

A dramatic, high-contrast photograph of a storm over the ocean. The sky is filled with dark, heavy, grey clouds. Several bright, jagged lightning bolts strike down from the clouds towards the water's surface. The water is dark blue and turbulent, with white foam from a wave in the foreground. The overall mood is intense and powerful.

# **A RISING STORM**

**Welcome to Long Beach Alliance**  
**Sunday, April 12, 2026**

# you're invited to VBS 2026

SHINING A LIGHT ON  
WHO JESUS REALLY IS

# ILLUMINATION STATION

JOHN 8:12

## JUNE 22-26

AT LONG BEACH ALLIANCE CHURCH

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY AT [WWW.LBAC.ORG/VBS!](http://WWW.LBAC.ORG/VBS!)

## Fun & Fellowship: GAME NIGHT

APRIL 18 6:30PM - 9PM

CHILDCARE PROVIDED!

BRING A SNACK TO

SHARE!

SIGN UP IN THE COURTYARD TODAY!  
QUESTIONS? CONTACT KATHIE METZ  
562-234-5937



stay connected on instagram  
@longbeachalliance  
@lbac\_youth

LBAC Women's Ministry

# TEA UNDER THE BIG TOP



**SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026**

**11:00AM - 1:30PM**

**LONG BEACH ALLIANCE CHURCH**

**3331 PALO VERDE AVE, LONG BEACH**

**\$16/PER PERSON**

**HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND UP**

**TICKETS ON SALE APRIL 19 AND 26**

**QUESTIONS - CONTACT MEGHAN 562.708.9261**



# IRON SHARPENS IRON

## MEN'S MINISTRY EVENTS

*As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.*

### FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

2nd Saturday  
each Month  
8 am at LBAC

- April 11th
- May 9th
- June 13th



(contact John Moses 562.755.0920)

### MEN'S WORKOUTS

1st & 3rd Saturday  
each Month  
8 am at LBAC

- April 4th & 18th
- May 2nd & 16th
- June 6th & 20th



(contact Aaron Steele 909.957.6333)

### TUESDAY BREAKFASTS

2nd Tuesday  
each Month  
8 am at Denny's  
2860 N Bellflower Blvd

- April 14th
- May 12th
- June 9th



(contact Dave Miller 562.773.9100)

- B) But this prophecy was unlike any other given to a prophet in the Old Testament. The prophecy given to Jonah was not intended for Israel, but for a foreign nation (the Assyrians) in one of their most influential and fortified cities (Nineveh). It was a shocking & disturbing command from God (Jonah 1:2).
- C) In Jonah's day, the Assyrians were well known for unspeakable atrocities against other nations. The first 'super-power' of the ancient world, they conquered countries with ferocity and celebrated their genocidal and torturous methods. Skinning victims alive, pulling out tongues, mutilating prisoners, stacking severed heads into gigantic mounds, placing heads onto pikes around conquered cities, and gory mutilations were normal practices of the Assyrians.
- D) The Assyrians celebrated these atrocities in their art, mosaics, and official records of battles. They were ruthless and hated around the known world because of their merciless methods of warfare. At the center of the Assyrian kingdom was their most influential and "great city," Nineveh.

### 3) Fleeing From The Presence Of God

- A) Rather than obey God by sharing God's message with the Assyrians, Jonah "rose to flee from the presence of the Lord" (Jonah 1:3). Jonah travels down to the Southwest to Joppa, on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, and boards a ship headed to Tarshish, a location which is probably in the Southern portion of Greece or Italy, very far to the West.
- B) Amusingly, God told Jonah to go over the land to Nineveh, so Jonah immediately goes over the sea in the opposite direction. Jonah tries to "lose God" by going "down" to Joppa, and then "down" into the ship (Jonah 1:3), and then goes even further down into a deep sleep (Jonah 1:5).
- C) The writer paints a picture of Jonah descending into his sin, placing obstacles between himself and God, fleeing from God's presence, and sinking deeply into his intentional sin.
- D) Of course, fleeing from the presence of God is actually impossible, a lesson which will be reinforced to Jonah almost immediately on his ill-conceived journey. But the fact remains, this is a prophet of God who is running away to hide from God. Why would he do that? Why would anyone hide from God? What would motivate someone to flee from God's presence? What could possibly be the reason for Jonah?

# Hiding From The Almighty

Long Beach Alliance Church · April 12, 2026 · Pastor Chris Lankford

*"Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it because their evil has come up before me."  
Jonah got up to flee to Tarshish from the LORD's presence.  
He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. He paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the LORD's presence.*

*~Jonah 1:2-3 (ESV)*

## 1) Jonah The Son Of Amittai

- A) Jonah, the son of Amittai, from Gath-hepher (2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 14:25), was a prophet and servant of God during the reign of the evil king of Israel, Jeroboam II. Jonah positively prophesied that the land of Israel would be restored to its ancient boundaries (lost through wars) through the efforts of Jeroboam II.
- B) Jonah was a prophet in the Northern Kingdom during the middle to later years of the reign of Jeroboam II (793-753 BC). His ministry would have made him popular in Israel because of his prophecies of victory & restoration of lost territory -- especially with those who were nationalistic and desired the restoration of the "glory days" of Israel's past.
- C) It is popular (in scholarly circles) to refer to Jonah as a fictional story that is symbolic or allegorical, and not an actual historical account. However, Jesus referred to the "sign of Jonah" on two different occasions (Matthew 12:38-41; Luke 11:29-32; Matthew 16:4) in literal terms as foreshadowing of His own (future) death and resurrection experiences.
- D) Further, Jesus cites the repentance of the Ninevites as a rebuke to the unbelieving men of his own generation. Since Jesus Christ speaks of both the physical miracle of Jonah's preservation in the body of a fish and of the moral miracle of the repentance of the Ninevites without the slightest hint that He regarded the story as an allegory, we will also regard the story as being true (and miraculous) historical narrative.

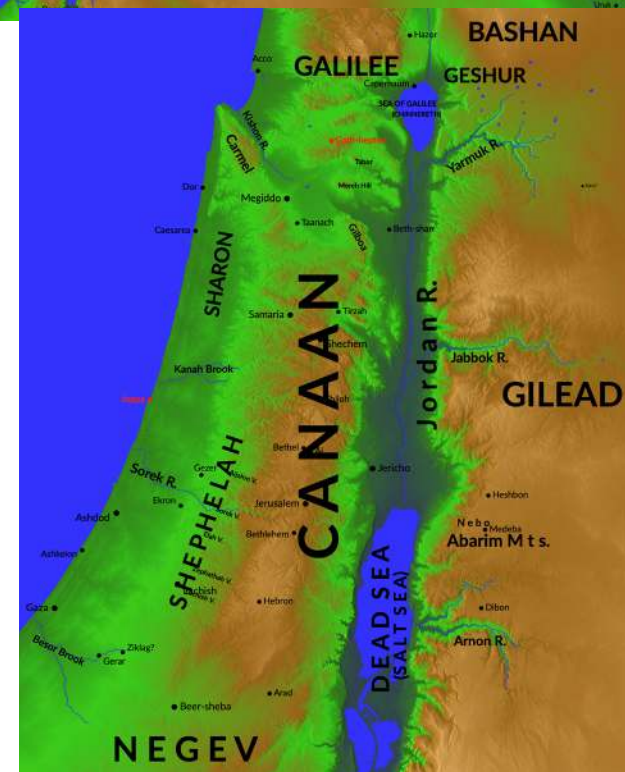
## 2) A Bizarre Assignment For Jonah

- A) As a prophet of God, it was 'normal' (but not common) for Jonah to receive "the word of the Lord" for the leadership and the people of Israel (Jonah 1:1).



**The “world map” during the time of Jonah, the son of Amittai. Jonah was from the Northern Kingdom of Israel, in the Galilee region (Gath-hepher), about 3 miles North from Nazareth. Nineveh, which was 600 miles to the East, was part of the Assyrian Kingdom and was one of their most influential cities.**

**The coastal town of Joppa was known for its port and shipping industry. Tarshish is an unknown location, but possibly somewhere in the region of Asia Minor, but probably in Southern Spain (possibly the island of Sardinia, off the coast of Italy), very far to the West.**



# **NEWCOMERS LUNCH**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 26 2026  
@ 11:30AM**

**Are you new here at Long Beach Alliance?  
Are you looking for a way to get  
better connected and learn more?  
Join our staff for lunch at our  
Newcomers Lunch to take the next step!**

**Contact our LBAC Office to sign up!  
Office@lbac.org / 562.420.1478**

# **CRAFTY WOMEN**

**SATURDAY, April 18 @ 10:00AM  
ANY QUESTIONS?  
CONTACT DONNA NEEL  
562.335.9088**

*Celebration of Life*  
— for —  
*Margaret Ann Chars*

September 21, 1934 — December 06, 2025



Service: Saturday, April 25, 2026 at 11:00 AM

Lunch will be served next door  
immediately following the service.

Long Beach Alliance Church  
3331 Palo Verde Avenue  
Long Beach, 90808

No flowers please.  
In lieu, donate to SPCALA  
or LA Cancer Research

# SUPPORT OUR YOUTH

SATURDAY, MAY 23 2026



**Bake  
Sale**

Help our LBAC Youth Group raise money for their trip to summer camp at Hume Lake! Save the date to attend our bake sale!

If you would like to make and donate a baked good to be sold by our students,

please contact our youth director

**Hank McWatters!**

**[Hank@lbac.org](mailto:Hank@lbac.org)**

**562.552.6531**

# LBAC's Family Calendar & Events

## Sunday, April 12

- 9:30AM Worship & Celebration Service
- 9:30AM Gospel Project: Children's Ministry

## Monday, April 13

- 7:00PM Life Group @ The Shaub's
- 7:00PM Betrayal & Beyond Mtg. @ Eberhart's
- 7:00PM Pure Desire Ministry Meeting

## Tuesday, April 14

- 8:00AM Men's Breakfast @ Denny's
- 6:00PM Women's Bible Study @ Moses
- 7:00PM Men's Bible Study @ Miller's
- 7:00PM Middle/High School Youth Group
- 7:00PM Governing Board Meeting

## Wednesday, April 15

- 6:00PM AWANA-Mystery Night

## Thursday, April 16

- 9:30AM Women's Bible Study @ Miller's
- 5:00PM Lydia House Women's Outreach
- 6:00PM Worship Team Practice

## Friday, April 17

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

## Saturday, April 18

- 8:00AM Men's Workout
- 10:00AM Crafty Women
- 6:30PM Fun & Fellowship- Game Night

## Sunday, April 19

- 9:30AM Worship & Celebration Service
- 9:30AM Gospel Project: Children's Ministry

### 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)

Weekly Schedule

Regular Ministry Schedule & Contacts

## 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

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**THE  
ALLIANCE**