



*Illuminating*  
**REALITY**

*Welcome To Long Beach Alliance Church!*

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024**



# VBS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

*June 24-28, 2024*

*Registration open for students and volunteers  
Space is limited - Register today!  
Go to [lbac.org](http://lbac.org) and click on the VBS 2024  
Registration link on the home page*

*Questions??? Meghan Brearley 562.708.9261  
or [meghan@lbac.org](mailto:meghan@lbac.org)*

*SAVE THE DATE - VBS Leaders Meeting  
Saturday, May 18 10AM*

## LBAC Year-to-Date Financial Report

Beginning Balance September 1, 2023: \$30,994.65

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget %</u>
March 2024:	\$73,498.15	\$76,827.74	104.5%
Year-to-Date:	\$455,688.53	\$422,548.42	92.7%
Disbursed YTD:	\$419,339.62	GF Balance: \$34,203.45	

*Financial Gifts can be placed in the locked box in the Sanctuary lobby or given to an usher.  
You can also use any of the options viewable online at <https://lbac.org/give>.*

# VBS DONATIONS NEEDED



## FROM COSTCO:

- (4) 9 ounce paper cold cups
- (1) Package of small paper plates
- (6) boxes squeezable applesauce
- (4) boxes Rice Krispie Treats
- (3) 90-count fruit snacks
- (2) kegs pretzels
- (4) boxes of Oreos
- (4) boxes of Cheez-its
- (1) Bag of tortilla chips
- (1) bag of M & M's
- (1) 60 count string cheese
- (2) Country Time Lemonade
- (2) Case of water bottles
- (2) Packages of napkins

## FROM SMART & FINAL:

- (3) 5 ounce paper cold cups

*Thank you for helping make VBS successful.  
If you would like to help with anything on this list,  
please let Meghan know and drop off in the kitchen*

**BY JUNE 16**

*Questions??? Contact Meghan Brearley  
562.708.9261 or [meghan@lbac.org](mailto:meghan@lbac.org)*

# Humanity Renewed

*Long Beach Alliance Church • April 14, 2024 • Pastor Chris Lankford*

**IN HIM WAS LIFE, AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN.**

**THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS,  
AND THE DARKNESS HAS NOT OVERCOME IT.**

**◀JOHN 1:4-5▶**

## **1) A Crucial Introduction For Knowing God**

- a) One of the most important truths in the Bible about God is that He is One (Deuteronomy 6:4). There is none greater than God, and He alone is the God who reveals Himself as the One God to His people (Deuteronomy 4:35-40).**
  
- b) At first glance, John's introduction of God being in the beginning "with the Word" seems like 'no big deal.' But then, the Word is revealed as the active divine person who created all things (John 1:1-3).**
  
- c) You can imagine how radical it was for John to write that Jesus was "the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). Jesus was the human person who was also the divine Word, God in human flesh for all to see (John 1:18).**
  
- d) John wants to make sure we understand this truth from the beginning! Jesus was 100% human, and He was 100% divine!**
  
- e) The "one-ness" of God was revealed to mankind as unity in essence, will, glory, and eternity. But the personhood of God was revealed as God the Father, God the Son, and (we will see later) God the Holy Spirit. "God in trinity and the trinity in unity" (as written in the Athanasian Creed).**

## **2) The Cosmic Battle Continues**

- a) **John's poetic introduction to his Gospel account also introduces us to Jesus Christ as "the true light, which gives life and light to everyone" but cannot be "overcome by the darkness" (John 1:4-5, 9).**
- b) **Here again the echoes of the cosmic battle between Satan and God are revisited (Genesis 3). The word for "overcome" (John 1:5, sometimes rendered "grasp," or "comprehend," or "extinguish") had a kind of dual spiritual & physical meaning.**
- First, it meant to comprehend or grasp hold of something with your mind. In this sense, the darkness is trying to comprehend the light, to intellectually grasp the light.**
  - Second, it also meant to seize something by force with your hand, usually in a hostile and violent manner. The darkness was trying to overtake the light, to be its champion.**
- c) **John's Gospel account begins with this simple metaphor of darkness and light, but it reminds us there is a cosmic battle between God and Satan filled with hostility and violence in which all of mankind finds itself. This darkness is where Satan dwells and thrives. Terrible things happen in the darkness in John's Gospel account, it is the realm in which Satan thrives and mankind suffers.**
- d) **Sadly, even most of God's own people (the Jews) do not welcome the light of Jesus in their lives, much like most of the world (John 1:10-11). But to those who "receive," to those who "believe" (John 1:12-13)...**
- e) **There is a responsibility we bear to respond to God's "grace upon grace" (John 1:16) by receiving & believing, to "become children of God, born of God" (John 1:12-13). Is God "dwelling" with you, is He the light of your life?**

# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN



**AUTHOR:** "THE DISCIPLE JESUS LOVED"

(SEE 13:23; 19:34-37; 20:2)

🐦 JOHN, SON OF ZEBEDEE?

🐦 JOHN THE ELDER?

**THE PURPOSE OF THIS BOOK:**

"SO THAT YOU MAY COME TO BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE MESSIAH, AND THAT BY BELIEVING, YOU MAY HAVE LIFE IN HIS NAME."  
(20:31)



JESUS PERFORMS A SIGN OR MAKES A CLAIM...

... PEOPLE MISUNDERSTAND OR GET ANGRY

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1:1-10 In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God.

AND THE WORD WAS GOD. (GENESIS 1)

THE DIVINE WORD BECAME HUMAN

GOD'S TABERNACLE GLORY (EXODUS 35:35)

THE ONE, TRUE GOD: FATHER & SON



THE LAMB OF GOD! (1:17-51)

SON OF GOD! RABBI!

THE SON OF MAN. MESSIAH!

KING OF ISRAEL! JESUS OF NAZARETH!

## 7 TITLES:

THE FULLY HUMAN JESUS FROM NAZARETH IS THE MESSIANIC KING & TEACHER OF ISRAEL AND THE SON OF GOD WHO WILL DIE FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD.

## 2-10 MIRACULOUS SIGNS & CONTROVERSIES

2a A WEDDING



YOU SAVED THE BEST WINE FOR LAST!

JESUS' FIRST SIGN  
ISAIAH (69:4) SAID THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM SHOULD HAVE GREAT WINE. REVEALS THE GENEROUSITY OF GOD'S KINGDOM!

2-4 FOUR JEWISH INSTITUTIONS

2b THE TEMPLE



JESUS' DEATH IS LIKE THE TEMPLE: WE'LL RAISE IT AGAIN IN THREE DAYS!

DESTROY THIS TEMPLE AND I'LL RAISE IT AGAIN IN THREE DAYS!

...HE'S THE REALITY TO WHICH THE TEMPLE POINTS.

3 A RABBI



RABBI JESUS. YOU'RE A TEACHER SENT BY GOD (3:2)

NO ONE CAN EXPERIENCE GOD'S KINGDOM WITHOUT BEING BORN AGAIN. (3:3)

ISRAEL NEEDS MORE THAN A TEACHER WITH NEW INFORMATION; THEY NEED A NEW HEART.

4 A SACRED WELL



SAMARITAN (JOHN 4:20-24)

YOU DON'T HAVE A BUCKET.

I HAVE WATER TO GIVE THAT BECOMES A SPRING BURBLING WITH ETERNAL LIFE. (4:14)

A NEW QUALITY OF LIFE INFUSED WITH GOD'S ETERNAL LOVE

**5 SABBATH** THAT MAN SHOULDN'T DO "WORK" TODAY!  
 MY FATHER IS "WORKING" TODAY... AND SO AM I. (5:17)  
 HE'S CALLING GOD HIS FATHER...  
 ...MAKING HIMSELF EQUAL WITH GOD!  
 ...HE DESERVES TO DIE!

**6 PASSOVER** I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE... WHOEVER "EATS" ME WILL FIND ETERNAL LIFE. (6:35, 51)  
 FROM NOW ON, GIVE US THIS BREAD!  
 EAT HIS BODY??  
 RIDICULOUS!

**7-10a TABERNACLES** WATER FROM THE ROCK. RETOLD THE WILDERNESS WANDERINGS. CLOUD & FIRE. PILLAR OF  
 IF ANYONE'S THIRSTY, COME TO ME & DRINK. (7:37) GOD'S LIFE-SAVING GIFT  
 I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. (8:12) GOD'S ILLUMINATING PRESENCE

**10b HANUKKAH** "REDEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE"  
 GOD HAS SET ME APART AS THE HOLY ONE. (10:36) I AND THE FATHER ARE ONE. (10:30) HE HAS TO DIE.

**11-12 RAISING LAZARUS**

LAZARUS IS SICK!  
 GOING TO JERUSALEM MEANS CERTAIN DEATH... BUT I LOVE LAZARUS.  
 LAZARUS! COME OUT!  
 KING OF ISRAEL!  
 HOSANNA!  
 JERUSALEM  
 JESUS LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIEND

# FOR FREEDOM WORKSHOP

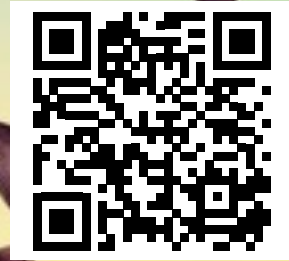
APRIL 27, 2024 10AM - 2PM

LBAC Sanctuary (Lunch Provided)

*Any questions? Contact Sam (925-285-1295) or  
Debra Eberhart (562-533-2390)*

TICKETS  
\$20

RESERVE  
YOUR  
SEAT  
TODAY!



*Last chance to sign up!  
Give to a friend who may benefit from this!*

**EQUIPPING THE CHURCH TO PROVIDE PATHWAYS FOR HEALING  
TO THOSE DEVASTATED BY THE EFFECTS OF UNWANTED SEXUAL  
BEHAVIORS AND BETRAYAL TRAUMA**



# QUESTIONING EVANGELISM

(Engaging People's Hearts the Way Jesus Did)

Special Guest Discussion Leader: Elder Vincent Nwankpa

10 week discussion using Scripture and the book\*

"Questioning Evangelism" by Randy Newman (book not required)

We are all on a mission to share the love of Christ with whomever the Lord sets in our paths, but how can we most effectively point people to the truth?

11:15 – 12:15, in the downstairs classroom

*This week's prompt: Why are Christians so intolerant?*

# *Dirtbags*

## LONG BEACH ALLIANCE CHURCH FUNDRAISER

TO PURCHASE TICKETS, PLEASE VISIT:  
[WWW.LONGBEACHSTATE.COM/LBALLIANCE](http://WWW.LONGBEACHSTATE.COM/LBALLIANCE)

**BARK IN THE PARK**  
DOG WATER  
BOWL GIVEAWAY

*Dirtbags* vs. **UCR**



**SUN | APR. 21 | 1:00PM**

BOHL DIAMOND  
AT BLAIR FIELD

**TICKETS  
ARE \$12 EACH!**

\$5 OF SALES GO BACK  
TO LONG BEACH ALLIANCE!

# Crafty Women

Saturday, April 20  
10AM-4PM  
Room 102

Contact Donna Neel  
for any questions 562.335.9088

Game  
Night

SATURDAY, APRIL 20  
6:30PM-9:30PM

AT THE MILLERS HOME  
4702 SNOWDEN AVE LAKEWOOD

SIGN UP AT THE COURTYARD TABLE  
OR CONTACT MARILYN 562.425.0827

Please bring a snack or appetizer to share

**ALLIANCE YOUTH**  
ONLINE SILENT AUCTION



WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING  
SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS  
TO HELP RAISE FUNDS  
FOR YOUTH SUMMER CAMP!  
IF YOU HAVE AN ITEM OR SERVICE  
TO DONATE OR KNOW OF A  
COMPANY WILLING TO PARTICIPATE  
PLEASE CONTACT:

MEGHAN BREARLEY @ 562.708.9261



# Tea Under the Sea

PRESENTED BY LBAC WOMEN'S MINISTRY


May 11, 2024

11:00am-1:30pm  \$16/per person

TICKETS ON SALE APRIL 21 AND 28  
HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND UP

LONG BEACH ALLIANCE CHURCH  
3331 PALO VERDE AVE.  
LONG BEACH, CA 90808

If you'd like to host a table or  
have questions contact  
Meghan 562.708.9261



# LBAC's Family Calendar & Events

Weekly Schedule

## Sunday, April 14

- 9:30AM Gospel Project: Children's Ministry
- 9:30AM Worship & Celebration Service
- 11:15AM Questioning Evangelism Class
- 11:30AM Newcomers Luncheon

## Monday, April 15

- 7:00PM Pure Desire Ministry Meeting
- 7:00PM Survivors of Incest Anonymous

## Tuesday, April 16

- 10:00AM Staff Meeting
- 7:00PM Betrayal & Beyond Mtg @ Eberharts
- 7:00PM Men's Bible Study @ the Millers
- 7:00PM Middle/High School Youth Group

## Wednesday, April 17

- 6:30PM AWANA
- 6:30PM Betrayal & Beyond @ Eberharts/Zoom

## Thursday, April 18

- 9:30AM Women's Bible Study @ the Millers
- 5:00PM Lydia House Women's Outreach
- 6:30PM Bible Study @ the Holland/Carriveaus
- 7:00PM Betrayal and Beyond @ the Eberhart's

## Friday, April 19

- 8:00AM Men's In-Person/Zoom Bible Study
- 8:00PM NA In-Person Meeting

## Saturday, April 20

- 10:00AM Crafty Women
- 10:00AM Vision School
- 6:30PM LBAC Adult Game Night

## Sunday, April 21

- 9:30AM Gospel Project: Children's Ministry
- 9:30AM Worship & Celebration Service
- 11:15AM Questioning Evangelism Class
- 1:00PM CSULB Dirtbag Game Fundraiser

## MISSIONS

**Information Coming Soon!**

## LIFE GROUPS

Contact: [office@lbac.org](mailto:office@lbac.org)  
Mid-week Adult Bible Studies

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

**LBAC Children's Ministries!**

Sunday Mornings:  
Gospel Project @ 9:30AM

## AWANA

**LBAC AWANA**

Wednesday Nights September-May

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

**LBAC Youth Ministries!**

**LBAC Youth Instagram Page**  
Every Tuesday Night @ 7:00PM

## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

**LBAC Women's Ministry!**

Women's Ministry Event Information  
Contact: [office@lbac.org](mailto:office@lbac.org)

Lydia House Meals Ministry  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month

Women Connecting with Missions  
Contact Kathie Metz: [kathiemetz@msn.com](mailto:kathiemetz@msn.com)

Crafty Women  
3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month @ 10:00AM

## MEN'S MINISTRIES

**LBAC Men's Ministry!**

Contact: [mensministry@lbac.org](mailto:mensministry@lbac.org)

## long beach alliance church offices

3331 palo verde avenue • long beach, ca • 90808-4113  
phone: 562.420.1478 email: [office@lbac.org](mailto:office@lbac.org) website: [www.lbac.org](http://www.lbac.org)  
church office hours: Tuesdays-Thursdays 10:00AM-5:00PM  
For prayer requests: [prayer@lbac.org](mailto:prayer@lbac.org)

## church staff team

meghan brearley, children's director  
562.708.9261 • [meghan@lbac.org](mailto:meghan@lbac.org)

justin enayat, worship producer  
562.754.7163 • [justin@lbac.org](mailto:justin@lbac.org)

chris lankford, lead pastor  
562.685.4132 • [chris@lbac.org](mailto:chris@lbac.org)

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917.288.3424 • [michelle@lbac.org](mailto:michelle@lbac.org)

jeremiah holden, worship tech intern  
760.224.4178 • [jeremiah@lbac.org](mailto:jeremiah@lbac.org)

tina rand, receptionist & treasurer  
562.900.8385 • [tina@lbac.org](mailto:tina@lbac.org)

scott trickett, associate pastor  
562.972.5306 • [scott@lbac.org](mailto:scott@lbac.org)

Regular Ministry Schedule & Contacts



**THE  
ALLIANCE**