

**NOT GUILTY**

Laketon Bethel Church

December 1, 2024

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

“Noel”

Call to Worship

“Celebrate Immanuel’s Name”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

“O Come Let Us Adore Him”

Crosstalk - “Not Guilty”

Communion

“I Wonder As I Wander”

“What Child Is This?”

Offering

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Benediction

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”



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

Gathering Song

“He Shall Be Called”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

“Kings of Kings”

“What a Beautiful Name/Agnus Dei”

Crosstalk - “Not Guilty”

Communion

“Away in a Manger”

“Grace Flows Down”

Offering

“O Come O Come Emmanuel”

Benediction

“It’s Christmas”

# Announcements

**Informational Meeting** Can we help you save on your taxes? Have you ever wondered about the different options to give at church? Need help selling stock that you want to donate? What does tithing mean to you and your church? We have an informational meeting that will discuss this, giving habits and goals you can set. This is informational only, just for you and will only provide tips and answer questions. A no pressure event! A Financial Advisor will also be present and be available to answer questions for you! The meeting will be Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm here at church. For any questions, please see Dave DeBoer or Ed Luzadder.

**Jr.&HS Youth Group** Students 6<sup>th</sup> grade - 12<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to come. We meet TODAY 24<sup>th</sup> to do Christmas card decorating. Join us 5:00pm-7:00pm for dinner, a lesson and lots of fun. For questions, please see John or Ashley Wierenga.

**Jr. High J.A.M.** Students in grades 6<sup>th</sup> and up are welcome to enjoy a lesson during the Crosstalk in the Parlor the second and fourth Sunday of the month.

**Jr.&HS Youth Group** Students 6<sup>th</sup> grade - 12<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to come. We meet next on December 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00pm. We are going caroling and invite anyone interested to join us.

We will have our Christmas celebration on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5:00-8:00pm. We ask that you please bring a dish to pass and a White Elephant gift with a maximum of \$5. For questions, please see John or Ashley Wierenga.

## Service Opportunities

### Winter Gear and Blanket Drive

We are collecting gently used coats, gloves, scarves, and blankets for our community members in need. There are bins in the entryway for your donations.

## Volunteers

**1<sup>st</sup> Service Coffee Server:** Diane Brantsen

**2<sup>nd</sup> Service Coffee Server:** Jim Hanley & Theresa Schiltz

**1<sup>st</sup> Service Nursery:** Amy Kunnen

**2<sup>nd</sup> Service Nursery:** Hillary Crandall & Emily Kendall

## Children's Church Christmas Show

The kids will give an excellent performance on Sunday, December 8th for both services. Be sure to invite family and friends!

Parents: rehearsal will be December 1st following the second service in the Sanctuary. The children earned a delicious brunch cooked by Mia to be enjoyed during the Second Service in Children's Church the day of rehearsal.



## Children & Youth News



### *LBC Children's Church*

The new class year has begun, and we would like to have new registrations for each child. You can register online at [laketonbethel.org](http://laketonbethel.org) or stop at the check-in station to pick up a form.

Grades Preschool – 5 and Nursery

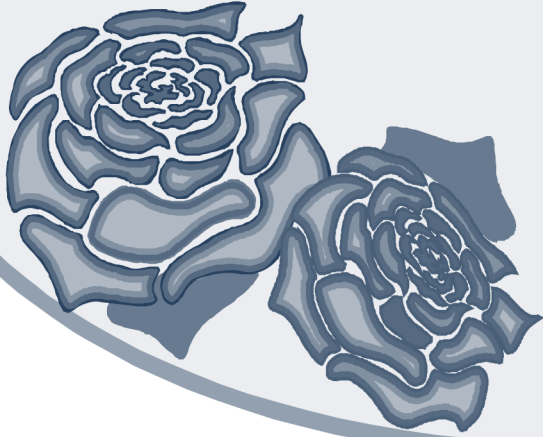


### *Laketon Bethel Youth Group*

Students 6<sup>th</sup> grade - 12<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to come. We meet on the 24<sup>th</sup> to do Christmas card decorating. Join us 5:00pm-7:00pm for dinner, a lesson and lots of fun. For questions, please see John or Ashley Wierenga.

## **Special Senior of the Week:**

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



# **Donna Doctor**

*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*

*Aaron Rop*

*Gary Samples*

*Joe Shavalier*

*Larry Shavaler*

*Ida Shealy*

*Sandy Streeter*

*Kathy Tabor*

*Inga Weavers*

# Romans 3

## New Living Translation

<sup>22</sup>We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

<sup>23</sup>For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. <sup>24</sup>Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. <sup>25</sup>For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, <sup>26</sup>for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. <sup>28</sup>So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.

# Deep Sheet

## A Place for Your Notes

When you feel guilty, what are you feeling guilty about?

Where does guilt come from?

What does it mean to be acquitted?

What does it mean to be freed from the snake?

Other notes:

## December Weekly Bible Readings

Date	Day	New Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special Prayer	Old Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
01	Su	1 John 3			2 Samuel 23	
02	Mo	1 John 4			2 Samuel 24	
03	Tu	1 John 5			1 Kings 1	
04	We	2 John			1 Kings 2	
05	Th	3 John 3			1 Kings 3	
06	Fr	Jude			1 Kings 4	
07	Sa	Revelation 1			1 Kings 5	
08	Su	Revelation 2			1 Kings 6	



# **LAKETON BETHEL REFORMED CHURCH**

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**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**

Joel Ortquist, Dave DeBoer, Jeff Hooker,  
Mike Lyons, Steve Mussman, Paula Scott-  
Stewart, Donna Spytma, Heather Wilke

### **Deacons**

Brent Ackerman, Kristie Hall, Kathy Forrester,  
Jill Mouw, Doug Lubbers, Kris Meyers,  
Jerry Vos, Diana Wagbo