

Thought for a Wednesday

March 31, 2010

Wow! Had a great lunch with my daughter Kristen for my birthday – Great for two reasons: (1) She paid! (2) I got Sushi! It was a win-win situation as far as I'm concerned!

So this week is just full of a lot of awesome things as well for me: My college kids get to come home for over a week (Spring Break), I get to slow down and participate in the Silent Communion service on Friday here at the Facility from 6:30-8:00 p.m. and then we're going to have a blow-out, combined worship celebration with the entire New Life family on Sunday morning! I can't wait!

If you're wondering and didn't get to pick up an explanation of the Silent Communion Service, here's the general run down for you to consider – Remember, this is a solemn, quiet time of prayer, reflection and communion. It's about being intentional and quieting our hearts and minds from all the weeks' prior activities and all the weekend activities surrounding the Easter celebration to come. It's about focusing our heart and mind on the significance and impact of what Jesus accomplished at the Cross...

Please remember...

- 1) A time spent in silence, from the moment you enter the facility till you leave. Silence because our world has been screaming to us and we need a quiet heart, a quiet mind in order to hear the still, small voice of God.
- 2) Before you enter the Family Room, you will find a meditation guide in the Lobby. In it will be Scriptures for you to read and reflect on from both the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- 3) Spend time in prayer and thanksgiving, perhaps even in confession.
- 4) When we feel led by the Holy Spirit, come forward to the first row of seats to be served Communion.
- 5) Afterward, you are free to return to your seat for more contemplation and prayer, or you are free to go.

As we look forward to our Easter Celebration, I just want to remind all of us that it's a great opportunity to invite neighbors, coworkers, friends and family members who normally don't go to church to come with you. You'd be amazed at how many people who don't regularly attend church will in fact come to a worship service if they are invited by someone they know! Easter is major holiday in this country, and that makes it perhaps one of the most opportunistic times to invites someone to check out NLF! Why not pray about bringing someone with you that Sunday. The music will be uplifting, the message will encouraging, and God will use your invitation to perhaps start a conversation that will have eternal consequences.

Looking forward to celebrating Easter together this weekend – I love our times together!

Be strong... Be courageous... Be fearless...

Christ is All,
Pastor Mark