We need nominations for the following two year terms:

- President
- Vice-President

Chairs of the following Boards:

- Board of Family Education
- Board of Human Care
- Board of Finance
- Board of Outreach

Financial Secretary (three year term)

Please prayerfully consider volunteering to serve in one of these capacities. If you do not want to Chair a Board, please consider joining one to help make everyone's job lighter.

Aaron Ashbrenner, Council President

Library News

Cabin Fever is around the corner. You may be feeling a little feverish as well. If so, take the time to escape the mean winter and curl up with a Good Shepherd Library book!

If you have never checked out a book before, be sure to fill out a name and address slip, along with signing the book card and placing it in the date stamp box. If your address or telephone information has changed, please be sure to fill out a slip with the updated information. If you have already filled out a Name and Address slip, you do not need to do so again.

Please be sure to return any books within 3 to 4 weeks and DVDs/tapes within 2 weeks. If you need the book or DVD/tape longer, please be sure to call Diane Simon at 720-8771 or leave a note in the library as to how long you will need it before returning the item to the library.

Lutheran Adult Fellowship

LAF (Lutheran Adult Fellowship) is for people in their 20's, 30's and 40's to get together in fellowship with one another. Our next event will be bowling at Sabre Lanes. You can bring your children if you want to, or you can come for the fellowship. You don't need to bowl to come and have a great time!

When: March 8, 2015 at 12:30 p.m.
 Cost: TBD (It depends on how many people sign up.)
 RSVP TO: Melissa Hanson by March 5 at 920-750-4866 or melhanson1975@hotmail.com.



A potluck of people

Many congregations enjoy gathering for potluck dinners — meals largely unplanned, when people bring food to share. Usually, the main dishes, salads and desserts balance out. The fun is the variety mixing together on a plate and the surprise factor of what's contributed.

Churches and communities, even families are potlucks of a sort, too. When groups assemble, each person contributes something unique and sometimes unexpected. When all is mixed together, the whole is truly greater than the sum of the parts. A beautiful balance often results: One is a good singer, the other writes well; some are strong leaders, others dependable team members; some are traditional, others innovative. Together, it's delicious!

Potlucks are sometimes called covered-dish dinners. But don't keep your gifts "covered"! Share them because you're a valued part of the whole congregation.

St. Patrick's Day trivia

You may know that St. Patrick used shamrocks to teach about the Trinity, but did you know these other facts about him?



- ◆ St. Patrick wasn't Irish. (His parents were Roman citizens living in either Scotland or Wales.)
- ◆ He was kidnapped and sold as a slave at age 16. After escaping six years later, he joined a monastery in England.
- ◆ March 17 is the date of St. Patrick's death, not his birth. He died in 461 A.D.
- ◆ The color originally associated with St. Patrick is blue, not green.

January 2015 Treasurer's Report

	January 31, 2015	December 31, 2014	Change
Good Shepherd General Fund	\$143,109	\$165,364	(\$22,255)
Good Shepherd Dedicated Funds	142,023	\$139,430	\$2,593
Preschool Funds	20,699	\$20,133	\$567
Account Balance	\$305,832	\$324,927	(\$19,096)
Fox Comm. Svgs. Contingency Acct.	46,061	44,046	\$2,015
LCEF Savings	12,154	12,079	\$76
LCEF Building Fund (MM)	0	0	\$0
Total Good Shepherd Funds	\$364,047	\$381,052	(\$17,005)

January Budget needs are \$52,939

Income

- \$40,699 contributions.
 - 2014 contributions - \$42,532. We had \$1,833 LESS than January 2014.
- \$12,240 LESS than budget for month.

Expenses

- \$63,296 in expenses.
- \$10,357 OVER budget for the month.
- We had \$22,597 LESS in income than expenses for the month.

Year to Date – Budget needs are \$52,939

Income

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 - 2014 contributions - \$42,532. We had \$1,833 LESS than January 2014 YTD.
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Expenses

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- \$10,357 OVER budget for the year.
- We had \$22,597 LESS in income than expenses for the year.

Scrip Earnings

January 2015 - \$2,400

YTD - \$2,400

This amount is accounted in the contributions each month.

Thrivent Choice

January 2015 - \$59

YTD - \$59

This amount is accounted in the contributions each month.

Mission Payments to Synod

January 2015- \$2,343

YTD - \$2,343

This is just what we send to Synod. It does not include additional donations we make to other organizations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurel Clewell

Treasurer

2/6/2015

PRAYER

REMINDER



Use this fun family activity to remember to pray for other people.

What you need:

- White index cards (at least six)
- Markers or colored pencils (red, orange, yellow, green, blue and brown)
- M&M's candies



What you do:

1. On each card, write a group of people to pray for (family members, friends, teachers, sick people, etc.). Use a different color of writing utensil for each card.
2. While sitting at a table, divide the M&M's among family members.
3. Spread out the cards and explain that each color represents a group of people to pray for. Have each family member choose one candy and consider who they'll pray for.
4. Designate one person to start praying aloud. Go around the circle, and have the last person close.
5. At the end of that round, eat those M&M's.
6. Continue until you've prayed for all the cards. (Make more, if you'd like!)



POWER OF PRAYER

When life gets crazy, worry creeps in. But God tells us exactly what to do – any time and anywhere.

Directions: Circle the word in each group that doesn't belong. Then write those words on the numbered lines below.

1 apple anxious artichoke	2 every eagle emu	3 purple pink prayer	4 Paul petition Peter	5 taste touch thanksgiving
6 rest requests relax	7 God George Greg	8 puddle peace pond	9 transcends train truck	10 unusual unique understanding
11 guard giraffe gorilla	12 hearts hold held	13 many minds more	14 Philadelphia Pennsylvania Philippians	

“Do not be _____¹ about anything, but in _____² situation, by _____³ and _____⁴, with _____⁵, present your _____⁶ to _____⁷. And the _____⁸ of God, which _____⁹ all _____¹⁰, will _____¹¹ your _____¹² and your _____¹³ in Christ Jesus.” _____¹⁴ 4:6-7, NIV

Answers: 1. anxious, 2. every, 3. prayer, 4. petition, 5. thanksgiving, 6. requests, 7. God, 8. peace, 9. transcends, 10. understanding, 11. guard, 12. hearts, 13. minds, 14. Philippians