

Sustainable
Encouragement



Laketon Bethel Church

July 30, 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

“Jesus Saves!”

Call to Worship

“Send the Light”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“Heaven Came Down”

“Sunshine In My Soul”

Crosstalk - “Sustainable Encouragement”

Offering

“Here I Am to Worship”

Benediction

“Glory Be to the Father”



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 - “Sustainable Encouragement”

Offering

“Show Me Your Glory”

Benediction

“God Be With You”

Announcements

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 30th

- 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

1st Service Coffee Server: Diane Brantsen

2nd 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

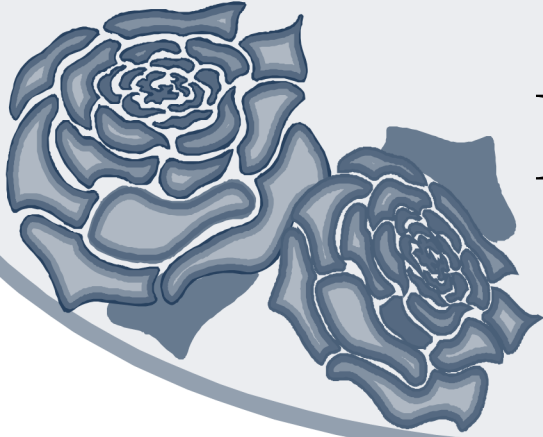
Vacation Bible School

Westshore Christian Academy

Safe Harbor Christian Communities

Special Senior of the Week:

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



**Ardie
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

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

2 Corinthians 4

New Living Translation

4 Therefore, since God in his mercy has given us this new way, we never give up. **2** We reject all shameful deeds and underhanded methods. We don't try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know this.

7 We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

8 We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. **9** We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. **10** Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

16 That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. **17** For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! **18** So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

2 Corinthians 1.4-5

The Message

He comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us.

Deep Sheet

[a place for your notes and other musings]

Where is your greatest need for sustainable encouragement?

When Paul says, “¹⁸ So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever,” what do you suppose he means?

How do you keep yourself encouraged?

Why do you keep yourself encouraged?

What does it mean to “wait upon God?”

Other Notes:

July/August Weekly Bible Readings

Date	Day	New Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special Prayer	Old Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
30	Su	Matthew 3	<input type="checkbox"/>		Isaiah 50	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	Mo	Matthew 4	<input type="checkbox"/>		Isaiah 51	<input type="checkbox"/>
01	Tu	Matthew 5	<input type="checkbox"/>		Isaiah 52	<input type="checkbox"/>
02	We	Matthew 6	<input type="checkbox"/>		Isaiah 53	<input type="checkbox"/>
03	Th	Matthew 7	<input type="checkbox"/>		Isaiah 54	<input type="checkbox"/>
04	Fr	Matthew 8	<input type="checkbox"/>		Isaiah 55	<input type="checkbox"/>
05	Sa	Matthew 9	<input type="checkbox"/>		Isaiah 56	<input type="checkbox"/>
06	Su	Matthew 10	<input type="checkbox"/>		Isaiah 57	<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