



GROWING IN THE DARK

Laketon Bethel Church

December 2, 2018

Dr. Sherwin Brantsen

THE PURPOSE OF LAKETON BETHEL: *To Know Christ and Make Him Known*

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 Bible is the final authority for faith and practice. We will study it 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.

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 – 9:00 SERVICE

Worship in Song

Responsive Reading #158

Hymn #162 - “Celebrate Immanuel’s Name”

Communion

Hymn #343 - “Just As I Am”

Hymn #748 - “Let Us Break Bread Together”

Hymn #341 - “This Is Thy Will, I Know”

Tithes and Offerings – Special Music

Crosstalk: “Growing in the Dark”

Benediction

Hymn #157 - “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”



ORDER OF WORSHIP – 11:00 SERVICE

Worship in Song

“Here is Our King”

“He Shall be Called”

“What a Beautiful Name”

Communion

“To the Table”

Tithes and Offerings - “Glory in the Highest”

Crosstalk: “Growing in the Dark”

Benediction

“Here Is Our King”

Join us in the gym for coffee and cookies as a time of fellowship.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Children's Church - Preschool thru 5th Grade:

- ◇ Bible Passage: Genesis 32-33
- ◇ Bible Story: God changed Jacob's name to Israel, the name of God's covenant people.
- ◇ Bible Point: God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.
- ◇ *For any questions please contact Mike Lyons at 231-744-8389.*



**Each Communion Sunday, students will sit with their families
for Family Worship.**

**For more information for our Children's Church and Youth
Connections, please call the office at 231-744-1749.**

SMALL GROUPS

BIBLE STUDY - Women

Leader: Maureen Mussman 231-894-8010

We meet Thursday evenings at 7:00 at the church. We are studying the book titled, "Proverbs & Parables: God's Wisdom for Living" by Dee Brestin. This study parallels the truths of Old Testament proverbs with New Testament parables and applies them to contemporary living.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Leader: Kelly Curow 231-740-3716

This is a 13-week class beginning Thursday, October 4th 5:30-7:30Pm. Financial Peace University will help you take control of your money, plan for your future, and transform your life.

THE CLEAN AND FIX CREW

Leader: Vicky Wierengo 231-719-0857

We would like to encourage you to join in the fun of serving the Lord and forming new friendships along the way. Although we are working, we are doing it together with smiles and laughter. Our next meeting dates are Monday, October 15 and 29, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Please join us for fun and fellowship!

COUPLES SMALL GROUP

Leader: Steve & Maureen Mussman 231-894-8010

Meets once a month, usually on a Saturday. Time and date vary. We have fun doing a variety of activities.

MISSIONS

Leader: Dave DeBoer 231-828-4494

We meet the second Monday of each month. The Missions Group would like to thank everyone for their hygiene donations. We have served over 450 people and will continue to collect donations.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRL'S GROUP

Leader: Stefanie Sweany 231-719-2252

6th-8th grade girls, this group is for you. We will meet for fun, food, games, and discussions about topics affecting you. Please see Stefanie Sweany for a handout with more information. Spread the word and invite your friends!

DECOLORES REUNION GROUP

Leaders: Tim & Misty Sikkenga 231-747-6530

If you have attended any type of DeColores weekend in the past, we invite you to come to our next meeting on September 12th at 7:00pm. If you are interested in more information, please contact Tim or Misty Sikkenga.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senior Ministries Christmas Dinner & Program

All those who are 60 and older are invited to a delicious Christmas dinner with a Christmas program to follow on Thursday, December 6th at 5:30. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to the office at 744-1749.

Youth Group Meetings 6th-12th grade students are invited to join us on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 4:30-6:30pm here at LBC. Mark your calendars and bring a friend for the following dates: December 2nd and 16th. **Craft and Story Nights:** December 5th and 12th from 6-8pm, all Pre-school through 6th grade children are invited to make Christmas crafts and hear a story. These event nights will take place downstairs in the classrooms and hopefully provides our parents with some additional time for Christmas shopping.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Secret Santa The Senior Ministry is in need of Christmas gifts for Moms and Dads for our Secret Santa when the preschoolers come in. We are mostly in need of Dad's gifts. The preschoolers will be coming in on December 11th and 12th.

Missions Ministry We will continue to collect hygiene products and winter clothing. We will also be serving dinner on Wednesday, December 12th at the Supper House. We appreciate any donations of baked goods which we will collect through December 9th. We are always looking for more people to join our team! If interested call Dawn at 683-0829.

Senior Connections Our next meeting is December 30th in the Parlor at 10:00am. The mission is to keep our senior and homebound members connected to God and to Laketon Bethel. If interested, please join us at the meeting or call Gay at 343-0898 or Joann at 327-2785.

Food Truck The next Food Truck is December 17th. We ask that all volunteers to please be here at church no later than 5:30pm. If you have any questions, please see John Wilke or Rick Anderson after the service.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

The Small Groups Ministry Team wants to help everyone at Laketon Bethel find and be a part of an active small group. We believe small groups are the key to connecting in a biblical way with other members at Laketon Bethel. A small group provides healthy fellowship in a community marked by Christian love and oneness. Small groups can help you to grow as a Christian, including helping you discover and learn to use your spiritual gifts. Be sure to check out our current small groups found in the back of the worship center seats.

Adopt a Family

FOR CHRISTMAS

Our Christmas Giving Tree is now up in the welcome area. Each tag represents a child who lives in the Reeths-Puffer, North Muskegon or Holton area. As you know, there are many families who are living on tight budgets and need our help to make Christmas a little brighter for their kids.

Please remember to:

- Buy only one or two gifts per tag. Gift cards make great gifts for students 12 years and older.
- Return your wrapped gift with the original tag by Sunday, December 9th.
- Giving envelopes are also available for those who prefer to give money donations. We will do the shopping for you! Please put your donation in the offering plate.
- If your family is struggling to make ends meet this year and would like to be included, please call the office for a confidential referral.



Special Senior of the Week:

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



Minnie Buter

*Please remember in prayer our friends who are
battling long-term illnesses:*

Ellie Anderson

Donald Bayne

Jana Belladone

Betty Bonneville

Larry Budreau

Patti Buurma

Craig Carlson

Amy Fredericks

Jacob Geers

Bob Hanson

Scott Hladki

Debbie LeMieux

Avery Lynn

J.T. Maskell

Tom McKee Sr.

Patti Mercer

Paul Ortquist

Jane Peterman

Lynn Pluger

Shirly Pummell

Aaron Rop

Gary Samples

Joe Shavalier

Patti Shavalier

Ida Shealy

Dale Sherburn

Sandy Streeter

Kathy Tabor

Inga Weavers

Marv Wegner

HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS

THIS SUNDAY - December 2

9:00am Coffee Servers: Tom & Pat Peterson

11:00am Coffee Servers: Diane Brantsen & Family

9:00am Greeters: Carl & Alice Babinec

11:00am Greeters: Deacons

NEXT SUNDAY - December 9

9:00am Coffee Servers: Jeff March

11:00am Coffee Servers: Ed & Kay Kawaleski

9:00am Greeters: Terry & Amy Kunnen

11:00am Greeters: Mike & Terri Forward



NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

THIS SUNDAY - December 2

Nursery: (1) Adonica Kunnen

Nursery: (2) Amy Kunnen & Girls, Holly Morrall

Children's Church Greeter: Sally Hendrixon

NEXT SUNDAY - December 9

Nursery: (1) Nick & Jacquie Kunnen

Nursery: (2) Laura & Avery Moat, Kelly & Anna Toebe

Children's Church Greeter: Sally Hendrixon

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

***Senior Connections**

***Children's Ministry**

***Food Truck Ministry**

***Greeter/Coffee Server**

***Senior Ministry**

***Music Ministry**

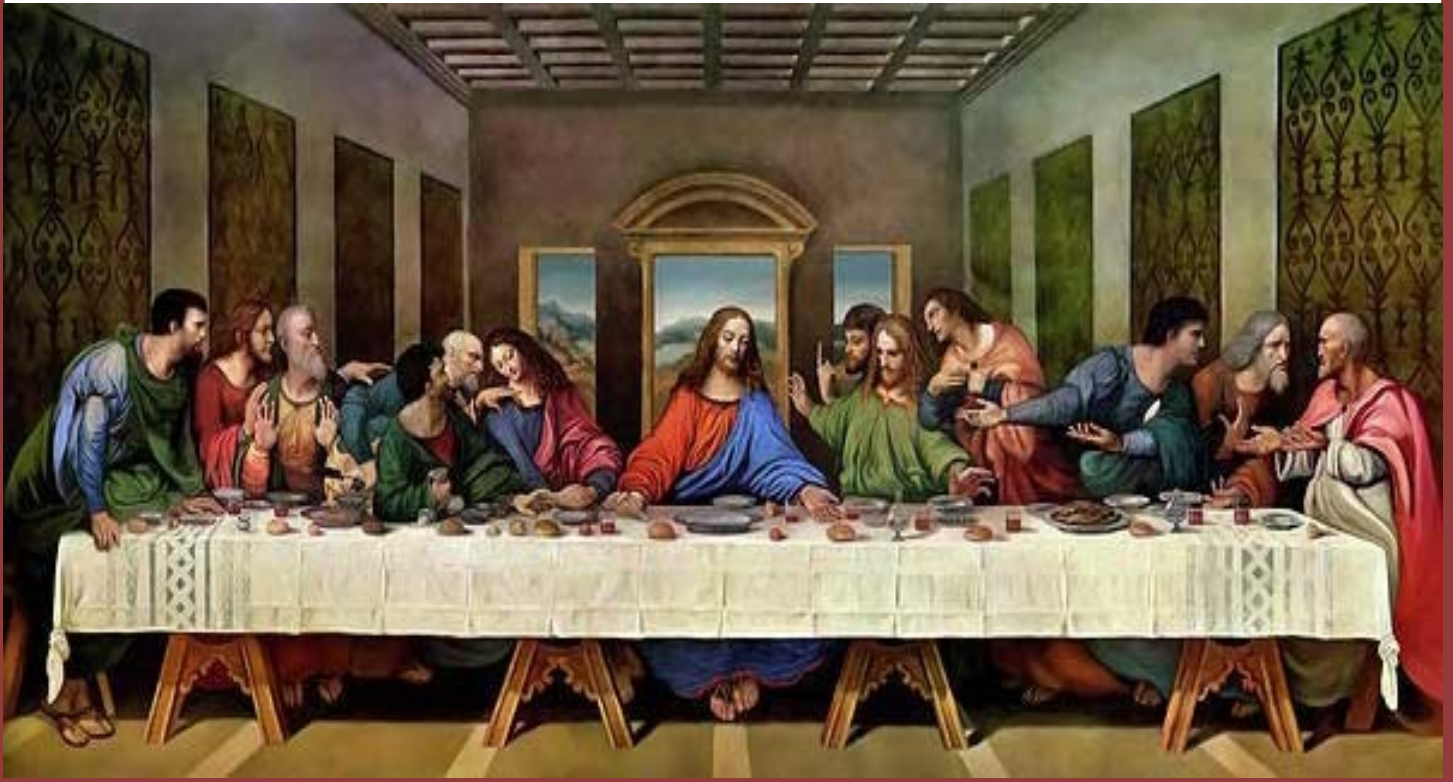
***Meal Ministry**

***Jr./Sr. High Ministry**

***Prayer Warrior**

***Nursery**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is celebrated on the first Sunday in February, April, June, August, October, and December.



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: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday

Pastor – Dr. Sherwin Brantsen (drbrantsen@gmail.com)

Director of Operations – Gary Gifford (garygifford4@gmail.com)

WORSHIP

Worship Team Leader for 9:00 Service – Jan Reahm

Worship Team Leader for 11:00 Service – Shelly Deblock

Technical Support Team Leader - Scott Johnson

Accompanist for 9:00 Service - Shelly Deblock

EDUCATION

Nursery Team Leader – Joann Petroski

Children’s Church & Youth Director - Mike Lyons

Greet Squad Leader - Sally Hendrixon

ADMINISTRATION

Secretary – Tina Dadd

Administrative Assistant - Joann Petroski

Bookkeeper – Pat Peterson

Janitor - Bill Feigert

OUR VOLUNTEER LEADERS

Senior Ministries Team Leader – Jill VerHulst

Food Truck Team Leader – John Wilke

Prayer Warrior Team Leader – Tina Dadd

Senior Connections Team Leaders– Gay Hudson & Joann Petroski

Community Backpack Program Leader - Tami Jahnke

OUR CONSISTORY

Elders

Bob Buwalda, Lucy Hughes, Amy Kunnen,
Ed Luzadder, Donna Splytma, Louanne Utzinger,
John Wilke, Ron Zant

Deacons

Kathy Andrews, Kyle Bogner,
Nancy Crider, Larry Cone,
Kathy Forrester, Alex Lassow,
Mary Salter, Kathy Young

Growing in the Dark

Mark 4.26-29

Questions for Reflection:

1. Often in dark times, we have to dig for the treasures. It takes extra effort, but it also requires support. Who has come alongside you to help and hold you through a difficult season? Why do you think they made that choice?

2. Psalm 23.4 says: “Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.” This well-known verse teaches us that God is with us even when we’re “walking through the dark valley of death.” What testimony do you have of God’s presence during a dark time?

Notes:

December Daily Bible Readings

Date	Day	New Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special Prayer	Old Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
02	Su	Romans 5			Amos 7	
03	Mo	Romans 6			Amos 8	
04	Tu	Romans 7			Amos 9	
05	We	Romans 8			Jonah 1	
06	Th	Romans 9			Jonah 2	
07	Fr	Romans 10			Jonah 3	
08	Sa	Romans 11			Jonah 4	
09	Su	Romans 12			Micah 1	