

Acts 17.16-31 from The Message

¹⁶The longer Paul waited in Athens for Silas and Timothy, the angrier he got—all those idols! The city was a junkyard of idols.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ He discussed it with the Jews and other like-minded people at their meeting place. And every day he went out on the streets and talked with anyone who happened along. He got to know some of the **Epicurean and Stoic** intellectuals pretty well through these conversations. Some of them dismissed him with sarcasm: “**What a moron!**” But others, listening to him go on about Jesus and the resurrection, were intrigued: “That’s a new slant on the gods. Tell us more.”

¹⁹⁻²¹ These people got together and asked him to make a public presentation over at the Areopagus, where things were a little quieter. They said, “This is a new one on us. We’ve never heard anything quite like it. Where did you come up with this anyway? Explain it so we can understand.” Downtown Athens was a great place for gossip. There were always people hanging around, natives and tourists alike, waiting for the latest tidbit on most anything.

²²⁻²³ So Paul took his stand in the open space at the Areopagus and laid it out for them. “It is plain to see that you Athenians take your religion seriously. When I arrived here the other day, I was fascinated with all the shrines I came across. And then I found one inscribed, to the god nobody knows. I’m here to introduce you to this God so you can worship intelligently, know who you’re dealing with.

²⁴⁻²⁹ “The God who made the world and everything in it, this Master of sky and land, doesn’t live in custom-made shrines or **need the human race to run errands for him, as if he couldn’t take care of himself.** He makes the creatures; the creatures don’t make him. Starting from scratch, he made the entire human race and made the earth hospitable, with plenty of time and space for living so we could seek after God, **and not just grope around in the dark but actually find him.** He doesn’t play hide-and-seek with us. **He’s not remote; he’s near.** We live and move in him, can’t get away from him! One of your poets said it well: ‘We’re the God-created.’ Well, if we are the God-created, it doesn’t make a lot of sense to think we could hire a sculptor to chisel a god out of stone for *us*, does it?”

³⁰⁻³¹ “God overlooks it as long as you don’t know any better—but that time is past. The unknown is now known, and he’s calling for a radical life-change. He has set a day when the entire human race will be judged and everything set right. And he has already appointed the judge, confirming him before everyone by raising him from the dead.”

Deep Sheet

[a place for your notes]

Why do you think some people in Muskegon County are turned off to the church and to God?

What is the difference between Epicurean thought and Stoic thought?

What are apologetics and why don’t they work?

Other Notes

May Weekly Bible Readings

Date	Day	New Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special Prayer	Old Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Su	1 John 1			Ezekiel 6	
4	Mo	1 John 2			Ezekiel 7	
5	Tu	1 John 3			Ezekiel 8	
6	We	1 John 4			Ezekiel 9	
7	Th	1 John 5			Ezekiel 10	
8	Fr	2 John			Ezekiel 11	
9	Sa	3 John			Ezekiel 12	
10	Su	Jude			Ezekiel 13	



Laketon Bethel’s Core Values:

A. ACCEPTANCE:

Everyone, regardless of who they are, what they have done, or what they are doing, will be accepted here. Laketon Bethel will be a safe place to explore your relationship with Jesus.

B. BIBLE:

The teachings of Jesus, contained in the Bible, are the final authority for faith and practice. We will study these teachings with open minds and the best scholarship available.

C. CONNECTION:

We invite people to connect with Jesus and with each other in all that we do.

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 Office Hours Tues. - Fri. 9am - 1pm

Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendars!

May 5: LBRC Golf League begins

May 8: Mother's Day Dinner

May 11: Food Truck

May 13: Supper House

June 22 - 24: VBS - Illumination Station

Watch for more information in the bulletin as we get closer to these dates.

Linda Evans would like to thank everyone for all the cards and prayers she has gotten. Your thoughtfulness means so much.

Please keep Sally Hendrixon and family in your prayers. Her son Matthew Crain passed away unexpectedly on April 25.

Special Senior: David Utzinger

Please sign the card located on the table in the entryway.

Today's Volunteers

1st Service Coffee Servers: Diane Brantsen

2nd Service Coffee Server: Mark Gaultney

1st Service Nursery: Lorri Anderson

2nd Service Nursery: Cyndie Bingaman

Announcements

Today we celebrate the baptism of Orion Bishop, son of Nick and Melanie Bishop.

Rummage Sale A huge thanks to everyone who donated items to sell, and to Jill Mouw and all the volunteers who worked hard to make the Rummage Sale a success!

Laketon Bethel Students Middle & High School students are welcome to join us today for games, real-life Bible discussion, and meaningful community. Come as you are. Bring a friend! We will meet the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month from 12:30 - 2:30pm in the Youth Center (Old Sanctuary). See Mia Fick for more information.

Mother's Day Dinner will be Friday May 8th at 6:00pm and a spaghetti dinner will be served. Back by popular demand is the Reeths-Puffer Jazz Band. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for 12 and under. Today is the last day to buy tickets.

Sub Sandwich Sale The Men's Group is launching a Sub Sandwich Fundraiser, offering 6" subs for \$5 - either Ham, Chicken or Turkey with cheddar cheese. They are taking preorders in the entryway after both services today through May 17th with pickup May 31st. Proceeds to repair the damage to our back wall from the leaking roof.

Service Opportunities

Hand2Hand Packing We will be packing this Tuesday afternoon at 2:30. We can always use volunteers! See Maureen Mussman for more information.

Sacred Suds (Helping Every Living Person Survive)

With warmer weather coming soon, T-shirts, short sleeve shirts, light jackets etc. will be appreciated. Towels, toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, soap or body wash are always welcome donations also.

Order of Worship - 9:00am

Gathering Song

"He Reigns"

Call to Worship

"O How I Love Jesus"

"O Come Let Us Adore Him"

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

"All For Jesus"

"I Will Serve Thee"

"Open Our Eyes Lord"

Crosstalk - "The Unknown God"

Offering

"He Knows My Name"

Benediction

"God Be With You"

Order of Worship - 11:00am

Call to Worship

"Open Up the Heavens"

"The Lord's Prayer"

Welcome & Announcements

Baptism

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

"Friend in Jesus"

"Made for More"

Crosstalk - "The Unknown God"

Offering

"He Is"

Benediction

"God Be With You"