

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

EBENEZER MAR THOMA CHURCH

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From Vicar's Desk

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Our Lord has been good unto this day, keeping us safe and enabling us to continue our public worship. I want to thank all of you for your wholehearted support in attending and facilitating the Sunday worship services. Without your support, this would not have been possible.

I am pleased to see that the VBS of this year was conducted physically and done very well. It has been encouraging to see our children exhibit their talents in the VBS. I would also like to thank our Sunday school teachers, volunteers and especially I appreciate Ms. Sneha Thomas who coordinated the program. Let us pray to God to end this pandemic so that we may have all the other programs can be done smoothly.

The first Sunday of this month is set apart as Mission Sunday. The theme is 'Participation in Divine Mission' Once again, we are reminded of our mission to preach the gospel to all people and to be His witnesses (Isaiah 55:4; Acts 10:34-43). The believers are called to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim freedom to the oppressed, to heal the sick, and to witness the coming Kingdom of God (Luke 4:18-19).

The church cannot compromise with the oppressive systems and structures. Rather, it should stand for transformation so that justice and peace may prevail within the human community.

We also meditate on one of the dominical sacraments: the baptism which is very much related to our redemptive nature of life. Holy baptism is our first ordination to be a people set apart for God. We bear the mark of the cross on our body, which always reminds us that Christ owns us and that we want to present our bodies as a living sacrifice acceptable to God.

The Diocese of North America and Europe observe August 22 as the Messenger Sunday. I encourage all the families to take the life term subscription.

This is a time to prepare ourselves for a Holy Living that our Holy Father expects from His children. We should find time for family prayer, meditation of the Word of God, and interceding for those who are sick, undergoing stress in work places as well as in families. I thank you all for your continued prayerful support for our ministry among you. May God abundantly bless you all.

With prayerful regards,

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

Message from Youth Chaplain

Dearly beloved in Christ,

We have come to the eighth month of this year. August is an important year for many of us, as it is a month of harvest. Many of our homes have good vegetables that have been grown and cared for, and to see the fruit of the labor is quite significant throughout this month. It helps us to feel like we accomplished something great, through giving our time, effort, and having patience. Protecting our fruits is something that we also find challenging as well, especially from invaders such as rabbits and squirrels. If all our work, time, and labor in understanding the protection of our garden are seen as a great illustration that reminds us of our lives, where are we spiritually today? Through the garden caring process, we have no choice but to be patient, but in life in general we have so many choices to make. Often so, we tend to target the choice that has less time and is more comfortable to deal with. When we look at human life, we must realize it is much frailer and more vulnerable if we do not carry out care and patience. We end up being premature and various areas in life, especially in our spiritual journey. We often must remind ourselves to wait. We should not wait by depending on ourselves but wait with God. There is a saying that goes "Time spent waiting on God, is time never wasted". Being patient enables us to look back and understand the fruits of our life with humility and honor God with gratitude.

Many of our young ones and youths are returning to school either this month or in September. It is a season filled with mixed reactions, some may be excited and some not so much. But nevertheless, let us remind ourselves that as we grow in wisdom through academics, let us prayerfully understand how God blessed us through the talents we are sharpening for Him. We should constantly ask Him if we are using our talents for God's will, or are we living for ourselves. Our life never belongs to us, it is the gift of God, and all that we are belong to God. Psalm 24:1 says, "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it". Our love and prayers for all our young ones for Godly wisdom and courage to move forward, even though the stress of life.

Wishing all of you a blessed August.

Much love,

Jess M. George Achen

Sunday Worship Schedule

Date	Time	Service
August 1st	10:00 AM	HQ Service (Malayalam)
August 8th	10.00 AM	Divine Service (English)
August 15th	10.00 AM	Divine Service (Malayalam)
August 22nd	10.00 AM	HQ Service (English)
August 29th	10.00 AM	Divine Service (Malayalam)

Lectionary

Date	Lesson 1- Lesson 2	Epistle-Gospels
01 Sunday	Mission Sunday: Participation in Divine Mission	
	Exodus 3: 1-14	2 Corinthians 11: 16-31
	Acts 11: 19-26	Luke 10: 1-12
08 Sunday	Jesus Christ: Fully Human and Fully Divine	
	Isaiah 40: 10-23	Hebrews 12: 1-13
	Philippians 2: 1-11	John 17: 1-8
15 Sunday	Reformation Sunday - The Reforming church	
	2 Kings 23: 1-6	Acts 2: 37-42
	Revelation 3: 14-22	Matthew 13: 1-9
22 Sunday	Theological Education - To Strengthen the Faith	
	1 Kings 18: 17-40	2 Thessalonians 1: 1-12
	Acts 8: 26-40	John 12: 20-26
29 Sunday	Holy Baptism: Identifying with the Death and Resurrection	
	Genesis 7: 11-14	Romans 6: 1-14
	1 Peter 3: 17-22	John 3: 1-8



Mathew A Mathew	Sumana Mathew	8-Aug
John Samuel	Dr. Minnie John	9-Aug
Philip Parayil	Sara Parayil	17-Aug
Abraham Oonnoonny	Leelamma Abraham	18-Aug
Kurian A Mathew	Dr. Susan Kurian	18-Aug
Abeyson C Jacob	Corimarie Jacob	18-Aug
Vipin T Kovoov	Merin Kovoov	18-Aug
Shino Thomas	Dona Shino	23-Aug
Eapen Joseph	Ancy Joseph	24-Aug
Rev. Aju Abraham	Nini Koshy (Kochamma)	27-Aug



Nithin Thomas	1-Aug
Teena Sara Mathew	4-Aug
Ameya Abraham	6-Aug
Titus Samuel	9-Aug
Thomas Tharakan	11-Aug
Gigo K Ninan	12-Aug
Akhaila T.Jacob	12-Aug
Ben George	19-Aug
Sujith Mathews	23-Aug
Ashely Chacko	25-Aug
Sosamma E Varughese	26-Aug
Rijo Ann Cherian	27-Aug
Ammini Thomas	28-Aug
Abraham Oonnoonny	30-Aug
Reena Mathew	31-Aug

Bible Reading

The family of....	Date
Abraham Jacob	08/01/2021
Abraham Oonnoonny	08/08/2021
Alexei Isaac	08/15/2021
Benjamin Jacob	08/22/2021
C.S. Chacko (Raju)	08/29/2021
Eapen Joseph (Jose)	09/05/2021
George Thomas	09/12/2021
George P Varghese	09/19/2021
Jacob Mathew	09/26/2021

August 1st, 2021, Sunday – Mission Sunday

August 7th, 2021, Saturday- Parish Picnic

(Conveners: Mr. C. S. Chacko/Mr. Feby Varghese)

Place: Lyon's park, port Chester, NY 10573

Time: 10:00am – 5:00pm

August 15th, 2021, Sunday- college going Students' Dedication

Bible Study: Every Wednesday at 7:00pm via ZOOM

Prayer Meeting: Every Saturday at 7:00pm via ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81243928868?pwd=TjdUODZQSndiQkl2amlRaEdSNEo5dz09>