



# ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

WELCOME TO LONG BEACH ALLIANCE ONLINE CHURCH  
SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2020

# COMMUNION SUNDAY



**DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE  
OF ME...**



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

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

**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!

SAVE THE DATE



American  
Red Cross

*Blood Drive*

Sunday, June 7 in the GYM



**CORONA LISA**

## LBAC Year-to-Date Financial Report

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget %</u>
Weekly:	\$12,715.40	\$22,179.49	174.4%
Month-to-Date:	\$50,861.60	\$88,610.42	174.2%
Year-to-Date:	\$445,039.00	\$458,505.89	103.0%
Disbursed YTD:	\$414,397.00	GF Balance: \$44,108.89	

# LBAC's Family Calendar & Events

**Sunday, May 3**

9:30AM At Home Worship Service

## MISSIONS

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

## GROWTH GROUPS

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

**Sunday, May 10**

9:30AM At Home Worship Service

♥ *Happy Mother's Day*

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

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

Weekly Schedule

Regular Ministry Schedule & Contacts



THE  
ALLIANCE

## 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  
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

# Endless Possibilities: Drinking Water From A Deep Well

LONG BEACH ALLIANCE CHURCH • MAY 3, 2020 • PASTOR CHRIS LANKFORD

## 1) Washing Away the Wax

- A. In the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century, a major restoration/conservation effort began on the fresco paintings on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. The purpose of the cleaning was to remove 400+ years of candle wax, water damage, and grimy smoke deposits from Michaelangelo's magnificent Renaissance paintings.
- B. When you strip away centuries of grime and thick wax, there is delicate balance between removing all the grimy build-up which obscures the magnificence of the artwork, and making sure you don't unintentionally strip too much away and end up with a bleached and faded surface lacking both character and meaning.
- C. The same is true when we read the 2,000 year old Jesus stories from the Gospels! We want to strip away the things which obscure the original story (our presuppositions) to see Jesus' teaching clearly (timeless truths) in order to apply them (faithfully) in our lives.
- D. This is the challenge for our story today! There are so many interesting contextual details, fascinating geographical points of interest, and religio-political aspects of the story -- we could 'miss seeing the forest for the trees' and unintentionally wax-over the most significant aspects of Christ's teaching. Let's not do that today!
- E. For the sake of simplicity and focus, today's story is about a Samaritan woman with a questionable moral history. In our day and age of social distancing, that last sentence reveals three important areas of ethnic, gender, and moral distancing which we are about to witness Jesus dissolve for the exclusive sake of the Gospel.

## 2) A Woman and A Well (*John 4:1-15*)

- A. Samaritans were hated because they reminded the Jews of a sad and wicked time in the nation's history of foreign occupation and (often) exploitation by men against women resulting in half-breed children in the region of Samaria (2 Kings 17-18), the area in-between the Sea of Galilee to the North and Jerusalem to the South (see next page).
- B. These children, known as the Samaritans, developed their own version of the Torah, rejected the rest of the Old Testament, and built their own place of worship in Samaria - rejecting the Temple in Jerusalem. This deepened Jewish hatred for Samaritans, and increased racial and political tensions against Samaritans in Israel.



- C. Jesus “had to pass through Samaria” (John 4:4), a foreshadowing of Christ’s spiritual purposes which are about to unfold, despite the ‘ethnic distancing’ you would expect between Jews and Samaritans.
- D. Jacob’s well was a place where God provided for His people and their survival in the past (Genesis 48:22) and is also near the burial location of Joseph, another historical reference to God’s preserving of His people (note Genesis 50:20-21).
- E. Since it is the middle of the day (noontime in a desert = HOT), and Jesus is weary, he would like a drink but has nothing with which to draw water. So, ignoring normal ‘gender distancing’ practices, he asks a Samaritan woman for some water.
- F. This launches the woman and Jesus into a conversation about physical and spiritual thirst, and much like Nicodemus’ confusion over physical vs. spiritual birth (John 3:1-21), the woman struggles to understand Jesus and her true spiritual thirst (John 4:7-15).
- G. Jesus uses everyday easy-to-understand objects to illustrate spiritual need and provision. Don’t miss that Jesus regularly uses normal organic life realities (thirst, birth, sight, hunger) to illustrate the loving provision of God for our spiritual needs!

### 3) A Woman and Her Well *(John 4:16-26)*

- A. We find out why Jesus “had” to come to Samaria in the next section. Jesus draws a parallel between her spiritual thirst and her physical thirst, by asking her a revealing question about marriage. Essentially, Jesus reveals that she has been trying to satisfy her spiritual thirst by mowing through several husbands, and is now sleeping with a man to whom she is not even married.
- B. Don’t be distracted by the question, “how could Jesus know that about her?!” Jesus knows because God revealed it! More significantly we should ask -- what is the timeless truth here? I believe the truth Jesus reveals is this: people try to satisfy spiritual thirst/hunger in physical ways which can never satisfy (note Jeremiah 2:12-13).
- C. The world promises satisfaction so we drink and eat it up, but for all its promises, there is no way to find satisfaction for our deep God-given spiritual needs through this world (2 Peter 2:17-22).
- D. In a somewhat hilarious comment, the woman deflects Jesus’ insight and tries to distract Him with THE theological question of the day between Jews & Samaritans about the location of worship. But Jesus guides the conversation back to her spiritual need for truth.
- E. Note how Jesus relationally engages the woman, while keeping the focus on her need which ultimately leads to Jesus’ self-revealing as the Promised One, the Messiah! And then comes the best part...