

Fishing for
Faith



Laketon Bethel Church

April 16, 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 16th 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.

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

1st Service Coffee Server: Diane Brantsen

2nd Service Coffee Server: Steve & Maureen Mussman

Service Opportunities

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

John 6

New Living Translation

6 After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias. ² A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because they saw his miraculous signs as he healed the sick. ³ Then Jesus climbed a hill and sat down with his disciples around him. ⁴ (It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration.) ⁵ Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, “Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?” ⁶ He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip replied, “Even if we worked for months, we wouldn’t have enough money to feed them!”

⁸ Then Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up. ⁹ “There’s a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?”

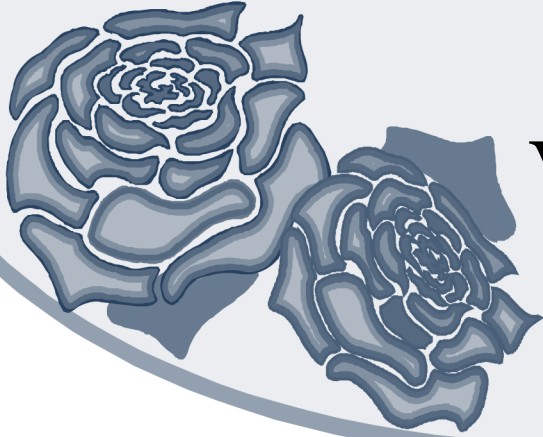
¹⁰ “Tell everyone to sit down,” Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted. ¹² After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, “Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted.” ¹³ So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves.

¹⁴ When the people saw him do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, “Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!” ¹⁵ When Jesus saw that they were ready to force him to be their king, he slipped away into the hills by himself.

³⁵ Jesus replied, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Special Senior of the Week:

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



**Leona
Vanderberg**

*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

Fishing for Faith

[a place for your notes]

*“Remember, you don’t deserve any of it. Not a bit.
Everything is a gift from God.”*

All the miracles recorded in the gospels have a surface meaning and a deeper meaning. What do you think the deeper meaning of the miracle we look at today is?

In this miracle from John 6, was it a miraculous multiplication of food or did people decide to share what they were carrying, making it a different kind of miracle?

Why didn’t Jesus want to be king?

In what way can you respond better to the incredible gift of life that you have been given?

Other Notes:

April Weekly Bible Readings

Date	Day	New Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special Prayer	Old Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16	Su	2 Corinthians 9	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 145	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Mo	2 Corinthians 10	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 146	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Tu	2 Corinthians 11	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 147	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	We	2 Corinthians 12	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 148	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Th	2 Corinthians 13	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 149	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Fr	Galatians 1	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 150	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Sa	Galatians 2	<input type="checkbox"/>		Proverbs 1	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Su	Galatians 3	<input type="checkbox"/>		Proverbs 2	<input type="checkbox"/>

LAKETON BETHEL REFORMED CHURCH

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Website address: laketonbethel.org & e-mail: lbrcoffice@gmail.com

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