SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

EBENEZER MAR THOMA CHURCH

From Vicar's Desk

SEPTEMBER 2023

'Remember the days of old; Consider the Generations long past. Ask your Father and He will tell you, your Elders, and they will explain to you.' Deuteronomy 32:7

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

In prayer we are profoundly connected to God and one another in deep and meaningful ways that passes all understanding. In prayer we are never alone. We are living in turbulent times. Day by day, when we look at the news, the happenings around the world cause us to be afraid or observe a dismal world. The violence and destruction of life in Manipur, India has caught our attention, especially in recent times. When Jesus spoke to the disciples about their grief turning to joy, He said, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (St. John 16:33). Let us continue to pray for those who are struggling and pray for peace. I want to remind you that we know the Lord's will only when we are in a genuine relationship with Him. This will be a continuous struggle. But we need to be persistent and resilient in faith, even during these times. We need to remember that God is with us. However, we also need to ask ourselves, are we with God? Let our lives be the answer.

I hope you are having a blessed summer. Many of our families traveled near and far this summer and are returning to New York.

Inside This Issue

Vicar Desk 1, 2, Youth Corner 3, Worship Schedule 4, Lectionary 4 Wedding Anniversary 5 Birthday 5 Bible Reading 6 Upcoming Events 6 Our children and youth will be returning to schools and colleges this month. Sunday School will soon begin a new academic year. Let us pray for God's blessings on our Sunday school ministry, and the schools and universities of this land. The word of God pointing children in the right direction. "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.

September 2, Saturday our parish will be hosting the 'Couple's Conference 2023' arranged by Northeast Region Center B Sevika Sanghom. Let us Pray for God's Blessings upon the conference and on all arrangements.

September 3, Sunday has been set apart by our church as Harvest festival Sunday. The Harvest festival is a time to celebrate all the good things God has given us. Since we are thankful to God for all the blessings He's given, let's make it a point to share our blessings. This is always a great fellowship and a time of Thanksgiving. May I invite your wholehearted participation.

September 24, Sunday has been set apart by our church as Suvisesha Sevika Sanghom Sunday to meditate up on the theme, 'Women, Apostles of Christ'. Every woman of the Mar Thoma Church above the age of 18 years is a member of the Sevika Sanghom. The Sevika Sanghom has branches in all parishes of the Mar Thoma Church both in USA and abroad. The women's wing of the Mar Thoma church is well organized body with a team of dedicated and hardworking members. May the Lord be glorified through the activities of our Sevika Sanghom.

September 24, we are also observing as Senior Citizen Sunday. One of the most precious gifts we have is the maturity and wisdom of the elderly. They are the guardians of our traditions and memories. It is a special gift to have the opportunity to spend time with our elders and learn from them. 'Even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.' (Isaiah 46:4) So let us offer up prayers to a God who promises to carry and save us, even to our old age.

We must remember that all our programs are meant for the spiritual growth of the faithful, and they are privileges. Engaging in spiritual reflection, contemplation, and work will help us to grow in our relationship with the Lord and help us to strengthen our Christian faith, life, and witness. The opportunities are available. The question is whether we are taking the initiative to grow spiritually as individuals and as families. It is up to each individual and family to respond creatively and positively. Let us join with Joshua by saying, "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15).

God will move mountains and God will transform us into people of love, joy, and peace through prayer. Let's become people of prayer and a church of prayer together. I encourage you to be faithful to our Lord and his Bride, the church. Let us be committed and serve Him in the beauty of His Holiness.

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

SEPTEMBER 2023 MESSAGE

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Let us give glory to God for allowing us to come to the month of September. As Americans, September is an important month, especially as we celebrate Labor Day. The first Labor Day was celebrated on September 5th, 1882, right here in New York City. Twelve years later, in 1894 about 23 more states adopted it as a holiday and on that same year on June 28th, President Grover Cleveland signed a law making the first Monday in September of each year a national holiday. We celebrate Labor Day as an annual celebration of the social and economic achievements of American workers. Let us thank God for the ability to labor when as Christians, it should remind us that we are called to till and to keep. We are created in this world with a purpose to serve. Our great country was built on the principles of hard work and the achievements that follow. As believers, when we work hard, we may not find appreciation much here on earth, but rest assured our Heavenly Father will reward us if we sincerely toil for Him.

As a Church, we also commemorate Sevika Sanghom Sunday as well as Senior Citizen Sunday. These two commemorative Sundays go well with the celebration of Labor Day. Let us first thank God for the hard work of the elderly in our community. Especially let us applaud the sacrifices they have made not just for their livelihood, but also for the coming generations they love and adore through their hard work. As we look at the Sevika Sanghom, let us thank God for the love and hard work of the women in our lives, whether they are our wives, mothers, sisters, grandmothers, aunts, or friends. Let us appreciate their sacrificial love and continue to pray for them.

As many of our youths are headed back to school, as reminded before, the new academic year also commenced the new year's campus visits. Let us pray for our children in this new academic year to study for God, as well as that, let us pray for the campus ministry, to be fruitful and a blessing for our youths.

Happy September!

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)

Worship Schedule

Date	Tim	Service
	e	
Sept 3 rd – Sunday	10.00 AM	HQ Service (English)
Dedication for School going students.		
Harvest Festival Finale		
Sept 10 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (Malayalam)
Sept 17 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (English)
Sept 24 th – Sunday	10.00 AM	HQ Service (Malayalam)
Sevika Sanghom Day Celebration		
Senior Citizen Day Celebration		

Lectionary

Sept 3 rd – Education Day – C	are Oriented Education (14 th S	Sunday after Pentecost).
	1st Lesson	Prov. 1: 1-12
	2 nd Lesson	Acts. 8:26-38
	Epistle	Col. 1:24-29
	Gospel	Matt 19:16-22
Sept 10 th – Sevika Sanghom	Day – Women the Apostles of	Christ (15 th Sunday after Pentecost).
	1st Lesson	Num. 27:1-11
	2 nd Lesson	Acts. 16:11-15
	Epistle	Rom. 16:1-6
	Gospel	John. 4:27-30
Sept 17 th – Senior Citizen's Safter Pentecost).	Sunday – Old Age that Combi	nes Faith and Experience (16 th Sunday
,	1st Lesson	Isa. 40:21-31
	2 nd Lesson	Eph. 6:1-9
	Epistle	1Tim. 5:1-10
	Gospel	Luke. 2:25-38
Sept 24 th – The Glorious Con	ning of our Lord (17th Sunday	after Pentecost).
	1 st Lesson	Mal. 3:13-18, 4:1-2
	2 nd Lesson	1Thess. 4:13-18
	Epistle	Acts. 1:6-11
	Gospel	Matt. 24:42-51



Jacob Mathew	Reena Mathew	5-Sep
Titus Samuel	Soji Samuel	12-Sep
Ryan Varughese	Aisley Varughese	14-Sep
Nihal Joseph Easow	Roopa Anna Nihal Easow	14-Sep
Saju Mathews	Mariamma Mathews	18-Sep



Vipin T Kovoor	4-Sep
Ezekiel Abraham Varghese	7-Sep
Rebekah Elizabeth Jacob	7-Sep
Reena Mathew (Kochamma)	10-Sep
Tisha Tharakan	10-Sep
Feby Varghese	11-Sep
Jose Cherian	15-Sep
Robin T Samuel	21-Sep
Rini Clement	29-Sep

Bible Reading



The family of	Date
Eapen Joseph (Jose)	09/03/2023
George Thomas	09/10/2023
Jacob Mathew	09/17/2023
Jacob Varughese	09/24/2023
Jerry Chacko	10/01/2023
John C Mathai (Raju)	10/08/2023
John Samuel (Kochumon)	10/15/2023
Rev. Johnson Mathew	10/22/2023
Jose Cherian	10/29/2023

Upcoming Events

- 1. September 2nd, 2023, Saturday N-E Region S.S Couples Meeting (Registration \$15/head)
- 2. September 3rd, 2023, Sunday Education Sunday
 - a. Dedication for School going students.
 - b. Dedication for Sunday School Students/Teachers
 - c. Harvest Festival Finale (Conveners Rahul Joseph/Justin John)
- 3. September 24th, 2023, Sunday
 - a. Senior Citizen Day
 - b. Sevika Sangham Day
 - c. One day Income Offertory
 - d. Onam Festival
- 4. September 29th (Fri), September 30th (Sat), October 1st, 2023 (Sun) Parish Convention
- 5. October 1st, 2023, Sunday M.T. Voluntary Evangelists Association Day
- 6. 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