



## JANUARY NEWSLETTER

### EBENEZER MAR THOMA CHURCH

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#### From Vicar's Desk

January 2023

#### **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 2023! Another year has passed, and a new year dawns before us. I encourage you, as we begin 2023, 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.

There are several moments within Scripture where the people of God faced moments of Crisis. Times in which they faced great difficulty and challenge, which directly called into question their belief and faith in God. Moses faced a crisis of belief when he was commanded to boldly order the Pharaoh to free God's people from Egyptian slavery. Job faced a crisis of belief when his family died, all his worldly possessions were destroyed, and when he faced physical ailment. Mary and Joseph faced a crisis of belief when an angel told them that the Holy Spirit had impregnated her with the Messiah. The disciples faced a crisis of belief when they witnessed the Crucifixion of their Messiah. Jesus, Himself, faced a Crisis of belief when He was in the Garden of Gethsemane on the eve of His crucifixion. Such moments were times of intense and great emotion and struggle. Amazingly, and almost ironically, almost every time one of these crises took place, the person grew closer to God and experienced a new reality and presence of God. Like Winter beckoning in the new year, the cold and bitter crises of life transition us into a greater place of maturity, faith, and relationship with God. We all face times of struggle, challenge, and difficulty. We all face times of great crisis in our life. During such times, it is important to remember our focus. God is greater than the challenge we are facing. God will carry us through it.

Our Office bearers, Executive Committee, Convenors, Choir, Sunday School, Yuvajana Sakhyam, Sevika Sanghom, Edavaka Mission, Senior Citizens, Media team, Prayer groups and youth fellowship all put forth excellent contributions during our Church's Christmas Carol Services. First of all, let me thank God almighty for enabling us to participate in the Christmas Carol Services in the midst of this pandemic season. There were lots of prayers and hard work behind this event and I cannot thank God enough for His boundless mercies and blessings.

I call upon all of us to go into the New Year with great trust in the Lord.  
With all my heart I wish you many blessings and all the best for the New Year.  
Remain steadfast, faithful, and hopeful!  
We are thankful to God for each one of you.  
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

January 2023 MESSAGE

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Welcoming a New Year is filled with many mixed emotions, but at the same time, it is seen overall as a clean slate or fresh start. It is a time for us to analyze the last year and see how to better ourselves in the new year. So many challenges and New Year's resolutions are thought out and have already become a challenge to us. On New Year's Day we are excited, with the same excitement we have starting a new project but carrying it throughout our lives is a challenge. The real question we need to ask is who our goals for are. Many times, we see the phrase 'self-goals'. But if we see trying to better ourselves just for 'me' we will tend to compromise. Our lives should be based around God and all that He is to us. God gave all for us, so when we live, we must live faithfully our all to Him. How much throughout 2022 have we been distracted and taken away from pure devotion to God? When we set goals to live for God let's see to it that we can achieve them. To be victorious in living our life for God requires us to set our minds on things of the Spirit and abide by the word of God.

During the first week of this month, the Diocesan Youth Fellowship will have the Leadership Conference which will be held on January 5-8, 2023. The Sehion Mar Thoma Church of Dallas will host it. The theme is: "Reaching Up, Reaching Out" based on St. Matthew 25:40. Let us pray for the delegates and leaders of the conference so that it will be a purposeful and blessed experience. Let us pray for our college-going youths who will start a new semester this year and as they head back, they can study for God. May the Almighty God bless and guide each of us this new year.

Happy New Year 2023!

Much love,

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)**

## Sunday Worship Schedule

Date	Time	Service
December 31 <sup>st</sup> -Saturday – Jan 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2023, Sunday Watch-Night Service	10:00pm	HQ Service (Malayalam)
January 8 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (Malayalam)
January 15 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday	10.00 AM	HQ Service (English)
January 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (English)
January 29 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday	10.00 AM	HQ Service (Malayalam)

## Lectionary

December 31 <sup>st</sup> – Year Ending – Watch Night Services; “The God Who is with us during Crisis”.		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Exo. 14:10-25
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Acts. 27:9-26
	Epistle	2 Cor. 12: 1-10
	Gospel	Mark 4:35-41
January 8 <sup>th</sup> – Temperance Day, Body: Temple of God to be kept in holiness, St. Stephen’s Day.		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Dan. 1:1-9
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	1 Cor 6:12-20
	Epistle	1 Thess. 5:4-11
	Gospel	Luke 11:33-36
January 15 <sup>th</sup> – Fruitful Christian Living		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Isa. 5:1-7
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Col. 1:3-13
	Epistle	Gal. 5:16-26
	Gospel	John 15:1-11
January 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Ecumenical Sunday, Unity of the Churches – God’s will.		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Ezek. 37:15-23
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Eph. 2:14-22
	Epistle	1Cor. 3:1-9
	Gospel	John 17:18-26
January 29 <sup>th</sup> – Trust in the Providence of God.		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	2Chr. 32:9-23
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	1Pet 5:7-11
	Epistle	Phil. 4:4-8
	Gospel	Matt 6:19-34



## Wedding Anniversary

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. Sheba Sarah Ben	15-Jan
Philip Parayil	16-Jan
Jewel Varghese	17-Jan
Ajus K Ninan	20-Jan
Sean George	20-Jan
Gifty Tom Mathew	25-Jan

## Bible Reading



The family of....	Date
Jacob Abraham	12/31/2022 – 1/1/2023 Watch-night Service
Tibu C Tharakan	01/08/2023
Titus Samuel	01/15/2023
Viju V Varghese	01/22/2023
Vipin T Kovoov	01/29/2023
Abraham Jacob	02/05/2023
Abraham Oonnoonny	02/12/2023
Alexei Isaac	02/19/2023
Benjamin Jacob	02/26/2023

## Upcoming Events

1. December 31st, 2022, Saturday 10:00pm- Watch-night Service

**Wednesday Bible Study and Saturday Prayer Meeting at 7:00pm via ZOOM**

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

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