## 2 Kings 5

From “The Message” (paraphrase)

**5** 1-3 Naaman was general of the army under the king of Aram. He was important to his master, who held him in the highest esteem because it was by him that God had given victory to Aram: a truly great man, but afflicted with a grievous skin disease. It so happened that Aram, on one of its raiding expeditions against Israel, captured a young girl who became a maid to Naaman’s wife. One day she said to her mistress, “Oh, if only my master could meet the prophet of Samaria, he would be healed of his skin disease.”

4 Naaman went straight to his master and reported what the girl from Israel had said.

5 “Well then, go,” said the king of Aram. “And I’ll send a letter of introduction to the king of Israel.”

So he went off, taking with him about 750 pounds of silver, 150 pounds of gold, and ten sets of clothes.

6 Naaman delivered the letter to the king of Israel. The letter read, “When you get this letter, you’ll know that I’ve personally sent my servant Naaman to you; heal him of his skin disease.”

7 When the king of Israel read the letter, he was terribly upset, ripping his robe to pieces. He said, “Am I a god with the power to bring death or life that I get orders to heal this man from his disease? What’s going on here? That king’s trying to pick a fight, that’s what!”

8 Elisha the man of God heard what had happened, that the king of Israel was so distressed that he’d ripped his robe to shreds. He sent word to the king, “Why are you so upset, ripping your robe like this? Send him to me so he’ll learn that there’s a prophet in Israel.”

9 So Naaman with his horses and chariots arrived in style and stopped at Elisha’s door.

10 Elisha sent out a servant to meet him with this message: “Go to the River Jordan and immerse yourself seven times. Your skin will be healed and you’ll be as good as new.”

11-12 Naaman lost his temper. He spun around saying, “I thought he’d personally come out and meet me, call on the name of God, wave his hand over the diseased spot, and get rid of the disease. The Damascus rivers, Abana and Pharpar, are cleaner by far than any of the rivers in Israel. Why not bathe in them? I’d at least get clean.” He stomped off, mad as a hornet.

13 But his servants caught up with him and said, “Father, if the prophet had asked you to do something hard and heroic, wouldn’t you have done it? So why not this simple ‘wash and be clean’?” →

14 So he did it. He went down and immersed himself in the Jordan seven times, following the orders of the Holy Man. His skin was healed; it was like the skin of a little baby. He was as good as new.

15 He then went back to the Holy Man, he and his entourage, stood before him, and said, “I now know beyond a shadow of a doubt that there is no God anywhere on earth other than the God of Israel. In gratitude let me give you a gift.”

16 “As God lives,” Elisha replied, “the God whom I serve, I’ll take nothing from you.” Naaman tried his best to get him to take something, but he wouldn’t do it.

17-18 “If you won’t take anything,” said Naaman, “let me ask you for something: Give me a load of dirt, as much as a team of donkeys can carry, because I’m never again going to worship any god other than God. But there’s one thing for which I need God’s pardon: When my master, leaning on my arm, enters the shrine of Rimmon and worships there, and I’m with him there, worshiping Rimmon, may you see to it that God forgive me for this.”

19-21 Elisha said, “Everything will be all right. Go in peace.”

But he hadn’t gone far when Gehazi, servant to Elisha the Holy Man, said to himself, “My master has let this Aramean Naaman slip through his fingers without so much as a thank-you. By the living God, I’m going after him to get something or other from him!” And Gehazi took off after Naaman.

Naaman saw him running after him and jumped down from his chariot to greet him, “Is something wrong?”

22 “Nothing’s wrong, but something’s come up. My master sent me to tell you: ‘Two young men just showed up from the hill country of Ephraim, brothers from the guild of the prophets. Supply their needs with a gift of 75 pounds of silver and a couple of sets of clothes.’”

23 Naaman said, “Of course, how about 150 pounds?” Naaman insisted. He tied up the money in two sacks and gave him the two sets of clothes; he even gave him two servants to carry the gifts back with him.

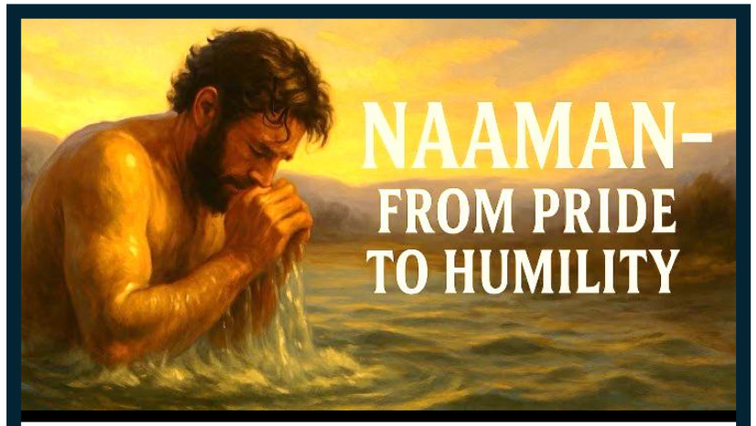
24 When they got to the fort on the hill, Gehazi took the gifts from the servants, stored them inside, then sent the servants back.

25 He returned and stood before his master. Elisha said, “So what have you been up to, Gehazi?”

“Nothing much,” he said.

26-27 Elisha said, “Didn’t you know I was with you in spirit when that man stepped down from his chariot to greet you? Tell me, is this a time to look after yourself, lining your pockets with gifts? Naaman’s skin disease will now infect you and your family, with no relief in sight.”

Gehazi walked away, his skin flaky and white like snow.




November 8, 2026

# 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.

**LAKETON BETHEL REFORMED CHURCH**
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*Ph.#744-1749*
*Pastor - Dr. Sherwin Brantsen: drbrantsen@gmail.com*
*Website address: laketonbethel.org & e-mail: lbrcoffice@gmail.com*
*Office Hours Tues.- Fri. 9am - 1pm*

## Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendars!

Today: Parents' Pause
November 9: Food Truck
November 11: Supper House
November 11 & 18: Sherwin's Bible Study
November 22: Breakfast Fundraiser

## Sherwin's Bible Study "After Before"

Sherwin is leading a new Wednesday Bible Study. We are spending the first 15 minutes discussing the passages used the previous Sunday. Then, for the rest of the time, we will dig into the passage for the upcoming Sunday. Hence, **"After Before."** Pizza at 6pm followed by the Study. ***Please sign up in the entryway.***

| date | after | before |
|---|---|---|
| 11.11 | 2 Kings 5.1-15, Matthew 8.2-3 | Micah [1.3-5]; 5.2-5; 6.6-8. Matthew 9.13. |
| 11.18 | Micah [1.3-5]; 5.2-5; 6.6-8. Matthew 9.13. | Isaiah 36.1-3, 13-20; 37.1-7; 2.1-4. Matthew 5.14 |

## Special Senior: Ardie Pulsipher

*Please sign the card located on the table in the entryway*

## November Weekly Bible Readings

| Date | Day | New Testament | ☑ | Special Prayer | Old Testament | ☑ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | Su | 2 Corinthians 11 | | | Exodus 18 | |
| 9 | Mo | 2 Corinthians 12 | | | Exodus 19 | |
| 10 | Tu | 2 Corinthians 13 | | | Exodus 20 | |
| 11 | We | Galatians 1 | | | Exodus 21 | |
| 12 | Th | Galatians 2 | | | Exodus 22 | |
| 13 | Fr | Galatians 3 | | | Exodus 23 | |
| 14 | Sa | Galatians 4 | | | Exodus 24 | |
| 15 | Su | Galatians 5 | | | Exodus 25 | |

## Today's Volunteers

**1st Service Coffee Server:** Ron & Connie Maciejewski
**2nd Service Coffee Server:** Theresa & Jim Hanley
**1st Service Nursery:** Connie Reahm
**2nd Service Nursery:** Ashley Aerts

## Announcements

**Parents' Pause** ***Kids Play. Parents Breathe.***
A free babysitting event hosted by Laketon Bethel Students! TODAY from 12:30–3:00pm. Ages 0 – 10 years old. Please sign up in the entryway.

**Food Truck** The Food Truck will be here tomorrow, we ask that all volunteers be here by 5pm.

**Breakfast Fundraiser** The Men's Group is having a breakfast following both services on November 22nd. They will be serving scrambled eggs, sausage and hash browns. No charge, but your donations will go toward the wall repairs and would be greatly appreciated.

**Hearing Impaired Loop** If you are hearing impaired and use the Loop from the sound booth, it will be out of service during the repairs of the wall.

## Service Opportunities

**Supper House** If you would like to volunteer to serve a meal at Temple United Methodist Church this Wednesday, please be there by 2:45pm. ***Also, Supper House is collecting Christmas bags to give out on December 12th. Bags for men, women and kids. Each bag contains gloves, socks, and a stocking hat; the women's bag will also include a scarf. There is a sign-up sheet in the entryway if you wish to donate. See Dave DeBoer for more information.***

**Coffee Servers** We could use a few more people to serve coffee and cookies for both services. If you are interested, call the office at 231-744-1749 or send an email to lbrcoffice@gmail.com.

**Sacred Suds (Helping Every Living Person Survive)**
With the colder weather, sweatshirts and pants, long sleeve shirts, sweaters and winter gear will be appreciated. The usual needs are towels, hygiene products, laundry detergent. ***Current special needs: blankets, sleeping bags, tents, socks, underwear, belts.***

## Order of Worship - 9:00am

**(Songs with #'s can be found in the Hymnal under the chairs)**

Gathering Song
"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"
Call to Worship
"Stand Up and Bless the Lord *#54*"
Welcome & Announcements
Congregational Prayer
Worship in Song
"Be Still and Know *#630*"
"'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus *#560*"
Crosstalk – "Elisha Heals Naaman"
Offering
"Breathe / He's All I Need"
Benediction
"Make Me a Blessing *#533*"

## Order of Worship - 11:00am

Gathering Song
"This I Believe"
Call to Worship
"This Is Our God"
Welcome & Announcements
Congregational Prayer
Worship in Song
"Holy Forever"
"Holy, Holy, Holy"
"Revelation Song"
Crosstalk - "Elisha Heals Naaman"
Offering
"Goodness of God"
Benediction
"God Be With You"