

STRANGER THINGS

**Episode Nine
Gospel Lumberjacks**

**welcome to long beach alliance church
november 6, 2016**



communion In Remembrance Of Me

As we prepare our hearts for communion today, please read and meditate on **Psalm 32:1-7** (below).

Communion is a time to repent from sin, return to dependence on Christ, and remember Him in our lives.

As you read, consider repentance, dependence, and remembrance. Return to the goodness of a loving and forgiving God who is calling His children to sweet relationship and ongoing intentional dependence!

*(Psalm 32:1-7) Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

*For when I kept silent,
my bones wasted away through
my groaning all day long.*

*For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said,*

***"I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.***

*Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.
You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.*

God is faithful and does forgive & restore His children. He loves us, and knows relationship with Him is the very best thing for us. Let's celebrate together, responding as a cleansed and unified church!

*(Psalm 32:11) **Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!***

*this is my body which is for you. do this in remembrance of me.
this cup is the new covenant in my blood.
do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.*



FRANCE TEAM

Free Lunch!

Find out how to join us in prayer & support

Fundraiser Luncheon TODAY
Following 2nd Service

AWANA FAMILY CAMP

NOVEMBER 11-13

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

LBAC Year-to-Date Financial Report			
Budget	Required	Received	Budget %
Weekly:	\$12,236.37	\$10,372.71	84.8%
Month-to-Date:	\$61,181.85	\$50,231.60	82.1%
Year-to-Date:	\$110,127.33	\$99,101.66	90.0%
Disbursed YTD: \$94,484.07		GOF Balance: \$5,238.43	

LBAC's Family Calendar & Events

Sunday, November 6

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
12:15PM France Team Info Lunch/Fundraiser
6:00PM Perspectives

Monday, November 7

7:00PM Compulsive Eaters Anonymous

Tuesday, November 8

7:00PM High School Youth Group

Wednesday, November 9

6:30PM AWANA

Thursday, November 10

7:00PM Junior High Youth Group

Friday, November 11

AWANA Family Camp ~ San Clemente

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

Saturday, November 12

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

Sunday, November 13

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 @ 10:45AM
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: sherylynnelbac@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/men>

Contact: mensministry@lbac.org



THE ALLIANCE

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STRANGER THINGS

Episode Nine: Gospel Lumberjacks
Long Beach Alliance Church • November 6, 2016 • Pastor Chris Lankford

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Isaiah 40:3-5

1) A New Da

- A) The stories of Jesus Christ and John the Baptist are woven together in Luke's Gospel (Luke 1-2), but now come to the dramatic dawning of their purposes with the introduction of seven different political and religious leaders (Luke 3:1-2)
- B) Roman Emperor Tiberius Caesar came to power in 14 A.D., after his adoptive father (Caesar Augustus) died. The "fifteenth year" of his reign locates the time period near 29 A.D. (Luke 3:1).
- C) Pontius Pilate was a regional prefect (administrator) over the larger area of Judea (modern day Israel) from 26-37 A.D. Historians remember Pilate's rule as *"inflexible, a blend of self-will and relentlessness, whose administration was marked by bribes, insults, robberies, outrages, wanton injuries, frequent executions without trial, and endless savage ferocity."*
- D) Herod Antipas and his half-brother Philip both inherited their "tetrarchies" (regional rulership under Rome's leaders) from their father, Herod the Great (cf. 1:5; Matthew 2:16-18). Little is known of Lysanias, whose regional rulership was in Abilene, to the North of Galilee, between Mount Hermon and Damascus.
- E) After these five political rulers (all serving Rome), two Jewish rulers are mentioned. Interestingly, the "high priesthood" is singular, but then "Annas and Caiaphas," are a plurality (3:2). Annas served as High Priest from 6-15 A.D., and was followed by several sons, and eventually his son-in-law, Joseph Caiaphas from 18-37 A.D.; a very powerful religious dynasty (cf. Acts 4:6).

F) These details provide complex background details for dates, politics, and the religious atmosphere of the day. Further, our re-introduction to John the Baptist identically matches the ancient Jewish prophet introductions (e.g. Isaiah 1:1), pointing toward something monumental emerging on the horizon.

G) Can you sense the dramatic movement of God? He is bringing salvation from "the wilderness" (cf. Isaiah 40:3, Exodus echo?) through the first prophet in 450+ years (since Malachi)!

2) The Gospel Reveals Jesus

- A) John preaches/proclaims the message placed on him by God (Luke 3:2-3), calling Israelites to be baptized (agreement in a symbolic washing) as a public response affirming an ongoing lifestyle of repentance from sin.
- B) John's message is fueled by a fresh prophetic gift from God (God's truth in modern context) fulfilling ancient prophecies (3:4-6) of a Messianic forerunner (Isaiah 40:3-5, Malachi 3:1) with Elijah-like Spirit-filled preaching and power (cf. 1:17).
- C) It is notable that the "revealed... glory of God" (Isaiah 40:5) is "the salvation of God" (Luke 3:6). The glory of God is revealed for mankind in the "Good News" (Gospel) of Messiah Jesus.
- D) John's baptism is meant as preparation, making a smooth path for the Lord's imminent arrival (3:4-6). As crowds of people came to hear and see John (note Matthew 3:4), it also becomes clear that John's message warns of "wrath to come" (Luke 3:7, also Isaiah 40:6-8), an ominous tone of God's future judgment.

3) Snakes, Stones, and Lumberjacks

- A) John makes sure "the crowds" seeking baptism understand both the gravity and seriousness of repentance, comparing them to poisonous snakes (3:7). The snake was an offensive image of deception and destruction in Israel's history (Genesis 3:1-5), and would have generated immediate objection!
- B) But before the crowds can respond, John proclaims salvation is not an issue of nationality (Abrahamic), but of fruitful living (works of both mind & body) consistent with repentance (responding to God on His terms). Salvation is not inherited (God could make children from rocks if He wants); salvation comes by God's power, through life-altering repentance (3:8).
- C) John's message, like an axe to the root of fruitless trees, warns of judgment for sin leading to destruction (3:9). John's preaching demands response; receive or reject. The way of God is prepared by the call to repent; will you receive or reject?

Growth Group Guide Week 9 • Luke 3:1-9

Stranger Things: Gospel Lumberjacks

Ice Breaker

- What is the worst thing you've ever eaten? What made it awful and why did you eat it?

C. The prophets: John and Zechariah

2. Verses 4-6: Paraphrase each line of Isaiah's prophecy, and how it relates to John.

In-Depth

Read Luke 3:1-9

Discuss what you learned from this week's sermon.

1. Verses 1-2: We've jumped 18 years since the end of Chapter 2, so Luke feels it is important to set the stage for the beginning of Jesus' ministry. What do you know from scripture (or history) about the cast of characters in these two verses?

A. The rulers: Tiberius, Pilate, Herod, Philip, Lysanias

B. The priests: Annas and Caiaphas

3. Verses 7-9: Why were the crowds coming to see John (see also Matthew 3:1-10)? What was his message to them?

Making It Relevant

1. What does it look like to "bear fruit in keeping with repentance"?