



No Critics for Christmas

Laketon Bethel Church

December 4, 2022

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

“Like Shepherds and Wise Men Do”

Call to Worship

Advent Reading and Candle

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“Silent Night! Holy Night!”

“The First Noel”

Crosstalk - “No Critics at Christmas”

Communion

“Away In a Manger”

“Child in the Manger”

Offering

“There Is a Peace”

Benediction

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Order of Worship-11:00am

Call to Worship

“Angels From the Realms of Glory/Hosanna”

Welcome & Announcements

Reception of New Members

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“Glory in the Highest”

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Crosstalk - “No Critics at Christmas”

Communion

“Away in a Manger”

“Grace Flows Down”

Offering

“Bow Down/O Come Let Us Adore Him”

Benediction

“O Come Let Us Adore Him”

All are welcome to join us for our
Children's Christmas Program
on December 11th at 11:00am.

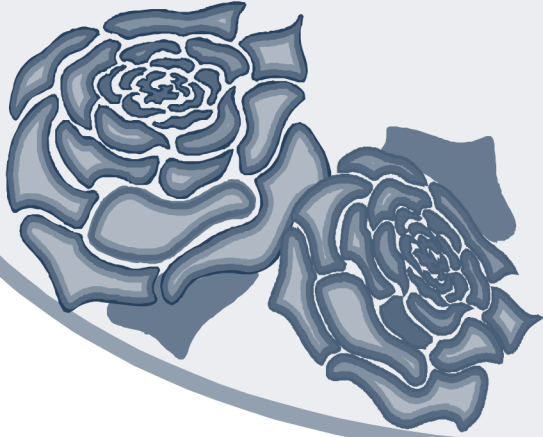
You will enjoy beautiful music and an
inspiring skit performed by Laketon
Bethel's Children's Church.



For
God so
loved the
world He gave
His one and only
Son that whoever
believes in Him shall not
perish but have eternal life
John
3:16

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

Bob Hanson

Gary Samples

Jana Belladone

Scott Hladki

Joe Shavalier

Betty Bonneville

Avery Lynn

Ida Shealy

Larry Budreau

J.T. Maskell

Sandy Streeter

Patti Buurma

Tom McKee Sr.

Kathy Tabor

Craig Carlson

Patti Mercer

Inga Weavers

Amanda Cihak

Paul Ortquist

Marv Wegner

Stephanie Cutler

Lynn Pluger

Amy Fredericks

Shirly Pummell

Jacob Geers

Aaron Rop

Announcements

Adopt-A-Family Our Christmas Adopt-a-Family tree is up and loaded with gift ideas for some of our needy 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 11th. 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 gift 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!

Children's Ministry Our Children's Church will be performing on Sunday, December 11th at 11:00. You won't want to miss this beautiful and inspiring Christmas Program!

Santa Secret Shop We are in need of gifts for dads. There is a box by the table in the entryway for your donations. We are also looking for people to help the children shop. We will be hosting them on December 12th & 13th at 9:00 and 1:00 both days. There is a signup sheet on the table in the entryway.

Coat Drive We are collecting *gently used* winter gear for all ages. You may bring your donation in Tuesday-Friday from 8:30-11:30am and on Sundays. All donations will go to the Mission for Area People.

Children's Church Attention Parents: The Children's Christmas Program is scheduled for December 11th at the beginning of the second service. Our dress rehearsal is TODAY following the second service with a pizza party following. Please allow for 1 1/2 hours. ***We ask that parents do not watch during our rehearsal so the actors can stay on task.*** Please see Tina if you have any questions.



Today's Bible Readings

Matthew 7.1-5, New Living Translation

7 “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. ² For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.

³ “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? ⁴ How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? ⁵ Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.

Matthew 7.12, Contemporary English Version

¹² Treat others as you want them to treat you.

Matthew 6.14, New Living Translation

¹⁴ “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

No Critics for Christmas

[a place for your notes]

Is your family a soft place to land?

Who can you criticize less?

What happens to you if you are judgmental?

What is a good response when someone tells you that the church is full of hypocrites?

Other Notes:

December Weekly Bible Readings

Date	Day	New Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special Prayer	Old Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
04	Su	Matthew 25	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 12	<input type="checkbox"/>
05	Mo	Matthew 26	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 13	<input type="checkbox"/>
06	Tu	Matthew 27	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 14	<input type="checkbox"/>
07	We	Matthew 28	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 15	<input type="checkbox"/>
08	Th	Mark 1	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 16	<input type="checkbox"/>
09	Fr	Mark 2	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 17	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Sa	Mark 3	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 18	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Su	Mark 4	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 19	<input type="checkbox"/>

LAKETON BETHEL REFORMED CHURCH

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Website address: laketonbethel.org & e-mail: lbrcoffice@gmail.com

Office hours: 8:30 am – 11:30 pm: 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, Gay Hudson,
Larry Joslyn, Amy Kunnen, Ed Luzadder,
Jason Peterson, Ron Zant

Deacons

Brent Ackerman, Jon Brantsen, Greg Fick,
Mike George, Alex Lassow, Doug Lubbers,
Kris Meyers, Rita Sikkenga