

ST. STEPHEN REFORMED
249 E. Main St., New Holland, PA 17557
January 21, 2018 – 8:15 A.M.

**Indicates those able may stand*

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

ORGAN PRELUDE

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” (BWV 606)
“How Great Thou Art”

J. S. Bach
R. Hobby

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Adapted from Psalm 135*)

ONE: Praise the LORD!

MANY: Praise the name of the LORD,

ONE: Give praise, O servants of the LORD,

MANY: Who stand in the house of the LORD,

ONE: In the courts of the house of our God!

MANY: Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good;

ONE: Sing to his name, for it is pleasant!

MANY: For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Hymn #295

***INVOCATION**

CALL TO CONFESSION (*Adapted from Psalm 130*)

If our Lord should mark iniquities who could stand? But there is forgiveness with the Lord, so that we, with reverence, can serve Him. Since our hope is in the Lord, and since with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem, let us confess our sins before him since it is he who will redeem us from all our iniquities.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unto you, O Lord, belongs mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against you, for you are good and ready to forgive, and full of mercy to all who call upon you. Look upon us, therefore, with an eye of pity and compassion, as we now humble ourselves with sincere confession before

the throne of your grace, and in the Name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ. 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 18:18-30

page #877

SERMON

“Wrong Question, Right Question”

Dr. Timothy Witmer

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

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Whatever God Ordains is Good”

J. Pachelbel

***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**

Almighty and most merciful God, every good and perfect gift comes from you. We give you praise and thanks for all your mercies. Your goodness has created us, your bounty has sustained us, your discipline has chastened us, your patience has borne with us, your love has redeemed us. Give us a heart to love and serve you, and enable us to show our thankfulness for all

your goodness and mercy by giving ourselves to your service and cheerfully submitting to your blessed will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

“Be Thou My Vision”
Hymn #642

*BENEDICTION (Pastor)

*CONGREGATION THREE-FOLD AMEN

*SILENT MEDITATION

*POSTLUDE

“Preambulum in E” (LübWV 7)

V. Lübeck

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

Counting Team: Bob Spotts & Ron Bensinger

Sexton: Jill Wilson

Bookkeeper: Charlene Good

Administrative Assistant: Anita Witmer

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

Greeter: Rose Monger

Altar Guild: Jean Martin

“THE BLIND SEE”

Luke 18:31-43

“FOOD FOR THOUGHT” (Jan 29 – Feb 3)

Monday: Read Luke 18:35-43 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 18:35-38 What is the important difference between the way Jesus is described by the crowd and the way the blind man addresses Jesus?

What is the difference between the way many perceive Jesus and the way you have come to believe in him? _____

Wednesday: Read Luke 18:39 Why was the man so persistent? _____

What does the man’s persistence tell you about him? About his faith?

Thursday: Read Luke 18:40-43a What do these verses teach you about Jesus?

About his love? _____

About his power? _____

About his identity? _____

Friday: Read Luke 18:42-43; see 2 Cor. 4:1-6 What “sight” does Jesus offer to those who believe in Him? _____

What should be our response to the “sight” that the Lord has given to us?

Take a moment to praise Him for His power at work in your life!

Saturday: Read Luke 19:1-10 in preparation for tomorrow’s service. Write down observations or questions that you might have. _____

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS...

Today	Life Groups Week	
	8:15 am	Early Worship Service
	9:30 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	3:00 pm	Congregational Meeting
Monday	6:00 pm	Youth Group
		Youth Retreat Registrations due
Thursday	6:45 pm	Choir Practice

FUTURE EVENTS...

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>01/28</i>	<i>6:00 pm Youth Group</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>02/01</i>	<i>6:45 pm Choir Practice</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>02/02</i>	<i>6:00 pm Super Game Night</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>02/03</i>	<i>7:30 am Men's Breakfast at Yoder's</i>

NEXT SUNDAY – January 28, 2018
SERMON: "The Blind See"
By: Dr. Timothy Witmer
Scripture: Luke 18:31-43

GENERAL FUND OFFERING FOR JANUARY 14, 2018

Attendance:	Early Service	75	\$3,177.00
	Late Service	184	\$10,186.15

Amount received for General Fund only \$13,363.15

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS 01/21/18

*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	Ed Smith	Bruce Hudson
Ellen Peters Wagner – Jane Peters' daughter			

**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 still 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. 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 Louise Loewen in remembrance of her birthday, January 22, by her son Steve.

TO MY ST. STEPHEN FAMILY, Thank you, thank you for your prayers, cards, calls, visits, gifts and many other acts of kindness and encouragement these past two months. You are amazing! My journey with this surgery has been more painful and

difficult than the first and it seems that recovery will be slower. However, it is good to be able to see everyone on Sunday mornings again and to worship with you!

Blessings, Sue Ressler.

DIRECTORY UPDATE Please make the following change to your church directory;

William Poole, 645 Willow Valley Square, Lancaster, PA 17602-4871. Phone number remains the same.

NEEDED: A sponsor for the altar flowers for Sunday, February 18. Please contact Jean Martin.

Church Activities

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held at the church today, 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.

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.