

Advent Preparing

welcome to long beach alliance church
december 4, 2016

As With Gladness Men of Old

by William Dix (1837–1898)

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by Thee!

As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee, whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy-seat!

As they offered gifts most rare
At Thy manger, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King!

Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,
Thou its Sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King!

Women's Rudolph Exchange

TONIGHT! GET TICKETS TODAY!

6:00PM-8:00PM

Purchase Your \$8.00 Tickets
At Courtyard Table Today!
(Note: Tickets Required)

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's Ministry is Hosting a **FREE**
Women's Breakfast Featuring Guest Speaker
Didi MacPherson

at LBAC on Saturday, January 7th
from 9:00 am until 11:00 am

Please pick up your ticket at the table outside the church
on December 11th, 18th or January 1st

Childcare will be provided.



LBAC Year-to-Date Financial Report

| Budget | Required | Received | Budget % |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Weekly: | \$12,236.37 | \$12,690.78 | 103.7% |
| Month-to-Date: | \$48,945.48 | \$43,159.15 | 88.2% |
| Year-to-Date: | \$159,072.81 | \$142,474.16 | 89.6% |
| Disbursed YTD: | \$149,471.74 | GOF Balance: | -\$6376.74 |

LBAC's Family Calendar & Events

Sunday, December 4

- 9:00AM Worship Celebration 1
10:00AM Mind the Gap (Courtyard)
10:45AM Foundations Adult Class
10:45AM Foundations Youth Meeting
10:45AM Worship Celebration 2
6:00PM Women's Rudolph Exchange

Monday, December 5

- 11:30AM Staff: Team Building
7:00PM Compulsive Eaters Anonymous

Tuesday, December 6

- 10:00AM All Staff Team Meeting
7:00PM High School Youth Group

Wednesday, December 7

- 6:30PM AWANA

Thursday, December 8

- 5:00PM Lydia House Women's Outreach
7:00PM Junior High Youth Group

Friday, December 9

- 6:30AM Men's Bible Study
8:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, December 10

- 9:00AM Deaconess Meeting

Sunday, December 11

- 9:00AM Worship Celebration 1
10:00AM Mind the Gap (Courtyard)
10:45AM Foundations Adult Class
10:45AM Foundations Youth Meeting
10:45AM Worship Celebration 2
12:00PM Deacon Meeting
6:00PM Perspectives

MISSIONS

<http://www.lbac.org/missions>

Join us for Perspectives & Serving the World!

GROWTH GROUPS

<http://www.lbac.org/gg>

Mid-week Bible Studies for all Adults

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/children>

Sunday Mornings

Gospel Project @ 9:00AM & 10:45AM

AWANA

<http://www.lbac.org/awana>

Wednesdays through May 6:30PM–8:30PM

YOUTH MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/youth>

JH & HS Foundations – Sundays @ 10:45AM

HS Core Groups – Tuesdays @ 7:00PM

JH Core Groups – Thursdays @ 7:00PM

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/women>

Woman To Woman Mentoring

Contact: sherylynnelbac@gmail.com

Lydia House Meals Ministry

Contact: robbi@apabrandu.com

Women Connecting with Missions

3rd Tuesday of each month @ 7:00PM

Crafty Women

2nd Saturday of each month @ 10:00AM

MEN'S MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/men>

Contact: mensministry@lbac.org

long beach alliance church offices

3331 palo verde avenue · long beach, ca · 90808-4113

phone: 562.420.1478 · office@lbac.org · www.lbac.org

www.facebook.com/longbeachalliancechurch

church office hours: tuesday-friday, 12NOON-5:00PM

church staff team

michelle crammer, office manager
ext. 1000 • michelle@lbac.org

kelly douglas, missions coordinator
kelly@lbac.org

jesse duckett, youth pastor
ext. 1005 • jesse@lbac.org

chris lankford, lead pastor
ext. 1001 • chris@lbac.org

tina rand, receptionist & treasurer
ext. 1006 • tina@lbac.org

matt swaney, family ministry pastor
ext. 1003 • matt@lbac.org

scott trickett, associate pastor
ext. 1002 • scott@lbac.org



THE
ALLIANCE

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

6:30PM–7:30PM

(Childcare through Kindergarten)



Christmas Morning Worship Service

9:30AM–10:30AM

(All-Family Service/No Child Care)



HAPPY NEW YEAR

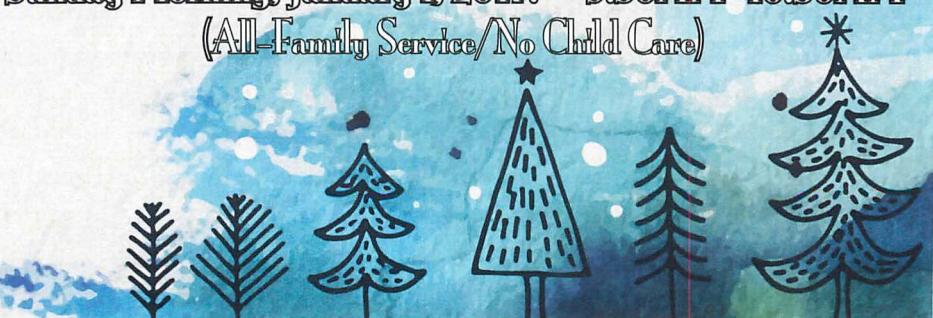
2017



Welcome in the
New Year with our
LBAC Church Family!

Sunday Morning, January 1, 2017! • 9:30AM–10:30AM

(All-Family Service/No Child Care)



Women Connecting with Missions

Christmas Dinner



The location of the event is Lakewood Mobile Estates Club House
12550 Carson St, Hawaiian Gardens.

**Parking is limited; we are asking that you meet at 5:45 between Baskin
Robbins and the Union Bank (Ball Rd and Via Largo)
for a shuttle service to the clubhouse.**

Some phone numbers in case you have a problem or question:
Kathie: 562.425.5937; Sharon(resident of park): 562.714.6951;
Chuck (shuttle driver): 562.212.1725

Hope to see you there. Bring a friend. We have lots of room.

Advent Preparing

Long Beach Alliance Church • December 4, 2016 • Pastor Chris Lankford

O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save? Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted.

~Habakkuk 1:2-4

1) Redeeming the Wickedness of a Violent World

- A) For many generations, God's followers lived with a hollow pang of anticipation for the coming Messiah (Habakkuk 1:2-4). Like David's cry to God, many wondered how long it would be before God's justice and relief would come (Psalm 13:1-4).
- B) Likewise, our world/culture also begs for relief from violence and exploitation, desperate for safety and peace. We live in a world with a multiplicity of causes attempting to mend the deep pain of disconnection and lives without real purpose.
- C) In fact, our lives are filled with so many causes, it seems impossible to know which are worth our investment, and which are trivial or shortsighted and not worth our time.
- D) But, in the fabric of almost every cause is a desire for justice, dignity, civility, even virtue. A fundamental need for redemption is wired into every human soul (Romans 1:18-21, also 2:14-16).
- E) Like an itch on your back you can't quite reach, this deep desire for redemption is demanding and distracting. Without even really being aware of it, people numb their need for redemption by championing important/significant causes.
- F) People who are convinced a cause is for the “genuine good” of others (whether it is legal minority status for homosexuals, bathroom rights for gender dysphoric individuals, or recycling to reduce greenhouse gasses) will fight tremendous battles, deeply desiring to experience and feel a shadow of redemption.

2) Distracting Causes

- A) At one time, God's people were led by King Saul (1 Samuel 15:1). God commanded King Saul to wipe out the Amalekites (15:2-3).
- B) The Amalekites had attacked Israel when they were fleeing Egypt, without provocation (Exodus 17:8-13). Even after losing in battle, the Amalekites followed the Israelites to harass them and kill the slowest travelers in the Israelite camp (Deuteronomy 25:17-19). The Amalekites continued to harass and war against Israel after the Exodus (Judges 3:13, 6:3-4). The Amalekites were a constant threat and danger for Israel through her history.
- C) But Saul (and Israel) did not wipe out the Amalekites as God clearly commanded, even when given the chance! They did what made the best sense to them, keeping what they felt was good, and destroying what they felt was worthless (1 Samuel 15:8-9).
- D) When confronted about his complete rebellion against God (15:13-21), King Saul attempts to obscure the truth with lies (15:15), diminishes his actions (15:17), and finally overtly blames others (15:20-21) while justifying his own “obedient” actions.
- E) King Saul eventually repents, but has apparent mixed motives (15:24-25). However, God's judgment against Saul stands firm; Saul has lost the kingdom because instead of obedience, he chose to redeem according to his own feelings, a fatal error (15:26-28).

3) Advent Preparation Is Pure In Obedience

- A) God's judgment against Saul (15:22-23) was that God wanted Saul's obedience more than he wanted his “offerings and sacrifices.” Saul rebelled (by doing wrong and calling it right), and presumed he knew best (by redeeming what he felt was best).
- B) We don't have time, but Saul's sin did not begin in Telaim (15:4). It began earlier in small and insignificant ways. Saul did not lose his kingdom one day in Gilgal (15:12), he lost it in a series of minor indiscretions long before. When Saul's spiritual life mattered, he was exposed. God called on Saul, but Saul was deaf and numb.
- C) Advent remembers the coming of Messiah and looks forward in preparation for His return. Obedience on the inside trumps sacrifice on the outside. How about you? How prepared are you?