

The background is a colorful stained glass design. It features a large, stylized cross on the right side, with a vertical bar transitioning from orange to red and a horizontal bar in orange. The cross is set against a semi-circular archway filled with yellow and green glass panes. To the left of the arch, the background consists of blue and green glass panes. At the bottom, there are purple and blue glass panes representing a landscape or ground.

HE IS NOT HERE,

*He is*  
*Risen*

~MATTHEW 28:6

WELCOME TO LONG BEACH ALLIANCE CHURCH • EASTER SUNDAY • APRIL 12, 2020



**NEED  
HELP?**

Please contact the office and let us know if there is anything we can do to help you. We are a family here at Long Beach Alliance and we want to make sure everyone gets the help they need during this uncertain & often-changing time.

**office@lbac.org ♥ 562.420.1478**

**MAY 29-31 2020**

## **FAMILY CAMP**

**11 RV/Camping Spaces, 120 people, \$15/person**  
**Sign ups are limited!**

**Contact Meghan Brearley, 562.708.9261, to sign up TODAY!**

**NEW DATE!**

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2020**

Still need to sign up?

**Go to [allianceyouthgolf.com](http://allianceyouthgolf.com)**  
**and sign up now!**



Contact the office for any questions: **office@lbac.org**

HAPPY

*Easter!*

**HE IS RISEN INDEED!**



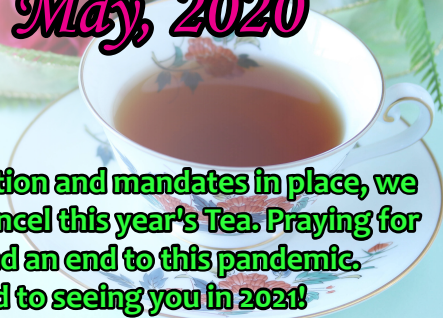
**DON'T FORGET...  
REACH OUT  
AND CONNECT!**

Check in with  
your family, the church  
family, friends, and  
neighbors!

***Women's Tea • May, 2020***

is **CANCELLED**

**Due to the current situation and mandates in place, we  
have no choice but to cancel this year's Tea. Praying for  
your good health and an end to this pandemic.  
Looking forward to seeing you in 2021!**



## **LBAC Year-to-Date Financial Report**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget %</u>
Weekly:	\$12,715.40	\$15,618.88	122.8%
Month-to-Date:	\$25,430.80	\$51,238.05	201.5%
Year-to-Date:	\$419,608.20	\$421,133.52	100.4%
Disbursed YTD:	\$373,576.00	GF Balance: \$47,557.52	



# LBAC's Family Calendar & Events

**Sunday, April 12 Easter Sunday**

9:30AM At Home Worship Service

**Sunday, April 19**

9:30AM At Home Worship Service

**No activities  
or events  
allowed at  
church at  
this time,  
as per city  
and state  
restrictions.**

## 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  
Fun N Funky @ 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

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month @ 7:00PM

Crafty Women

2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.facebook.com/longbeachalliancechurch)

**church staff team**

meghan brearley, children's director  
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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





# ***A Reasoned Step Of Faith***

*Long Beach Alliance Church • Easter Sunday • April 12, 2020 • Pastor Chris Lankford*

## ***1) Scientifically Confounding***

*(Luke 23:50-51; Mark 15:43-45; John 19:39-42; Luke 23:55-56;  
Matthew 27:62-66; Mark 16:1-3; Matthew 28:2-4; Luke 24:2-8; Mark 16:7-8;  
Luke 24:10-11; John 20:3-16; Matthew 28:16-20)*

**The people who were eye-witnesses to the actual resurrection of Jesus Christ were perplexed and confused, and when they told about what they witnessed, people thought they were out of their minds!**

**Asking questions about the authenticity or believability of ‘Jesus stories’ in the Bible is not only normal, it is essential for trusting in God.**

**Ask questions! Jesus can handle it! God’s faithful followers can handle it! The Bible can bear the weight of doubts and questions! Having faith in the authenticity of the ‘Jesus stories’ in the Bible has substance, it is not just a leap off the edge of reason into hope in a magical Easter Bunny.**

## ***2) Fully Convinced & Completely Committed***

*(John 20:24-29; 1 Corinthians 15:13-18; Romans 1:16-17; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31)*

**The first followers of Jesus Christ described and explained unvarnished stories of actually seeing Jesus Christ and His resurrection from the dead. The stories were not for bedtime, ancient Disney-esque fairy-tales, or well crafted fantasies meant to captivate & distract the mind.**

Every writer you read in the Bible died for this story. They were exiled and tortured, and despite this, the 'Jesus stories' never changed. There are thousands of manuscript and archaeological evidences (in fact, more and more each year), and as each discovery is made, it only reinforces the story. But there is nothing that speaks louder than that actual band of first-followers who lived and died for a story of a convicted traitor dying naked on a shameful Roman cross and then rose from the dead. Who dies for a myth or legend in their own lifetime?

### ***3) The First, But Not The Last***

*(Romans 8:29-30; John 14:6; Acts 4:12)*

There is nothing like the story of Jesus. It is radical and quite literally, changes everything! Jesus defeated death, and did so in order to provide a way for you and me to know God as our own good Father.

What do we make of all of this? What do we make of Jesus Christ? This Easter, our question ought to be, what is it that Jesus is trying to make of me? Each of us either accepts the gift of Jesus as the ransom to God for our sins against God, or we reject Christ, trusting that the story of God is nothing more than a well-intentioned legend.

Salvation is obtained by faith. But not a "leap of faith" into some sort of ridiculous fairy tale. Faith in Jesus Christ is meant to be a reasonable "step of faith" into the Jesus who made you, and is calling out your name. What is His story making of you today?

# **The Resurrection of Jesus Christ**

(An Amplified Harmony of Christ's Resurrection)

Now there was a certain man named Joseph, a member of the Jewish Supreme Council of the Sanhedrin, he was a good and upright man, who had not consented to the decision and action to condemn Jesus the Christ. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, around 20 miles outside of Jerusalem. He was a man who was longing and looking for the kingdom of God. Despite the danger from both the Sanhedrin and the Romans, Joseph of Arimathea went boldly to Pontius Pilate and requested Jesus' body. Pilate was surprised to hear that Jesus was already dead because it often took two to three days for a crucified man to expire, so he summoned the head centurion and asked him if Jesus was genuinely dead. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph of Arimathea. Joseph was accompanied by the Pharisee Nicodemus, the same Nicodemus who had secretly visited Jesus at night during Passover a few years earlier. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. This was the custom in order to help cover up the odor of a dead body as it experienced decay. So the two men went to Golgotha and took down Jesus' body, and they wrapped it, along with the spices, in strips of linen. All of this was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. Near the location where Jesus was crucified, there was a large orchard in which, ancient sources tell us, Joseph of Arimathea owned a new burial tomb. The tomb, which was most likely a cave which had been cut into the rock of a hillside, had never had anyone buried in it before. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was conveniently located, they laid Jesus there, He was the only body in the tomb. Nicodemus and Joseph then rolled a very large round stone across the entrance to the tomb, sealing the body of Jesus inside to respectfully protect it from wild animals. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph & Nicodemus and carefully observed the tomb and how his body was laid inside of it. Then, the women went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the



**4<sup>th</sup> Commandment.** The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pontius Pilate. “Sir,” they said, “we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ So we are asking you to give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. If that happens, the last deception will be worse than the first.” “Take a guard,” Pilate answered, “and go make the tomb as secure as you know how.” So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard. When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?” But earlier, there had been a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of the angel that they were paralyzed with fear and collapsed to the ground like dead men. Later on, when the women arrived, they found the stone rolled away from the tomb and the tomb was wide open, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. As the women were confused and perplexed about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living in a place of the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” Then they remembered his words. But now go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’ ” Trembling and astonished, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and

the others with them who went and told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them like an fairy tale that was complete nonsense, and they did not believe the women. But Peter and John headed to the tomb to see for themselves. Both were running, but John outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there, but he would not go inside. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally John, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed (they still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead). Then the disciples went back to where they were staying. Soon after, Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," Mary answered, "and I don't know where they have put him." Then, she turned around and saw a man standing there, but she did not realize at first that it was Jesus. He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking Jesus was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." And then she turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him there, they worshiped him, but even then some of them doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, even to the very end of the age."

(Luke 23:50-51; Mark 15:43-45; John 19:39-42; Luke 23:55-56; Matthew 27:62-66; Mark 16:1-3; Matthew 28:2-4; Luke 24:2-8; Mark 16:7-8; Luke 24:10-11; John 20:3-16; Matthew 28:16-20)