

16th Sunday after Pentecost Year A  
October 2, 2011  
St. Luke Sheboygan Falls  
Philippians 3:4b-14

Nothing to Brag about but Jesus

Let us pray. Lord, please continue to bless Nancy in her retirement from the organ bench, as you have richly blessed St. Luke with her presence through the years. AMEN.

In the years I have been at St. Luke, Nancy has never been one to boast about her considerable talents at the organ. She is more likely to modestly compare herself with those who have more formal training than she does or perhaps more fancy flourishes.

Yet, there is no denying that her talent has been a great blessing to this congregation over the years. I've never known her to take a vacation of more than one Sunday a year and if she has taken a Sunday to be sick, I don't remember it. (I DO recall her playing at least one week

after she had surgery and wasn't feeling tip-top, but she was there!

I also remember her doing an excellent job playing "Lift Every Voice and Sing" when I selected it one week. Later, in talking to several other pastors they told me that their organists passed on that song because they thought it too difficult. Not our Nancy!

Unlike Nancy, St. Paul isn't afraid to brag about himself in his letter to the Philippian Church. At least, he starts out that way. Most of his boasting is about his past role as a leader in the Jewish faith prior to his encounter with the Risen Jesus on the road to Dasmascus. ***"If anyone has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the 8<sup>th</sup> day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, A Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a***

***persecutor of the church; as to***

***righteousness under the law, blameless.”***

In other words, in his former role as a Jewish religious leader, Paul (then known as Saul) had all his ducks in a row. He was “the bomb.”