

Why were
the angels
happy?



Laketon Bethel Church

December 25, 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-11:00am

Welcome

Christmas Advent Reading

Call to Worship

“It’s Christmas”

Welcome & Announcements

New Member Installation and Baptism

Congregational Prayer

Worship in Song

“Joy to the World”

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

Crosstalk - “Why Were the Angels Happy?”

Offering

“Do You Hear What I Hear?”

Benediction

“Go Tell It On the Mountain”



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 6th 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

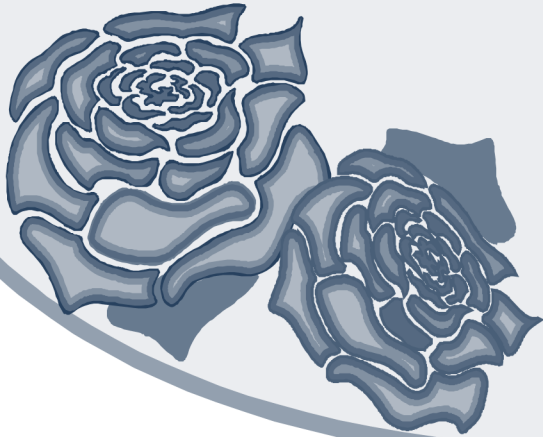
Diana Wagbo

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.*



Sue Andree

*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

**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.**



Today's Bible Reading

Luke 2.8-20, The Message

⁸⁻¹² There were shepherds camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

¹³⁻¹⁴ At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises:

Glory to God in the heavenly heights,
Peace to all men and women on earth who please him.

¹⁵⁻¹⁸ As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherds talked it over. "Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us." They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherds were impressed.

¹⁹⁻²⁰ Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherds returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. It turned out exactly the way they'd been told!

Why Were the Angels Happy?

[a place for your notes]

Do you believe angels exist?

If you had been approached by an angel, as the shepherds were, how would you have responded?

What were the angels happy about?

Is it possible for you to be saved?

Other Notes:

December Weekly Bible Readings

Date	Day	New Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special Prayer	Old Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
25	Su	Luke 2	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 33	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Mo	Luke 3	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 34	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	Tu	Luke 4	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 35	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	We	Luke 5	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 36	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	Th	Luke 6	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 37	<input type="checkbox"/>
30	Fr	Luke 7	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 38	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	Sa	Luke 8	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 39	<input type="checkbox"/>
01	Su	Luke 9	<input type="checkbox"/>		Psalms 40	<input type="checkbox"/>

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)

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