

Prayer

Prayer isn't submitting your wish list to God.
Prayer is reporting for duty.

Laketon Bethel Church

December 8, 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

Like Shepherds and Wise men Do”

Call to Worship

“The Birthday of a King”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“Child in the Manger”

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Crosstalk - “Reporting for Duty”

Offering

“Silent Night”

Children’s Christmas Program

Benediction



Order of Worship-11:00am

Children’s Christmas Program

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“Here Is Our King”

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

Crosstalk - “Reporting for Duty”

Offering

“Grace Flows Down/Away in a Manger”

Benediction

“Joy to the World”

Announcements

Jr. High J.A.M. Students in grades 6th 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 6th grade - 12th grade are welcome to come. We meet next on December 8th 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 22nd 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

1st Service Coffee Server: Sue Vannette

2nd Service Coffee Server: Colby Beckstrom & Kelly Andry

1st Service Nursery: Amy Kunnen

2nd Service Nursery: Hillary Crandall & Emily Kendall



Join us at 7:00pm for a night of beautiful and reflective music as we celebrate the greatest gift - Jesus' birth.

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 or stop at the check-in station to pick up a form.

Grades Preschool – 5 and Nursery



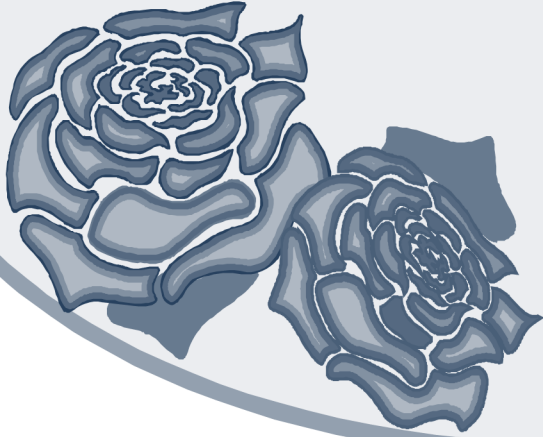
Laketon Bethel Youth Group

Students 6th grade - 12th grade are welcome to come. We meet Sunday, December 8th 5-7pm for caroling and giving our homemade cards to the residents of Hillcrest. All are welcome to join us!

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.*



Jim Fielstra

*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 12.1-2 from The Message

12 ¹⁻² So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

Romans 12.1-2 from the Phillips Translation

12 ¹⁻² With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you, my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to him and acceptable by him. Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity.

Deep Sheet

A Place for Your Notes

When we report for duty we are no longer enslaved by the culture around us. The Lord wants to make our ordinary lives extraordinary and bring out the best in us. Let's report for duty and watch as he makes our lives immeasurably better.

When is the birthday of Jesus?

What do you plan to spend for Christmas?

How can the idea of “reporting for duty” change how the holidays go for you?

Other Notes:

December Weekly Bible Readings

Date	Day	New Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special Prayer	Old Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
08	Su	Revelation 2	<input type="checkbox"/>		1 Kings 6	<input type="checkbox"/>
09	Mo	Revelation 3	<input type="checkbox"/>		1 Kings 7	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Tu	Revelation 4	<input type="checkbox"/>		1 Kings 8	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	We	Revelation 5	<input type="checkbox"/>		1 Kings 9	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Th	Revelation 6	<input type="checkbox"/>		1 Kings 10	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Fr	Revelation 7	<input type="checkbox"/>		1 Kings 11	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Sa	Revelation 8	<input type="checkbox"/>		1 Kings 12	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Su	Revelation 9	<input type="checkbox"/>		1 Kings 13	<input type="checkbox"/>

LAKETON BETHEL REFORMED CHURCH

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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

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