

## The Denali of Ethics

Laketon Bethel Church

December 18, 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

“Noel”

Call to Worship

*Advent Reading and Candle Lighting #4*

“Tell Me the Story of Jesus”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

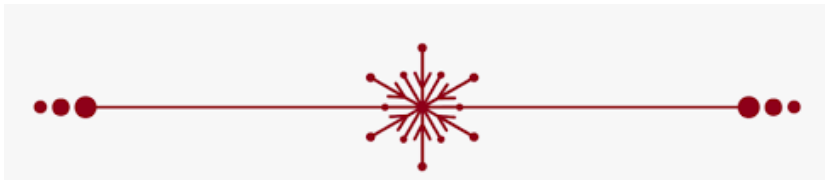
Crosstalk - “The Denali of Ethics”

Offering

“O Holy Night”

Benediction

“Birthday of a King”



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

Gathering Song

“Jesus, Light of the World”

Call to Worship

*Advent Reading and Candle Lighting #4*

“God So Loved”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“O Holy Night”

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

Crosstalk - “The Denali of Ethics”

Offering

“Noel”

Benediction

“Joy to the World”

# Other Announcements

## Upcoming Adult Bible Study

“Why does God let bad things happen to good people: a study of the book of Job” will begin soon. We will be looking at the book of Job as a whole and see how this ancient writing has undeniable wisdom and comfort for our contemporary situations. It will run for 6 consecutive Wednesdays starting on January 11 at 6:30 PM. Pizza will be served for the first 5 sessions and the 6<sup>th</sup> will feature “pastoral pulled pork.” A sign-up sheet will be in the entry.

## Consistory Nominees for 2023

The Reformed Church provides an opportunity for congregations to vet their leaders by requiring the names of nominees to be published for three weeks prior to the election or drawing. The slate has been filled and the nominees are listed below. If you have a reason why any of these should not be on the board, please contact Sherwin.

### Nominees for Elder

Kathy Young

Mike Lyons

Paula Scott

Donna Spytma

Heather Wilke

Steve Mussman

Connie Reahm

Joel Ortquist

Dave Bishop

Jeff Hooker

5 will be chosen for 2 year terms and 1 for a one year term (due to a resignation).

### Nominees for Deacon

Lisa George

Kathy Forrester

Janice Carrigan

Ernie Norwood

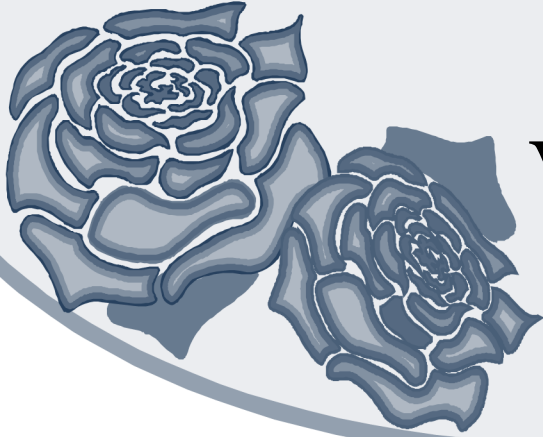
Diana Wagbo

Mia Fick

Three will be chosen for two-year terms.

**Special Senior of the Week:**

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



**Leona  
Vanderberg**

*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*

**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.**



# Bible Readings

These are the Bible readings on which the Crosstalk is based.

## Matthew 7.12, Contemporary English Version

<sup>12</sup> Treat others as you want them to treat you. This is what the Law and the Prophets are all about.

## Matthew 22, CEV

<sup>35</sup> One of them was an expert in the Jewish Law. So he tried to test Jesus by asking, <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, what is the most important commandment in the Law?”

<sup>37</sup> Jesus answered:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the first and most important commandment. <sup>39</sup> The second most important commandment is like this one. And it is, “Love others as much as you love yourself.” <sup>40</sup> All the Law of Moses and the Books of the Prophets are based on these two commandments.

## Galatians 5, New Living Translation

<sup>13</sup> My friends, you were chosen to be free. So don't use your freedom as an excuse to do anything you want. Use it as an opportunity to serve each other with love. <sup>14</sup> All the Law says can be summed up in the command to love others as much as you love yourself.

## John 15, The Message

<sup>11-13</sup> “I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love.

# The Denali of Ethics

[a place for your notes]

What is one of the main differences between adolescence and adulthood?

What are ethics?

What do you think you would do with the wallet talked about in the Crosstalk?

Who came up with the “Golden Rule?”

What is one thing you can do this week to “love and serve?”

Other Notes:

## December Weekly Bible Readings

Date	Day	New Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special Prayer	Old Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18	Su	Mark 11			Psalms 26	
19	Mo	Mark 12			Psalms 27	
20	Tu	Mark 13			Psalms 28	
21	We	Mark 14			Psalms 29	
22	Th	Mark 15			Psalms 30	
23	Fr	Mark 16			Psalms 31	
24	Sa	Luke 1			Psalms 32	
25	Su	Luke 2			Psalms 33	



# 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, 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