

# Plowing with My Heifer

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He that is without sin  
among you, let him  
cast the first stone.  
John 8:7

Laketon Bethel Church

April 23, 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.

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

Gathering Song

“We Will Remember”

Call to Worship

“Praise to the Lord, Almighty”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“Love Lifted Me”

“Redeemed”

Crosstalk - “Plowing With My Heifer”

Offering

“Lead Me to the Cross”

Benediction

“Glory Be to the Father”



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

Gathering Song

“Wave On Wave”

Call to Worship

“Let Us Sing”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“Waiting Here For You”

“Everlasting God”

Crosstalk - “Plowing With My Heifer”

Offering

“So Will I”

Benediction

“Lifesong”

# Announcements

**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: Diane Brantsen

2<sup>nd</sup> Service Coffee Server: Steve & Maureen Mussman

### 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**

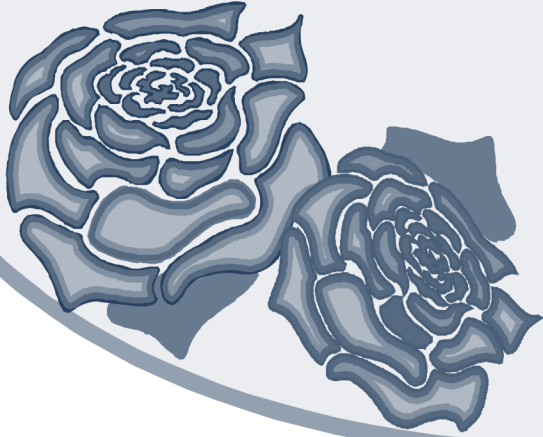
**Funerals**

**Vacation Bible School**

**Westshore Christian Academy**

**Special Senior of the Week:**

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



**Sue  
Andree**

*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*

# Bible Readings

Samson said to them,

“If you had not plowed with my heifer,  
you would not have solved my riddle.” [Judges 14.8, NIV]

<sup>2</sup> At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. <sup>3</sup> The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group <sup>4</sup> and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup> In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” <sup>6</sup> They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. <sup>7</sup> When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” <sup>8</sup> Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

<sup>9</sup> At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. <sup>10</sup> Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

<sup>11</sup> “No one, sir,” she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.” [John 8.2-11 NIV]

<sup>23</sup> You say, “I am allowed to do anything”—but not everything is good for you. You say, “I am allowed to do anything”—but not everything is beneficial. <sup>24</sup> Don’t be concerned for your own good but for the good of others. [1 Corinthians 10.23-24 NLT]

<sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. [1 Thessalonians 5.11 NIV]

# Deep Sheet

[a place for your notes]

*As followers of Jesus, let's throw blessings  
instead of stones.*

In what book of the Bible do we find the stories of Samson?

What does it mean to “plow with my heifer?”

What was the main purpose of the adultery laws in the Old Testament?

What is the libertarian approach to biblical teaching?

Other notes:

## April Weekly Bible Readings

Date	Day	New Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special Prayer	Old Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
23	Su	Galatians 3			Proverbs 3	
24	Mo	Galatians 4			Proverbs 4	
25	Tu	Galatians 5			Proverbs 5	
26	We	Galatians 6			Proverbs 6	
27	Th	Ephesians 1			Proverbs 7	
28	Fr	Ephesians 2			Proverbs 8	
29	Sa	Ephesians 3			Proverbs 9	
30	Su	Ephesians 4			Proverbs 10	

# 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, 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