

Barbequed  
Beef from  
God



Laketon Bethel Church

December 3, 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.

## **Order of Worship-9:00am**

Gathering Song

“Noel”

Communion

“I Wonder As I Wander”

“What Child Is This?”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

*1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent Reading*

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

“O Come Let Us Adore Him”

Crosstalk - “Barbequed Beef From God”

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”

Communion

“Away in a Manger”

“Grace Flows Down”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

*1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent Reading*

“King of Kings”

“What a Beautiful Name/Agnus Dei”

Crosstalk - “Barbequed Beef From God”

Offering

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Benediction

“It’s Christmas”

# Announcements

**Food Truck** The Food Truck is tomorrow and we ask that all volunteers please be at the church at 5:00pm. For any questions, please see Jill Mouw.

**Bible Study** Sherwin's Jeremiah Bible Study is on Wednesdays 6:00pm for pizza and the study starting at 6:30pm. There will be a 6-week break for the holidays and reconvening on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. Please sign up on the sheet located in the entryway.

**Children's Church** On December 10<sup>th</sup> we will have our Christmas program. The children practice each week at 11:00am. On Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the kids will have practice in the sanctuary following the second service.

## Service Opportunities

**Santa Secret Shop** Once again this year we will be hosting Santa Secret Shop for the Head Start Students at McMillan Elementary. We are in need of mom and dad gifts for the students to choose from. If you have any new or gently used items that you are willing to donate for this great project please bring them by December 10<sup>th</sup>. We will have a box by the Hand2Hand table for you to place them in. Please remember that these are going to 4-year-old children to take home on the bus in their backpack, so please no large items. We will be hosting these children on December 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> in the morning. We have a sign up sheet at the Hand2Hand table if you are interested in helping with this great project.

## Volunteers

1<sup>st</sup> Service Coffee Server: Ron & Connie Maciejewski

2<sup>nd</sup> Service Coffee Server: Steve & Maureen Mussman

**KEEP OUR COMMUNITY WARM THIS WINTER**



**DONATE WINTER CLOTHING!**

We are accepting *gently used* winter gear and coats.

The community needs are hats, gloves/mittens, scarves, boots, coats, snowpants and warm socks.

All donations will go to Westshore Christian Academy.

# Adopt-a-Family

Our Christmas Adopt-a-Family tree is up and loaded with gift ideas for some of our needful north side kids!

All of these children attend Reeths-Puffer or North Muskegon schools so your gifts stay local.

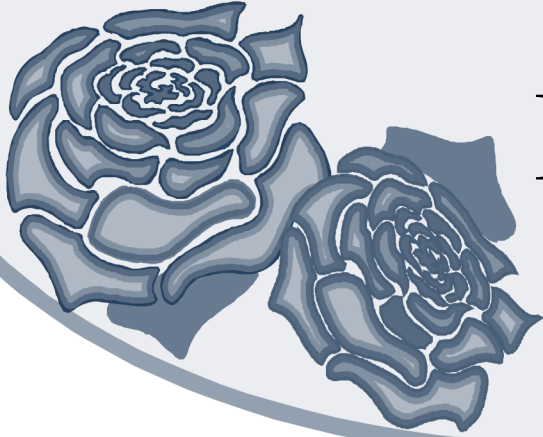
Please stop by and take a tag and return your wrapped gift (with the tag attached) to the church by December 10<sup>th</sup>. If you are able to purchase more than one gift, please take another tag, as we request just one gift per tag.

If you prefer to make a financial donation and let us do the shopping, there are envelopes available on the tree that can be placed in the collection plate. Keep in mind that gift cards make great gifts for those 10 and over!



**Special Senior of the Week:**

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



**Ardie  
Pulsipher**

*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*

# The Prodigal Son

*From Luke 15, The Message*

<sup>11-12</sup> Then he said, “There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, ‘Father, I want right now what’s coming to me.’

<sup>12-16</sup> “So the father divided the property between them. It wasn’t long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to feel it. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corn-cobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any.

<sup>17-20</sup> “That brought him to his senses. He said, ‘All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I’m going back to my father. I’ll say to him, Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.’ He got right up and went home to his father.

<sup>20-21</sup> “When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech: ‘Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son ever again.’

<sup>22-24</sup> “But the father wasn’t listening. He was calling to the servants, ‘Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a prize-winning heifer and roast it. We’re going to feast! We’re going to have a wonderful time! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!’ And they began to have a wonderful time.

<sup>25-27</sup> “All this time his older son was out in the field. When the day’s work was done he came in. As he approached the house, he heard the music and dancing. Calling over one of the houseboys, he asked what was going on. He told him, ‘Your brother came home. Your father has ordered a feast—barbecued beef!—because he has him home safe and sound.’

<sup>28-30</sup> “The older brother stomped off in an angry sulk and refused to join in. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn’t listen. The son said, ‘Look how many years I’ve stayed here serving you, never giving you one moment of grief, but have you ever thrown a party for me and my friends? Then this son of yours who has thrown away your money on whores shows up and you go all out with a feast!’

<sup>31-32</sup> “His father said, ‘Son, you don’t understand. You’re with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he’s alive! He was lost, and he’s found!’”



# Deep Sheet

[a place for your notes]

What are the most common “wrong paths” people go down these days?

How would you respond if one of your kids asked for an advance on his/her inheritance?

What is the antonym for “prodigal?”

Which son do you identify with?

Other Notes:

## December Weekly Bible Readings

Date	Day	New Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special Prayer	Old Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
03	Su	Romans 12			Daniel 5	
04	Mo	Romans 13			Daniel 6	
05	Tu	Romans 14			Daniel 7	
06	We	Romans 15			Daniel 8	
07	Th	Romans 16			Daniel 9	
08	Fr	1 Corinthians 1			Daniel 10	
09	Sa	1 Corinthians 2			Daniel 11	
10	Su	1 Corinthians 3			Daniel 12	

# 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