



Laketon Bethel Church

August 13, 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.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY



On Sunday, October 1st, following the second service, the Consistory will provide a special meal to kick off our fall festivities.

Tempt your tastebuds with Sherwin's pulled-pork baked potato extravaganza while getting to know Laketon Bethel and what we have to offer.

We will have fun games for the children and youth, as well as families. More information to come.

Be sure to invite your friends!

Order of Worship-9:00am

Gathering Song

“You’re Worthy of My Praise”

Call to Worship

“Praise the Lord, the Almighty”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“Grace Greater than Our Sin”

“Amazing Grace”

Crosstalk - “How to Push Through”

Offering

“As the Deer”

Benediction

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Order of Worship-11:00am

Gathering Song

“Wave on Wave”

Call to Worship

“Your Grace Is Enough”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“Amazing Grace”

“Flawless”

Crosstalk - “How to Push Through”

Offering

“Grace Flows Down”

Benediction

“God Be With You”

Announcements

Senior Ministry Our Senior Ministry currently takes care of the funeral luncheons at our church. We usually report to the church about an hour before the service. We get the lunch in serving bowls and trays, make coffee and punch, cut prepared cakes, and keep everything running smoothly during the luncheon. We then take care of any food left over, do clean-up of our kitchen and undress the tables once the guests have departed. If you are interested in this ministry, you can reach Jill VerHulst at 231-557-8767 or landline 231-744-9795.

Coffee Servers We are in need of volunteers for serving coffee at the second service. If you are interested, please see Tina or call the office at 744-1749.

Food Truck The Food Truck is on Monday, August 14th. We ask all volunteers to please be at the church by 5:00pm.

Children's Church Changes

- ♦ 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.
- ♦ We will have family worship every Communion Sunday.

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

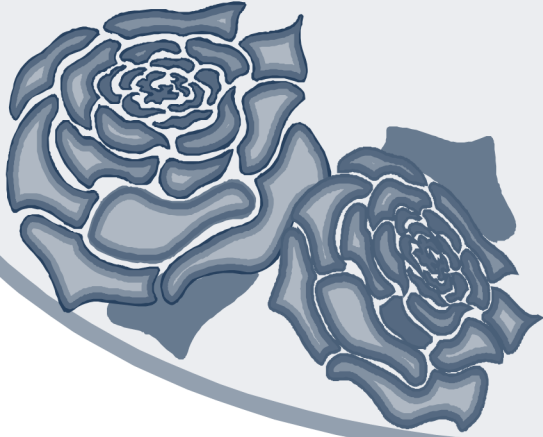
Vacation Bible School

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.*



**Marvin
Wegner**

*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 12.1-10

from The Message

12 ¹⁻⁵ You've forced me to talk this way, and I do it against my better judgment. But now that we're at it, I may as well bring up the matter of visions and revelations that God gave me. For instance, I know a man who, fourteen years ago, was seized by Christ and swept in ecstasy to the heights of heaven. I really don't know if this took place in the body or out of it; only God knows. I also know that this man was hijacked into paradise—again, whether in or out of the body, I don't know; God knows. There he heard the unspeakable spoken, but was forbidden to tell what he heard. This is the man I want to talk about. But about myself, I'm not saying another word apart from the humiliations.

⁶ If I had a mind to brag a little, I could probably do it without looking ridiculous, and I'd still be speaking plain truth all the way. But I'll spare you. I don't want anyone imagining me as anything other than the fool you'd encounter if you saw me on the street or heard me talk.

⁷⁻¹⁰ Because of the extravagance of those revelations, and so I wouldn't get a big head, I was given the gift of a handicap to keep me in constant touch with my limitations. Satan's angel did his best to get me down; what he in fact did was push me to my knees. No danger then of walking around high and mighty! At first I didn't think of it as a gift, and begged God to remove it. Three times I did that, and then he told me,

My grace is enough; it's all you need.

My strength comes into its own in your weakness.

Once I heard that, I was glad to let it happen. I quit focusing on the handicap and began appreciating the gift. It was a case of Christ's strength moving in on my weakness. Now I take limitations in stride, and with good cheer, these limitations that cut me down to size—abuse, accidents, opposition, bad breaks. I just let Christ take over! And so the weaker I get, the stronger I become.

Deep Sheet

[a place for your notes and other musings]

What do you see as your most serious handicap?

Does Paul's being a bit gamey in today's scripture bother you?

How about Paul's description of the gift of a handicap? Have you ever thought of your limitations as a gift?

Is it possible to let undesirable things happen and grow from them?

What do you think when a pastor acknowledges that he is not the best pastor?

Is God's grace sufficient for you?

Other Notes:

August Weekly Bible Readings

Date	Day	New Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special Prayer	Old Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13	Su	Matthew 17	<input type="checkbox"/>		Isaiah 64	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Mo	Matthew 18	<input type="checkbox"/>		Isaiah 65	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Tu	Matthew 19	<input type="checkbox"/>		Isaiah 66	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	We	Matthew 20	<input type="checkbox"/>		Jeremiah 1	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Th	Matthew 21	<input type="checkbox"/>		Jeremiah 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Fr	Matthew 22	<input type="checkbox"/>		Jeremiah 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Sa	Matthew 23	<input type="checkbox"/>		Jeremiah 4	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Su	Matthew 24	<input type="checkbox"/>		Jeremiah 5	<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