



*EFFECTIVE*  
PRAYER

Laketon Bethel Church

December 11, 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

“Across the Sky”

Call to Worship

*Advent Reading and Candle Lighting #3*

“How Great Our Joy”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“Joy to the World”

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

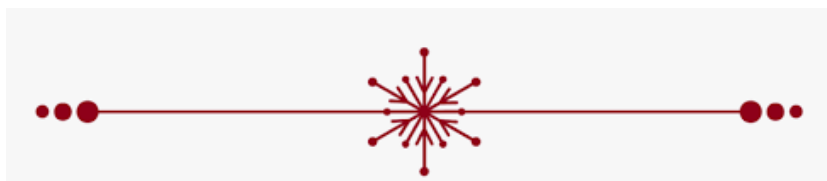
Crosstalk - “XXX”

Offering

“Bow Down/O Come Let Us Adore Him”

Benediction

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”



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

Call to Worship

Children’s Christmas Program - *John 3:16*

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

*Advent Reading and Candle Lighting #3*

“Joy to the World”

Crosstalk - “XXX”

Offering

“Hallelujah”

Benediction

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

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

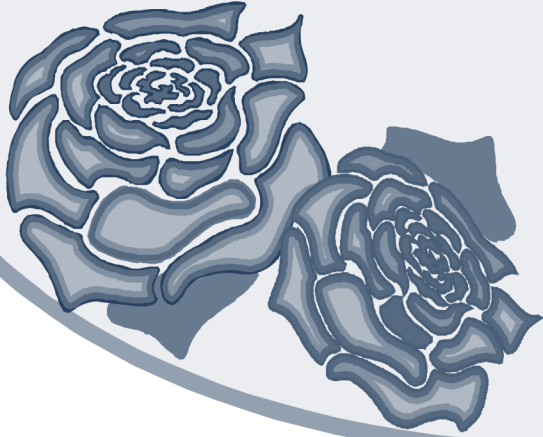
You will enjoy beautiful music and an  
inspiring skit performed by Laketon  
Bethel's Children's Church.



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.*



**Maxine  
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*

*Stephanie Cutler*

*Amy Fredericks*

*Jacob Geers*

*Bob Hanson*

*Scott Hladki*

*Avery Lynn*

*J.T. Maskell*

*Tom McKee Sr.*

*Patti Mercer*

*Paul Ortquist*

*Lynn Pluger*

*Shirly Pummell*

*Aaron Rop*

*Gary Samples*

*Joe Shavalier*

*Ida Shealy*

*Sandy Streeter*

*Kathy Tabor*

*Inga Weavers*

*Marv Wegner*



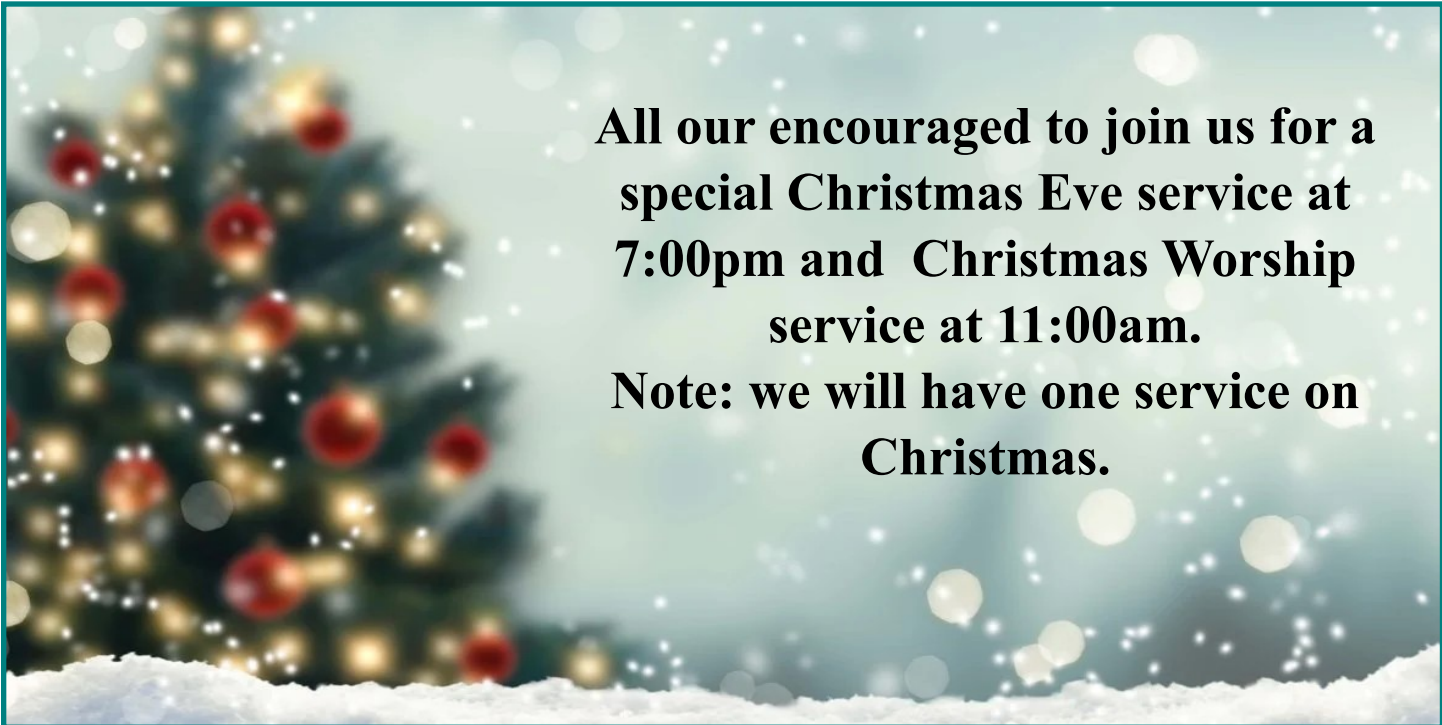
# Announcements

**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 11<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 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> 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.



**All our encouraged to join us for a special Christmas Eve service at 7:00pm and Christmas Worship service at 11:00am.**

**Note: we will have one service on Christmas.**

# Scripture for Today

## Matthew 7, New Living Translation

<sup>7</sup> “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for.

Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

<sup>9</sup> “You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? <sup>10</sup> Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! <sup>11</sup> So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

# How to Pray Effectively

[a place for your notes]

What is the relationship between prayer and work?

Who was Clark Pinnock?

What is Open Theism?

How do you get in sync with God?

Other Notes:

## December Weekly Bible Readings

Date	Day	New Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special Prayer	Old Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11	Su	Mark 4	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 19	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Mo	Mark 5	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 20	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Tu	Mark 6	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 21	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	We	Mark 7	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 22	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Th	Mark 8	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 23	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Fr	Mark 9	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 24	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Sa	Mark 10	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 25	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Su	Mark 11	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 26	<input type="checkbox"/>



# LAKETON BETHEL REFORMED CHURCH

1568 W. Giles Rd. Muskegon, Mi. 49445

Ph. #744-1749 Fax #744-2848

Website address: [laketonbethel.org](http://laketonbethel.org) & e-mail: [lbrcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lbrcoffice@gmail.com)

Office hours: 8:30 am – 11:30 pm: 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, 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