



# STRANGER THINGS

**Episode Five**  
**Restoring Voices Of Redemption**

**welcome to long beach alliance church**  
**october 9, 2016**

# AWANA FAMILY CAMP

## NOVEMBER 4-6

*San Clemente State Beach*

*Cost: \$12/person - (\$60/family maximum)*

*plus one bundle of wood!*

JOIN US FOR HOT DOGS,  
S'MORES, GAMES,  
PANCAKE BREAKFAST,  
BOOK TIME, AND MORE!

MORE INFORMATION?  
CONTACT EINAR RICHTER  
EINAR\_90808@GMAIL.COM  
562.706.7586

Long  
Beach  
Alliance  
Church



Love Others



Serve the World

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



Love God





# Serve Mexico Mission 2016 Trip Report

Saturday, October 15, 5-7PM

Dinner will be provided

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](http://HUMELAKE.ORG/MENS)



## Climate Survey Results

☀ JOIN THE ELDERS ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 @ 12:15PM TO DISCUSS THE RESULTS AND DETAILS OF THE EARLY-2016 LBAC CLIMATE SURVEY! ☀

## LBAC Year-to-Date Financial Report

Budget	Required	Received	Budget %
Weekly:	\$12,236.37	\$12,338.77	100.8%
Month-to-Date:	\$12,236.37	\$12,338.77	100.8%
Year-to-Date:	\$61,181.85	\$61,915.18	101.2%
Disbursed YTD: \$48,918.71		GOF Balance: \$13,617.31	



# LBAC's Family Calendar & Events

## 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

## Monday, October 10

- 7:00PM Compulsive Eaters Anonymous

## Tuesday, October 11

- 7:00PM Governing Board Meeting
- 7:00PM High School Youth Group

## Wednesday, October 12

- 6:30PM AWANA

## Thursday, October 13

- 7:00PM Junior High Youth Group

## Friday, October 14

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

## Saturday, October 15

- 5:00PM Mexico Mission Report

## Sunday, October 16

- 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
- 12:00PM Deacon Meeting
- 6:00PM Perspectives

## 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: sherylynne@lbac@gmail.com

## Lydia House Meals Ministry

Contact: robbi@apabrando.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

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](mailto:office@lbac.org) • [www.lbac.org](http://www.lbac.org)  
[www.facebook.com/longbeachalliancechurch](http://www.facebook.com/longbeachalliancechurch)  
church office hours: tuesday-friday, 12NOON-5:00PM

## church staff team

michelle crammer, office manager  
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kelly douglas, missions coordinator  
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matt swaney, family ministry pastor  
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scott trickett, associate pastor  
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# STRANGER THINGS

Episode Five: Restoring Voices Of Redemption  
Long Beach Alliance Church • October 9, 2016 • Pastor Chris Lankford

Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me.  
And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and  
the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight,  
behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

Malachi 3:1

## 1) A Magnificat Birth

- A) As Elizabeth's pregnancy comes to full-term, Mary heads back to Nazareth (roughly 3–4 months pregnant, Luke 1:56). As she departs, Elizabeth delivers her firstborn son (1:57-58).
- B) As often happens when a baby is born, family and friends gather around Zechariah & Elizabeth to celebrate God's mercy (God's "mercy" in these birth stories is 'His intentional love and compassion toward His people').
- C) Elizabeth's firstborn is a sign of "great mercy" from God (1:58). The original word-order emphasizes the greatness of God's mercy, and is the same magnification-word used by Mary of her soul (1:46, 'Magnificat').
- D) This is an uncommonly great magnified mercy from God for Elizabeth, Zechariah, their son, the relatives, the neighbors, and as we will see (through God's magnifying glass), for all of God's people in all places.
- E) Gabriel's words (1:13-17) and the tone of God's great mercy provide a thirsty anticipation for what God is up to...

## 2) A Strange Name for a Strange Kid

- A) In obedience to God's command (sign of promise; Genesis 17:10-12, Leviticus 12:3), "the child" is circumcised. As would be anticipated of a firstborn son... of an older couple... the crowd expects a traditional bearing of the father's name (1:59).

- B) But Elizabeth shocks everyone by announcing the child's name as "John" (1:60-61). Apparently, Zechariah is not present for the announcement, so family and friends go to him (perhaps sent by Elizabeth) and "made signs" asking him to provide the name (1:62). They are astonished and verbalize their confusion when Zechariah writes the same name, "John" on a tablet (1:63).
- C) The text points to Zechariah being deaf (previously/progressive? or occurring in the past nine months?), or that his judgment for lacking faith (from 1:20, contrasting 1:45) was not just being mute, but also deaf! He is living separated from joy, apart from even hearing his baby boy! But... redemption is coming!

## 3) A New Voice of Restoration & Redemption

- A) As if the naming wasn't enough, friends and family are surprised that (no longer mute) Zechariah is suddenly speaking again! This unassuming little family is suddenly very big news, causing both wonder and fear at who John will become (1:64-66).
- B) If you could suddenly speak after nine long months of "mute judgment," what would be the first words out of your mouth? Zechariah's voice is restored by God, and his first words are filled with blessing God (1:64).
- C) The question of the people (1:67) is answered by the Holy Spirit through His mouthpiece – Zechariah! This is a prophetic song (like Mary's, 1:46-55) of redemption, renewal, forgiveness, and reversal for God's people (1:68-75).
- D) The first words John hears from his dad are wonderful Spirit-filled prophecies (1:76-79). John's destiny is prophetic, bringing purity, mercy, and revelation by the forgiveness of sins, in preparation of the Lord's arrival!
- E) John will 'grow into' these words of spiritual blessing, with a 'strangely wild maturity' grown and strengthened in wilderness living, but soon to be unleashed publicly (1:80).
- F) John is the son of a barren couple, grows up in a barren land, marked by barren living (1:15) for Spiritual fruitfulness and a guiding path from death to Life Himself (1:78-79)!



# **Growth Group Guide Week 5 • Luke 1:57-80**

## **Stranger Things: Restoring Voices Of Redemption**

### **Ice Breaker**

- Tell about a senior citizen (e.g. Grandparent, aunt, neighbor, etc.) who had a positive impact on you when you were young.

### **In-Depth**

#### ***Read Luke 1:57-80***

Discuss what you learned from this week's sermon.

1. Verse 58: Mercy is the message of this verse and many others in the birth narratives (see also verses 50, 54, 72, & 78). In what ways is God's mercy being revealed?
2. Verses 13,60-63: The name John means "God is gracious," yet John's message was often anything but gracious (e.g. Luke 3:7-9). What does "grace" mean and why do you think God selected this name for John?
3. Verses 68-75: The first part of Zechariah's song focuses on God's fulfillment of his promise of salvation for his people. Where do you see this message in verses 68-75?

4. Verses 76-87: What is the theme of this part of Zechariah's song? Where, specifically, do you see this theme in these verses?

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34. How does that Old Testament prophecy relate to this New Testament prophecy?

### **Making It Relevant**

1. John's birth is a message about God's mercy and grace. Where have you seen God's mercy and grace at work in your life?

Do you tend to rely more on God's grace or your own abilities when facing challenging times?

2. If you have not yet received God's gift of salvation, is it time to do so now? Your growth group can help get you started.