



Can you  
believe  
without  
seeing?

Laketon Bethel Church

April 9, 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

**Membership Class** Sherwin will have a membership class on April 16<sup>th</sup> after the second service. A pizza lunch will be provided. There are sign up sheets on the table in the entryway if you are interested.

**Food Truck** The Food Truck is tomorrow and we ask that all volunteers to please be at the church at 5:00pm. For any questions, please see Jill Mouw.

**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.

Hand2Hand exists to eliminate that 68-hour gap so every kid has an opportunity to thrive.

Currently, Hand2Hand is serving 10,008 students in 268 schools, ages 3-18, in 42 school districts in West Michigan.

***Our church serves 200 + students in our community!***

If you want to help but can't physically, there are lists of items needed for Hand2Hand. There is a box for your donations in the entryway. We appreciate your donation.



## Volunteers

1<sup>st</sup> Service Coffee Server: Ron & Connie Maciejewski

2<sup>nd</sup> Service Coffee Server: Deb Tilton

## Current Laketon Bethel Outreach Activities & Programs

**Hand2Hand**

**Food Truck**

**Supperhouse**

**Trunk or Treat**

**Make a Difference Ministry**

**(MadHouse)**

**Adopt-A-Family**

**Coat Drives**

**Rummage Sales**

**Santa's Secret Shop**

**Funerals**

**Vacation Bible School**

**Westshore Christian Academy**

**Safe Harbor Christian Communities**

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

Gathering Song

“Finished”

Call to Worship

“He Lives”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“Our Risen King”

“Christ Arose”

“Worship Christ, the Risen King”

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

Crosstalk - “Can You Believe Without Seeing?”

Offering

“Mighty is the Power of the Cross”

Benediction

“Alleluia! Alleluia!”

**CHRIST IS RISEN**

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

Gathering Song

“Another Hallelujah”

Call to Worship

“This is Our God”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“What a Beautiful Name/Agnus Dei”

“Glorious Day”

Crosstalk - “Can You Believe Without Seeing?”

Offering

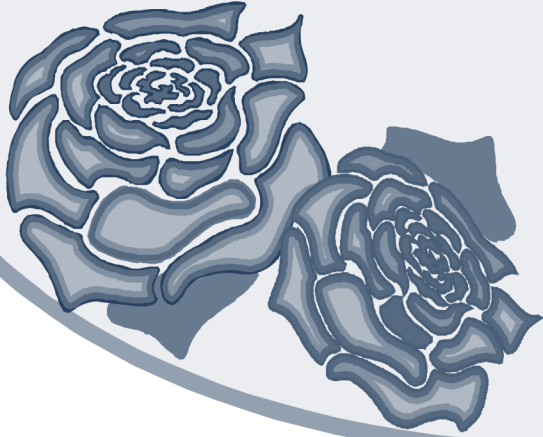
“There Was Jesus”

Benediction

“God Be With You”

**Special Senior of the Week:**

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



**Maxine  
Pulsipher**

*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*

*Stephanie Cutler*

*Amy Fredericks*

*Jacob Geers*

*Bob Hanson*

*Scott Hladki*

*Sally Legar*

*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*

# John 20.24-31

From the Message

<sup>24-25</sup> But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, “We saw the Master.”

But he said, “Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won’t believe it.”

<sup>26</sup> Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, “Peace to you.”

<sup>27</sup> Then he focused his attention on Thomas. “Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don’t be unbelieving. Believe.”

<sup>28</sup> Thomas said, “My Master! My God!”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus said, “So, you believe because you’ve seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing.”

<sup>30-31</sup> Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written down in this book. These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it.

# Deep Sheet

[a place for your notes and other musings]

What are the four stages of relationships?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Doubt is a necessary part of faith formation. True or False?

Jesus said, "So, you believe because you've seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing." What do you suppose he meant by this?

Does God condemn you for doubting him?

Other notes:

## April Weekly Bible Readings

Date	Day	New Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special Prayer	Old Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
09	Su	2 Corinthians 2			Psalms 138	
10	Mo	2 Corinthians 3			Psalms 139	
11	Tu	2 Corinthians 4			Psalms 140	
12	We	2 Corinthians 5			Psalms 141	
13	Th	2 Corinthians 6			Psalms 142	
14	Fr	2 Corinthians 7			Psalms 143	
15	Sa	2 Corinthians 8			Psalms 144	
16	Su	2 Corinthians 9			Psalms 145	

# LAKETON BETHEL REFORMED CHURCH

1568 W. Giles Rd. Muskegon, Mi. 49445

Ph. #744-1749 Fax #744-2848

Website address: [laketonbethel.org](http://laketonbethel.org) & e-mail: [lbrcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lbrcoffice@gmail.com)

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, 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