

JUNE NEWSLETTER

EBENEZER MAR THOMA CHURCH

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From Vicar's Desk

June 2024

St. Luke 2:52

‘ And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.’

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

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

What is wisdom? Wisdom is to act upon the truth contained in God's word. Romans 12:2 says "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." i.e. we are not to live by the values of this world which are constantly bombarded upon us or pursue all the attractive and deceptive dreams shown to us constantly by the world but be transformed by the renewing of our mind each day by the wisdom found in God's word. True wisdom refers to actions which are controlled by the word of God. Moreover, God's wisdom is available to any that will ask for it. James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." So when we ask for wisdom, God doesn't just provide us with minimal requirements but bestows us with His wisdom which benefits not only us but all those around us.

We can also receive wisdom by choosing to revere God. Proverbs 9:10 says “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” To fear the Lord is to regard God & His word more highly than us and our view of truth. May we renew our mind each day by the wisdom found in God’s word.

The month of June is set apart for devotions about true discipleship. We’re called to be disciples of Christ and to make disciples of Christ. Jesus commanded his followers to imitate him and to “...make disciples of all nations, baptizing...in the name of the Father and Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19). "For disciples of Christ, this command still stands. The essence of Christian discipleship is Christians imitating Jesus, empowered by the Spirit, doing as he did (Phil 2:1-8).

We will be celebrating our Parish Day, Episcopal Visit and Father’s Day together on Sunday June 16th. Our Diocesan Episcopa Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos will lead us for the services. Several of our children will be partaking in the sacraments of Holy Confession & Holy Qurbana for the first time. Let us uphold this in our prayers. May I invite your wholehearted participation. Prayers and blessings on our Parish Day and for your future. Keep on growing. Keep adding to the goodness and beauty in the world.

My Dear Sunday School Children, we are glad to share that our Sunday school is arranging VBS in the coming days. 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.

I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued generosity in supporting the ministerial work in our parish. May the good Lord reward you abundantly! Please keep me and family in your prayers as you are in ours. Please feel free to contact, for pastoral care, prayer requests if any. May God continue to bless you all.

Please be assured of our sincere prayers for you all.

Love and blessings, now and always.

Yours in Christ,

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

Message from Youth Chaplain - June 2024

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

Beloved family in Christ, I write to you with a heart full of love and a message of hope.

By God's grace, we have concluded these past months with the remembrances of the feasts of Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost! And what a beautiful journey it has been. These days and the days leading, we were able to meditate on the Word of God daily, strengthen our prayer life by setting aside dedicated time for prayer, and we did the will of God by being obedient to His example through our help in the community.

As we move past these special days, let's keep uniting our minds and bodies to draw closer to God by remembering and glorifying our love for God through our words, thoughts, and actions. These efforts are crucial for our spiritual growth as we continue to be His children in our journeys in life. Today, and in the coming days, we should ask ourselves a simple question: Does my God know me by my "works of the flesh" or the "fruit of the Spirit"?

Our faith must be integrated into our lives; it's not just for Sunday or the trials and celebrations we experience - but every day. Family, we are a community of believers who have been blessed and called to lend a helping hand—and stand with those facing challenges and sorrows. Remember, these earnest efforts are an important aspect of our Christian heritage, and commitment is meant not to glorify the self but God alone, who, through his love for us, came and touched each one of us with true and everlasting peace.

In 1963, Bill Gaither wrote a wonderful hymn, "He Touched Me," which reads.

"Shackled by a heavy burden,
Neath, a load of guilt and shame
then the hand of Jesus touched me,
and I am no longer the same
Since I met this blessed Savior,
Since He cleansed and made me whole,
I will never cease to praise Him
I'll shout it while eternity rolls
He touched me, Oh He touched me,
and oh, the joy that floods my soul
something happened, and now I know,
He touched me and made me whole."

Let's always remember that we've all been touched by Christ and we are all the better because of it. Therefore, let's fully commit to developing a closer connection with God, walking alongside Him, and allowing the Holy Spirit to guide our lifestyles.

God Bless us all!

Yours in His Ministry,

JVarghese Achen

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Sunday Worship Schedule

Date	Time	Service
June 2 nd – Sunday	10.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (Malayalam)
June 9 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (Malayalam)
June 16 th – Sunday, 1 st Communion, Episcopal Visit/Parish Day – 37 th	9.00 AM	Holy Communion Service (English)
June 23 rd – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (English)
June 30 th - Sunday	10.00AM	Divine Service (Malayalam)

Lectionary

June 2 nd – Beginning of Academic year: Education that leads to wisdom; Medical Aid offertory for the Clergy (2nd Sunday after Pentecost)		
	1 st Lesson	I Kgs. 3:3-14
	2 nd Lesson	James 3:13-18
	Epistle	Eph. 5:9-17
	Gospel	St. Matt. 7:21-27
June 9 th – Environmental Sunday: Integrity of whole creation in Christ (3rd Sunday after Pentecost)		
	1 st Lesson	Isa. 65:17-25
	2 nd Lesson	Rev. 21:1-8
	Epistle	Rom. 8:18-25
	Gospel	St. John 3:16-21
June 16 th – Beginning of Fast of the Apostles: Call and commission to be Christ's Disciples (4th Sunday after Pentecost)		
	1 st Lesson	Jer. 1:1-12
	2 nd Lesson	II Cor. 4:1-6
	Epistle	Acts 9:10-17
	Gospel	St. Matt. 4:17-22
June 23 rd – Discipleship: the call to bear the Cross (5th Sunday after Pentecost)		
	1 st Lesson	Dan. 6:10-23
	2 nd Lesson	II Cor. 6:1-10
	Epistle	Col. 1:24-29
	Gospel	St. Luke 9:23-27
June 30 th – The glorious appearance of Jesus Christ and the Disciples who need to be vigilant (6th Sunday after Pentecost)		
	1 st Lesson	Mal. 3:13-4:2
	2 nd Lesson	Acts 1:6-11
	Epistle	I Thess. 4:13-18
	Gospel	St. Matt. 24:42-51



Wedding Anniversary

Kevin Joe Chacko	Marissa Kevin Chacko	5-Jun
Robin T Samuel	Cinthujaa	10-Jun
Anil Abraham	Jensy Anil	10-Jun
Viju V Varughese	Alice Varughese	20-Jun



Birthday Wishes

Tibu C Tharakan	7-Jun
George Thomas	11-Jun
Ashok Benjamin Jacob	12-Jun
Robin Sam Chacko	13-Jun
Rachel George	15-Jun
Rijin Cherian	17-Jun
Celine John	20-Jun
Soji Samuel	21-Jun
Shana Sarah Ben	22-Jun
Saji Thomas	26-Jun
Nevin Varughese	27-Jun
Eapen Joseph (Jose)	30-Jun

Bible Reading



The family of....	Date
Thomas K Mathai	06/02/2024
Thomas K. Mathew	06/09/2024
Titus Samuel	06/16/2024
Viju V Varghese	06/23/2024
Vipin T Kovoor	06/30/2024
Rev. George Abraham	07/07/2024
Abraham Jacob	07/14/2024
Abraham Oonnoonny	07/21/2024
Alexei Isaac	07/28/2024

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. June 16th, 2024, Sunday – 37th Parish Day Celebration (Special Offertory)/Episcopal Visit/First Communion.
3. July 7th, 2024, Sunday – Clergy Appreciation Day Celebration
4. July 19th, 20th, & 21st (Fri, Sat, & Sunday) - VBS