



Fog on the Causeway

Laketon Bethel Church

July 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

“Melody of Love Medley”

Call to Worship

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“The Gift of Love”

“I Then Shall Live”

Crosstalk - “Fog On the Causeway”

Offering

“God’s Sweet Love”

Benediction

“Make Me a Blessing”



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

Gathering Song

“The Creed”

Call to Worship

“This I Believe”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“God So Loved”

“Of All the Things About You”

Crosstalk - “Fog On the Causeway”

Offering

“From the Inside Out”

Benediction

“Lifesong”

# Announcements

**Painting Volunteers Needed** Dave Deboer will begin painting the Multipurpose Room tomorrow at 9:00am and is looking for volunteers to help. He will be returning at 6:00pm if anyone would like to help in the evening.

**Church Life** If you have moved or have a new number, please contact the office at 744-1749 to update your information for the Church Life Directory.

## **Children's Church Changes**

*We are starting a new format next Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>*

- ♦ Children will check in as usual then proceed to the Worship Center to begin worship with their parents.
- ♦ After the Congregational Prayer the children will be dismissed to go downstairs to Children's Church

## **Volunteers**

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Service Coffee Server: Mark Gaultney

## **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**

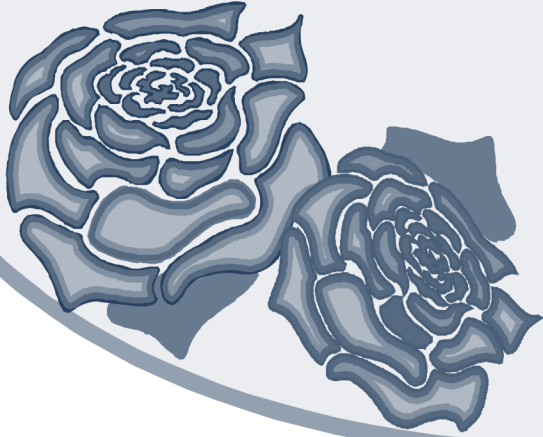
**Vacation Bible School**

**Westshore Christian Academy**

**Safe Harbor Christian Communities**

**Special Senior of the Week:**

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



**Helen  
Powell**

*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*

# 1 Corinthians 13

from [The Message](#)

**13** If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

<sup>2</sup> If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.

<sup>3-7</sup> If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up.

Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

Love doesn't strut,

Doesn't have a swelled head,

Doesn't force itself on others,

Isn't always "me first,"

Doesn't fly off the handle,

Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,

Doesn't revel when others grovel,

Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,

Puts up with anything,

Trusts God always,

Always looks for the best,

Never looks back,

But keeps going to the end.

<sup>8-10</sup> Love never dies. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled.

<sup>12</sup> We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

<sup>13</sup> But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

# Deep Sheet

[a place for your notes, July 23, 2023]

In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul speaks of 3 things that are meaningless without love. What struck you about these 3 things?

Paul also gives a detailed definition of love. Which of his definitions surprised you?

What is the difference between a life of angry pessimism and a life of grateful optimism?

Other Notes:

## July Weekly Bible Readings

Date	Day	New Testament	<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Prayer	Old Testament	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Su	Revelation 18	<input type="checkbox"/>		Isaiah 43	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Mo	Revelation 19	<input type="checkbox"/>		Isaiah 44	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Tu	Revelation 20	<input type="checkbox"/>		Isaiah 45	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	We	Revelation 21	<input type="checkbox"/>		Isaiah 46	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	Th	Revelation 22	<input type="checkbox"/>		Isaiah 47	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	Fr	Matthew 1	<input type="checkbox"/>		Isaiah 48	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	Sa	Matthew 2	<input type="checkbox"/>		Isaiah 49	<input type="checkbox"/>
30	Su	Matthew 3	<input type="checkbox"/>		Isaiah 50	<input type="checkbox"/>

# LAKETON BETHEL REFORMED CHURCH

1568 W. Giles Rd. Muskegon, Mi. 49445

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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