

### Coded Words for The Story of the Lost Sheep

Each number stands for a letter of the alphabet. Write the correct letter in the blank to find the coded words and picture.

Coda key

A1	J19	S29
B2	K11	T28
C3	L12	U21
D4	M23	V22
E5	N14	W23
F6	O15	X24
G7	P16	Y25
H8	Q17	Z26
I9	R18	

12 15 19 20

19 8 5 5 16

8 21 14 4 18 5 4

6 15 21 14 4

10 15 25 6 21 12 12 25

I am \_\_\_\_\_  
9 13 16 15 18 20 1 14 20

20 15 7 15 4

## newLife THRIVE YOUTH CORNER

Recently for our Super Bowl Party, we moved the event out to the gymnasium at Cross Oaks (St. Marys Campground). It was an amazing time because there was so much space and the youth were able to have large games of basketball and soccer while watching the game on a large projector.

Through the years our youth numbers have been growing and the youth have been digging deeper. We have seen large influxes of Children's Church kids moving in and staying with Thrive throughout and now graduating, thus more outgoing seniors. Through this, our leadership team has been looking at processes and events, and trying to implement ways to honor those incoming 7th graders and outgoing 12th graders.

We believe the year 2025 is a year of blessing and fruitful expansion. We are believing for the youth to utilize spiritual application this year into the Kingdom of God. There are many lost out there still in the world and we have a whole Army of Youth being equipped to engage in spiritual warfare. The time to engage is now! We believe there's no "graduation" point so that one can finally go fight. Thrive is alive, equipped, strong, and ready to engage!

529 North Walnut Street  
Celina, OH 45822



## The Connection

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### WORSHIP CENTER

7015 Havemann Road  
Celina, OH 45822

### OFFICES & FAMILY CENTER

529 North Walnut Street

**Phone:** 419-586-1095

**Email:** [atmoffice@atmintl.org](mailto:atmoffice@atmintl.org)

Check out our Audio and Video Podcasts or Live Stream our services at:

[nlcc-celina.org](http://nlcc-celina.org)





### Daylight Saving Time March 9

It's that time of year again! Don't forget to turn your clocks **FORWARD** one hour so you will not be late for church!



### THRIVE Fundraiser Lunch March 30

Immediately following the service, THRIVE youth will be providing a delicious meal for all. All proceeds will help with camp costs, activities, etc. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for this fun day of enjoying spiritual and natural food!



### Kerry Kirkwood

**Friday, March 28, 7:00 pm**  
**Sunday, March 30, 10:00 am**

**NOTE: DATE CHANGE!!** We are excited to have Kerry with us again for these two services. Kerry is an author, pastor, prophetic teacher, and overseer of churches nationally and internationally. Come with expectancy and invite your family and friends!



### VBS

Wonder and amazement await us at **Wonder Junction** this summer! Kids ages 3 through entering the 7th grade may participate. Mark your calendars now! We plan to take a trip of a lifetime, marvel at Jesus, and live for His Glory!

## SET YOUR MIND ON THINGS ABOVE

Pastor Doyle

For centuries in our nation, where you saw a structural church building, there was a cemetery. The two were side by side. The building supposedly being a place where the good news of eternal life through Jesus Christ was being heralded. The cemetery quietly spoke of the inevitability of death and eternal judgement. The Gospel is to spare us from being on the wrong side of eternal judgement. That deserves a "Hallelujah!" There are only 2 places that one can spend eternity in and there are no mulligans (in golf terms; an extra stroke allowed after a poor shot). Jesus' real life story of the rich man and Lazarus is a sobering reminder that runs contrary too much of the current fake "gospel" embraced in our society. At funerals today it is insinuated that the deceased has gone to heaven. You hear words that are intended to be comforting to those in mourning. "They are in a much better place," or, "they aren't suffering anymore." We have things similar to this. Is the deceased in a better place? Are they suffering? Well, it depends if they are in the place of the rich man or with Lazarus. Jesus, in Matthew 7:13-14, gives a clear announcement of the contrasting population numbers in heaven and hell. Matthew 25:31-46 accurately reveals that many who depart this life are under the false assumption that they are going to heaven, only to discover that they will spend eternity separated from God because they didn't know Him (John 17:3). In my three score and seven years, I have not meditated on a more tragic event then to depart this life being self deceived. Many goats on this side of heaven think they are sheep. You do NOT want to be in that vast number. Cemeteries next to the buildings where the Ekklesia gathers was a good sobering practice. Take note as you travel around and see "churches" built 80 plus years ago and see if there are tombstones adjacent. In past centuries, as the living saints passed the buried saints, the brevity of this life was self evident. Seeking those things above, setting our minds on things above is what sheep do because they are one (Colossians 3:1-2).



## DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

**Discipleship 3: March 9, March 16, 8:00 - 9:15 am**

**Discipleship 4: March 9, March 16, 8:00 - 9:15 am**



## PURIFY MY HEART

Sharon Long

*"Purify my heart, let me be as gold and precious silver. Purify my heart, let me be as gold, pure gold. Refiner's fire, my hearts one desire is to be holy, set apart for You, Lord. I want to be holy, set apart for You, My Master, ready to do Your will."* (Brian Doerksen, 1990).

Jesus taught in the sermon on the Mount that "the pure in heart shall see God." The Lord is calling us to get off the fence and come before His Presence with clean hands and a pure heart. There's nothing I want more than to have a pure heart towards God. In Genesis 35, Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments."

What does it mean to purify yourselves? Ps. 12:6 says, "The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times." David prayed in Ps. 51:2, 7, "Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin,....purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Malachi wrote that "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord." (Malachi 3:3).

The testing of the Lord is for our benefit as it says in Ps. 66:10, "For You, God, tested us; you refined us like silver." "Draw near to

God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded." (James 4:8). "...And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure." (1 John 3:3).

How do we purify ourselves? "Since you have purified yourselves by your obedience to the truth, so that you show sincere brotherly love for each other, love one another earnestly from a pure heart." (1 Peter 1:22). In John 15:3,

*Refiner's  
fire*

Jesus says, "you are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you." In Ephesians 5:26, we read, "...that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of the water with the word."

The Word purifies us, the giving of Himself as a pure, spotless lamb purifies us, the Blood cleanses us, and obedience to the truth purifies us. "By His one offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified." (Hebrews 10:14). Titus 2:14, "Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works." The writer of Hebrews states in Hebrews 9:14, "...how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the Eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God."

*"I want to be holy, set apart for You, my Master, ready to do Your will."*