

# JESUS IS...

WELCOME TO LONG BEACH ALLIANCE CHURCH  
FEBRUARY 26, 2017

## LBAC's Family Calendar & Events

### Sunday, February 26

9:00AM Morning Coffee  
9:30AM Worship & Celebration  
11:00AM Foundations Classes

### Monday, February 27

6:00PM Compulsive Eaters Anonymous

### Tuesday, February 28

7:00PM Elder Board Meeting  
7:00PM High School Youth Group

### Wednesday, March 1

6:30PM AWANA

### Thursday, March 2

7:00PM Junior High Youth Group

### Friday, March 3

6:30AM Men's Bible Study  
6:00PM Narcotics Anonymous  
Gary May Soirée

### Saturday, March 4

8:00AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast  
9:00AM Compulsive Eaters Anonymous

### Sunday, March 5

9:00AM Morning Coffee  
9:30AM Worship & Celebration  
11:00AM Foundations Classes  
12:30PM AWANA Leaders' Meeting

### MISSIONS

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

### 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 @ 9:30AM  
Fun-N-Funky Hour @ 11:00AM

### AWANA

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

Wednesdays through May 6:30PM-8:30PM

### YOUTH MINISTRIES

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

JH & HS Foundations ~ Sundays @ 11:00AM  
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: robbi@apabrandu.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



THE  
ALLIANCE

## long beach alliance church offices

3331 palo verde avenue · long beach, ca · 90808-4113  
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

michelle crammer, office manager  
ext. 1004 · michelle@lbac.org

kelly douglas, missions coordinator  
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

Regular Ministry Schedule & Contacts



welcome to  
long beach alliance church



we are a community of Jesus followers who  
love God, love others, & serve the world

**New Foundations Classes Begin Today!**  
Join us at 11:00AM for the next 7 weeks as we dive in...

### How We Love

Facilitator: Matt Swaney • Located: Sanctuary

This class is for those who would like to use the tools from the book "How We Love" to become a secure connector. There will be a review for those who are being introduced to the topic. You did not need to have attended the conference for this class to be great for you!

### Childcare & Kids Fun-n-Funky Hour!

Nursery thru Pre-K Sign-Up: [matt@lbac.org](mailto:matt@lbac.org)

Kids Hour Led By: Chris Lankford

11:00AM-12:00PM (Fun, Snacks, Fun, Crafts, and More Funner!)

### Youth Ministries! Below the Surface

Facilitator: Jesse Duckett

Located: Youth Room

Junior high & High school students! Come hang out with us as we look at a few passages from Scripture and learn the basic skills that will allow you to go deeper as you learn to better read God's Word. With these tools, it becomes easier than you think! You'll even be able to teach this to your friends & family!

### Mission of God

Facilitators: Scott Trickett, Kelly Douglas, & Chris Wen

Located: Room 202

In this class we will be continuing to look at what it means to tell God's story. We will be learning about God's heart for the lost and the drastic steps he has taken and continues to take to solve the lostness of humanity.

### Daily Christian Living

Facilitator: John Carriveau

Located: Room 102

Discovering the foundational aspects of Christianity and incorporating these central Gospel aspects of Christian Living into practice in our lives!



### LBAC Year-to-Date Financial Report

Budget	Required	Received	Budget %
Weekly:	\$12,236.37	\$7,651.53	62.5%
Month-to-Date:	\$36,709.11	\$26,703.98	72.7%
Year-to-Date:	\$318,145.62	\$286,060.29	89.9%
Disbursed YTD:	\$277,527.87	GOF Balance:	\$9,153.26



# Jesus Is Joy

LONG BEACH ALLIANCE CHURCH  
FEBRUARY 26, 2017 • PASTOR CHRIS LANKFORD

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*But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved.*

~ Ephesians 2:4-5

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## 1) Filthy Rich

- A) In Israel, very few professions were as despised as tax collecting. The Roman government charged taxes to everyone in their sprawling empire, directly taxing both people and the land. For Israelites, paying taxes to Rome was a painful reminder of Roman occupation and oppression.
- B) In the earliest years of the Roman Empire, the government sent out their own tax collectors to assure they reaped the spoils of their conquering armies. But by the time of Christ, most Roman tax collection officials (known as ‘men of the republic’ or simply, “publicans”) had retired.
- C) Rather than send officials from Rome (costly and unpopular), Rome collected taxes by assessing a local region (for example, Capernaum), and then sold the rights to collect taxes in that area to the highest bidder. The winner/buyer of a local region had to pay the tax to Rome each year, but could keep anything he gathered above and beyond the required tax.
- D) This system of local taxation was a breeding ground for dishonest gain, corruption, and fraud. Taxes were especially heavy for goods being transported from one location to another (grain, vegetables, fish, fruit).
- E) A tax collector could inflate his taxes for any reason, and the fees were often so outrageous (20% – 30%), people could not make the required payments. This created a new business for tax collectors, who were also loan sharks, lending out money to the poor to provide payment for their own inflated tolls and then charging ridiculous interest on loaned funds.
- F) People hated tax collectors. They worked for the enemy, they grew fantastically wealthy through their deceitful systems, and they essentially amounted to government sanctioned thieves and robbers. In addition, the Jews especially hated tax collectors because they had extensive contact with Gentiles. In Scripture, tax collectors are almost always associated in groups with sinners, prostitutes, and alcoholics (Luke 5:30, 7:34, 18:11).

## 2) Jesus Sees & Seeks Rebels

- A) “Matthew Levi, son of Alphaeus” was a tax collector at the tax booth in Capernaum (Matthew 9:9, Mark 2:14, Luke 5:27). His Jewish name, “Levi,” means he was the son of a Levite family, the priestly line of Israel. A tax collector from a Levitical family heightens Levi’s offensiveness, and reveals a rebellious rejection of God and family in Levi’s history. Note also his probable brother, James the son of Alphaeus (6:15).
- B) When Jesus is passing the tax booth of Levi, he stares intently at Levi, seeing more than his offensive decisions and intentional rebellion (5:27). Jesus sees Levi’s heart. Jesus does not worry about Levi’s past because Jesus is offering him a new future. Levi responds without hesitation (5:28).
- C) Levi decisively breaks away from his old life, recognizing that following Christ can mean leaving relationships, vocations, and lifestyles behind. Is it any wonder that Levi’s name is changed to Matthew (like ‘Simon’ to ‘Peter’), meaning “gift of God.” The rebel thief becomes God’s good gift!

## 3) Joy Killers & Joy Fillers

- A) In response to Jesus, Levi throws a joyous party and invites his rich tax collecting friends to celebrate (5:29). But there are some people who are bothered Jesus would dare to eat, drink, and have fellowship with sinners.
- B) The Jewish religious elite, leaders among the Pharisees and scribes, accuse Jesus of inappropriate and undignified behavior (5:30). But Jesus will not be swayed by these judgmental joy-killers. Rather, Christ states His purposes clearly, to heal the sick and to save the sinful (5:31-32).
- C) The words of Christ should have convicted the self-righteous Pharisees to consider their hearts. But, as is often true, the religious “in crowd” missed the point. They had become an elite society, a religious country club with clean hands, but lacking in humble hearts of mercy (cf. Hosea 6:6).
- D) Unconvinced by Jesus, the Pharisees continued their attempts to accuse and undermine Jesus and His followers, and even get support from some of John the Baptist’s disciples (cf. Matthew 9:14, Mark 2:18).
- E) The Pharisees fasted two days a week (Mondays & Thursdays), and also mourned as part of their fasting. They believed this obvious sacrifice and self-denial pleased God. Religion meant denying what you wanted, and doing things you really didn’t want to do. But Jesus completely disagreed!
- F) When Jesus is in our lives, it is a time for celebration, like at a wedding (5:34-35). The old ways (the Law of Moses) had their time, but now new ways (in Christ) had come. They were a new garment and new wine and could not be contained by the old structures (5:36-38).
- G) Jesus warns the religious elite about getting stuck in the “good ol’ ways” (5:39). Don’t miss life in Christ because of a satisfied life! He is true joy!



## *Ice Breaker*

- What is the dumbest rule or law you've seen?

## *In-Depth*

*Read Luke 5:27-39*

- Discuss what you learned from this week's sermon.
1. Verses 30-32: Read Psalm 26:4-5, Proverbs 13:20, and 1 Corinthians 15:33. What is the underlying truth in the Pharisees' question in verse 30?

Jesus replies with a different truth. What is it?

Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-11. How do we as Christians avoid the mistake of the Pharisees and balance these two truths?

2. Verses 33-34: Jesus says that the correct response for His followers in His presence is joy, not mourning. Read John 16:22, Romans 15:13, Philippians 4:4, 1 Peter 1:6-9. Describe the nature of Christian joy (who, what, where/when, why).

3. Verses 36-39: Jesus tells three mini-parables. For each one, what do the elements of the parable represent and what is Jesus' point?

- A. Patching an old garment with new cloth?
- B. Putting new wine in old wine skins?
- C. Drinking old wine or new wine?

## *Making It Relevant*

1. Which is a more likely to be a problem for you: being with friends who are a bad influence or isolating yourself from sinners who need to hear the Gospel? What should you do?
2. If you are a follower of Jesus, you are always in the presence of the bridegroom. Do you experience joy... do you rejoice in the Lord, always? Or does the world convince you to mourn/mope/fume, despite His presence?
3. What are some examples of "Christian rules" that, like the Pharisees' fasting rules, go beyond Biblical teaching?