

PHOENIX MAR THOMA CHURCH

401 E MOHAVE STREET, PHOENIX



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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4

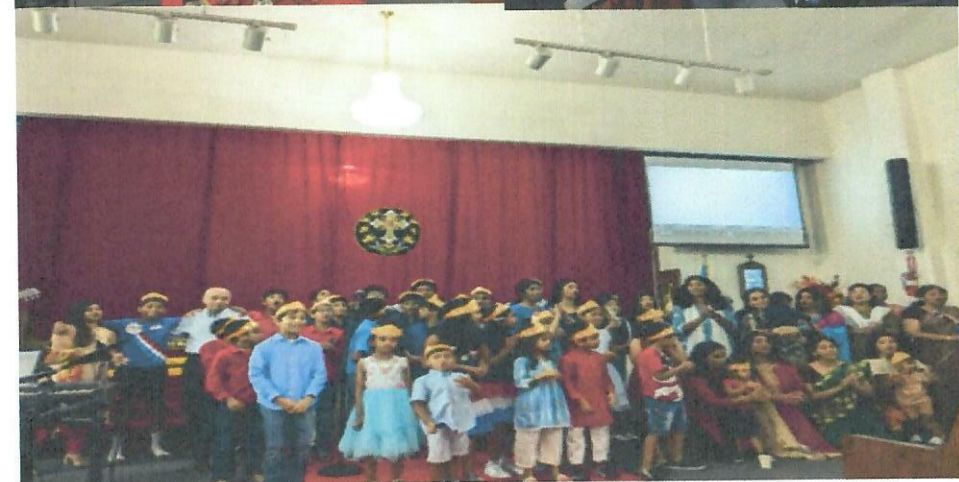
AUGUST 2024

A Phoenix Mar Thoma Church publication
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Navajo Mission VBS team members visit



VBS Final Day



From the desk of the vicar.....



Coexistence of people of God.....

Praise be to the Triune God.

The coexistence of the people of God refers to how individuals who identify as followers of a particular faith tradition, particularly in this context, the Christian faith, live together in harmony, unity, and mutual respect despite differences in beliefs, practices, and backgrounds. Here are some key points regarding the coexistence of the people of God: ***Unity in Diversity:** The people of God are diverse, consisting of individuals from various cultural, ethnic, and social backgrounds. Despite these differences, there is a call to unity based on a shared faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. ***Love and Compassion:** Christians are called to show compassion, kindness, and understanding towards each other. ***Forgiveness and Reconciliation:** When conflicts arise among the people of God, there is a call to seek reconciliation and to work towards restoring relationships. ***Service and Humility:** Christians are called to serve one another in humility by putting others' needs before their own and by serving with a spirit of humility. ***Prayer and Fellowship:** Prayer and fellowship are essential aspects of the Christian life. Coming together in worship, prayer, and fellowship can strengthen the bonds of community and help individuals grow in their faith and relationships with one another. The coexistence of the people of God is not always easy. Let us pray as a parish, to help us live in coexistence as God's people.

A new academic year is starting. May our children grow in wisdom and God's grace. 15 - day Lent is being observed From August 1st to 15th. Like Mary's dedication, let us pray, "O God, let me be your servant according to your will". All organizations will need to arrange programs and work more diligently. Our new year of Sunday School is about to begin. Parents should encourage children to attend Sunday school. We pray and hope that our children will be able to live a Christ-centered life.

With the power of Holy Spirit, let us participate in the ongoing mission of God in church with coexistence and harmony

With Love
Sibin Achen

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

Sunday School:

- Classes for 2024 – 25 academic year will begin in August.
Date will be announced in church.

Youth Fellowship

- Meeting schedule will be announced later

Edavaka Mission

- Prayer meeting at church on 10th and 24th at 7:00 PM

Sevika Sangham:

- Meeting schedule will be announced later.

Senior Citizens Fellowship

- Regular meeting on the 1st Tuesday of every month at church
- Next meeting on 6th August

Young Family Fellowship

The Young Family Fellowship team will be leading Singspiration sessions during Malayalam Layman services. If interested in joining the team, please contact Mrs. Jessy Thomas.

CONDOLENCES

Mrs. P. T. Abraham (90), father of our member Mrs. Mercy Abraham was called home to the Lord on 10th of July 2024. The funeral service was held on Saturday, July 13. The Vicar and members of the Phoenix Mar Thoma church express deep condolences to Mrs. Mercy Abraham, Mr. Thomas P. George, Mr. Ferrin Thomas, Ms. Fiona Thomas and all other members of the bereaved family.

VBS 2024

From the Sunday school team.

VBS for 2024 was held on June 27th, 28th, and 29th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. We had singing sessions, lesson time, games, skits, crafts and snack time and the older children spent some time with our Achen learning more about our service and why we use different elements during our Holy Communion service.

The kids learned 5 lessons during the 3 full VBS days. They learned about Jesus the learner and were encouraged to ask questions to find their way. The second lesson they learned was about Jesus as our companion – and with the lesson, they were working together with Jesus by their side. The 3rd lesson was about Jesus as their teacher, in this lesson, they learned to let their light shine. The 4th lesson was about Jesus as their example – which helped them follow Jesus' example of serving others. And the last lesson for VBS was about Jesus as our Helper. Here they learned to trust Jesus to help when all things go wrong.

We are extremely grateful to all the parents, grandparents, and other volunteers who took time off and helped us make this year's VBS a great success.

NAVAJO MISSION

The Navajo Mission VBS team visited our church on their way to Utah. Achen along with available executive committee members received them at the church and handed over the food items that were purchased on their request.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES - AUGUST - 2024

DAY	DATE	TIME	SERVICE/ACTIVITY
Sun	04 Aug	10:30 AM	Divine Service - English
Tue	06 Aug	10:30 AM	Senior citizens fellowship
Sat	10 Aug	7:00 PM	Edavaka Mission prayer meeting at church
Sun	11 Aug	10:30 AM	Holy communion service - Malayalam
Sun	18 Aug	10:30 AM	Divine service - Malayalam
Sat	24 Aug	7:00 PM	Edavaka Mission prayer meeting at church
Sat	24 Aug	10: 30 AM	Holy communion service – English

LECTIONARY FOR AUGUST 2024

Date	Lessons	Epistle / Gospel
04 August	Mission Sunday: Mission - Proclamation and Acts of the Kingdom of God (11th Sunday after Pentecost)	
	Isa 6: 1-8	Rom 1: 8-17
	Acts 19:8-12	Matt 10 :7-16
11 August	Freedom in Jesus Christ (12th Sunday after Pentecost)	
	Exod. 3:7-14	Rom 6: 15-23
	Gal 5: 1-14	John 8:31-36
18 August	Reformation Sunday: Reformation based on the values of the Kingdom of God (13th Sunday after Pentecost)	
	II Kgs. 23:1-3	I John. 2:13-17
	I Pet. 1:13-25	Matt. 23:23-28
25 August	Theological Education for faith nourishment (14th Sunday after Pentecost)	
	Deut. 6:1-9	II Tim. 3:10-17
	Acts 28:23-30	Matt. 13:18-23

REV. SIBIN D. VARUGHESE AND PARISH MEMBERS

WISH YOU A VERY BLESSED

BIRTHDAY

Mem. ID	Da y	Name	Mem. . ID	Da y	Name
J-004	02	Jordan Mathai	A-002	20	Rosamma Philip
A-006	04	Neil Abraham	A-004	20	Angela Philip
T-003	05	Fiona Thomas	A-006	21	Leena Abraham
R-007	06	Namita Thomas	R-001	21	Melita Ann Rajesh
L-002	07	Blessly Thomas	A-003	26	Ajay Jacob
R-007	08	Jessy Thomas	V-001	26	Varghese M. Thomas
R-004	09	Smitha Richard	R-006	29	Kevin Roy
J-001	13	Jerrin Jose	A-010	31	Anoop Ivan Chacko
S-001	16	Samuel George	V-004	31	Annie Alex Varghese
T-005	19	Saramma Varghese			

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Member ID	Day	Name
J-003	08	Mr. & Mrs. John K. Eapen
B-003	10	Mr. & Mrs. Bibin George John
S-006	15	Dr. & Mrs. Simon Thomas
A-004	18	Mr. & Mrs. Ajith Abraham
J-006	22	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Cherian
I-001	24	Dr. & Mrs. Itty Itty
S-003	24	Mr. & Mrs. Sajith Varghese
V-003	28	Mr. & Mrs. Vijayan K. George

Special thanksgiving prayers are held during Holy Communion Services. Hope you will attend the Thanksgiving Prayer and partake in the Holy Communion on the Sundays closest to your Birthday and your Wedding Anniversary.

****If any names are missed out, please notify parish secretary on +1 919 537 5485**

BIBLE QUIZ

Based on Exodus 1 - 15

1. Where did the Israelites go after leaving Marah?
2. What desert lies between Elim and Sinai?
3. Who attacked the Israelites while they were camped at Rephidim?
4. What was covering the atonement cover of the Ark of the Covenant?
5. Who said this to whom? "Choose some men for us and go out; fight with Amalek."
6. Who held up Moses' hands while Israel was in battle?
7. How many years did the children of Israel eat manna?
8. What name did Moses give to the place where he got water out of a stone?
9. When God spoke to the Israelites on Mount Sinai. What was their response?
10. Who was the first person to write a book of the Old Testament?

Please send your answers to

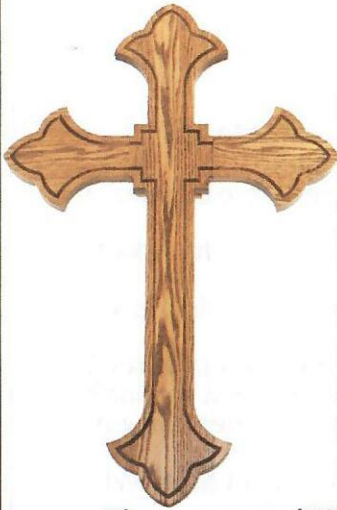
newsletter.phoenixmtc@gmail.com before 15th of August.

Answers for July's Bible Quiz

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Levi | 6. 430 |
| 2. Aaron's oldest sons | 7. Lord said to Moses and Aaron |
| 3. Jochebed | 8. Pillar of cloud/fire |
| 4. At the river | 9. 3 days |
| 5. Darkness | 10. Bones |

Congratulations to **Mrs. Santha Varghese** and **Mrs. Angela Philip** who sent all correct answers.

CROSS



Cross has a central place in Christian worship. It symbolizes the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In our church the custom is to place atleast a simple, wooden cross on the Thronos. This is because our centre of hope is not the Christ who suffers on the cross but the Christ who overcomes death and resurrects Himself. Cross is a symbol of suffering and victory. Cross without an image represents the resurrected Christ.

The acronym 'INRI' inscribed on the cross stands for "Iesus Nazarene Rex Iudaeorum". It is a Latin expression which reminds us about "Jesus, the King of Jews" that was inscribed on the cross on which Jesus died. 'IHS' stands for "Iesus Homonis Salvator".

It stands for "Jesus Man's Saviour", When we make a sign of cross, it means we are conscious of the presence of Jesus who took life as man and died on the cross. It also means that we remember Jesus' ministry for the salvation of humankind. It also symbolizes the advent on earth of God who brings us to the right place from the wrong place we had chosen ourselves.

Deadline for receiving news items for **September 2024** issue of newsletter is **Tuesday, 20th August 2024**.

Kindly WhatsApp your news items to **+1 919 537 5485** or email to ***newsletter.phoenixmtc@gmail.com***

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Position/organization	Name	Phone
Vicar/ President	Rev. Sibin D Varughese	(480) 202-2229
Vice President	Elizabeth Philip	(516) 205-6514
Secretary	Praveen Aby Thomas	(919) 537-5485
Trustee - Finance	Stanley Kalathil	(516) 318-7175
Trustee - Accounts	Varghese Mathai	(602) 625-3166
Lay Ministrant - Malayalam	Thomas P. Varghese	(602) 903-8947
Lay Ministrant - English	Roy Thomas	(480) 703-3938
Mandalam	Thomas P. George	(602) 500-8220
Assembly	Shygy Joseph	(480) 599 3413
Edavaka Mission	Agie George	(516) 426-5045
Sevika Sangham	Minimol Mathai	(602) 500-8261
MTYF	Ann Thomas	(602) 500-8704
Sunday school	Blessly Thomas	(267) 975-7526
Senior Citizen Fellowship	Thomas Varghese P.	(215) 385-2765

SUB COMMITTEE CONVENORS

Sub committee	Convenor	Phone
Convention	Agie George	(516) 426-5045
Hosting guests	Minimol Mathai	(602) 500-8261
Meet & Greet	Ann Thomas	(602) 500-8704
Picnic	Roy Thomas	(480) 703-3938
Study forum	Thomas P. Varghese	(602) 903-8947
Website & Newsletter	Praveen Aby Thomas	(919) 537-5485

Parsonage Address

1127 E Tonopah Dr

Phoenix, Arizona 85024

Lord, renew us by your word



**May my cry come before you, Lord;
give me understanding according to
your word. (Ps: 119: 169)**