

ST. STEPHEN REFORMED
249 E. Main St., New Holland, PA 17557
January 14, 2018 – 8:15 A.M.

**Indicates those able may stand*

When the prelude begins please quiet your hearts in preparation for worship.

ORGAN PRELUDE

“Der Tag ist so Freudenreich” (BWV 605)
“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

J. S. Bach
arr. R. Lau

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Adapted from Psalm 122 and 125*)

ONE: I was glad when they said to me,

ALL: "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

ONE: Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,

ALL: Which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

ONE: As the mountains surround Jerusalem,

ALL: So the LORD surrounds his people, from this time forth and forever.

*OPENING HYMN

“And Can It Be That I Should Gain”

Hymn #455

*INVOCATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we gather to praise God, we remember that we are people who have preferred our wills to his. Acknowledging His power to become new persons in Christ, let us confess our sin to the Lord.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal and merciful God, you have loved us with a love beyond our understanding, and you have set us on paths of righteousness for your name's sake. Yet we have strayed from your way; we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, through what we have done and what we have left undone. As we remember the lavish gift of your grace, we praise you and give you thanks that you forgive us yet again. Grant us now, we pray, the grace to die daily to sin, and to rise daily to new life in Christ, who lives and reigns with you, and in whose strong name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER FOR MERCY (Kyrie) “Lord Have Mercy upon Us”

ONE: Lord, have mercy upon us.

ALL: Lord, have mercy upon us.

ONE: Christ, have mercy upon us.

ALL: Christ, have mercy upon us.

ONE: Lord, have mercy upon us.

ALL: Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

“The Gloria Patri”

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 18:9-17

page #877

SERMON

“Two Men...Two Prayers...Two Outcomes”

Dr. Timothy Witmer

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts, debtors)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Need" (I need Thee every hour)

S. Bingham

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“Doxology”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Ever-giving God, source of all goodness and charity, your ear is always open to our needs. When we cry to you, you are faithful and provide for us. With joy we bring our thanksgiving. For all your mercies, we return to you from our abundance. All that we give, we dedicate to your glory. All that we keep, we commit to your care, for we are only stewards of your bounty. Bless what we give and what we keep, for all is your creation. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN “Jesus, What A Friend for Sinners” Hymn #498

*BENEDICTION (Pastor)

*CONGREGATION THREE-FOLD AMEN

*SILENT MEDITATION

*POSTLUDE “Festival Toccata” P. Fletcher

(Should you be moved to respond to a special musical offering, a hearty "Amen" is recommended)

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Ministers: The Congregation

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Timothy Witmer

Assistant Pastor: Rev. Nathaniel Stamper

Elders: John Garner, Richard Miller

Deacons: Gene Eberly, Ernie Orr

Organist Emeritus: A.J. Young

Organist and Choirmaster: Douglas Wimer

Music Leader: Rev. Dr. Stuart Sacks

Children’s Ministry Director: Faith Titus

Ushers: Gene & Viki Eberly

Greeters: Dick & Cathy Eby

Altar Guild: Jean Martin

Counting Team: Bob Spotts & Ron Bensinger

Sexton: Jill Wilson

Bookkeeper: Charlene Good

Administrative Assistant: Anita Witmer

ST. STEPHEN REFORMED
249 E. Main St., New Holland, PA 17557
January 14, 2018 – 10:30 A.M.

*Indicates those able may stand

When the prelude begins please quiet your hearts in preparation for worship.

PIANO PRELUDE – Please remain seated and join in singing with the Worship Team

GATHERING “O God, Beyond All Praising” Hymn #660

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Adapted from Psalm 122 and 125*)

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ALL: "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

ONE: Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,

ALL: Which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

ONE: As the mountains surround Jerusalem,

ALL: So the LORD surrounds his people, from this time forth and forever.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

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ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “The Gloria Patri”
**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S SONG (Children ages 4-8 may leave for Kingdom Kids)

Stop; and let me tell you, what the Lord has done for me,
Stop; and let me tell you, what the Lord has done for me,
He forgave my sin and He saved my soul,
He cleansed my heart and He made me whole,
Stop; and let me tell you, what the Lord has done for me.

Go; and tell the story, of the Christ of Calvary,
Go; and tell the story, of the Christ of Calvary.
He will forgive their sins, He will save their souls,
He will cleanse their hearts, He will make them whole,
Go; and tell the story of the Christ of Calvary.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 18:9-17 page #877

SERMON “Two Men...Two Prayers...Two Outcomes” Dr. Timothy Witmer

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (debts, debtors)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Need" (I need Thee every hour) S. Bingham

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE “Doxology”
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

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Ever-giving God, source of all goodness and charity, your ear is always open to our needs. When we cry to you, you are faithful and provide for us. With joy we bring our thanksgiving. For all your mercies, we return to you from our abundance. All that we give, we dedicate to your glory. All that we keep, we commit to your care, for we are only stewards of your bounty. Bless what we give and what we keep, for all is your creation. Amen.

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*CONGREGATION THREE-FOLD AMEN

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Greeter: Ruth Kapp

Altar Guild: Jean Martin

Counting Team: Bob Spotts & Ron Bensinger

Sexton: Jill Wilson

Bookkeeper: Charlene Good

Administrative Assistant: Anita Witmer

“TWO MEN...TWO PRAYERS...TWO OUTCOMES”

Luke 18:9-17

“FOOD FOR THOUGHT” (Jan 15 - Jan 20)

Monday: Read Luke 18:9-17 Review your notes from yesterday’s sermon. What was most helpful to you about yesterday’s sermon? _____
What difference will it make in your life? _____

Tuesday: Read Luke 18:9 Why did Jesus tell this parable? _____

How does this attitude hurt our relationships with others? _____

How does this attitude hurt our relationship with God? _____

Wednesday: Read Luke 18:11-12 What was wrong with the Pharisee’s prayer?

Have you ever propped yourself up by looking down on others? _____

Ask the Lord to search your heart for attitudes of self-righteousness and self-sufficiency.

Thursday: Read Luke 18:13 What is right with the tax collector’s prayer?

What did he get right about himself? About God? _____

Friday: Read Luke 18:14 What is at stake in this parable? _____

Take a moment and thank the Lord that he answers the prayer of the penitent tax collector and every penitent sinner including you!

Saturday: Read Luke 18:18-30 in preparation for the Missions Conference tomorrow morning. Write down any questions or observations that come to mind.

ANNOUNCEMENTS 01/14/18

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS...

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---|
| Today | 8:15 am | Early Worship Service |
| | 9:30 am | Sunday School |
| | 10:30 am | Worship Service |
| | 12:15 pm | Inquirers' Lunch – Lower Zwingli |
| Monday | 6:30 pm | Women's Bible Study |
| Tuesday | 9:30 am | Women's Bible Study |
| Wednesday | 6:30 pm | Bell Rehearsal |
| | 7:00 pm | Session Meeting |
| Thursday | 6:45 pm | Choir Practice |

FUTURE EVENTS...

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|---|
| Sunday | 01/21 | 3:00 pm | Congregational Meeting |
| | | 6:00 pm | Youth Group |
| Tuesday | 01/23 | | Gleanings Articles due to office |
| Thursday | 01/25 | 6:45 pm | Choir Practice |

NEXT SUNDAY – January 21, 2018
SERMON: "How Good is Good Enough"

By: Dr. Timothy Witmer
Scripture: Luke 18:18-30

GENERAL FUND OFFERING FOR JANUARY 7, 2018

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------|-------------------|
| <u>Attendance:</u> | <u>Early Service</u> | <u>82</u> | <u>\$3,783.00</u> |
| | <u>Late Service</u> | <u>157</u> | <u>\$5,060.13</u> |

Amount received for General Fund only \$8,843.13

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.
 Telephone (717) 354-7871 Fax (717) 355-2565
 Church Office Email: ststephenpca@ststephenpca.comcastbiz.net
 Website address: ststephenpca.org

WELCOME GUESTS!! We are happy that you are with us.
 Our purpose is to share Christ through our ministries. Please sign the visitors' card in the pew and place it in the offering plate. **Nursery is offered during our 10:30 worship service for children ages four or younger. KINGDOM KIDS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY** is available for children ages 4-8. They will be dismissed during the 10:30 service "Children's Song".

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

All of our homebound members and also prayers of healing for:

| | | | |
|---|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Lee Curley | Laine Eberly | Chris Bechtel | Lou Ann Miller |
| | Barb Carey | Dick Martin | Susan Ressler |
| Ellen Peters Wagner – Jane Peters' daughter | | | Ed Smith |

*Names appear on this list when we are given permission to print them. They will remain for three weeks unless other instructions are requested. (New names added to the list appear in dark print)

TABLETALK – The January edition of *TableTalk* is available at the *Welcome Center*.

FREE BIBLE and CHILDREN'S STORYBOOK BIBLE - We are offering a free copy of the English Standard Version Bible (the one we use in our pews) to anyone who would like one. Also, there is a Children's Bible for families with children under 12. One per family, please. We are excited that this will be the curriculum for Kingdom Kids beginning in the new year. Please stop at the Welcome Center on your way out and they will provide you with a copy.

FLOWERS this Sunday are in memory of loved ones by Emily and Tom Jung.

LAST WEEKS FLOWERS were given in memory of loved ones by Sally and Warren Shirk.

DIRECTORY UPDATE: Please update your church directory with following new address; Doug & Joy Wimer, 426 Liberty Street, Ephrata, PA 17522.

Church Activities

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held at the church next Sunday, January 21, at 3:00 PM. Come and hear reports on the Lord's work among us in 2017 as well as the plans and budget for 2018. The Session has also approved officer nominees to stand for election at the meeting. For Elder: Joshua Irvine and Mike Ressler. For Deacon: Tom Frankhouser and Chuck Kidhardt. We are grateful for their willingness to serve in these offices.

Also, we are looking to change Nathaniel Stamper's status from Assistant Pastor to Associate Pastor. Circumstances surrounding the timing of his examinations and ordination date did not allow time for a called congregational meeting to accomplish this.

YOUTH GROUP RETREAT (February 16th-18th) *Breakaway* is the annual winter retreat of the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery. Breakaway exists to point students to Jesus Christ in everything we do. We look forward to a *break* from the normal routine of everyday life and an extended time *away* to reflect Christ as He is revealed to us in the Word of God.

This year our theme for Breakaway is Extravagant. We will be studying the parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15. In this story, we will find two extravagant sinners, but more importantly, an extravagant Father who loves his sinful sons and invites them into fellowship with Him. Breakaway also provides plenty of opportunities to make new friends as well as strengthen current friendships. There's also plenty of good food, fun, and laughter. It all makes for a great weekend that you won't want to miss!

This year our retreat will be at Blue Mountain Christian Retreat in New Ringgold, Pennsylvania. It is a very nice camp with a huge (sound-friendly) room for the whole group to meet in, several large rooms which will be great for breakouts, nice cabins for us to stay in, a gym, and a big cafeteria that will have no problem fitting all of us. We are excited about the new possibilities at this camp and hope you can join us this year! Please contact Nathaniel Stamper to obtain a registration form. All completed forms are due to the church by January 22. Scholarships are available.

"SUPER GAME NIGHT" SAVE THE DATE - In honor of the Olympics, the Women's Ministry is planning a "Super Game Night" for all ages on Friday, February 2nd, 2018 from 6 pm until 9 pm.

Everyone is invited - young and old alike! Pizza, veggies and ice cream will be served. Bring your favorite board games or appropriate children's games to play. Older adults take the initiative and invite a young person to play your game, show them how to play and vice versa. Childcare will be provided for infants and young children. Please use the sign-up sheet in the lobby. Please sign up by January 28th.

BUS TRIP - 2018 is upon us so we're not wasting any time. One of two St Stephen bus trips has been scheduled for Thursday, April 19th to the Museum of the Bible in Washington DC. The cost is \$123 to include: motor coach transportation, lunch at Old Ebbitt Grill and museum admission. Fliers and sign-up sheets are available on the table in the narthex. This trip has the potential to fill up quickly so it is open to church attendee's first.

CHICKEN CORN SOUP - There are still quarts of chicken corn noodle soup available in the freezer. The price is now **\$5.00** per quart. Please put your money (cash or check) in the cash box.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE EBERLY FAMILY. If you wish to make a monetary donation to Ben and Lea during this time we encourage you to donate to the *St. Stephen Samaritan Fund*, designating it for the Eberly family. They are appreciative of our church's support and prayers. Please note that Ben and Lea Eberly's email address is bleberly814@gmail.com.

Community Activities

NEW HOLLAND FOOD BANK: Try to remember this ongoing ministry we all can take part in. Bins for donations are located in the narthex and breezeway. Monetary donations are also welcome via your offering envelope – remember to indicate *Food Bank* on your gift.