

JULY NEWSLETTER

EBENEZER MAR THOMA CHURCH

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From Vicar's Desk

July 2024

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms” (1 Peter 4:10)

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

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

Let us thank God for His grace and blessings and for being able to complete the first half of this year.

July 3rd is well known as St Thomas Day. The day is devoted to Thomas the Apostle. We remember with gratitude the life of St. Thomas, who came to India in A.D 52, and was martyred for preaching the Gospel.

Independence Day, or ‘Fourth of July’, is an important holiday in the United States, marking the official start of American independence and freedom from Great Britain, through the Declaration of Independence.

On July 4th, many families and friends meet for fellowship (as everyone is off from school and work due to this being a federal holiday), and on a public level, there are fireworks shows, parades, carnivals, fairs, outings, picnics, games, etc. which take place. These private and public events focus on celebrating the history, heritage, tradition, culture, and freedom of America. In Paul's letter to the Galatians, 5:1, he reminds us, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." (NIV). Independence Day is a time of celebration of the blessings we experience through freedom. However, it is a challenge for one to exercise his/her freedom in a responsible manner, without compromising Christian values and ideals.

First Sunday of July is set apart as Christian Stewardship –Tithe offering Sunday. When you put the Lord first, he promises to open heaven and pour out his blessings into your life! Throughout the years, God has released great blessings when his children whole-heartedly followed him. If you "Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing." Proverbs 3:9-10(NIV). What a great promise from Scripture!

We have entered the summer season. I encourage everyone to take advantage of their free time in a creative, fruitful, responsible, and Christ-centered manner.

Our Sunday school is arranging VBS from July 19- 21. Dear children, we will have a great time together as we are going to learn more about the Bible in fun and exciting ways such as singing, hearing stories, playing games, making crafts and more. So please be prepared.

Please mark your calendar for our Parish Picnic on Saturday August 3rd.

Please do join for the Wednesday Bible study and Saturday Prayer meetings. Let us allow the Gospel to infiltrate more of our everyday life. Then we will have the foundation for an effective witness.

I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued prayers in supporting the ministerial work in our parish. May God continue to bless you all. Prayers for you all.

Yours in Christ's ministry,

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

Message from Youth Chaplain - July 2024

Glory be to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - One True God!
Beloved family in Christ,

The recently concluded sacred Apostles' fast holds significant importance in our spiritual journey. It serves as a period of deep reflection and preparation, allowing us to delve deeper into our discipleship and relationship with God.

This time of contemplation has allowed us to appreciate the profound reasons for our journey in the temporal world - our own blessed purpose and as the Church.

On the eve of His precious passion, Jesus prayed as high priest when his disciples were with him. This prayer, recorded in St. John 17:11, is a powerful testament to Jesus' mission and his desire for unity among his followers. "...Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. (St. John 17:11). Jesus' prayer was not just for His disciples but for all who believe in Him.

The prayer underscores the vital role of unity and community in our faith. Jesus was sent with a purpose, a mission of love to free us from sin, despair, demise, and dread. Christ saw glory in the cross rather than shame. Jesus did not rely on His earthly resources and strength to accomplish His Father's will. Rather, He trusted His Father to give Him strength, courage, and perseverance in facing antagonism, difficulties, and enticement. We must take up our cross and pursue wherever He calls us (St. Luke 9:23). The Holy Spirit, whom Jesus promised to send, will give us the strength and power to live as his disciples.

Each of us has a unique role to play in God's plan. He has created us for a specific purpose, a work that He has not entrusted to another. This service could be as simple as showing love and kindness to those around us, or as complex as dedicating our lives to a specific cause that aligns with God's values. It could involve teaching, healing, advocating for justice, or any other act that reflects God's love and values in the world. It is our responsibility to discover and fulfil that role, and in doing so, we can live a purposeful life in accordance with our Christian beliefs.

We have our mission; He has not created us for nothing. We aim to spread Christ's love and teachings, be a light in the world, and bring others closer to God.

Do we truly trust in God and His call and purpose for our life? We can discern God's call and purpose through prayer, Scripture reflection, and seeking His divine guidance from spiritual mentors. Trusting in God's call and purpose can bring us closer to Him and give us the strength and courage to fulfill our mission.

God be with you all.

Yours in His Ministry,
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Sunday Worship Schedule

Date	Time	Service
July 7 th – Sunday ➤ Tithe Sunday – Special Offertory ➤ Clergy Appreciation	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)
July 14 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (Malayalam)
July 21 st – Sunday VBS-last day July 19 th , 20 th , & 21 st (Fri, Sat, & Sunday) – VBS	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (English) **Rev. P.M. Thomas
July 28 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (English)

Lectionary

July 7 th – Tithe Sunday: Giving from the heart (7th Sunday after Pentecost)		
	1 st Lesson	I Chr. 29:10-18
	2 nd Lesson	Acts 5:1-11
	Epistle	Phil. 4:10-20
	Gospel	St. Luke 16:19-31
July 14 th – Clergy Sunday: Priests - Servants in Pastoral Ministry (8th Sunday after Pentecost)		
	1 st Lesson	Ezek. 33:1-9
	2 nd Lesson	II Tim. 2:1-13
	Epistle	I Pet. 5:1-7
	Gospel	St. John 10:1-11
July 21 st – People of God: Co-workers in building up the Kingdom of God (9th Sunday after Pentecost)		
	1 st Lesson	Exod. 19:1-6
	2 nd Lesson	I Jn. 4:7-21
	Epistle	Rom. 14:13-19
	Gospel	St. Luke 10:25-37
July 28 th – Gifts of the Holy Spirit: For the spiritual nourishment of the people of God (10th Sunday after Pentecost)		
	1 st Lesson	II Chr. 15:1-8
	2 nd Lesson	I Cor. 12:4-12
	Epistle	I Cor. 12:27-31
	Gospel	St. John 20:19-23



Wedding Anniversary

Saji Thomas	Suja Mary Thomas	4-Jul
Thomas K Mathai	Annamma Thomas	5-Jul
Ben George (Rajan)	Kunjamma Ben	13-Jul
C.S. Chacko (Raju)	Aleyamma Chacko	19-Jul
Justin Kurian Oommen	Reenu Ancy Kurian	20-Jul
Thomas K Mathew	Beena Annie Mathew	21-Jul
Ajus K Ninan	Jaimie Cherian	21-Jul



Birthday Wishes

Tony Thomas Mathew	6-Jul
Richy Tom Mathew	15-Jul
Gabriel John	17-Jul
Rinju John	25-Jul
Jacob Varughese	30-Jul
Aleyamma John	30-Jul
Sali D Varghese	30-Jul

Bible Reading



The family of...	Date
Rev. George Abraham	07/07/2024
Abraham Jacob	07/14/2024
Abraham Onnoony	07/21/2024
Alexei Isaac	07/28/2024
Ashok Benjamin Jacob	08/04/2024
C.S. Chacko (Raju)	08/11/2024
Chris John	08/18/2024
Eapen Joseph (Jose)	08/25/2024

Upcoming Events

1. Wednesday Bible Studies and Saturday prayer meetings via zoom at 7:00pm.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81243928868?pwd=TjdUODZQSndiQkl2amlRaEdSNEo5dz09>
Dial 1 646-876-9923; Meeting ID: 812 4392 8868; Passcode:406406
2. July 7th, 2024, Sunday –
 - a. Clergy Appreciation Day Celebration
 - b. Tithe Offering
3. July 19th, 20th, & 21st (Fri, Sat, & Sunday) – VBS
4. August 3rd Saturday – Parish Picnic at Lyon’s Park
5. August 31st Saturday – MTVEA Center B Conference at our Parish