

The Spader's Speaker

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From Pastor Bill Nabers...

“The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love” Ephesians 4:11-16

It's good to be back with you. Serving among you is a delight. As we begin our time together I would like us to reflect on the following.

In his book, *High Flying Geese*, author Browne Barr, makes the following observations from his research: “As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. Thus by flying in a V formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own...Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go alone. That goose will attempt to return to formation quickly as it can...When the lead goose gets tired, it simply rotates to the back of one of the V wings and another goose takes the point for a while. All of the

geese in the back of the formation honk to encourage those at the front to maintain their speed...When a goose becomes ill or wounded, and falls from the sky, two or three other geese fall out of formation. They follow their comrade down to help or protect it, if they can. They remain by the downed bird till it revives or dies, and then attempt to rejoin the flight.”

To my knowledge, the Apostle Paul never made an observation about geese. I don't know if he ever saw a goose. But if he had, he might have included the same observations that Barr noted in his letter to the Church at Ephesus. To me both the Ephesians Letter and the story of the geese are different ways to express the true depth of God's gifts to all congregations and specifically to St. Jacob's/Spader's/Trinity.

There are four key themes that are common to both descriptions. The first is that when we work together our sum is greater than the value of the talented individuals in it.. We can be an 'uplift' to each other and we need each other to be effective. The second is that leadership, like the gifts given, are diverse and meant to be shared. Leadership is not meant to be permanent but shared among us all. For that reason God gives a variety of gifts. No one should, or is anyone capable of doing it all, short or long term. The third is that we are called to be encouraging of one another. When one is not in the lead, 'honk' encouragement, building up the body in love. The fourth is that we are called to care for each other. That is true even if it means leaving the spotlight behind to be with someone in need. We are gifted to be gifts in each other's lives. If we can strength these four areas God will have so many openings to be visible in our community and we will be a stronger congregation in service and worship.

As we move forward in this new venture, I hope you will keep those four themes in mind. Join me in asking, “Is it time for me to step into a leadership position, or is it time for me to be more encouraging of those who lead (or perhaps a combination of both)?” “How can I, and my God given abilities, be

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of help in a ministry? Or can I identify an area where I need help? (Both?)” I already appreciate the many ways you have supported and encouraged me as your Pastor. Know that I will be supporting you. Honk! Honk! - Pastor Nabers

Thrivent offers several ways to financially support the mission of your congregation.

If you have an insurance policy or investment vehicle through Thrivent Financial (or their predecessor companies - Lutheran Brotherhood and Aid Association for Lutherans) you are a member and you get to help choose where charitable funds are donated. Thrivent designates millions of dollars each year to help charitable organizations. Some of that is sent from their corporate offices, but most of those funds are designated by their individual members. One of the agencies that members can designate to support is our congregation. I found out that my membership earned me over \$60 dollars just for this giving period. You too can choose our congregation, or other worthwhile organizations and made that contribution without affecting your bottom line.

The first program is called Thrivent Choice and the amount you have to designate is called Choice dollars (The amount is based on your policies and years of membership). How do you designate your dollars? Two options are available. For the computer savvy, you can go to www.thrivent.com and follow the links to Thrivent Choice and set up an account to designate your Choice Dollars. If the internet is not your thing, you can make a toll free call to 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and say, “Thrivent Choice” to get help making your designation. If you do not designate your Choice Dollars by the end of February, then Thrivent will choose for you. (I don’t think the corporate office will choose St. Jacob’s or Trinity.) :)

The second program is “Thrivent Action Teams”. Think about an unmet need in your community and congregation and how you could help. Apply to lead your volunteer team in a one-time fundraiser, service activity or educational event that can be completed within 90 days. Once your project is approved, you'll receive a Thrivent Action Kit, including: Promotional banner. Invitations and thank-you cards. Thrivent Action Team T-shirts. A \$250 Community Impact Card you can use as seed money to get your project off

the ground and make a bigger impact.

How often are you eligible? All Thrivent members are eligible to lead a Thrivent Action Team. However, the number of teams each member can lead per year depends on his or her membership type. Benefit members are eligible to lead two Thrivent Action Teams per calendar year, and associate members are eligible to lead one per calendar year.

If you have any questions about these two programs, let the Pastor know and he will try and get answers for you.

- Pastor Nabers

Join Muhlenberg in Hurricane Recovery Efforts

Muhlenberg is planning to send a group of volunteers (5) to Florida in November to do hurricane recovery work (from hurricane Matthew-2016).

The work week is from Nov 5-9. We'll be staying in a UCC church for \$12/night/person. It's bunkhouse style w/ separate areas for men and women and includes shower areas, laundry facilities and use of the church kitchen. We don't know the exact work we'll be doing.

We're planning to fly into Daytona Beach airport on the 4th and already have our tickets. We have ground transportation lined up that we can use during the work week to get back and forth between the work site and the church.

Since our group is small, we've decided to open it up to several of the Lutheran churches in the area. Please spread the word to your congregations. We'd need to hear back by Sept 15. Any of your folks who want to go would be on their own to get there and could expect to pay an additional \$100 (roughly) for food for the week. We'll eat out some and buy groceries as well since we have access to a kitchen.

The MLC contacts for this trip are Herb Amato and Neil Alexander. Anyone who wants to go should email Herb (amatohk@jmu.edu) or Neil (katneil@aol.com) sooner than later.

Announcements

We are very proud of our young adults from St. Jacob's.

Congratulations to Paul and Jacob Craun

Congratulations to Pual and Jacob for their hard work at the recent Rockingham County Fair. Paul showed two goats that won awards. He had a middleweight champion and a second in class. Jacob also had two winning goats earning a 1st and 2nd in class. Both boys also showed Dairy Heifer cows. Next year you should plan to watch them exhibit or at least go by the Craun 'section' of the livestock barn. Also in the Craun clan Hannah continues her education at Texas Tech this fall.

Congratulations Cassidy Lam

Also we recognize Cassidy Lam for being in Governor's School and the drill team of the Fort Defiance Marching Band.

Upcoming Events

Worship Committee Meeting
Sunday, September 23 after worship
We will be working to plan year-end events.

Pastor Nabers' Installation
Sunday, October 7 at 4:00 pm

Reformation Sunday
Sunday, October 28
You are encouraged to wear red clothing for worship this day.

All Saints Sunday
Sunday, November 4
We will commemorate all who have died since last All Saints. Please submit any names to be included in writing to Pastor Nabers by October 28th.

Do you have something to share?

All of us are baptized ministers of the gospel, and all of us have something to share. If you have an announcement for the bulletin or *The Spader's Speaker*, please send it to Whitney Meyerhoeffer, who compiles both the bulletin and *Speaker*. Send it to: wmeyerhoeffer@gmail.com.

**Take a moment to wish someone
well on their special day!**

- 3 Donnie Coffey
- 6 Cindy Lam
- 8 Donnie Lam
- 11 June Riddle
- 13 Richard Eye
- 21 Tammy Craun
- 24 Janice Kyger



Worship Leader Schedule				
Date	Worship Assistant	Piano	Ushers/Greeters	Lectors
Sept 2	Glen Showalter	Ann Royer	Don Coffey and Tom Lam	Ann Royer and Jenny Meyerhoeffer
Sept 9	Cindy Lam	Maria Archer and Eric Hedrick	James Eye and Glen Showalter	Ann Royer and Jenny Meyerhoeffer
Sept 16	Tom Lam	Ann Royer	Mark Lambert and Glen Eye	Ann Royer and Jenny Meyerhoeffer
Sept 23	Nancy Bradfield	Maria Archer and Eric Hedrick	Cindy Hughes and Carolyn Randolph	Ann Royer and Jenny Meyerhoeffer
Sept 30	Ian McNeil	Ann Royer	Paul Driver and Matt Lam	Ann Royer and Jenny Meyerhoeffer

Weekly Word from God	
September 2 - 15th Sunday after Pentecost	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
September 9 - 16th Sunday after Pentecost	Mark 7:24-37
September 16 - 17th Sunday after Pentecost	Mark 8:27-38
September 23 - 18th Sunday after Pentecost	Mark 9:30-37
September 30 - 19th Sunday after Pentecost	Mark 9:38-50