

A Flexible Heart



Laketon Bethel Church

October 15, 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.



SO OTHERS CAN EAT FOOD DRIVE

WHO: ALL KIDS OF ALL AGES

WHAT: HAVE CHILDREN DRESSED IN HALLOWEEN COSTUMES TO TRICK OR TREAT WHILE LOOKING AT ALL THE COOL DECORATED TRUNKS.

WE WILL ALSO HAVE A FUN SCAVENGER HUNT, HOT DOGS AND POPCORN.

WHEN: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29TH, 3:00-4:30 PM

WHERE: LAKETON BETHEL CHURCH

1568 W. GILES RD.

WHY: WE ARE COLLECTING NON-PERISHABLES TO STOCK OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES. THESE COLLECTED ITEMS ARE YOUR "TICKET IN" TO HAVE A BLAST!

WE NEED LOTS OF CANDY AND DECORATED TRUNKS FOR THIS COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICE OPPORTUNITY!

Order of Worship-9:00am

Gathering Song

“You’re Worthy of My Praise”

Call to Worship

“We Have Come Into His House”

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“I Then Shall Live”

“Make Me a Blessing”

Crosstalk - “A Flexible Heart”

Offering

“Word of God Speak”

Benediction

“Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated”

Order of Worship-11:00am

Gathering Song

“This is God”

Call to Worship

“Here & Now”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“Waiting Here For You”

“King of My Heart”

Crosstalk - “A Flexible Heart”

Offering

“So Will I”

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.

Volunteers

1st Service Coffee Server: Kathy Young

2nd Service Coffee Server: Jim Hanley & Theresa Hanley

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

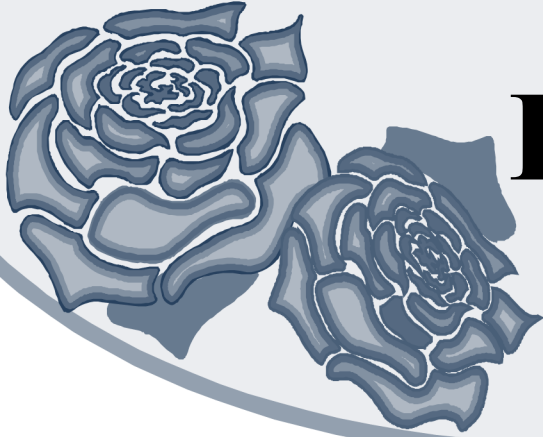
Vacation Bible School

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.*



**Jim
Hoekzema**

*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

Matthew 12 from [The Message](#)

¹⁻² One Sabbath, Jesus was strolling with his disciples through a field of ripe grain. Hungry, the disciples were pulling off the heads of grain and munching on them. Some Pharisees reported them to Jesus: “Your disciples are breaking the Sabbath rules!”

³⁻⁵ Jesus said, “Really? Didn’t you ever read what David and his companions did when they were hungry, how they entered the sanctuary and ate fresh bread off the altar, bread that no one but priests were allowed to eat? And didn’t you ever read in God’s Law that priests carrying out their Temple duties break Sabbath rules all the time and it’s not held against them?”

⁶⁻⁸ “There is far more at stake here than religion. If you had any idea what this Scripture meant—‘I prefer a flexible heart to an inflexible ritual’—you wouldn’t be nitpicking like this. The Son of Man is no yes-man to the Sabbath; he’s in charge.”

⁹⁻¹⁰ When Jesus left the field, he entered their meeting place. There was a man there with a crippled hand. They said to Jesus, “Is it legal to heal on the Sabbath?” They were baiting him.

¹¹⁻¹⁴ He replied, “Is there a person here who, finding one of your lambs fallen into a ravine, wouldn’t, even though it was a Sabbath, pull it out? Surely kindness to people is as legal as kindness to animals!” Then he said to the man, “Hold out your hand.” He held it out and it was healed. The Pharisees walked out furious, sputtering about how they were going to ruin Jesus.

Hosea 6.6, [New Living Translation](#)

I want you to show love,
not offer sacrifices.

I want you to know me
more than I want burnt offerings.

Deep Sheet

[a place for your notes]

“I teach the Bible and then let folks apply it as they will without judgement.” Is this a good policy?

What does the statement, “I prefer a flexible heart to an inflexible ritual” tell you about Jesus?

How does Hosea foreshadow Jesus?

“When God speaks of a ‘new’ covenant, it means he has made the first one obsolete. It is now out of date and will soon disappear.” [Hebrews 8.13]. What does this verse mean to you?

Other Notes:

September Weekly Bible Readings

Date	Day	New Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special Prayer	Old Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
15	Su	John 12	<input type="checkbox"/>		Ezekiel 4	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Mo	John 13	<input type="checkbox"/>		Ezekiel 5	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Tu	John 14	<input type="checkbox"/>		Ezekiel 6	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	We	John 15	<input type="checkbox"/>		Ezekiel 7	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Th	John 16	<input type="checkbox"/>		Ezekiel 8	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Fr	John 17	<input type="checkbox"/>		Ezekiel 9	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Sa	John 18	<input type="checkbox"/>		Ezekiel 10	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Su	John 19	<input type="checkbox"/>		Ezekiel 11	<input type="checkbox"/>

LAKETON BETHEL REFORMED CHURCH

1568 W. Giles Rd. Muskegon, Mi. 49445

Ph. #744-1749 Fax #744-2848

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