

Happy for the Long Haul



Laketon Bethel Church

January 21, 2024

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.

Order of Worship-9:00am

Gathering Song

“Come Thou Almighty King”

Call to Worship

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“I Then Shall Live”

“Make Me a Blessing”

Crosstalk - “Happy for the Long Haul”

Offering

“Jesus, Your Name”

Benediction

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”



Order of Worship-11:00am

Gathering Song

“Holy Water”

Call to Worship

“House of the Lord”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“Your Grace Finds Me”

“This Is Amazing Grace”

Crosstalk - “Happy for the Long Haul”

Offering

“Old Church Choir”

Benediction

“God Be With You”

Service Opportunities

LBC Nursery We are in need of nursery help for both services. If you are interested, please see Sally Hendrixon or Tina Dadd.

Coffee Servers We need more volunteers to serve coffee, lemonade and cookies for both services. If you are interested, please see Tina Dadd.

Announcements



Laketon Bethel Youth Group

All youth ages 6th-12th grades are welcomed to join us on January 28th, 5-7pm for a hot dog dinner, a lesson, and fun.

For any questions, please see John or Ashley Wierenga.

Sherwin's Bible Study on Jeremiah

The Jeremiah Bible Study has begun. This is a 7-week course and we meet at 6:00pm for pizza with the bible study to follow. Please sign up on the sheets located in the entryway so we have an accurate count for pizza.

Volunteers

1st Service Coffee Server: Ron & Connie Maciejewski

2nd Service Coffee Server: Steve & Maureen Mussman

Special Senior of the Week:

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



**Jim
Fielstra**

*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

Larry Cone

Amy Fredericks

Jacob Geers

Bob Hanson

Scott Hladki

Sally Legard

Avery Lynn

J.T. Maskell

Tom McKee Sr.

Patti Mercer

Paul Ortquist

Lynn Pluger

Shirly Pummell

Aaron Rop

Gary Samples

Joe Shavalier

Larry Shavaler

Ida Shealy

Sandy Streeter

Kathy Tabor

Inga Weavers

Marv Wegner

Bible Readings

From the New Living Translation

2 Corinthians 1

¹⁹ For Jesus Christ, the Son of God, does not waver between “Yes” and “No.” He is the one whom Silas, Timothy, and I preached to you, and as God’s ultimate “Yes,” he always does what he says. ²⁰ For all of God’s promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding “Yes!” And through Christ, our “Amen” (which means “Yes”) ascends to God for his glory.

²¹ It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, ²² and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us.

²³ Now I call upon God as my witness that I am telling the truth. The reason I didn’t return to Corinth was to spare you from a severe rebuke. ²⁴ But that does not mean we want to **dominate you by telling you how to put your faith into practice.** We want to work together with you so you will be full of joy, for it is by your own faith that you stand firm.

John 13

³⁴ So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

Deep Sheet

[a place for your notes]

What long-term relationships do you enjoy most?

Should we trust the moral judgment and practice of fellow believers?

Three principles for happy long-term relationships are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Other Notes:

January Weekly Bible Readings

| Date | Day | New Testament | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Special Prayer | Old Testament | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|------|-----|-------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| 21 | Su | Philippians 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Habakkuk 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 22 | Mo | Colossians 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Habakkuk 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 23 | Tu | Colossians 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Habakkuk 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 24 | We | Colossians 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Zephaniah 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 25 | Th | Colossians 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Zephaniah 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 26 | Fr | 1 Thessalonians 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Zephaniah 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 27 | Sa | 1 Thessalonians 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Haggai 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 28 | Su | 1 Thessalonians 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | Haggai 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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)

Director of Operations – Gary Gifford (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, Jeff Hooker,
Mike Lyons, Steve Mussman, Paula Scott-
Stewart, Donna Spytma, Heather Wilke

Deacons

Brent Ackerman, Mia Fick, Kathy Forrester,
Mike George, Doug Lubbers, Kris Meyers,
Rita Sikkenga, Diana Wagbo