

LBAC's Family Calendar & Events

Sunday, December 1

- 9:00AM Morning Coffee
- 9:30AM Worship & Celebration
- 11:15AM Christmas Musical Practice
- 11:15AM Foundations Class: Session 2, Week 4
- 4:00PM Health Talk

Monday, December 2

- 6:00PM Compulsive Eaters Anonymous
- 7:00PM Pure Desire
- 7:00PM Survivors of Incest Anonymous

Tuesday, December 3

- 7:00PM The Process-High School

Wednesday, December 4

- 6:30PM AWANA
- 6:30PM Golf Tournament Committee Mtg

Thursday, December 5

- 7:00PM Junior High Live

Friday, December 6

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

Saturday, December 7

- 9:00AM Compulsive Eaters Anonymous
- 9:00AM Christmas Musical Practice

Sunday, December 8

- 9:00AM Morning Coffee
- 9:30AM Worship & Celebration
- 11:15AM Christmas Musical Practice
- 11:15AM Foundations Class: Session 2, Week 5
- 4:30PM Children's Ministry Drop & Shop

MISSIONS

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

GROWTH GROUPS

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

Mid-week Adult Bible Studies

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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

Sunday Mornings: Gospel Project @ 9:30AM
Christmas Musical Practice @ 11:15AM

AWANA

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

Wednesday Nights September through May

YOUTH MINISTRIES

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

The Process High School- Tuesdays @ 7:00PM
Junior High Live - Thursdays @ 7:00PM

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

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

Women's Ministry Event Information
Contact: deya@charter.net

Lydia House Meals Ministry
Contact: mcoliver789@msn.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

church office hours: tuesday-thursday, 10:00AM-5:00PM

www.facebook.com/longbeachalliancechurch

church staff team

meghan brearley, children's director
562.708.9261 • meghan@lbac.org

jesse duckett, youth pastor
562.454.7122 • jesse@lbac.org

tina rand, receptionist & treasurer
562.420.1478 • tina@lbac.org

scott trickett, associate pastor
562.972.5306 • scott@lbac.org

michelle crammer, office manager
917.288.3424 • michelle@lbac.org

chris lankford, lead pastor
562.685.4132 • chris@lbac.org

kyle rand, facility needs
562.900.0921 • kyle@lbac.org

ben shaw, worship & celebration intern
562.420.1478 • ben@lbac.org

Regular Ministry Schedule & Contacts



**THE
ALLIANCE**





CHRISTMAS DROP & SHOP

**Sunday, December 8
4:30PM-7:30PM**

\$10 per child
Sign up in the courtyard on
December 1 and December 8
*Pre-registration required
Questions? Call Meghan Brearley
@ 562.708.9261

Need a couple hours to do some christmas shopping or wrap gifts without the kids?
Drop them off at LBAC for dinner, crafts, and a movie!
Kids birth through 5th grade welcome.

LAST DAY!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO BLESS A CHILD



**Drop off shoeboxes at the
Courtyard Table today!!**

Questions? Call Rob Judy @ 562.537.2658

MEN'S Breakfast



FREE CHILDCARE PROVIDED!

**Saturday, December 14
8:00AM
LBAC Gymnasium**

**Got Questions?
Greg Coles @ 310.293.9518**



There Is Hope!
Beginning January, 2020
Monday Nights @ LBAC
7:00PM-9:00PM

Finding hope and healing from the pain of unwanted negative and compulsive sexual behaviors, betrayal, and shame!

Contact Sam Eberhart for confidential information (925.285.1295)

LBAC Year-to-Date Financial Report

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget %</u>
Weekly:	\$12,715.40	\$14,240.36	112.0%
Month-to-Date:	\$50,861.60	\$42,695.24	83.9%
Year-to-Date:	\$165,300.20	\$156,310.27	94.6%
Disbursed YTD:	\$132,247.00	GF Balance: \$24,063.27	



December 3

Let's do it right!

This Giving Tuesday, will you consider giving to our Restroom Renovation Project?

Your donation will help update the Women's Restroom:

- **new sinks**
 - **new countertops**
 - **new lavatories**
 - **new flooring**
- ...and other infrastructure renovations**

Together, we can get this done!

Service of Songs

In honor of late Elder Godwin Chinedum Nwankpa

Who has gone to be with the Lord

May his soul rest in perfect peace

July, 1933 – October 29, 2019

Please join us for his service!

Date: December 6, 2019

Venue: Long Beach Alliance Church

3331 Palo Verde Ave.

Long Beach, CA 90808

Time: 7:00PM promptly

He is survived by:

Mrs. Joy Josephine Nwankpa – wife

Dr & Mrs. Vincent Nwankpa – brother & sister-in-law

Engr. Stephen Nwankpa - son

Pastor Joseph Nwankpa – son

Mrs. Ugochi Igboamusi – daughter

Mr. Too-chukwu Nwankpa – son

Ms. Amarachi Nwankpa – daughter

Mrs. Osinachi Prince John – daughter

Mr. Chinedum Nwankpa – son

Mr. Chigozie Nwankpa - son

Ms. Chinonso Nwankpa - daughter

Contacts:

Dr. Vincent Nwankpa 562-331-5357

Mrs. Chinyere Nwankpa 562-331-4732

Mr. Chris Bolaji 562-505-7893

Mr. Mike Jolayemi 562-746-1053

Mr. Ambrose Ajalo 562-385-4561

Mr. George Nnoli 562-412-5700

Mr. Chris Uwajeh 562-365-2678

Mr. Jonathan Ahaiwe 213-401-8133

Ms. Deya Slade 562-761-5464

Ms. Bright Ihediwa 301-412-7900

Painful Promises

Long Beach Alliance Church • December 1, 2019 • Romans 15:12-13 • Pastor Chris Lankford

1) *Unreachable Longings*

- A. The prophet Jeremiah's words, "Behold, the days are coming..." capture the spirit of the Advent season (Jeremiah 23:3-8, 33:14-16). They were words of promise and 'hope is on the horizon' for better days ahead. However, this is not the full story...
- B) God's promise of a better future were preposterous! The words rang hollow and hope seemed impossibly remote because God's people were being led by a puppet (King Zedekiah) of the mighty Babylonian Empire, led by King Nebuchadnezzar.
- C) Worst of all, King Zedekiah of Judah ignored God and listened to the wrong voices in his life (2 Chronicles 36:11-16), resulting in the nation's rebellion against Babylon. Jeremiah warns King Zedekiah and prophetically predicts Judah's defeat, only resulting in Jeremiah's imprisonment by King Zedekiah (Jeremiah 27-32).
- D) Further, Jeremiah's promise from God for the people (33:14-16) centered on the "integrity" of the famed Davidic Kingdom (from 375-400 years earlier), making hope seem even more ridiculous. Davidic leadership in Jeremiah was noted for its exploitation of weaker people and its self-serving unfaithfulness to God (21:11-14).
- E) Into this world of injustice, God brings Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar like a hammer to crush Jerusalem (25:9, 27:6), burning the Temple and Jerusalem, and reducing Judah's kingdom to rubble. Rather than repent, sin reigns – resulting in the true depths of wickedness (note the horrible fulfillment of cannibalism in 19:8-9 in the eventual siege of Jerusalem in 587 B.C.E., Lamentations 2:20; 4:10).
- F) In Jeremiah, God's people are lost sheep (23:1-2), the sad products of a Davidic leadership legacy which chose lavish consumption and personal comfort over God. God's promises are swallowed up in death, destruction, and humiliation – and result in an overwhelmed people serving Babylon in slavery and exile. The mighty Israel of Saul, David, and Solomon has vanished, and the future seems impossibly bleak. Sin promises freedom, but always leaves us in chains, enslaved to the very things we think will bring us happiness (2 Peter 2:19).
- G) Despite these insane odds, as sure as the sun and moon will rise and fall, God promises to bring redemption (Jeremiah 33:26b). There will be justice again, and David's royal legacy will someday count for something more than its historical impact – because God will accomplish His promises (33:14-18).

2) ***Before Promise There Is Always Struggle***

- A) Unlike life for God's people during King Zedekiah's reign, life in East Long Beach & beautiful Southern California is pretty good. Most of us live in comfort which has not come from corruption or deception, nor has it been achieved by complacency or apathy. Rather, most of us work hard to earn and secure creature comforts for ourselves and especially for those we love.
- B) And of course, there is nothing wrong with comfort! God is not against our comfort or our happiness – unless of course it leads us to become distracted from reality. Reality is not being rich in this world, it is keeping our hope and investment in the kingdom of God, in a kingdom yet realized (Luke 12:16-21).
- C) How can we live in active anticipation of the reality of God's kingdom, an imminent reality growing closer each day, while living in our world of soul-numbing distractions? Thankfully, God's Word guides us:
 - i) ***Live Alert! Look Alive!*** If you know someone is trying to steal from you, you live on the alert, keeping up your guard (1 Thessalonians 5:1-10). Alert living recognizes how the values of our world attempts to steal from God's kingdom, and responds with spiritual protection (Ephesians 6:13-18).
 - ii) ***Live Sober! Live Pure!*** There are a million ways to numb ourselves in our world, but we are called to live with rigorous sobriety, protecting purity like a man or woman preserving their virginity for marriage (Titus 2:11-14).
 - iii) ***Live Steady! Live Fruitful!*** God's kingdom is not microwaveable. Living fruitfully means investing patiently for the long term, even while living as though you could be face-to-face with God at any moment (James 5:7-9).
 - iv) ***Live for Others! Live Transparent!*** Living in community with others can be difficult, messy, and frustrating. But life together in the church is the best place for us. Fight for the very best communion between God and man alike (Hebrews 10:24-25; James 5:16)!
- D) Here's the truth... Christian living is a marathon, requiring spiritual endurance which very few develop. Like any challenge, sitting and spectating is far easier than participation and competition. Christianity is supposed to be a grind, it is supposed to be hard, it is supposed to be a struggle (Hebrews 12:1-6).
- E) An authentic experience of Advent (the arrival of Christ) cannot come without first experiencing struggle. If you are not struggling, then you have to ask yourself, *am I really following Jesus, or just fooling myself?* Following Christ is a life of promise discovered through wonderful struggle (Philippians 1:6).