

LBAC's Family Calendar & Events

Sunday, December 15

- 9:00AM Morning Coffee
- 9:30AM Worship & Celebration
- 11:15AM Foundations Class: Session 2, Week 6
- 12:15PM Deacon Meeting

Monday, December 16

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

Tuesday, December 17

- 10:00AM All Staff Team Meeting
- 6:30PM Women Connecting with Missions
- 7:00PM The Process-High School

Wednesday, December 18

- 6:30PM AWANA

Thursday, December 19

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

Friday, December 20

- 6:30AM Men's Bible Study on Campus
- 5:00PM Staff Christmas Party
- 8:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, December 21

- 9:00AM Compulsive Eaters Anonymous
- 5:00PM Merry Little Christmas Gathering

Sunday, December 22

- 9:00AM Morning Coffee
- 9:30AM Worship & Celebration
- 11:15AM Foundations Class: Sabbath
- 6:00PM Elders Dessert Evening

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



THE
ALLIANCE

Regular Ministry Schedule & Contacts





CHRISTMAS EVE
Candlelight
SERVICE

Tuesday
 December 24
 6:30PM

this will be a family service; no childcare



Women's Ministry invites you to
A Merry
Little Christmas Gathering

Join us for:

- Christmas Crafts
- Cookie Mason Jars
- Present Decorating
- Appetizers ♦ Soups ♦ Desserts

Saturday
12.21.19
5PM-8PM

\$12.00 per attendee
 Childcare is NOT provided

Questions? Laura Giannone 562.400.0506

Confession

Father God,

You are the One who leads us from darkness into light,
 from captivity into freedom,
 from anxiety into peace,
 from despair into joy.

Yet we often choose independence,
 convinced of our own wisdom,
 forgetting Your love and grace.

Forgive us and draw us close to You.
 Embrace us once again in Your loving arms.
 Enable us to follow You, Jesus, each day.

Amen

YOUR YEAR-END GIVING
 MAKES A DIFFERENCE

LBAC Year-to-Date Financial Report

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget %</u>
Weekly:	\$12,715.40	\$9,758.38	76.7%
Month-to-Date:	\$25,430.80	\$19,828.38	78.0%
Year-to-Date:	\$190,731.00	\$180,264.69	94.5%
Disbursed YTD:	\$183,212.05	GF Balance: -\$2,947.36	

Hopeful Preparation

Long Beach Alliance Church • December 15, 2019 • Zephaniah 3:17 • Pastor Chris Lankford

1) Advent Trusts God For The Future In Our Pain

- A) The OT prophets often warned of a still-yet-future '*Day of the Lord*.' The *Day of the Lord* would be characterized by wrath and doom for mankind, but especially those who lacked faith in God (Ezekiel 30:2-4; Joel 2:1-11; Zephaniah 1:14-16). The terror over *the Day* led the prophets to deliver fearful warnings (Amos 5:18-20).
- B) Despite this, the hearts of God's people ached for *the Day* and advent of their long-awaited Messiah because *that Day* would also deliver God's people from injustice (Jeremiah 33:14-18; Malachi 4:1-3). The *coming Day* was actually eagerly anticipated because it would establish God's righteous judgment and bring peace and the unopposed reign of God's Kingdom forever (Isaiah 2:2-4, 12-17, 60:15-16).
- C) Largely due to circumstances including oppression and exile, the people of God tunnel-visioned their focus about the *Day of the Lord* onto the nationalistic promises of military might and victory and the political supremacy which came from God's favor and love for Israel (Zephaniah 3:14-20; Zechariah 14:12-19).
- D) The anticipation of "post-apocalyptic hope" became so blinding for God's followers that the purposes of God's goodness and justice and the call to prepare for Messiah in purity were obscured and seldom understood. God's people actually became blinded to the nature and character of their Messiah (Isaiah 9:6-7, 42:1-9, 53:7-12), and because of their history of pain and present circumstances, missed His arrival!

2) Advent Is A Time For Joyful Anticipation

- A) We can learn a lot from the OT exiles who eagerly desired that Messiah would come. We are also called to live as faithful exiles in purity and eager anticipation of the advent of the Messiah, Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:17-21). Like the Jews, we also live in the great tension between judgment and reward (Matthew 25:31-46).
- B) However, our celebration is not in an unknown future Messiah, it is in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, and in our full identity in Christ's life, death, and resurrection (Hebrews 1:1-4; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:15-23, 27-29).
- C) Knowing our lives belong to Christ calls us to unity (James 5:7-8), and an eager welcome for the perfect timing of Christ's return (2 Peter 3:12-13; Revelation 22:20), not even fearing death if it comes before Jesus' return (1 Corinthians 15:54-57).
- D) This is the greatest appreciation of Christmas we can have, to live with joy and faith in freedom as we are transformed by beholding (once again) the perfection of God revealed in flesh for all mankind to see (2 Corinthians 3:17-18; John 1:1-3, 14, 16-18)!