

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
and sign up now!



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

HAPPY

Easter!

HE IS RISEN INDEED!



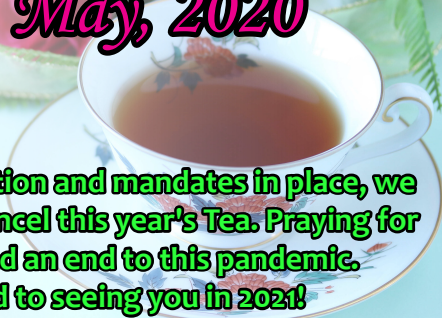
**DON'T FORGET...
REACH OUT
AND CONNECT!**

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

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

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

www.facebook.com/longbeachalliancechurch

church staff team

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562.708.9261 • meghan@lbac.org

jesse duckett, youth pastor
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tina rand, receptionist & treasurer
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ben shaw, worship & celebration intern
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Endless Possibilities

LONG BEACH ALLIANCE CHURCH • APRIL 19, 2020 • PASTOR CHRIS LANKFORD

1) Engaging the Space Between Us

- A. I have found the most important truths in the Bible are the easiest-to-understand through stories. The stories in the Bible are written so God can give us His ‘timeless truths inside brown paper bags.’
- B. Since our lives are a series of intersecting stories, I believe it is essential to read Bible stories, because they help us to answer both the complicated questions we have about God AND process through complicated feelings of confusion about God and His purposes.
- C. For (too) many weeks, we have been separated from one another because of the potential spread of COVID-19. During that time I have encouraged you to display love in active ways to your neighbors, build good relationships in your ‘socially distant’ neighborhoods, and be tuned-in to people’s spiritual needs by sensitively sharing the life-giving hope of the Gospel – if the opportunity arises.
- D. As I was thinking about all of this during the recent Easter week, the thought occurred to me, “Do people know how to share their faith?” I wonder, if you were going to share your faith, what would you say? How do you measure when/if you should share with someone? And... If someone showed interest, what would you do next?
- E. When I think of these kinds of questions, Bible stories come to mind that guide me, like Siri or Google Maps on my cell phone for driving directions. Bible stories provide me with answers which give me “guard rails” that keep me on the right road toward my destination.
- F. When it comes to questions about sharing faith, my mind locks in on some great Bible stories. In the weeks ahead, I’d like to walk through a few of those stories with you, because I think it will help us move from ‘social distance’ to ‘social engagement’ – something I believe our world (and our church family) very much needs!

2) Closing the Gap on Social Distancing *(John 2:25–3:21)*

- A. One night, a man named Nicodemus went to have a meeting with Jesus. Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a religious group who practiced ‘spiritual distancing’ from people. Pharisees followed strict rules of avoiding anyone who might infect their self-righteousness. Nicodemus came to visit Jesus because he wanted to know more, but he also came at night in order to keep the meeting a secret.
- B. Jesus knew what Nicodemus needed (John 2:25), because Jesus knew mankind was in the dark because of sin. Jesus also knew

Nicodemus was ‘religious,’ so He made a provocative statement about being “born again” in order to see God’s Kingdom (John 3:3).

- C. In other words, Jesus says something to provoke a question. He does not wait for Nicodemus (who is in the dark) to ask a question. Jesus is “closing the gap” by stating something important that either invites a question or an argument. Nicodemus understood ‘God’s Kingdom’ (a familiar phrase for a religious Jew), but is unclear and asks a question about being “born again” (a foreign concept).
- D. Jesus is measuring Nicodemus’ interest and authenticity in coming to meet with Jesus at night. He goes right for the heart of the matter by bringing up spiritual birth. We also must keep the condition of a person’s heart the main issue; “have you ever been spiritually born?”

3) Closing the Gap on Spiritual Distancing

- A. If someone doesn’t know they need to be born spiritually (John 3:6), nothing else is really going to make any sense. God is in the business of spiritual birth. Mankind is born into spiritual death (Ephesians 2:1), and condemned because all people prefer the ‘freedom’ to sin apart from God over dependence on God in the light (John 3:19-21).
- B. Spiritual death means every person born into the world is under the death penalty for sin (Romans 3:23, 6:23). But God has mercy on mankind, and provides a way to free us from our enslavement to sin (Ephesians 2:4). Because God loves the world (John 3:16), He sent Jesus to those who will believe “in the name of the only Son of God” in order to rescue them from the death penalty of sin (John 3:17-18).
- C. Jesus explains to Nicodemus that the only way to be ‘born again’ and ‘see God’s Kingdom’ is to trust in the witness and testimony of Jesus (John 3:9-11) as the one sent from Heaven who would “be lifted up.” Trusting in Jesus always centers on His sacrifice, Christ ‘lifted up’ on the cross for salvation for all who believe (John 3:13-15).
- D. This had always been God’s promise (Ezekiel 36:25-26), to cleanse people of sin and fill them with His Holy Spirit (Titus 3:4-5). Belief in Christ means trusting in this testimony of His sacrificial life and death which was clearly acceptable to God because He raised Christ from the death to life (Ephesians 1:20).
- E. And then it ends. Jesus doesn’t lead Nicodemus in a prayer, there is no altar call, nor is there any indication of response. Jesus stuffs His testimony into the brown paper bag and hands it to Nicodemus, and sends him back into the darkness of the night. The seed of testimony has been planted, and when Jesus is later lifted up and crucified, Nicodemus believes and is reborn of the Spirit, beginning his new life of growth as a disciple of Jesus Christ (John 19:39)!