



## JANUARY NEWSLETTER

### EBENEZER MAR THOMA CHURCH

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#### From Vicar's Desk

January 2025

##### **Deuteronomy 11:12**

**'The LORD your God takes care of this land and watches over it throughout the year'**

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Greetings to you all in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Well, here we are again. Wishing you all a blessed 2025! Another year has passed, and a new year dawns before us. I encourage you, as we begin 2025, to commit yourself to pray, study God's Word, and share Jesus Christ with those you come in contact with at home, school, workplace, or in your everyday life. As we hope for a better year, let's also seek after God's power that is made perfect in weakness. Whether life is easy or hard, whether we feel blessed or burdened, it is always God's strength that sustains us. Perseverance comes through the Holy Spirit and may be the most valuable blessing God can provide to get us through daily life in this broken world. Let us truly celebrate the new year by renewing our commitment and living a sacramental life.

I appreciate everyone, including our parish ministries, that labored behind the Christmas Carol Service and House to House Caroling. There were lots of prayers and hard work behind these events and I cannot thank God enough for His boundless mercies and blessings. I hope and pray that these efforts will help intensify our prayers, further our faith, and make our life in the church ministry more meaningful and fruitful.

Let us move forward in faith and hope and submit everything into the presence of God. All glory, honor, and praise belong to the Holy Trinity.

I call upon all of us to go into the New Year with great trust in the Lord.

We are thankful to God for each one of you.

Yours in Christ's ministry,

**Rev. George Abraham**  
**Vicar**  
**Ebenezer Mar Thoma Church,**  
**New York.**

## YOUTH CORNER

### Message from Youth Chaplain

JANUARY 2025 MESSAGE

Glory be to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit - One True God!

Dearly beloved in Christ,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we step into a new year, it's a chance for new goals, fresh starts, and a renewed connection with God. Let's make it a priority to walk closer with Him, allowing His purpose for our lives to shape us into a blessing for those around us. I pray that the Almighty Lord fills your year with joy, growth, and His unending grace for you and your family.

We all strive to grow in every part of life, but progress doesn't just happen—it requires focus and commitment. Life often revolves around five key actions: thinking, working, loving, worshipping, and prayer. When these are balanced, we find deeper meaning, appreciation and fulfillment in the life God has blessed us with.

- **Think deeply.**

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." (Philippians 4:8) Our thoughts shape our actions, and our actions shape our future. Positive, focused, and faith-driven thoughts make us stand apart in a world full of distractions. Let's take time to reflect and choose wisely in all we do.

- **Work passionately.**

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." (Colossians 3:23) Hard work and persistence help us grow mentally, physically, and spiritually. Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone or pursue your dreams—your effort, when aligned with God's plan, will bear fruit.

- **Love authentically.**

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34) Everyone craves love, but real love comes when we let go of grudges and stop being overly critical of others. Instead, look for the good in people, and show them appreciation and kindness. Love isn't just an emotion; it's an action, modeled by Jesus Himself, who calls us to love truthfully and selflessly.

- **Worship genuinely.**

At our core, we're designed to connect with God. Worship, prayer, and time spent with Him are more than rituals—they're a lifestyle that brings peace and purpose.

"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks." (John 4:23) As St. Augustine beautifully said, "You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You." Make time to worship and watch how it transforms the way you live.

- **Pray ceaselessly.**

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) Prayer is not just about asking for things; it's about building a deeper relationship with God. Even when there are no specific requests, pray to thank Him for His goodness, to seek His will, and to simply spend time in His presence. Prayer strengthens our spirit and keeps us connected to the One who holds everything in His hands.

This year let's commit to making these five actions—thinking, working, loving, worshipping, and praying ceaselessly—part of our everyday lives. When we align our lives with Christ, we don't just find success; we find meaning.

May God bless you abundantly in this new year and guide you toward His amazing plans for your life!

Yours in His Service,

Jess M. George Achen

**Rev. Jess M. George**  
**Youth Chaplain North-East Region**  
**Diocese of North America and Europe of the Mar Thoma Church**  
**(516)532-6115 (Cell)**

## Youth Fellowship HouseKeeping

I take this time to also thank the NERYF Committee, and all the Youth Fellowships for their unwavering support and dedication to the various activities and programs over the past year. Your hard work and faithfulness have been instrumental in fostering a vibrant and spiritually enriched community. May God continue to embolden each of us to live our lives giving glory to Him, as we strive to serve with greater zeal in the coming year.

### **Diocesan Youth Fellowship Leadership Conference 2025**

Hosted by the Detroit Mar Thoma Church Youth Fellowship, this event will focus on the key theme: “Proclaim” (John 15:8), encouraging us to proclaim the gospel consistently, patiently, creatively, and through our actions. Please keep this conference in your prayers as we grow together as disciples and leaders in faith!

### **❖ Monthly Parish Youth Fellowship Meetings**

For more information, please reach out to your Parish Youth Fellowship Secretary, who will have all the details. Let’s make the most of these gatherings!

### **❖ Combined Youth Fellowship Bible Study**

**When:** Wednesday, January 22, 2024, at 7:00-8:30 pm

**Where:** Youth Chaplain’s Parsonage

All are invited, and we’d love for you to join us as we dive into God’s Word together.

### **❖ January College Visits – Let’s Fellowship in Christ!**

Students! Join in on an opportunity to grow together, share life, and encourage one another on campus! Your Youth Chaplain is excited to join you for fellowship, support, and prayer. Whether you need a break, a boost, or a few moments of community, we’re here for you. Details will be given at a later date.

## Sunday Worship Schedule

Date	Time	Service
December 31 <sup>st</sup> -Tuesday – Jan 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2025, Wednesday Watch-Night Service	10:00pm	Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)
January 5 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)
January 12 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (English)
January 19 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (English)
January 26 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)

## Lectionary

December 31 <sup>st</sup> – Into the New Year with the God of Hope		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Jer. 29:8-14
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Jude 20-25
	Epistle	Eph. 4:17-24
	Gospel	St. Matt. 7:7-12
January 5 <sup>th</sup> – Mission outside Kerala: Jesus who sends for mission		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Exod 3:1-17
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Acts 16:6-15
	Epistle	Rom. 10:9-17
	Gospel	Luke. 10:1-11
January 12 <sup>th</sup> – The God of Peace		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Mic. 4:1-7
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Rom. 5:1-11
	Epistle	Eph. 2:11-19
	Gospel	Matt. 5:1-9
January 19 <sup>th</sup> –Ecumenical Sunday: The Church that needs to be one in Christ		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Zech. 8:18- 23
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	1Cor. 1:10-18
	Epistle	Col. 3:9-17
	Gospel	John 17:13-23
January 26 <sup>th</sup> – Republic Day: Christian witness in the public sphere.		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Amos. 5:18-27
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	1Pet 3:14-18
	Epistle	Col. 4:2-6
	Gospel	Luke.3:7-14



## Wedding Anniversary

Jephin Varughese Jose	Rijo Ann Jose	9-Jan
Jacob Varughese	Marykutty Varughese	15-Jan
George P Varughese	Sosamma E Varughese	24-Jan



## Birthday Wishes

Saju Mathews	2-Jan
Rebecca R Joseph	8-Jan
George P Varughese	9-Jan
Annamma Thomas (Glory)	10-Jan
Dr. Sheeba Sarah Ben	15-Jan
Jewel Varghese	17-Jan
Naya Chacko	18-Jan
Ajus K Ninan	20-Jan
Sean George	20-Jan
Evania Prasad	22-Jan
Gifty Tom Mathew	25-Jan
Justin Kurian Oommen	30-Jan

## Bible Reading



The family of...	Date
Thomas K. Mathew	12/31/2024
Thomas T Samuel	01/05/2025
Tibu C Tharakan	01/12/2025
Titus Samuel	01/19/2025
Viju V Varughese	01/26/2025
Vipin T Kovoor	02/02/2025
Mathai Oommen	02/09/2025
Tony/Sneha	02/16/2025
Jephin/Rijo Jose	02/23/2025

## Upcoming Events

1. December 31st, 2024, Tuesday, 10:00pm- Watchnight Service.
2. Wednesday Bible Study and Saturday Prayer Meeting at 7:00pm via ZOOM.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81243928868?pwd=TjdUODZQSndiQkI2amlRaEdSNEo5dz09>

Dial 1 646-876-9923; Meeting ID: 812 4392 8868; Passcode:406406