

STRANGER THINGS



welcome to long beach alliance church
september 4, 2016



Q. What is the strangest thing God has ever done in your life? Why did it seem so strange?

Q. Do you find strange things in the Bible which are difficult to understand or explain? What is something strange you have read in the Bible?



LBAC Year-to-Date Financial Report

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Required</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget %</u>
Weekly:	\$11,766.37	\$11,019.53	93.7%
Month-to-Date:	\$47,065.48	\$42,338.24	90.0%
Year-to-Date:	\$623,617.61	\$602,153.19	96.6%
Disbursed YTD: \$598,992.40		GOF Balance: \$3,160.79	



Growth Groups

Take Your Next Step @ LBAC!
Groups Begin Meeting Next Week!
September 12-16!

Come to the Sign-Up Table
Located in the Courtyard
For more info. today!!



AWANA IS BACK!!



AWANA's Year Opening Night

Wednesday, September 14 • 6:30PM-8:00PM

All ages welcome (PreK-12th Grade)! Online Reg. Open!

www.lbac.org/ministries/childrens-ministries/awana

MEN'S
RETREAT

LBAC MEN

Hume Lake Men's Retreat October 20-23, 2016

Contact Mike Comstock
comstock7@verizon.net
562.505.8389

Spots are filling up; don't miss out!

HUMELAKE.ORG/MENS



LBAC's Church Family Calendar & Events

Sunday, September 4

- 9:00AM Worship Celebration 1
- 9:00AM Foundations Youth Meeting
- 10:00AM Mind the Gap (Courtyard)
- 10:45AM Worship Celebration 2
- 6:00PM Perspectives

Monday, September 5

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY!

NO Compulsive Eaters Anonymous (HOLIDAY)

Tuesday, September 6

- 7:00PM Junior High & High School Youth Group/Core Groups

Friday, September 9

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

Saturday, September 10

- 9:00AM Deaconess Meeting
- 10:00AM Crafty Women Meeting

Sunday, September 11

- 9:00AM Worship Celebration 1
- 9:00AM Foundations Youth Meeting
- 10:00AM Mind the Gap (Courtyard)
- 10:45AM Worship Celebration 2
- 12:00PM Deacon Meeting
- 12:15PM Growth Group Leaders Meeting
- Luke & Tammy Schaub's Home
- 6:00PM Perspectives

MISSIONS

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

Join us for Perspectives & Serving the World!

GROWTH GROUPS

<http://www.lbac.org/ministries/growth-groups>

Mid-week Bible Studies for all Adults

GROUPS BEGIN SEPTEMBER 12-16!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/ministries/childrens-ministries>

Sunday Mornings

Gospel Project @ 9:00AM & 10:45AM

AWANA

<http://www.lbac.org/ministries/childrens-ministries/awana>

Year Opening Night Next Week!

September 14 • 6:30PM-8:00PM

YOUTH MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/ministries/student-ministries>

JH & HS Foundations ~ Sunday's @ 9:00AM

JH & HS Core Groups ~ Tuesday's @ 7:00PM

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/ministries/womens-ministries>

Woman To Woman Mentoring

Contact: sherylynnlbac@gmail.com

Lydia House Meals Ministry

Contact: robbi@apabrandu.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/ministries/mens-ministries>

Contact: mensministry@lbac.org

Weekly Schedule

Regular Ministry Schedule & Contacts



THE
ALLIANCE

long beach alliance church offices

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phone: 562.420.1478 • office@lbac.org • www.lbac.org
www.facebook.com/longbeachalliancechurch
church office hours: tuesday-friday, 12NOON-5:00PM

church staff team

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kelly@lbac.org

jesse duckett, youth pastor
ext. 1005 • jesse@lbac.org

chris lankford, lead pastor
ext. 1001 • chris@lbac.org

tina rand, receptionist & treasurer
ext. 1006 • tina@lbac.org

matt swaney, family ministry pastor
ext. 1003 • matt@lbac.org

scott trickett, associate pastor
ext. 1002 • scott@lbac.org

STRANGER THINGS

Long Beach Alliance Church • September 4, 2016 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways and
my thoughts than your thoughts.**

Isaiah 55:8-9

1) God Does Stranger Things

- A) This past year, Netflix premiered a television show entitled "Stranger Things." The show is a mixture of science-fiction, suspense, with a heavy dose of teenage angst. The show is definitely for adults (PG-16, IMHO), especially those from the 1980's, with numerous subtle nostalgic Reagan-era references.**
- B) The story centers on four boys playing a fantasy role playing game (RPG) from the 1980's. Without warning, mysterious "stranger things" begin happening in their small rural town.**
- C) One of the four boys inexplicably disappears. A young girl appears who can move objects with her mind. The minions of an unknown darkness plot in the background. And of course, there is a horrific creature on the loose who exists in a parallel universe, kidnapping the innocent for unimaginable evil intent.**
- D) What in the world does this have to with you, me, church, God, Christ, and His Spirit? It's simple, really. God is the author of "stranger things" (Isaiah 55:8-9).**
- E) In our world, an insidious evil threatens eternity. But, there is Good News! God has a rescue plan! But, His plan is strange. He grows a garden. His people are weak and wander. He makes mysterious promises, but evil keeps winning. He finally appears, but as a baby. He lives, but then dies. He rises from the dead, but then leaves. His faithful are mostly teenagers. His greatest mouthpiece is a murderer. You can't make this stuff up...**

2) Experiencing Certainty In Stranger Things

- A) Have you ever heard someone say they are looking for God? Or, a friend who is 'spiritual but not religious?' Someone who invites you to Yoga, because it has changed their whole outlook on life? Or a Muslim friend, who believes in the God of Abraham, but is offended that you think God became a man?**
- B) How do you relate to these people, our friends? How can you and I engage wildly different beliefs and perspectives? How do we convey what we believe, while carefully navigating a minefield of assumptions, confusion, and genuine mystery?**
- C) There is an answer! The answer is the Gospel. Not just a refined set of key 'gospel' verses, like bullets in a gun. But the actual first hand experience of the Gospel, the eyewitness accounts of Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection.**
- D) The most important thing about you is what you think about Jesus Christ. The first place we go in the Bible to learn about Jesus are the four eyewitness accounts of His life. They are called 'gospel accounts' because they contain 'good news.'**

3) The Gospel According To Luke

- A) Our Elder leadership has chosen to focus our church on the Gospel of Luke, because the most important thing about us is what we think about Jesus Christ. But, why Luke's Gospel?**
- B) Luke is the only non-Jewish author in the Bible, and a doctor (Colossians 4:10-14). He explains Jewish customs with details for those outside of religious experience. Luke is a Gospel for outsiders. This is a Gospel for us, our culture, and our friends.**
- C) Luke is unique because it has a sequel, the book of Acts. Luke was an eyewitness to how life in Christ actually worked in the early church, and was often Paul's companion (Acts 16:10-17).**
- D) The purpose for the Luke's Gospel is to provide an "orderly account for... Theophilus" (a friend/associate), to provide "certainty" over what Theophilus had been taught (Luke 1:1-4).**
- E) This is wonderful news! God loves us so much he has provided us with a detailed account of Jesus through Luke, to show how we can have confidence in the "stranger things" of God!**