



A Herd of Sheeple

Laketon Bethel Church

September 10, 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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

“Redeemed”

Call to Worship

“Rejoice, the Lord is King”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

“”

Crosstalk - “A Herd of Sheeple”

Offering

“Near to the Heart of God”

Benediction

“Make Me a Blessing”

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

Gathering Song

“Good, God Almighty”

Call to Worship

“The Lord’s Prayer”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“Jesus, Draw Me Close”

“10,000 Reasons”

Crosstalk - “A Herd of Sheeple”

Offering

“Word of God Speak”

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.

## **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**

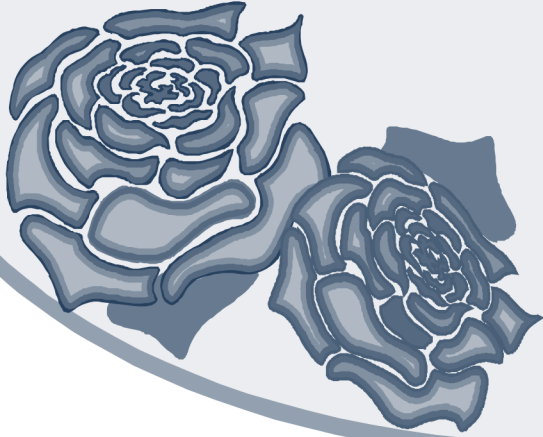
**Westshore Christian Academy**

**Safe Harbor Christian Communities**



**Special Senior of the Week:**

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



**Jackie  
Buck**

*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*

# Bible Readings

## Ephesians 4 from the Message

<sup>17-19</sup> And so I insist—and God backs me up on this—that there be no going along with the crowd, the empty-headed, mindless crowd. They've refused for so long to deal with God that they've lost touch not only with God but with reality itself. They can't think straight anymore. Feeling no pain, they let themselves go in sexual obsession, addicted to every sort of perversion.

<sup>20-24</sup> But that's no life for you. You learned Christ! My assumption is that you have paid careful attention to him, been well instructed in the truth precisely as we have it in Jesus. Since, then, we do not have the excuse of ignorance, everything—and I do mean everything—connected with that old way of life has to go. It's rotten through and through. Get rid of it! And then take on an entirely new way of life—a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you.

<sup>25</sup> What this adds up to, then, is this: no more lies, no more pretense. Tell your neighbor the truth. In Christ's body we're all connected to each other, after all. When you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself.

## Romans 12.2

<sup>2</sup> Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

# Deep Sheet

[a place for your notes and other musings]

*Don't follow the crowd. You can do much better following Christ. Get rid of the moldy oldie way of living for a God-fashioned, much better, life.*

Did you ever buy a “fad” car or smoke cigarettes? Why?

The Message paraphrase describes the crowd as “empty-headed and mindless.” Do you agree?

Can you make all of your words a gift?

Other Notes:

## September Weekly Bible Readings

Date	Day	New Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special Prayer	Old Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	Su	Luke 1			Jeremiah 26	
11	Mo	Luke 2			Jeremiah 27	
12	Tu	Luke 3			Jeremiah 28	
13	We	Luke 4			Jeremiah 29	
14	Th	Luke 5			Jeremiah 30	
15	Fr	Luke 6			Jeremiah 31	
16	Sa	Luke 7			Jeremiah 32	
17	Su	Luke 8			Jeremiah 33	



# 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