

JESUS IS...



WELCOME TO LONG BEACH ALLIANCE CHURCH
JANUARY 29, 2017

welcome to
long beach alliance church

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

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL!?

Our neighbors and friends love events like the upcoming Super Bowl on Sunday, February 5 @ 3:30PM. The Super Bowl is a great opportunity to display the Gospel with friends and family. Connecting with people over good food and a fun event provides an environment to show friends and family you value them and love to share life with them.

At the core of the Gospel is a similar environment. Jesus displayed His value for us by sharing His life and revealing God's goodness and love. Let's do the same when we have easy-access opportunities for displaying the Gospel!

Jesus displayed the Gospel at a wedding, festivals, in homes, and in lots of other normal locations. We should imitate His example that everyday places are the best spaces to share God's goodness.

Now... let's go and do the same.

ATLANTA FALCONS VS. NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 • KICK-OFF @ 3:30PM

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

long beach alliance

Saturday, February 4
at 8:00AM

HOW WE LOVE

February 10-11
Register Now @ lbac.org

KEIY DOUGLAS

TOUIOUSE, FRANCE
2017-2019

44% OF SUPPORT RAISED

1. Go to cmalliance.org/give
2. Under "Give to International Workers and Special Projects," type: ENV-Kelly Douglas
3. Add an amount for a one-time gift in the box or sign up for monthly giving by clicking "Make this a recurring gift"
4. Fill in all of your contact & billing info, click "Submit!"

The Next 50 Update

LBAC's Facility Renovation Fund



LBAC Year-to-Date Financial Report

Budget	Required	Received	Budget %
Weekly:	\$12,236.37	\$10,007.53	81.8%
Month-to-Date:	\$48,945.48	\$31,471.60	64.3%
Year-to-Date:	\$269,200.14	\$247,401.01	91.9%
Disbursed YTD: \$229,245.82 GOF Balance: \$18,776.03			

LBAC's Family Calendar & Events

Weekly Schedule

Sunday, January 29

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

Monday, January 30

- 6:00PM Compulsive Eaters Anonymous

Tuesday, January 31

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

Wednesday, February 1

- 6:30PM AWANA

Thursday, February 2

- 7:00PM Junior High Youth Group

Friday, February 3

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

Saturday, February 4

- 8:00AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- 9:00AM Compulsive Eaters Anonymous
- 10:00AM Crafty Women

Sunday, February 5

- 9:00AM Morning Coffee
- 9:30AM Worship & Celebration
- 11:00AM Foundations Classes
- 12:15PM Deaconess Meeting
- Grounds Bakery & Cafe
- 6:00PM Youth Leader Meeting
- 3203 Silva Street, Lakewood

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: sheryllynlbac@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

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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Jesus Is Powerful

LONG BEACH ALLIANCE CHURCH
JANUARY 29, 2017
PASTOR CHRIS LANKFORD

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Hebrews 4:12-13

1) From Hometown Prophet To Big City Preacher

- A) After Jesus miraculously escaped bodily harm from a furious hometown mob in Nazareth (Luke 4:29-30), He travels about 20 miles “down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee” (4:31). Capernaum was a thriving fishing and agricultural “city” located on the Northern side of the Sea of Galilee.
- B) Unlike smaller villages, Capernaum had its own synagogue, possessed a Roman military presence, and was located on a significant East/West trade route which included a customs tax/toll station.
- C) Significantly, Capernaum was the hometown of Peter (4:38, note also Bethsaida, his family birth-town in John 1:44), and became the hometown of Jesus (cf. Matthew 9:1, Mark 2:1). Capernaum is the center “base of operations” for Jesus Christ and His disciples in the Galilee region.
- D) Jesus comes to Capernaum and teaches in the local synagogue (4:31), a typical practice for a Jewish Rabbi (master-teacher). Synagogues were places of worship, but also locations to which the entire community flocked for public discourse, political debate, educational classes, and even non/neutral religious community events (marketplace, local hang-out).

2) Thunderstruck!

- A) Jesus’ teaching is radically different than the typical teaching which both bored and burdened the listener (cf. Mark 1:22). Jesus’ teaching causes astonishment (lit., ‘thunderstruck’), because of His “authority” (4:32).
- B) Most people depended on synagogue teachers for their Bible knowledge because the common person did not read much, and “books” were rare. Synagogue teachers were highly respected because God had ‘blessed them’ with education so they could bless others with their ‘understanding.’

- C) Religious leaders in Jesus' day loved lengthy explanations and quotes about the Bible from respected scribes and teachers. While God's Word was deeply respected, the significance of a master Rabbi's school of thought (Hillel, Eliezer, Zakkai) became most discussed in the synagogue.
- D) But Jesus was different. He wasn't just talking about the Bible. He took words on a page and brought them to life! The Word of God was alive when Jesus taught. Clearly, in His new public ministry, Scripture was the most important ingredient for Jesus (note 4:4, 8, 12, 18-19, 25-27).

3) The Power of God Brings Freedom

- A) As Jesus teaches in the synagogue, a power encounter happens with a man controlled by a demonic spirit (4:33-34). The demon screams out, "Ha!" a kind of explosive-scream meant to repulse someone, a "get away from me!" or "go away!" yell from fear or shock.
- B) Clearly, the demonic world knows Jesus (cf. James 2:19). The demon even names Jesus and proclaims Jesus is "the Holy One of God" (Luke 4:34). We are seeing the truth of spiritual battle (cf. Ephesians 6:11-12) and the power of God's Word unleashed by Jesus.
- B) Whenever God's Word is alive, it is at work bringing light into darkness. The Word of God brings release from bondage and sin, brings freedom to those in sin's grip, and delivers liberty from dark influences and possession.
- C) Take careful note of how Jesus brings freedom for this helpless unnamed man controlled by a demonic influence (4:35). There is no dramatic Hollywood head-spinning exorcism or vomit-exploding writhing. Jesus speaks and the demon departs. His Word is power (cf. Hebrews 4:12-13).
- D) The power of Jesus is immediate and authoritative. He silences a demonic world and speaks life into those trapped by death. Despite the demonic threat, Jesus throws out the demon without harming the man (4:35). The 'shock and awe' was immediate, and word spreads quickly (4:36-37).

3) Power to the People

- A) Seeing the power of Jesus over the demonic world was amazing (4:36), but also triggered a genuine hope for "Simon," who invites Jesus into his home because his mother is deathly ill (fever/dysentery, 4:38).
- B) You might know Simon from his better known name, Peter. This is Peter and Jesus' first recorded engagement. In Peter's home (about 200 feet from the synagogue), Jesus "rebukes" (speaks a warning toward, 4:39) her sickness and miraculously heals Peter's mother. Like any good Jewish mother, she immediately begins serving and caring for her guests.
- C) People flock to Jesus, and He cares for them tenderly. Jesus heals common people, women, and the unimportant. He silences dark declarations, but the question of His identity looms large. Who is Jesus of Nazareth?

Growth Group Guide

Week #4 • Luke 4:31-41



Ice Breaker

- What are some things your group can do in the coming months to serve others?

In-Depth

Read Luke 4:31-41

- Discuss what you learned from this week's sermon.
1. Verse 31: Capernaum became Jesus' adopted home (see Matthew 4:13, 9:1). What made it a natural place for Jesus' ministry headquarters?
 2. Luke describes Jesus' authority in three areas. List some other examples of Jesus authority in each of these.
 - A. God's Word (verses 31-33): [example: Matthew 5 "you have heard it said... but I say to you..."]
 - B. Spiritual world (verses 35-37, 41):



C. Human health (verses 38-39):

3. Verses 35,41: Jesus silenced the demons and would not let them speak about him. Why?

Making It Relevant

1. What is the significance to us of Jesus' authority over the three areas discussed in question 2 above?

A. God's Word:

B. Spiritual world:

C. Human health:

2. Are demons something we, as Christians, should be worried about today? Why or why not?