

A close-up photograph of a baby with light skin, bright blue eyes, and spiky brown hair. The baby is wearing a blue and white striped long-sleeved shirt and has a surprised expression with its mouth slightly open. The background is a solid green color.

Advent Love

welcome to long beach alliance church
december 18, 2016

Advent Season, Week #4

In the Bleak Midwinter

by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him,
nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim,
worship night and day,
Breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

New Classes Beginning!

January 8, 2017

Sign-Up In The Courtyard Today!

Hearing God

How to hear God's voice in every
circumstance of life

(FOR WOMEN ONLY)

Facilitators: Melinda Lankford & Missy McDougall

Telling God's Story

How to share God's great story

Facilitators: Scott Trickett & Matt Swaney

FOUNDATIONS II

How to live the truths of the
Christian faith in your life

Facilitator: John Carriveau

LBAC Year-to-Date Financial Report

Budget	Required	Received	Budget %
Weekly:	\$12,236.37	\$14,275.53	116.7%
Month-to-Date:	\$24,472.74	\$26,471.65	108.2%
Year-to-Date:	\$183,545.55	\$168,945.81	92.0%
Disbursed YTD:	\$173,331.32	GOF Balance:	-\$3,764.67

LBAC's Family Calendar & Events

Sunday, December 18

- 9:00AM Worship Celebration 1
- 10:15AM Mind the Gap (Courtyard)
- 10:45AM Foundations Adult Class
- 10:45AM Foundations Youth Meeting
- 10:45AM Worship Celebration 2
- 12:00PM How We Love Meeting
- 6:30PM Elder Dessert Evening

Monday, December 19

- 5:30PM LBAC Staff Christmas Dinner
- 6:30PM Compulsive Eaters Anonymous

Tuesday, December 20

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

Wednesday, December 21

- 6:30PM AWANA

Thursday, December 22

- 7:00PM Junior High Youth Group

Friday, December 23

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

Saturday, December 24

- 6:30PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25

- Merry Christmas!
- 9:00AM Coffee & Tea at LBAC (Courtyard)
- 9:30AM Combined Worship & Celebration

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 through May 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: sherylynne@lbac@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

Weekly Schedule

Regular Ministry Schedule & Contacts



THE
ALLIANCE

long beach alliance church offices

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church office hours: tuesday-friday, 12NOON-5:00PM

church staff team

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kelly@lbac.org

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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
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WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

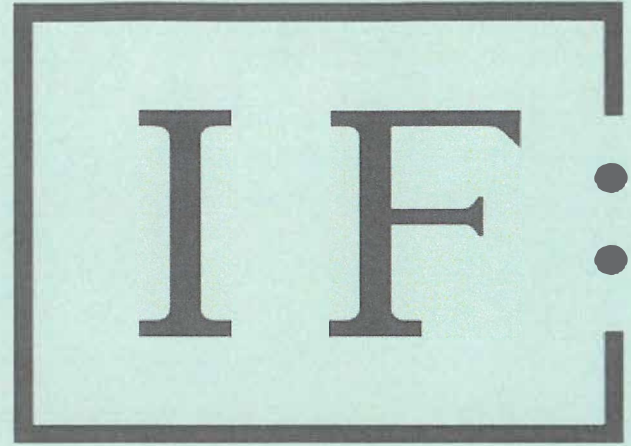
**Men's Ministry is Hosting a FREE
Women's Breakfast Featuring Guest Speaker
Didi MacPherson**

**at LBAC on Saturday, January 7
from 9:00AM until 11:00AM**

**Please pick up your ticket at the table outside the church
on December 11, 18 or January 1**

Childcare will be provided.





IF:Gathering is a fresh, deep, honest space for women to wrestle with the essential question: If God is real...then what? This 2-day gathering will bring women together to wrestle out how to live out the calling God has placed on our lives.

Friday, March 24 6PM-9PM

Saturday, March 25 9AM-4PM

LBAC

More Info? Meghan Brearley: meghan_brearley@verizon.net

Advent Love

Long Beach Alliance Church • December 18, 2016 • Pastor Chris Lankford

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

~ 1 John 4:7-11

1) Christmas is a Time of Love

- A) Describing love is often complicated. Is it a feeling? A choice? Is there “love at first sight?” Can you love be lost? Why do some people “fall into love,” while it eludes others who really want it? Does anybody really “find love?” Or, does “love find you?”
- B) One of the greatest and most understandable characteristics of God is His love. The Bible uses several words to describe God’s love (OT – ahav/chesed, NT – phileo/agapao). God’s love is often displayed, but is most vividly described in 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.
- C) Christmas is a time of love. There is something about Christmas that is warm, heartfelt, and inherently filled with love. This is no mistake, because Christmas began because of God’s great love.
- D) One of the first parts of the Bible most followers of Christ learn and memorize is John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son...” On the very first Christmas, God gave the greatest gift of Jesus because He was motivated by love.
- E) The gifts we will give to one another next week for Christmas are a reflection of God’s first great gift of Jesus. We give gifts in the same manner which God gives gifts, not because someone is deserving, but out of love (1 John 4:9).

2) *Christmas is a Celebration of God's Love*

- A) God's love is active. His love always intentionally gives. God's love always gives. If love does not naturally give to others, it is not the love of God (1 John 4:8). God's love is meant for the benefit of others, and is always self-sacrificing (Ephesians 5:1-2).
- B) The ultimate expression of God's love for mankind is Jesus Christ (1 John 4:8-9). Christmas is a celebration of this love, a love freely given, even to those who are undeserving of His love (4:10).
- C) God's love is abundant and is meant for all people without prejudice (Romans 10:9-13; John 3:16; see also Luke 2:10). God's love is capable of delivering on its promises and is powerful and sufficient enough to save everyone (1 Timothy 2:1-4).
- D) Simultaneously, God's love is selective and is only experienced by those who respond to Jesus (John 17:9-10; Ephesians 1:3-6). While God's love is limitless, it is only received by those who know they are sick, lost, broken, and/or sinful (Luke 19:10; 1 Timothy 1:15).
- E) God's love is compassionate and full of understanding (Psalm 103:8-14). God loves us as we are, but promises transformation from darkness to light, from sin to sainthood, and from unbelief and disbelief to being faithful and true (Acts 26:18, John 3:19-21).

3) *Christmas is a Celebration of Messiah Jesus.*

- A) The word "Christ" is a title, meaning "Messiah" (Anointed One from Isaiah 61:1-3). Jesus was the Anointed One, the Messiah, the promised Christ (Isaiah 9:2-7).
- B) Mary's virgin birth of Jesus (Matthew 1:18-25) is the fulfillment of the promised sign that God Himself would come as Messiah (Isaiah 7:14). The Messiah was to bring salvation (Isaiah 61:1-3), because of God's great love for mankind (1 John 4:9-10).
- C) Christmas celebrates Christ's birth, but also the purpose of His coming. Christ came to love sacrificially, and we are to do the same (1 John 3:16). This is the heart of Christmas love, to give what we have received; Jesus Christ, our Messiah (1 John 3:18).