

# NO CONDEMNATION

Laketon Bethel Church

January 1, 2023

Dr. Sherwin Brantsen

# Sherwin's Ten Reasons for Going to Church Every Sunday

## 1. Renew

Everyone goes through times where enthusiasm for life melts away. We all have times where our faith diminishes. Worship on Sunday renews faith and energizes attitudes for all of life.

## 2. Laugh

Yes. We laugh. Humor is a valuable part of worship. Most of it is unplanned. Sherwin's brother told him years ago that: "People aren't laughing at you because you're funny, they are laughing because you are so stupid..."

## 3. Pray

Face it. You don't pray much. Church services remind you of the importance of prayer. They jump start your prayer life. You learn more about prayer. When your family is with you, they see you praying and that is an example that changes lives.

## 4. Sing

Songs of faith can move mountains of despair. You probably won't like all the songs. But some of them will change your life.

## 5. Help

You will often find ways to help in your community. When you help, it reduces inherent narcissism. You think less of yourself and more of others. You become more grateful for what you have. You become a better person and a happier one.

## 6. Give

Yes. Put in some money. Do something with your cash for God instead of for yourself. Don't expect anything back and you will be surprised at how blessed you are. We all waste money. Here you have an opportunity to do something positive with it.

## 7. Meet

Connect with other people. Laketon Bethel accepts everyone, including you. Many friendships are made on a regular basis. We have great coffee and cookies, which help in all sorts of discussions.

## 8. Learn

The guy up front is trained and experienced and often knows what he is talking about. You will learn something every Sunday.

## 9. Grow

When you put what you learn into practice, you will find positive changes in your life. You will have unstoppable growth in ways you don't always expect.

## 10. Jesus

The church exists because of Jesus. When you participate in it regularly, he is pleased. One day you will meet him face-to-face. If you regularly connect with him through weekly worship services, that meeting will be happy.

## **Announcements**

*A warm welcome to our new members  
Tom, Emily & Haley Kendall.*

**Hand2Hand** We are collecting canned goods for Hand2Hand. There is a box for your donations in the entryway. Thank you!

**Nursery** We are in need of first service volunteers for the nursery. If you are interested in joining this team, see Sally Hendrixon or Joann Petroski or call the office at 744-1749.

**Children's Ministry** Children's Church is open to children from Preschool through Fifth Grades during the 11:00 Service. Please check your child/children in at check-in station. If you are new, registration sheets are available at the check-in station as well.

## **Volunteers**

First Service Coffee Server: Kathy Young

Second Service Coffee Server: Sue Vannette

***2023 Giving envelopes are available and are on the table in the entryway.***



## **Order of Worship-9:00am**

Gathering Song

“Forever”

Call to Worship

“He Has Made Me Glad”

“This Is the Day”

Welcome & Announcements

Baptism

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“I Love You, Lord”

“My Jesus, I Love Thee”

Crosstalk - “No Condemnation”

Offering

“He Knows My Name”

Benediction

“God Be With You”

## **Order of Worship-11:00am**

Gathering Song

“Start Me Up”

Call to Worship

“Open Up the Heavens”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“I Need You”

“I Am Free”

Crosstalk - “No Condemnation”

Offering

“All My Hope”

Benediction

“Open Up the Heavens”

# Other Announcements

## Upcoming Adult Bible Study

“Why does God let bad things happen to good people: a study of the book of Job” will begin soon. We will be looking at the book of Job as a whole and see how this ancient writing has undeniable wisdom and comfort for our contemporary situations. It will run for 6 consecutive Wednesdays starting on January 11 at 6:00 PM for pizza and 6:30 PM for the Bible Study. Pizza will be served for the first 5 sessions and the 6<sup>th</sup> will feature “pastoral pulled pork.” A sign-up sheet will be in the entry.

## Consistory Nominees for 2023

The Reformed Church provides an opportunity for congregations to vet their leaders by requiring the names of nominees to be published for three weeks prior to the election or drawing. The slate has been filled and the nominees are listed below. If you have a reason why any of these should not be on the board, please contact Sherwin.

### Nominees for Elder

Kathy Young	Mike Lyons
Paula Scott	Donna Spytma
Heather Wilke	Steve Mussman
Connie Reahm	Joel Ortquist
Dave Bishop	Jeff Hooker

5 will be chosen for 2 year terms and 1 for a one year term (due to a resignation).

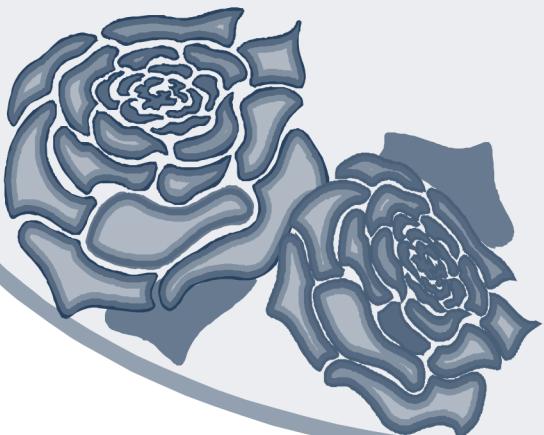
### Nominees for Deacon

Lisa George	Kathy Forrester
Janice Carrigan	Ernie Norwood
Diana Wagbo	Mia Fick

Three will be chosen for two-year terms.

## Special Senior of the Week:

*Please show your support by signing the cards located  
on the table in the entryway.*



# Carl Babinec

***Please remember in prayer our friends who are  
battling long-term illnesses:***

***Donald Bayne***

***Jana Belladone***

***Betty Bonneville***

***Larry Budreau***

***Patti Buurma***

***Craig Carlson***

***Amanda Cihak***

***Stephanie Cutler***

***Amy Fredericks***

***Jacob Geers***

***Bob Hanson***

***Scott Hladki***

***Avery Lynn***

***J.T. Maskell***

***Tom McKee Sr.***

***Patti Mercer***

***Paul Ortquist***

***Lynn Pluger***

***Shirly Pummell***

***Aaron Rop***

***Gary Samples***

***Joe Shavalier***

***Ida Shealy***

***Sandy Streeter***

***Kathy Tabor***

***Inga Weavers***

***Marv Wegner***

# Bible Readings

## Romans 8.1-2, New Living Translation

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.<sup>2</sup> And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

## Luke 6.37-38, The Message

37-38 “Don’t pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults—unless, of course, you want the same treatment. Don’t condemn those who are down; that hardness can boomerang. Be easy on people; you’ll find life a lot easier. Give away your life; you’ll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity.”

# No Condemnation

[a place for your notes]

Do you put yourself down on a regular basis?

If so, why?

Why is there no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus?

Do you think “rubber band therapy” will work on you?

Notes:

## January Weekly Bible Readings

Date	Day	New Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special Prayer	Old Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
01	Su	Luke 9			Psalms 40	
02	Mo	Luke 10			Psalms 41	
03	Tu	Luke 11			Psalms 42	
04	We	Luke 12			Psalms 43	
05	Th	Luke 13			Psalms 44	
06	Fr	Luke 14			Psalms 45	
07	Sa	Luke 15			Psalms 46	
08	Su	Luke 16			Psalms 47	

# LAKETON BETHEL REFORMED CHURCH

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Office hours: 8:30 am – 11:30 am: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday

**Pastor** – Dr. Sherwin Brantsen ([drbrantsen@gmail.com](mailto:drbrantsen@gmail.com))

**Director of Operations** – Gary Gifford ([garygifford4@gmail.com](mailto:garygifford4@gmail.com))

## THE PURPOSE OF LAKETON BETHEL:

*“To trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.”*

## 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.

## OUR CONSISTORY

### Elders

Kyle Bogner, Dave Deboer, Gay Hudson,  
Larry Joslyn, Amy Kunnen, Ed Luzadder,  
Jason Peterson, Ron Zant

### Deacons

Brent Ackerman, Jon Brantsen, Greg Fick,  
Mike George, Alex Lassow, Doug Lubbers,  
Kris Meyers, Rita Sikkenga