



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Bingo de Mayo** – It's happening **THIS WEDNESDAY, May, 1st from 6:30-8:30 pm**. Bring the family and participate in an evening of food, fun, and fellowship. Of course, there will be prizes and a **live Mariachi Band**. This is a **family event** so **CHILDCARE WILL NOT BE PROVIDED**.

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION: Closes:** Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.

\* Cost: \$15 per person -OR - \$80 for a family of 5 or more. (MUST live in the same household)

- Debit/Credit Cards ONLY online

- Cash at the Life Groups table every Sunday: April 14<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup>, or you may come by the – Office  
M-W & F between 8:30 and 1pm. Change will not be provided.

AT THE DOOR REGISTRATION:

\* Cost: \$20 per person

- Credit/Debit payments ONLY.

QUESTIONS and INFORMATION: Contact: Talanna Williams: (209) 765-1122;

[twilliams@southwinds.org](mailto:twilliams@southwinds.org).

- **Baptism** – Join us Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> for our next Baptism Sunday, at 3 pm. The Bible teaches that baptism is an act of obedience after making a commitment to Christ. Baptism allows a believer to declare to the world their heart-felt commitment to Christ. If you wish to take this next step in your faith journey, register on the App, or contact Rene Snyder at [rsnyder@southwinds.org](mailto:rsnyder@southwinds.org) with questions.

## MY STORY

**Where are you currently serving or desire to serve in the church?**

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

**Have a Volunteer Read: Ephesians 4:7-10; Psalm 68:18**

**Point #1: In Christ's body, EVERYONE HAS A GIFT.**

” Paul says, But... grace was given to each one of us. Grace refers here to spiritual gifts. Paul says each one of us has at least one gift. No exceptions. Everyone. If you are in Christ, he has given you a spiritual gift. Spiritual gifts are an ability God gives you that he uses to build up the body of Christ.”

– **Michael Nolen**

**Do you know what your spiritual gift is? Ask others in your Life Group what they think your spiritual gift (or gifts) might be.**

“Talents are what God gives you when you are born. Gifts are what he gives you when you are born again. Why is it so crucial that I know what mine is? Because you are uniquely gifted, that means you have a particular part of Christ only you can display. There are certain things only you can do in ministry.” – **Michael Nolen**

**Discuss the differences (or similarities) of spiritual gifts and natural talents.**

“You’ll never really experience fulfillment until you find and use your gift.” – **Michael Nolen**

**Where in serving have I found the most fulfillment and joy? Share a particular experience with your Life Group.**

**Have Another Volunteer Read: Ephesians 4:11-12**

**Point #2: Chris gifts some to EQUIP THE BODY.**

“Paul tells us Christ has gifted leaders for the express purpose of equipping the body to do the work of ministry... to build up the body.” – **Michael Nolen**

**How do we sometimes misunderstand the purpose of leaders in the church?**

“We grow best and most as we serve. This truth is particularly significant for SW in this season. If you were here last week, you heard that Pastor Chris Martinez has been called to serve another church in Oceanside, CA. It’s a terrible, difficult burden God has laid on him, to go back to Oceanside... but someone has to do it! This means that in a few weeks, we will only have 3 pastors on our staff. We continue to search for a new Student Ministries Pastor, and we have some interviews this week. Please pray for God’s wisdom and guidance. Our student ministry is thriving during this season, through the service of some amazing volunteers. I’ll tell you more about that next Sunday. But long term, we are seeking to get back to our strategic plan of having 5 pastor-teachers, to lead and equip the church. And your elder team is praying and working toward that objective. Please pray! But until this happens, it means we need the SW body to step up and serve... more than ever. Especially during the summer months!” – **Michael Nolen**

**Take a moment right now to pray for Southwinds’ leaders to find the pastors and volunteers God is calling to serve here.** To volunteer to serve please click [here](#).

**Have Another Volunteer Read: Ephesians 4:13-16**

**Point #3: The purpose of Christ’s gifts is to GROW HIS BODY.**

“Let me unpack these verses for you this way. These verses tell us 2 things we won’t experience, we won’t possess... unless we’re part of the body, being equipped in the body, experiencing life in the body. First, we won’t experience maturity. We won’t attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God. We won’t grow in the unity of the faith. That’s the body of belief taught in Scripture. We won’t grow in the knowledge of the Son of God. That’s about knowing Christ, walking with Christ, growing in intimacy with him. Real maturity only happens as we serve. Second, we won’t experience stability. We will still be children, tossed to and fro by the waves... Ever notice how short the attention span of a child is? A lot of adult Christ-followers are like that in their faith. They move from one little fad to another. They’re carried about by every wind of doctrine. This TV preacher. This website they stumble on. They are easily moved by any and every idea (both within the church and without). They are susceptible to human cunning, to craftiness in deceitful schemes. You need the solid teaching experienced in Christ’s body to stand against those things. We need the body for these things. It’s only in the body that I can experience the balance of truth and love.” – **Michael Nolen**

**What do you think Paul means by “unity of the faith” and “knowledge of the Son of God”?**

**How does everyone using their gifts in service help the body grow? Get specific.**

#### **APPLICATION**

**Do you have any fears or concerns about getting involved in service? Pray as a Life Group for each other to find places to serve.**

#### **PRAISES**

#### **PRAYER REQUESTS**