



September 2024 | VOL. XIII

# NEWSLETTER

## ST. JOHN'S MARTHOMA CHURCH



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## **From the Vicar's Desk**

To the faithful believers of St. John's Mar Thoma Church, Michigan

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

The start of the autumn season is a 180-degree shift from the experience of the previous months. We see some drastic changes around us. The world changes completely and all creatures make their adaptations. The migrating birds pick up their pace southwards, the squirrels pack on weight, and us humans bring our winter clothes from the storage space. The poet Robert Frost penned these words describing the changes: *O hushed October morning mild, Thy leaves have ripened to the fall; Tomorrow's wind, if it be wild, Should waste them all* ("October," 1915). There is calmness in the wintertime; the cold slows down the world. But maybe it is a time for us to slow down and reflect on the days gone by. Soon we will be at the year's end but may the remaining days of this year be a time to reflect on how things have been and prepare for a new year.

### **Proclaiming Christ Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow**

It is in this slowing down of time that we in the United States approach the upcoming days. In the Calendar of the Church, we have the Sanctification of the Church on 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. (Kudosh Eetho) and the Renewal of the Church on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. (Hudosh Eetho). Just before that is All Saint's Day on 1<sup>st</sup> November. We remember the righteous who have gone before us, reflect on their words and admonitions, and we attempt to follow in their footsteps. They followed the Lord Jesus faithfully in their time in this world; let us also continue to be strong in our walk with God. The period known as *Subaro* (Annunciation) marks the time of divine announcements of the coming of the Lord Jesus. The Annunciations to Zechariah, to the Virgin Mary, to Joseph, etc. belong to the proclamation of God's salvation plan. The salvation plan culminated with the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and its climax was on the Cross. Today, there remains for us to understand what God has done for us as we wait for the final act of God's plan, which is the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God and the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus. Today, many say that the end-times are near; in fact, the end-time is already here. The glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ and His Ascension have marked an inflection point in world history. Those who trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior have the surety of eternal life with God. It is the role of the Church, that is, as a community of believers in the Lord Jesus, to make this truth known to all. There are those in our families and communities who don't understand this message; it is our duty to show them the wonder of what God has done. There are those who have fallen away from the faith; it is to them that we try to show the marvel of God's work.

### **Looking Back, Looking Ahead**

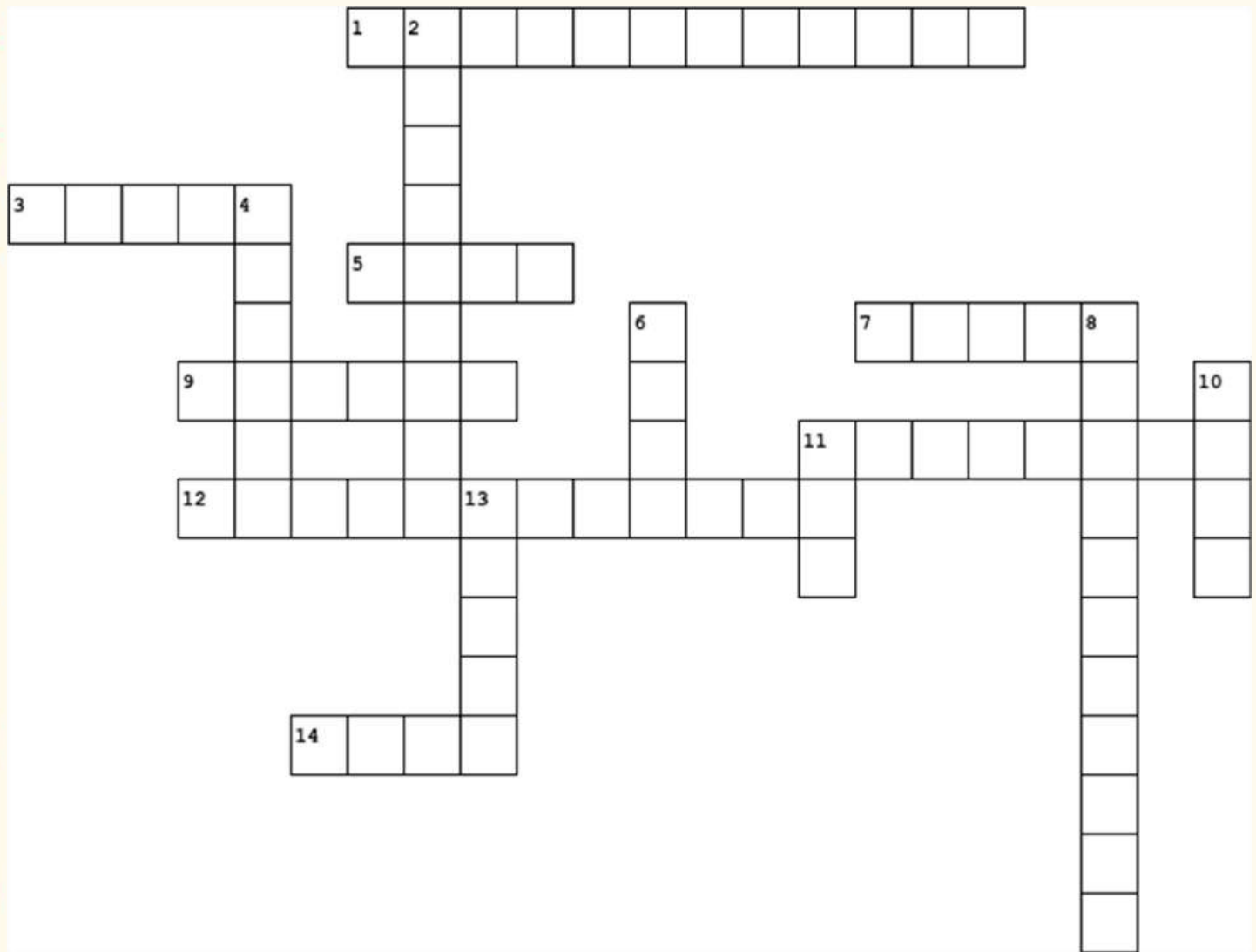
During the summer months, we were blessed to hold the Parish Retreat, Cultural Fest (*Thira* 2024: Happiness comes in waves), and the Parish Convention. Mr. Abey Cherian from New York was our speaker for the Retreat and Evangelist Samuel T. Chacko spoke at the convention. Both were times of blessing for all who attended. The Choir travelled to Toronto for the Choir Fest (27<sup>th</sup> July) and performed beautifully. Their hard work is to be commended. Three of our youth, Sneha Mathew, Aby Mathews, and David Mathai, attended the 2024 Diocesan Youth Fellowship Conference hosted by St. Mathews MTC Toronto (1 – 4 Aug) with the theme "Living Last." We have also been having regular Friday evening youth meetings, either online or in-person. The Edavaka Mission and the Sevika Sanghom maintain monthly meetings. The Edavaka Mission has begun to arrange visitations to meet those who are unable to regularly attend Sunday worship and other programs. There were many who worked in various ways to make these programs a blessed time. In the days to come, we have much more planned. Let all things be for our spiritual growth and for the glory of God. May the Lord Jesus continue to bless all the families at St. John's MTC. Amen.

September 27, 2024

Rev. Jeswin S. John

Vicar

# Oct-Dec 2024



## Across

1. First \_\_\_\_ was celebrated in 1621
3. Cultural Fest 2024 theme
5. Robert Frost
7. America's favorite pie
9. What is near when it sprouts? (Matt. 24)
11. Famous U.S. college football rivalry game in December 2024 (two words, no space)
12. News through the Angels
14. Church Retreat 2024 speaker Mr. \_\_\_\_

## Down

2. Evening before All Saint's Day
4. Season described in Psalm 84
6. 25-Day \_\_\_\_
8. The "E" in MTVEA
10. "Living Last" (Toronto)
11. It prepares for the wintertime (Book of Proverbs)
13. \_\_\_\_ Tree (aka "sweet neem")



# Sea Life Aquarium



STJMTC Michigan Youth  
Group went to the Sea Life  
Aquarium.



# Church Picnic



*Our church picnic was held at Thelma Spencer Park,  
Troy, MI on July 13th*







# 28TH MAR THOMA CHOIR FESTIVAL



*Our choir participated on 28th Mar Thoma Choir Fest held at St Mathew's Mar Thoma Church on July 27th*



# Church Retreat



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*Our church retreat was held at Echo Grove Camp and Retreat Center, Leonard, MI from August 9th to 11th. Guest speaker was Mr. Abey Cherian from St Thomas Mar Thoma Church, Yonkers, NY.*

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# First Fruit Auction



The First Fruit Auction was organized on Sunday August 18, 2024. We were able to raise \$9,430 and we humbly thank all our parish members for your generosity in bringing and bidding on items. The funds raised from the auction will primarily support the ongoing and operating expenses of the church. Those who were not able to participate in the auction please bring items for auction next few weeks or donate money for the cause.

-Philip Mathew,  
Convener for the Fruit Auction





# Cultural Fest



*Our church cultural fest Thira 2024 was held at the church fellowship hall on August 24th*



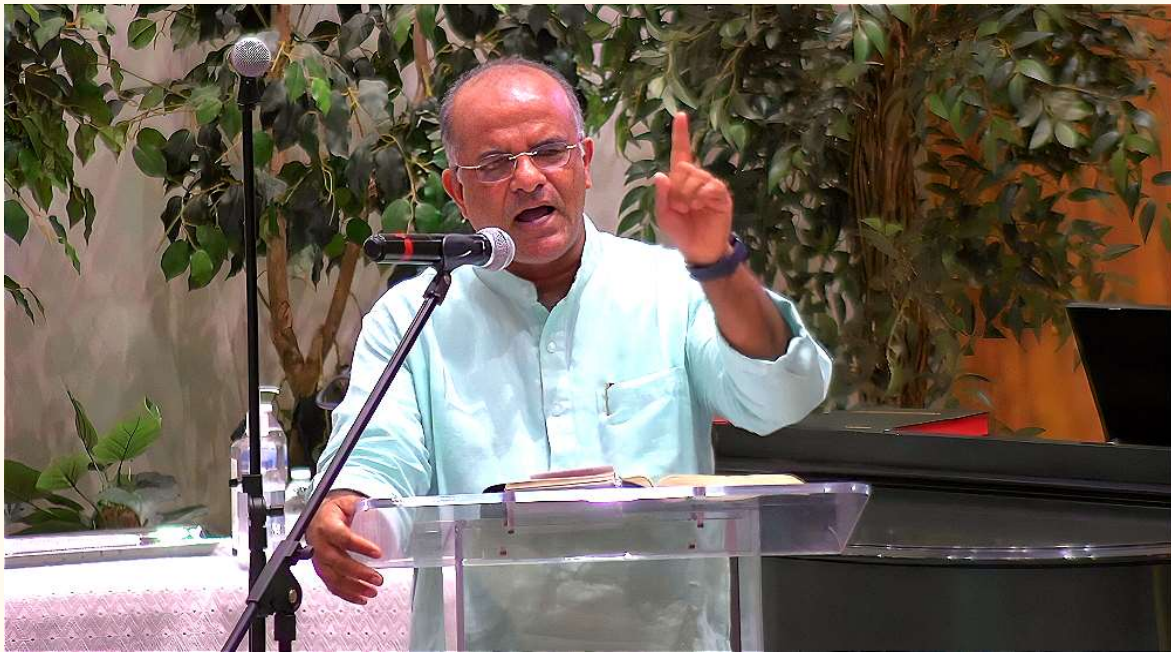
# Sunday School Anniversary



*Sunday School Anniversary was held on September 8th.*



# Parish Convention



*Our church convention was held at our church from September 20th to 22nd. The speaker was Evangelist Mr. Samuel T Chacko (Saji Ranny). The convention was inaugurated by Rev Varghese P Joseph, vicar of CSI Congregation of Great Lakes. The speaker was Evangelist Mr. Samuel T Chacko (Saji Ranny). The convention was inaugurated by Rev Varghese P Joseph, vicar of CSI Congregation of Great Lakes.*



# Youth Revival Night



STJMTC Michigan Youth Group had a Youth Revival night with Shane Thomas as our Speaker for the event.



# Sunday School Detroit Zoo Field Trip



Gen 1 :27 So God created mankind in his own image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in  
number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the  
birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

St. Johns SS visited the Detroit Zoo on September 28th, 2024, almost total  
33 of students, parents and teachers visited had a blessed time  
understanding the purpose and power of Lord's creation. With the  
support of Superintendent, Siby Binu, and Secretary, Shine Eapen, we as  
a team had a very good cherishable memory.

Convener, Study tour  
Chacko T. Varghese (Viju)





## **Trustee's Financial Update**

**As we entered into the last quarter of the year 2024, we are grateful for the contributions from families in a timely manner. Those who are yet to pay their voluntary contribution, Parish day collection, Diocesan Sunday collection, Refreshment fund contribution and First Fruit Auction payments, please submit your contributions as soon as possible and support our financial needs. Payments can be made in person to the trustees or through Zelle using [treas@stjmtc.org](mailto:treas@stjmtc.org)**

**If you have any questions,  
please don't hesitate to let us know.  
Trustees: Philip Mathew, Kurian Jacob**



## Upcoming Events

6-Oct	Edavaka Mission Day
13-Oct	Yuvajana Sakhyam Day
20-Oct	Youth Sunday
27-Oct	Family/Tithe Sunday
3-Nov	World Sunday School Day
24-Nov	Annual General Body Election for the year 2024
30-Nov	Carol Rounding
1,7,8,14,15 Dec	Carol Rounding
21-Dec	Christmas Carol Service
25-Dec	Christmas Day Service @ 9:00 AM
26-29- Dec	Regional Youth Conference (dates to be confirmed)
29-Dec	Divine Service (Malayalam)
31-Dec	Watch Night Service -10 PM



# Birthdays

## OCTOBER

10/3

Alisa Abraham

10/3

Sibin Mathew

10/5

Saramma Abraham

10/7

Isaac Kurian

10/9

Dr. Gladson Scaria

10/10

Jibu Abraham

10/12

Irene John

10/13

Jyothi Varghese

10/14

Thomas T. Kovoor

10/19

Abraham Abraham

10/19

Mary Mathew

10/19

Priya Mathews

10/23

David Varghese

10/24

Lincy Thomas

10/24

P. J. Abraham

10/24

Shaiju M. Eapen

10/25

Aby Mathews

10/27

Biju Thomas



## **NOVEMBER**

11/5	Mariamamma Abraham
11/6	Elizabeth Thomas
11/6	Kevin George
11/8	Nirmal Mathews
11/10	Chacko T. Varghese
11/11	Micah Mathews
11/14	Binu Jacob
11/15	Abraham Maniparambil Eapen
11/18	Bincy Joshwa
11/24	George Chacko
11/28	Sosamma Sakhariah
11/29	Krista Eapen

## **DECEMBER**

12/1	Merril Mathew
12/5	Shybe Varghese
12/8	Sunitha Varughese
12/9	Aleyamma Thomas
12/11	Sanu T. Thomas
12/12	Annamma Chacko
12/12	Joshua Mathai
12/18	Dr. George Koshy Vilanilam
12/23	Christina Annette Sam
12/27	Biju Varughese
12/29	Sajani Steephen
12/31	Philip Mathew



## Anniversaries

### November

11/7

Mr. Kevin George & Mrs. Naomi Issac

11/22

Mr. Shaji Mannooorethu & Mrs. Saramma Shaji

11/28

Mr. P. V. Cherian & Mrs. Aleyamma Cherian

### December

12/8

Mr. Sanu T. Thomas & Mrs. Ashely Abraham

12/13

Mr. Abraham Abraham & Mrs. Mariamma  
Abraham

12/27

Mr. Abraham Maniparambil Eapen & Mrs.  
Sheeba Eapen

12/29

Mr. John Abraham & Mrs. Sunitha Mathew