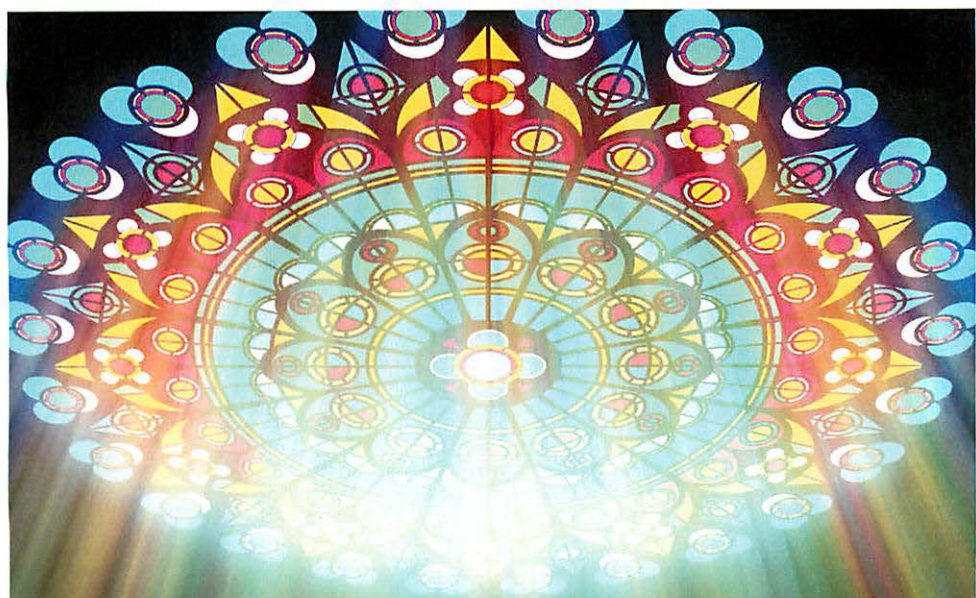


STRANGER THINGS

A person stands with their back to the camera on a dark road that stretches into the distance. The road is flanked by grassy fields and a fence. In the center of the horizon, a brilliant white light source radiates powerful blue beams of light that fan out across the dark, star-speckled sky. The overall mood is mysterious and awe-inspiring.

Episode Four
Crystal Clarity & Convex Contours

welcome to long beach alliance church
october 2, 2016



Genuine worship

isn't just singing songs

Genuine worship is seeing God for who He really is-

HIS Power, Greatness,
Holiness, Sovereignty,
Love, and Compassion

And then giving Him what He's worth-

the very best of:

your time

your talents

your thoughts

your words

and your deeds.

~Chip Ingram

MEN'S
RETREAT

LBAC MEN

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



Contact Mike Comstock
comstock7@verizon.net
562.505.8398

Spots are filling up; don't miss out!
HUMELAKE.ORG/MENS

Long
Beach
Alliance
Church



Love Others



Serve the World

Annual Vision
Dinner + Meeting
October 9, 2016
5:00PM



Love God



LBAC Year-to-Date Financial Report

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Required</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget %</u>
Weekly:	\$12,236.37	\$12,651.53	103.4%
Month-to-Date:	\$48,945.48	\$47,434.88	96.9%
Year-to-Date:	\$48,945.48	\$47,434.88	96.9%
Disbursed YTD:	\$42,229.33	GOF Balance: \$5,826.39	

LBAC's Church Family Calendar & Events

Sunday, October 2

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

Monday, October 3

- 7:00PM Compulsive Eaters Anonymous

Tuesday, October 4

- 10:00AM All Staff Team Meeting
- 7:00PM High School Youth Group

Wednesday, October 5

- 6:30PM AWANA

Thursday, October 6

- 7:00PM Junior High Youth Group

Friday, October 7

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

Sunday, October 9

- 9:00AM Worship Celebration 1
- 10:00AM Mind the Gap (Courtyard)
- 10:45AM Foundations Adult Class
- 10:45AM Foundations Youth Meeting
- 10:45AM Worship Celebration 2
- 5:00PM Annual Vision Dinner
- 6:00PM Annual Vision Meeting

MISSIONS

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

Join us for Perspectives & Serving the World!

GROWTH GROUPS

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

Mid-week Bible Studies for all Adults

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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

Sunday Mornings

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

AWANA

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

Wednesdays in September 6:30PM-8:30PM

YOUTH MINISTRIES

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

JH & HS Foundations ~ Sundays @ 9:00AM

HS Core Groups ~ Tuesdays @ 7:00PM

JH Core Groups ~ Thursdays @ 7:00PM

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

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

Woman To Woman Mentoring

Contact: sherylnnelbac@gmail.com

Lydia House Meals Ministry

Contact: robbyi@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/men>

Contact: mensministry@lbac.org

long beach alliance church offices

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www.facebook.com/longbeachalliancechurch
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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

Episode Four: Crystal Clarity & Convex Contours
Long Beach Alliance Church • October 2, 2016 • Pastor Chris Lankford

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

1) *Mary's Soul Desire*

- A) Mary's quick and obedient response to the Angel Gabriel moved her to visit her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45). When the two first-time mothers encounter one another, the Holy Spirit indwells Elizabeth, moving her to speak a blessing over Mary.
- B) Mary's response to Elizabeth's blessing is commonly called "Mary's Magnificat." The word "Magnificat" is derived from the first word of the Latin translation of Luke 1:46-55. Latin was the official formal language of the Roman Catholic church and was used for centuries in Catholic readings and services.
- C) Simply, 'Magnificat' means "magnify," and is the first response of Mary's soul to Elizabeth's blessing. Oddly, the Catholic church has chosen to magnify Mary through many of these verses (some of you might have recognized smatterings of "Hail Mary" from 1:28 & 42), but this is a distracting and dangerous error.
- D) Ironically, the focus of Mary's response is not on herself! Rather, Mary reveals a current and continuing "soul desire" for a life of magnifying the Lord (1:46). Like an object seen through a magnifying glass, Mary's focus is on God, not herself!

2) *Mary's Amazing Response Of Praise*

- A) Mary's joy is in magnifying the Lord (1:47) by contrasting her own "humble estate" (humiliation, resignation) as a "servant" (slave) and her undeserved blessing (joy, happiness) which will be for "all generations" (echoing Elizabeth's blessing, 1:45) against the mighty power and holiness of God (1:48-49).
- B) Mary uses her life of simplicity and humble reverence (fear of the Lord) to highlight (magnify) God's mercy for "generation to generation" (hearkening back to Gabriel's promises, 1:32-33). Mary is essentially using herself as an example of all of God's people who were empty, broken, and weak. If God will use Mary, she reasons, God must truly be holy & powerful (1:50).
- C) Mary lives in a country controlled by a demonic puppet King (Herod the "Great"), who is actually controlled by the far away super-power of Rome, controlled by Julius Caesar's adopted son, Octavian, also known as Caesar Augustus. The Jews hated the occupation of these foreigners, and longed for their freedom, to be provided by the Messiah (cf. Isaiah 7 & 9).
- D) Mary's blessing, she understands, is not just for herself, but for all generations. She understands the plight of Israel, the horror of their abuse under Rome, and the frustration of corrupt rulers. She rightfully recognizes she is carrying the Promised Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14), who will judge the "proud" and topple the "mighty," for those of "humble estate" (1:51-52, cf. 1:48).
- E) Mary brings a "theology of reversals" full-circle, now contrasting those that have been hungry, as those who will be filled by the Messiah. Those who have been rich (self-sufficient, satisfied with this world) will be judged on their investment, and sent away with nothing; bankrupted by the intoxication of their own idols of pride and power (1:51-53).
- F) Finally, Mary recognizes God's great mercy for Israel. God has not forgotten His people of promise (1:54-55). Mary's simplicity and humility serve to magnify God's greatness and mercy!

Growth Group Guide Week 4 • Luke 1:46-56

Stranger Things: Crystal Clarity & Convex Contours

Ice Breaker

- What kinds of music did you listen to as a teen?
What do you listen to now?
What kind of music do you most dislike?

In-Depth

Read Luke 1:46-56

Discuss anything you learned from the sermon about Mary's song.

1. What more do we learn about Mary from her song?
2. What is worship? What kinds of worship do and do not bring glory to God?

3. Mary's Song can be broken into four worship themes. What are the main messages of each:

A. Verses 46-48:

B. Verses 49-50:

C. Verses 51-53:

D. Verses 54-55:

Making It Relevant

1. We've discussed Mary's four worship themes. If you were to sing a worship song to God, what would be your four themes?
2. When we talk about worship, we tend to think of singing, however, singing is just one of many methods of worship. What others do you practice and how have they benefited your spiritual growth?

Are there types of worship you have neglected?