

Vicar's Message

There was a time when going to the grocery store didn't seem like a risky thing to do. But now, there is the risk of bringing a virus home. There are precautions we take on our own, including at the very least: wearing a mask and keeping a 6 feet distance from other people. But when you consider all the evils of this world, the mask and social distance doesn't provide protection. We do find the kind of protection we need in the Bible. The writer of Psalm 91 has apparently experienced the best protection one could ask for: the Lord himself.

This Psalm has been read and recited by many as a source of encouragement, assurance, and blessings of God's protection and safety. The psalmist calls the Lord his refuge and fortress, and the object of his trust. And he assures the reader that the Lord will deliver you from those who harm you. He will command his angels to guard you. No evil will be allowed to defeat you. No plague will come near you

That sounds like something we could use right now. No plague – no pandemic will come near me? But we all know people who loved the Lord, sought protection and refuge in Him, but still may have experienced disease. Even in the Bible, we know that evil still affected God's people. The psalmist must mean something else. In context, we can see he has the judgment of God against the unfaithful in mind, e.g. plagues over Egypt. When God deals with the wicked of this world, the faithful will be protected. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. Ultimately in the final judgment, we will be protected. We may experience perils and hardships, but we are always with the Lord.

As Christians, we can see in this Psalm Jesus' unbeatable love as Paul describes. Nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus. No plague. Not even death. It is in Jesus we have our greatest refuge.

Yes, we can and should pray this Psalm as we desire protection from this virus and from all evil that may come our way. But this Psalm also reminds us that as someone who loves the Lord, you cannot be defeated – Jesus will always be with you. No virus, no evil, nothing can separate you from that.

I pray for everyone's protection during this time, and healing for our friends and family who have been affected. Let us find our eternal hope and safety in our fortress, our refuge – Jesus Christ, the Lord.

Sincerely,

Rev. Alex Kolath

Events and Activities

Sunday Virtual Service

Location – Google Meet

Every Sunday - Time: 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Sunday School (General Session)

Location – Online

Every Sunday – 5pm

Choir Practice

Location – Online (Links to be Shared)

Every Friday - Time: 7:30 pm

Sevika Sanghom - Fasting Prayer

Dial in number 1-605-313-5071, PIN: 124674#

Every Friday - Time: 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm

Parish Mission - Prayer

Dial in number 1-605-313-5071, PIN: 124674#

Every Wednesday - Time: 9:30 pm - 10:00 pm

Combined Prayer Meeting

Date: 9th May 2020 / 23rd May 2020

Location: Google Meet

Young Families Fellowship

Date: 2nd May 2020

Location: Google Meet



Thanks to each one who has been supporting the Sunday Virtual Services.

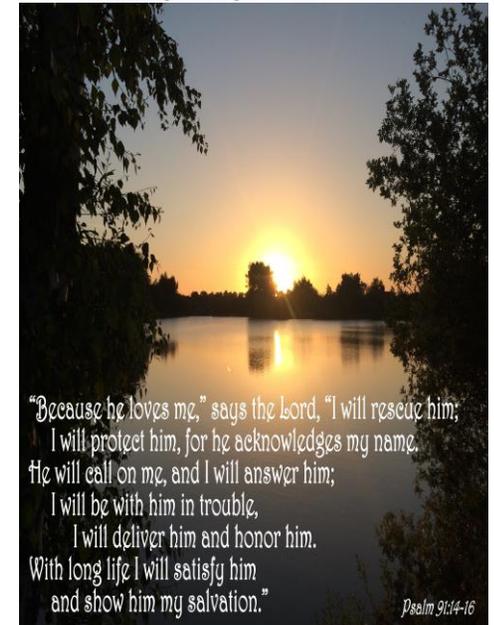
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IMMANUEL MAR THOMA CHURCH, VIRGINIA



NEWSLETTER May 2020

His faithful promises



Our Vicar

Rev. Alex Kolath
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Sterling, VA 20165

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visit us www.immanuelmarthoma.org

Birthday

Name	Date
Aaron D Pappy Ciby Varghese Rony Rajan	May 1
Binoy Mathew Joseph	May 3
Davis Tony Mathew Eliana Ashish	May 4
Benu M Varghese	May 5
Divya A Kuruvilla Koshy Mathews Mathai	May 6
Joe Chacko Mary Thomas	May 8
Anita Kurian Thomas Varghese (Raju)	May 9
Biju V. Cherian Priya Kolath	May 13
Indu Jacob	May 15
Anula Legin	May 16
George Varughese (Raju)	May 18
Amy Cherian Santhosh Gheevarghese John Jisha Santhosh	May 20
Kamillamma A Samuel Leena Jacob Mini Mathew	May 25
Tom T Sam	May 26
Jessy Sam	May 28
Jijo Abraham	May 29
Jacob P Kuruvilla Sam T Thomas	May 31

Youth Corner

We are all going through difficult times. We sense fear all around us because of the virus. Psalms 91 is a chapter that provides great hope and relief at this time.

The verses 14-16 of Psalms 91 gives a great promise to us at this time. We naturally turn to God in prayer when we face trouble. Here the Lord promises us that if we "call upon him", He will answer us. But He places some conditions on this relation -

- we have to love Him
- We have to talk to him to him in prayer
- We have to know His name

As Christians, we are privileged to know His name; but we have to be in constant touch with him with our love and prayer. Do not lose faith in these difficult situations; but continue to love Him and talk to Him.

The Lord promises us that he will answer our prayers; rescue and protect us from trouble and give us long life. He will certainly deliver us from these times!

- **Evan Abraham**

Wedding Anniversary

Name	Date
Abraham Philip and Letha Jacob	May 3
Vinod Varghese and Ciby Varghese	May 12
Mohan Jacob, and Mariam Roshini Jacob	May 23
Ajo Abraham and Jennifer Abraham	May 24
Mathews Kuruvilla, and Mary Kuruvilla	May 26
Dr. Caleb E. Kroll, and Dr. Elizabeth A. Varghese-Kroll	May 28

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BOOKS OF THE BIBLE WORD SEARCH OLD TESTAMENT 1



S D S D C H R O N I C L E S A
O L O V D E U T E R O N O M Y
N G E N E S I S S Z R J J W N
G J P N Z N B E Z P C X U R E
O G R H R U F X F S S J D M H
F U O H A M A O N A A S G O E
S H V F O B J D L L M S E N M
O B E Z U E M U E M U S S Y I
L R R V E R B S V S E D T P A
O O B G P S V Y I D L K T U H
M Z S P S O Q R T E Z B C Q V
O E S T H E R U I V J F J H A
N J O S H U A T C P J O O C Q
J K I N G S R H U X Y D B F Z
E C C L E S I A S T E S T A J



Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy
Joshua
Judges

Ruth
Samuel
Kings
Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon



Condolences

Mrs. Suman Christian

Minesh Christian's Mother Mrs. Suman Christian (82) passed away on April 29 in Valsad, Gujarat. Funeral was held at CNI church in on the same day.

We the Immanuel Mar Thoma Church, Virginia, express our deepest condolences and prayers for the family.