

Best Served
Cold



Laketon Bethel Church

December 24, 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

4th Week of Advent Reading

“I Still Believe In Christmas”

Special Music - “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“Joy to the World”

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

Crosstalk - “Best Served Cold”

Offering

“One Solitary Life”

Benediction

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”



Order of Worship-11:00am

Gathering Song

4th Week of Advent Reading

“I Still Believe In Christmas”

Call to Worship

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Welcome & Announcements

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“Joy to the World”

“God So Loved”

Crosstalk - “Best Served Cold”

Offering

“Another Hallelujah”

Benediction

“It’s Christmas”



Volunteers

1st Service Coffee Server: Diane Brantsen

2nd Service Coffee Server: Jim Hanley & Theresa Schiltz



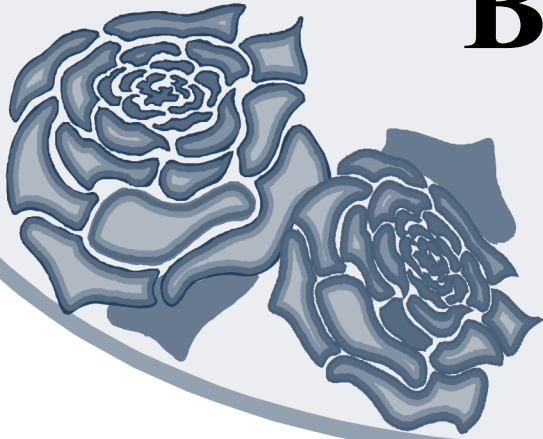
Christmas Eve Service

"The Gift"

Join us at 7:00pm on Christmas Eve as we tell the Christmas Story through scripture and song. We will complete our Advent journey as we light the *Christ Candle*, and discover what our real Christmas Gifts are.

Special Senior of the Week:

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



**Bill & Mary
Birr**

*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

Bible Readings

New Living Translation

Luke 23

³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”

Matthew 5

³⁸ “You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹ But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also.

Romans 12

¹⁷ Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. ¹⁸ Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

¹⁹ Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say,

“I will take revenge;
I will pay them back,”
says the Lord.

²⁰ Instead,

“If your enemies are hungry, feed them.
If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap
burning coals of shame on their heads.”

²¹ Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

Deep Sheet

[a place for your notes]

What do you think they did with the Plymouth cruiser?

What are some common forms of vengeance?

What is a hyperbole?

The sentence “Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good,” means what to you?

Other Notes:

December Weekly Bible Readings

Date	Day	New Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special Prayer	Old Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
24	Su	2 Corinthians 1			Hosea 14	
25	Mo	2 Corinthians 2			Joel 1	
26	Tu	2 Corinthians 3			Joel 2	
27	We	2 Corinthians 4			Joel 3	
28	Th	2 Corinthians 5			Amos 1	
29	Fr	2 Corinthians 6			Amos 2	
30	Sa	2 Corinthians 7			Amos 3	
31	Su	2 Corinthians 8			Amos 4	

LAKETON BETHEL REFORMED CHURCH

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

Office hours: 8:30 am – 11:30 am: 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, 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