

ST. STEPHEN REFORMED
249 E. Main St., New Holland, PA 17557
December 2, 2018 – 8:15 A.M.

**Indicates those able may stand*

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

ORGAN PRELUDE

“Nun komm der Heiden Heiland” (BWV 599) J.S. Bach
(Come, Savior of the Nations)
“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (Divinum Mysterium) Charles Callahan

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Timothy Witmer

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Adapted from Psalm 148*)

ALL: Praise the LORD from the heavens

ONE: Praise him in the heights!

ALL: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!

ONE: Kings of the earth and all peoples,

ALL: Princes and all rulers of the earth!

ONE: Young men and maidens together, old men and children!

ALL: Let them praise the name of the LORD,

ONE: For his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.

ALL: Praise the LORD!

*OPENING HYMN “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Hymn #196

*INVOCATION Rev. Nathaniel Stamper

CALL TO CONFESSION

The coming of Jesus marked the beginning of the end of sin's dominion in the lives of His people. In light of His work on our behalf let us confess the sins which we have not yet put to death in our lives.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, in the beginning you spoke, and creation came into existence. In the fullness of time you spoke, and the Word became flesh. We are amazed at the miracle of creation and we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation. In light of your mighty acts, forgive us for our feeble faith and for our earthbound thoughts. Thank you for the forgiveness that Jesus came to bring, for we ask it in His mighty name. 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.**

*APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic¹ church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

¹ or universal

*CONFESSION OF FAITH

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Question 35

ONE: What is sanctification?

ALL: Sanctification is the work of God’s free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

LIGHTING OF THE PROPHECY CANDLE

SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 22:6

Page #544

SERMON "Wisely Raising Children" Rev. Nathaniel Stamper

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

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY "A Child's Prayer" Heidi & Ella Shannon

*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

**God of wonder, we offer these humble gifts to you. Receive them with our
gratitude, that through us all people may know the riches of your love in the
gift of your Son our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN "He Was Pierced for our Transgressions" Praise Book #12

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

RECEIVING AND SHARING THE ELEMENTS

*CLOSING HYMN "Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor" Hymn #230

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATION THREE-FOLD AMEN

*POSTLUDE Fantasy on 'Vom Himmel hoch' Johann Pachelbel

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

ST. STEPHEN REFORMED
249 E. Main St., New Holland, PA 17557
December 2, 2018 – 10:30 A.M.

*Indicates those able may stand

PIANO PRELUDE—*Let us quiet our hearts as flute & piano help us prepare to worship*

GATHERING (Congregation seated)
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Hymn #194

WELCOME

Dr. Timothy Witmer

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Adapted from Psalm 148*)

ALL: Praise the LORD from the heavens

ONE: Praise him in the heights!

ALL: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!

ONE: Kings of the earth and all peoples,

ALL: Princes and all rulers of the earth!

ONE: Young men and maidens together, old men and children!

ALL: Let them praise the name of the LORD,

ONE: For his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.

ALL: Praise the LORD!

*OPENING HYMN “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Hymn #196

*INVOCATION Rev. Nathaniel Stamper

CALL TO CONFESSION

The coming of Jesus marked the beginning of the end of sin's dominion in the lives of His people. In light of His work on our behalf let us confess the sins which we have not yet put to death in our lives.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, in the beginning you spoke, and creation came into existence. In the fullness of time you spoke, and the Word became flesh. We are amazed at the miracle of creation and we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation. In light of your mighty acts, forgive us for our feeble faith and for our earthbound thoughts. Thank you for the forgiveness that Jesus came to bring, for we ask it in His mighty name. Amen.

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.**

*APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic¹ church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

¹ or universal

*CONFESSION OF FAITH

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Question 35

ONE: What is sanctification?

ALL: Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

LIGHTING OF THE PROPHECY CANDLE

CHILDREN'S SONG – (Children ages 4-7 may leave for Kingdom Kids)

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And brought us God's salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 22:6

Page #544

SERMON

"Wisely Raising Children"

Rev. Nathaniel Stamper

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

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"A Child's Prayer"

Heidi & Ella Shannon

*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

**God of wonder, we offer these humble gifts to you. Receive them with our
gratitude, that through us all people may know the riches of your love in the
gift of your Son our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN

"He Was Pierced for our Transgressions" Praise Book #12

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

RECEIVING AND SHARING THE ELEMENTS

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor"

Hymn #230

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATION THREE-FOLD AMEN

*POSTLUDE

Fantasy on 'Vom Himmel hoch'

Johann Pachelbel

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

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS...

Communion Sunday

Today **8:15 am** **Early Worship Service**
 9:30 am **Sunday School**
 10:30 am **Worship Service**
 6:30 pm **Youth Grp at Reformed Presb., Ephrata**

Monday **6:30 pm** **Women's Bible Study**

Tuesday **9:30 am** **Women's Bible Study**
 7:00 pm **Women's Steering Committee**
 Meeting **at Ruth Pankuch's**

Wednesday **10:00 am** **Outreach Meeting**
 2:30 pm **T.E.A.M. Shut-In Visits**
 6:30 pm **Bell Rehearsal**

Thursday **6:45 pm** **Choir Practice**

Friday **Church Office Closed**

FUTURE EVENTS...

Sunday **12/09** **6:00 pm** **Youth Group**

Wednesday **12/12** **7:00 pm** **Finance Meeting**

Thursday **12/13** **6:45 pm** **Choir Rehearsal**

NEXT SUNDAY – December 9, 2018
SERMON: "The Wise Woman from A-Z"
By: Dr. Timothy Witmer

GENERAL FUND OFFERING FOR NOVEMBER 25, 2018

Attendance:	<u>Early Service</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>\$3,107.00</u>
	<u>Late Service</u>	<u>182</u>	<u>\$4,032.25</u>

Amount received for General Fund only \$7,139.25

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.com ststephenpca.com ststephenpca.net
Website address: ststephenpca.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS 12/02/18

WELCOME VISITORS!! 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 three or younger. KINGDOM KIDS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY** is available for children ages 4-7. 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	Thelma (Tiny) Buch
Carolyn Martin	Barb Carey	Judi Jenkins
Ellen Peters Wagner – Jane Peters' daughter	Henry Weaver – brother of George Weaver	
Tara Emig – Bill & Fran Seiple's daughter	Kathy Gregg – friend of Ruth Frankhouser	

*Names appear on this list when we are given permission to print them.
 (New names added to the list appear in dark print)

THE RED ROSE BUD AND CRADLE CROSS is in celebration of the birth of Shirley Rose Titus, born to Nathan and Faith. Shirley was born on Monday, November 28. The whole family is doing well.

I WANT TO THANK the members of St Stephen Reformed Church, PCA, and the members of the Ladies Group, for my gift box of food for my final exams week. I received the box of "goodies" containing gluten free snacks and gift cards, a couple weeks prior to finals. I am especially thankful that people were able to find gluten free snacks for me. Finals week is also a bit hectic, and I'm grateful to be thought of by the church.

Thanks again, Becky Snyder (Junior at Kutztown University)

TABLETALK – The December issue is available at the Welcome Center. This is the last free issue of *TABLETALK*. If you wish to continue to receive this publication, you will need to order your own copy using the subscription card inside the December issue.

HEARING ASSIST DEVICES are available from our ushers as you enter the sanctuary.

SCENT-FREE SEATING - For those with sensitivity to scents, seating has been designated in the southwestern section of the balcony. Please be respectful of those who have a medical reaction to scents and fragrances.

OVERFLOW PARKING is available behind Beck's Funeral Home.

Church Activities

THE YOUTH will meet tonight at Reformed Presbyterian Church, 21 East Locust Street, Ephrata from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm for Secret Game Night. If you need transportation to this event, please contact Pastor Stamper at 717.715.5954.

THE "TREE OF WARMTH" is again in the breezeway to accept your unwrapped gifts of new gloves, scarves, hats, sweaters and socks. These items will be taken to the New Holland Clothing Bank (*King's Closet*).

- Thanks again for caring and sharing, The Outreach Committee

25th Annual Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving Day was cold and blustery, but filled with joy and countless blessings for which we give all honor and praise to our Heavenly Father. Twenty-five years providing an annual free community dinner is a significant accomplishment and we celebrate our loyal and dedicated volunteers who help to make it possible. Immeasurable heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your generosity, prayers, and service which enable us to continue this outreach and ministry. You brought your good hearts, open hands, and your positive energy which created a fun day of service together. Special thanks to all our newer members who graciously volunteered to help with our dinner. You were a blessing and wonderful asset to our team! We were delighted to serve 131 plus meals to our guests and provide 83 meals to those homebound in our community. Though Thanksgiving Day 2018 is past, my prayer is that you take a moment or two each day to give thanks to our awesome God for that which you are thankful and continue on giving of yourself to help others in the days ahead. With a warm and grateful heart, abundant blessings and many, many thanks to our very special St. Stephen family, Cathy Eby

ADULT WINTER SUNDAY SCHOOL begin today: Suffering with Jesus, Upper Zwingli; Marks of a Healthy Church, Lower Bachman and Christianity 101, Lower Bachman.

GLOBE WASHERS WANTED: A wash crew is needed to brighten up the sanctuary wall sconces for Christmas. The glass globes around the lower and upper walls all needs a good Windex shine. If you're available Tuesday, December 11 at 9:30 AM we can get the job done in no time depending on the turnout. It takes two to do each one. Bring along your favorite glass cleaner, rags or paper towels, small step ladder and sense of humor.