

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

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HOREB MAR THOMA CHURCH LOS ANGELES

Lighthouse



Vicar's Message

Rev. Larry Varghese

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It's Christmas time again. The string lights have come out and the debate between real or artificial Christmas tree has begun. It's quite

easy to be caught up in the commercial aspect of Christmas; the endless sales and bargains. We Christians aren't immune to it. The danger with this advertisement driven holiday season is that we train ourselves to notice the next latest and greatest thing on the market. If it's not new and better than before, we don't want it.

There was a time when the message of Christmas was radically new. Well, that shouldn't have been the case because there were numerous prophecies foretelling Jesus's birth, and so the people of Israel should have been ready. But nonetheless, it was a wonderful surprise to the world. God, here on earth – what a bizarre concept. The Jewish idea of God over the course of their history became a progressively elevated one. When God, at the appointed time, sent his son into the world he was basically announcing "Hey, I'm not some far off and aloof person. I'm right here with you. I've shared in your life (that old, outdated lifestyle); now share in my life (new, unfading, eternal life)!" Even though that same message is repeated every year, the newness that Christ brings always stays fresh. We dare not exchange it for what will soon be outdated in life.

In this advent season, set apart some time and recall the Christmas message of hope and joy. Our church practices a 25 day lent from December 1-25th. Set aside something that you crave and shift that passion over towards reconnecting with Jesus. May God bless you this Christmas season. Wishing you a meaningful Christmas and a blessed New Year in advance.

WHAM! POETRY BAM! SLAM!

Youth Poem by
Yasmeen Thomas



*I am a pumpkin
I am imperfect
I have bumps and bruises
Nobody wants me
They think I'm ugly,
and only see the bad on the outside
Then God found me
He sees the goodness I'm capable of
God will make me perfect
He will clean out the seeds of evil
that have taken root inside of me
He will mark me with his ever-powerful
cross that I may be his and he may be mine
He will light a candle inside of me
so I can shine brightly to others,
and spread the Holy Ones word
Yet, I am still just a pumpkin*

Did you know that the official name of our Church is "The Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar"?

DID YOU KNOW?

As we witness the Syrian Refugee Crisis on the news, lets especially pray for those suffering during this time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

House-to-House Carols
West & Partial East 12/5/15
South & Partial East 12/12/15

Refugee Outreach
Friday December 11th

VOR
Voice of the Refugees

Volunteering with V.O.R.
Christmas Dinner for Middle Eastern Refugees
(Volunteers age 12 and older,
Contact Riya George or Stefin Mathew
by 12/6/15)

Christmas Carol Service & Dinner

3pm December 20th @ GGUMC,
All are invited

Guest Speaker:
Rev. Manoj Mathai
Executive Pastor of
Newsong LA Covenant Church



12/25 Christmas Day Service @ 9:30am
12/31 Watch Night Service @ 6pm

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Tues Dec 1	7:00pm–8:30pm	Edavaka Mission Bible Study - Saji Baby, Cerritos
Thur Dec 3	9:00pm - 10:00pm	Weekly Tele-prayer conference - (712) 432-1500;969538#
Sat Dec 5	12:00pm - 12:00am	House Caroling Visit
Sun Dec 6	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC
Tues Dec 8	7:00pm–8:30pm	Edavaka Mission Bible Study - Mathew Koshy, Cerritos
Wed Dec 9	8:30pm–10:00pm	Western Regional Tele-prayer Conference - 714-432-1500 638599#
Thur Dec 10	9:00pm - 10:00pm	Weekly Tele-prayer conference - (712) 432-1500;969538#
Sat Dec 12	12:00pm - 12:00am	House Caroling Visit
Sun Dec 13	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Holy Communion Service (Malayalam) - GGUMC
Tues Dec 15	7:00pm–8:30pm	Edavaka Mission Bible Study - TBD
Thur Dec 17	9:00pm - 10:00pm	Weekly Tele-prayer conference - (712) 432-1500;969538#
Sun Dec 20	3:00pm - 7:00pm	Christmas Carol Service—GGUMC; Dinner at Acker Hall
Thur Dec 24	9:00pm - 10:00pm	Weekly Tele-prayer conference - (712) 432-1500;969538#
Fri Dec 25	9:30am - 12:00pm	Christmas Day Service; Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC
Sun Dec 27	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC
Sun Dec 27	5:00pm - 6:00pm	Youth Fellowship - GGUMC
Thu Dec 31	6:00pm - 8:30pm	Watch Night Service; Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC

MONTHLY MEMORABLES



11/19/15 Youth Fellowship participating in Operation Shoebox Outreach

11/8/15 Unity Sunday Joint Worship with CSI



11/29/15 5th Sunday Edavaka Mission Terrace View Care Visit + Sunday School Student Thanksgiving Card Distribution



*If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, an article, artwork, poem, etc....

Please contact Achen, Joshi, Mathew or Anna.