

# CSI CHRIST CHURCH OF CHICAGO

## Parish Messenger



Praise the Lord, my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits—  
who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases.

Psalm 103:2-3 NIV

### JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

**Malayalam service: 1st and 3rd Sundays.**

**English service: 2nd Sunday**

**Youth and Young Adults (YAYA) Worship 4th Sunday**

**Sunday services can be attended in-person or online.**

[\*\*Zoom Link\*\*](#)

**pwd=VjZoSHVvSnhmcElwSmJ1Ym0xL0paQT09 Or audio only**

**at 1312 626 6799, Meeting ID: 757 719 2513 # #, password**

**5857 #**

**Sun 9:15 - 9:50 AM : Sunday School**

**Sun 9:30 - 9:50 AM : Bible Study**

**Sun 10 AM - 12 NOON : Worship Service**

**Fri 9:00 AM : Fasting Prayer**

**Sat Evenings : Cottage Prayer**

**Be still, and know that I am God. Psalms 46:10a.**

**1095 E Thacker St, Des Plaines, IL-60016. PHONE : 773-234-1034**





-Rev. Joe Varghese Malayil

## **Go Up to the Mountain, Bring the Wood, and Build the House- Haggai 1:8**

The year 2026 stands before us as a blessed and hopeful year in the life of our Church. With prayerful hearts, we are trusting God for an own church facility-a place where generations can worship, pray, and grow in faith. Our motto for this year, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10a), reminds us that while we plan and labor, it is the Lord who fights for us and establishes His purpose.

At the beginning of this month, we dedicated the new Executive Committee during the worship service. We thank God for calling them to serve, and we pray that He will bless them abundantly with wisdom, humility, courage, and a prayerful spirit. Leadership in God's Church is not merely administrative; it is spiritual stewardship. As a congregation, let us continually uphold them in prayer, so that they may lead according to God's plan and desire, not human preference.

The message of the prophet Haggai speaks powerfully into our present context. The book of Haggai belongs to the post-exilic period. The magnificent Temple built by Solomon was destroyed by the Babylonians. After nearly 70 years of exile, the people returned to Jerusalem. Though they came back in BC 536 and began rebuilding the Temple, opposition and discouragement caused the work to stop for about 16 years (Ezra 4:1-5). During this long pause, the people shifted their focus. Instead of rebuilding God's house, they invested their energy and resources in building their own paneled houses (Haggai 1:4). Their priorities changed, and spiritual laziness crept in.

It was into this situation that God raised the prophet Haggai in BC 520. His ministry lasted only about four months--but it was a season of strong encouragement and divine correction. Haggai confronted the people with a crucial truth: misplaced priorities lead to spiritual and material barrenness. "You have sown much, and harvested little... you earn wages, only to put them in a bag with holes in it" (Haggai 1:5-6). When self-interest rises above God's interest, life loses its fullness.

This is a word for us today. We, too, have sold our old church, are worshipping in a rented space, and are prayerfully preparing to purchase the very church where we now gather. Like the post-exilic community, we are trusting God for restoration and provision. Haggai reminds us that God must have first priority-not merely His blessings, but God Himself. As Jesus teaches in Matthew 6:33, when we seek first the Kingdom of God, everything else finds its rightful place. Family, work, education, recreations, Jim, tuition, sports, and daily needs are all good and necessary-but even good things can become harmful if they keep us from the best.

Haggai 1:8 gives us three powerful instructions for this season:

### **First: "Go up to the mountain."**

Mountains in Scripture are places of God's presence. Abraham encountered God on Mount Moriah, Moses on Mount Sinai, and Jesus often withdrew to the mountains to pray. Before engaging in God's work, we must seek God's presence. Before we build, we must pray. Before action, there must be adoration. Prayer must always come before planning. As a Church, we are called to climb the mountain-setting aside time for prayer, fasting, and listening to God. Especially as we enter the 40 days of Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 18, let this be a season of deeper spiritual focus and surrender.



*-Rev. Joe Varghese Malayil*

### **Second: "Bring wood."**

God invites His people to bring what they have. Wood represents what we bring to God from what He has already given us. It represents our resources, talents, time, and blessings. A child brought five loaves to Jesus; David brought five stones and a willing heart; Paul surrendered his knowledge and pen for the Gospel. God invites us to bring our gifts—not because He lacks, but because our obedience invites His glory. Everything we have comes from God, and He calls us to offer it back to Him willingly and joyfully.

### **Third: "Build the house."**

When Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the people obeyed the word of the Lord, they rose up and rebuilt the Temple. God's work advances when God's people respond in faith. Today, as we prayerfully seek to purchase the church where we worship, we trust that obedience will open the way for divine intervention.

As we enter the season of Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 18, it becomes even more meaningful. May this year be one where we set our priorities right, seek God first, and witness His miraculous provision. May the Lord stir our hearts, strengthen our committee members, unite our congregation, and guide us as we go up to the mountain, bring wood, and build His house—for His glory alone. Amen.

Joe Achen.

# JANUARY MEMORIES

Region IV Council members visit



Malayalam students and teachers  
leading service





## LECTIONARY & DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

**February 1, 2026, 9th Sunday before Easter (Holy Eucharist- Malayalam)**

**Theme: Sabbath Leads to the Fullness of Creation**

Old Testament	Genesis 1:31 – 2:3	Shibu Kurian
Psalm	Psalm 24	Nathan Chacko
New Testament/Epistle	Hebrews 4:2–11	Rintu Philip
Gospel	Mark 3:1–6	Presbyter
Kiss of Peace/Elements		Deepa & Joji Philip
Offertory		Rinu & George David

**February 8, 2026, 8th Sunday before Easter(Holy Eucharist- English) -**

**Healing Sunday**

**Theme: Fall: Moving Away from God's Purpose**

Old Testament	Judges 2:7–22	Sujith Kurian
Psalm	Psalm 14	Rian Varghese
New Testament/Epistle	1 Timothy 4:1–10	Sarah Philip
Gospel	Luke 18:18–27	Presbyter
Kiss of Peace/Elements		Jain & Lovy George
Offertory		Molly & Babu K. George

**February 15, 2026, 7th Sunday before Easter (HolyEucharist-Malayalam)**

**Theme: Christ Redeems All: Divine Love Embraces Everyone**

Old Testament	Jonah 4: 1-11	Irene Karottu
Psalm	Psalm 107: 1-20	Nathan Chacko
New Testament/Epistle	1 Tim. 2: 1-7	Elijah Chacko
Gospel	Mark 2: 13-17	Presbyter
Kiss of Peace/Elements		Soma & Joe Lukose
Offertory		Glenn Joy & Shane Joy

**February 22, 2026, 6th Sunday before Easter (1st Sunday in Lent)**

**(Holy Eucharist in English)**

**Theme: Call to be Compassionate**

Old Testament	Ruth 2:4–20	Tarun Koshy
Psalm	Psalm 145	Elisha Chacko
New Testament/Epistle	Ephesians 4:25–32	Ben Kurien
Gospel	Mark 1:40–45	Presbyter
Kiss of Peace/Elements		Betsy & Bino Oommen
Offertory		Ethan Chacko & Ethan Karottu

# FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS



## Birthdays

- 2 Omana Thomas
- 3 Shibu Kurian
- 3 Sarah Mary Philip
- 8 Luca Yohan Joe
- 10 Rajesh Benjamin
- 10 Krystle Thomas
- 11 Silvy Mathew
- 15 Elijah Vinod Chacko
- 17 Tarun K Koshy
- 19 Zane Babu
- 23 Anit Roy
- 25 Ben Kurien
- 26 Laila Prabha
- 26 Bino Oommen
- 27 Teena Livingstone

"I've depended on you from birth—you cut the cord when I came from my mother's womb. My praise is always about you. I've become an example to many people because you are my strong refuge. My mouth is filled with your praise, glorifying you all day long."

PSALM 71:6-8

May God's blessing  
be on each and  
everyone of you !!!

## Anniversaries



- 2 K M Mathai & Susamma Mathai
- 6 Biju Kurien & Bibi John

Those who remain in Love,  
remain in God and God remains  
in them.

John 4:16

Happy Anniversary





CSI Christ Church Monthly Accounts		Dec 2025	
Category	Income	Expense	
Subscription	\$10,478.44		
Offertory	\$1,685.00		
Thanks Offering	\$945.00		
Tithe	\$1,035.00		
Special Donation			
St. Martin's rent		\$2,200.00	
Church Supplies/Communion Elements		\$479.49	
Car Insurance			
Church Car Maintenance		\$20.00	
Church Maintenance/Emergency Repair			
Church Cleaning, Land scape, Snow removal			
Ch:ComEd			
Ch:Peoples Energy			
Ch&Psng Insurance			
Ch:Water			
Ch:Garbage			
Psng:ComEd		\$213.60	
Psng:Nicor			
Psng:Clean/Maint		\$1,853.65	
Psng:Internet		\$80.63	
Psng:Phone,cell		\$158.58	
Psng:Water			
Presbyter's Honorarium		\$2,200.00	
Presbyter healthcare		\$298.00	
Hospitality/Refreshments		\$2,180.50	
Mission/Charity	\$25.00	\$300.00	
Women's Fellowship			
Mens Fellowship			
Sunday School	\$51.34	\$691.34	
Youth	\$273.25	\$533.63	
Choir	\$70.00	\$156.60	
Visiting Pastor		\$500.00	
Presbyter gift/Visiting Pastors		\$500.00	
Legal/Tax/Visa Processing-W2/W3			
Miscellaneous			
Carol Rounds	\$12,389.27	\$1,882.28	
Family Retreat			
Building Fund			
Kerala Fest Fundraising	\$6,800.00		
CSI Council Membership / Conf	\$1,009.47	\$1,296.03	
Ecumenical Council			
Family Sunday/Harvest	\$250.00		
Confirmation			
Cottage Prayer			
Parsonage Maintenance special Fund			
Presbyter's PF in India		\$1,111.00	
Presbyter-Visa Amendment/Processing			
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$35,011.77</b>	<b>\$16,655.33</b>	
Ledger Summary	General	Reserve	Building Fund
Opening balance at the beginning of the month	\$19,366.14	\$6,068.00	\$726,169.96
Add Income "in month"	\$35,011.77		
Move building fund donations to building fund	\$0.00		\$0.00
Less (Expenses) "in month"	\$16,655.33		
Interest credited and moved to building fund			\$4,379.62
Move Tithe to Building Fund	\$1,035.00		\$1,035.00
Move Harvest Fund to Building Fund	<b>\$250.00</b>		\$250.00
Move Kerala Fest to Building Fund	\$6,800.00		\$6,800.00
Move Caroling contributions to Reserve Fund	<b>\$10,847.65</b>	<b>\$10,847.65</b>	
<b>Closing Ledger balance end of the month</b>	<b>\$18,789.93</b>	<b>\$16,915.65</b>	<b>\$738,634.58</b>



LEDGER SUMMARY 2025	General	Reserve	Building
Opening balance as on 01/01/2025	\$6,470.39	\$6,068.00	\$798.56
Add 2025 Income to General	\$902,000.57		
Church sale to Building Fund	(629,207.50)		\$629,207.50
Building Fund donations to building fund	(1,200.00)		\$1,200.00
Interest credited to building fund			\$10,774.10
Tithe to Building Fund	(13,330.00)		\$13,330.00
Family Sunday/Harvest Fund to Building Fund	(12,948.09)		\$12,948.09
Kerala Fest Fund to Building Fund	(70,376.33)		\$70,376.33
Christmas caroling to Reserve	(10,847.65)	\$10,847.65	
Less Expenses 2025	(151,771.46)		
<b>CLOSING LEDGER BALANCE 12/31/2025</b>	<b>\$18,789.93</b>	<b>\$16,915.65</b>	<b>\$738,634.58</b>
<b>TOTAL LEDGER BALANCE as on 12/31/2025</b>			<b>\$774,340.16</b>
Add - Outstanding Check 12/31/2025	\$1,040.00		
Write Off Check	\$300.00		
BANK RECONCILIATION			
International Bank of Chicago			\$275,914.37
Chase Checking			\$30,720.37
Chase Saving			\$20,292.38
Chase CD (matures May 3rd )			\$245,981.99
Bank Of America CD (matures Feb 15, 2026)			\$202,671.05
Bank of America Checking			\$100.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$775,680.16</b>
Outstanding Check from 2025			
	1351	\$1,040.00	Kalavara Grocers
			CSI Council-Unity Carol Service Dinner
Write Off Check from 2021 - Life Song	1112	\$300.00	Life Song
			Mission/Charity
OUTSTANDING LIABILITIES= 0.00			
Vicar/President.....	Treasurer.....	Accountant.....	
Rev. Joe Varghese Malayil	Thushara Tharakan	Allen Thomas	
Auditors: 1.....	2.....		
Shibu Kurien Aby Z Thomas			
KERALA FEST SUMMARY	Amount		
Internal Sponsorship	\$58,050.00		
Total ticket sale	\$8,334.87		
Outside Sponsorship	\$19,930.00		
Raffle Income	\$1,200.00		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$87,514.87</b>		
Expense	(17,138.54)		
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>\$70,376.33</b>		



ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2025				
ITEM	INCOME		EXPENSE	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Subscription	\$68,000.00	\$71,655.08		
Offertory	\$13,000.00	\$16,026.00		
Thanks Offering	\$15,000.00	\$13,821.00		
Tithe	\$1,200.00	\$13,330.00		
Special Donation		\$924.48		\$577.20
Sundays School/VBS	\$2,000.00	\$2,430.32	\$2,000.00	\$3,204.52
Family Sunday/Harvest festival	\$13,000.00	\$13,417.50	\$500.00	\$469.41
Church Car Maintenance/toll		\$20.00	\$1,000.00	\$543.50
Car Insurance			\$2,000.00	\$1,222.81
Church & Parsonage Building and (liability insurance to St. Martins)			\$6,000.00	\$4,082.22
<b>CHURCH</b>				
Church Cleaning, Land sc, Snow			\$3,000.00	\$1,050.00
Church Maintenance/Emergency Repairs for sale			\$5,000.00	\$1,098.80
Church-ComEd			\$400.00	\$467.40
Church-Peoples gas			\$2,500.00	\$2,846.19
Church-Water & Garbage			\$400.00	\$263.13
Church-Internet/Zoom			\$200.00	
St Martins Rent			\$26,400.00	\$26,401.00
<b>PARSONAGE</b>				
Parsonage-Mortgage+Principal Payoff				
Parsonage-ComEd			\$1,500.00	\$1,581.19
Parsonage-Nicor			\$1,500.00	\$1,039.78
Parsonage-Water/Trash			\$800.00	\$1,185.17
Parsonage-Internet			\$700.00	\$926.66
Parsonage-Phone,Cell		\$500.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,082.66
Parsonage-Insurance				
Parsonage Clean/Maint/Repair and parsonage sale prep			\$10,000.00	\$2,940.38
Hospitality/Refreshments		\$462.26	\$5,000.00	\$5,428.60
Mission/Charity	\$20,000.00	\$15,295.00	\$23,000.00	\$15,625.00
**Self Denial/Mission	\$3,000.00			
**Back to School	\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00	
Presbyterian Honorarium			\$26,400.00	\$26,400.00
Presbyter's PF in India			\$1,100.00	\$1,111.00
Presbyter&Family Health Care			\$4,000.00	\$1,942.96
Presbyter's /Visiting Pastors(5)Christmas Gift			\$3,000.00	\$500.00
*Printing/Stationary			\$1,500.00	
****Miscellaneous		\$35.42	\$300.00	\$386.54
***Convention, Parish day/Picnic Retr.	\$500.00		\$1,400.00	
Family Retreat	\$4,000.00	\$11,525.00	\$4,000.00	\$12,727.64
Youth Group	\$2,000.00	\$1,399.25	\$2,500.00	\$2,348.99
Men's Group	\$2,000.00	\$1,465.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,394.50
Women's Fellowship	\$2,000.00	\$1,940.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,048.08
Choir	\$1,000.00	\$120.00	\$2,000.00	\$627.92
Visiting Pastors			\$2,500.00	\$1,650.00
Christmas Caroling	\$16,000.00	\$12,889.27	\$3,000.00	\$2,041.62
Cottage Prayer		\$500.00		
Church Supplies			\$500.00	\$2,197.65
CSI Council Membership / Conf		\$1,152.47	\$5,000.00	\$4,155.11



Ecumenical Council	\$800.00	\$1,830.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,084.00
Legal fees		\$3,765.15	\$1,000.00	\$106.29
Confirmation	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00	
Presbyter- Visa Amendment/Processing			\$6,000.00	\$1,800.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$168,000.00</b>	<b>\$184,003.20</b>	<b>\$168,000.00</b>	<b>\$134,557.92</b>
<b>Proposed Items</b>				
Fund Raising for Church purchase	\$25,000.00	\$87,514.87	\$3,000.00	\$17,138.54
Special Donation - Parsonage	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00	
Building fund		\$630,482.50		\$75.00
	<b>\$198,000.00</b>	<b>\$902,000.57</b>	<b>\$176,000.00</b>	<b>\$151,771.46</b>
Vicar/President .....	Treasurer .....		Accountant.....	
Rev. Joe Varghese Malayil	Thushara Tharakan		Allen Thomas	
Auditors:	Shibu Kurian		Aby Thomas	
*Printing/Stationary and Church Zoom is accounted in Church Supplies				
**Self Denial, Back to School is accounted in Mission/Charity				
***Convention, Parish day, Picnic is accounted for in operational and Men's Fellowship.				
****Miscellaneous includes Presbyter Travel expense for Church Tour and Bank Service fee.				



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Psng:Internet		\$80.63	
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Chase Saving	\$20,282.38		
Chase CD	\$245,981.99		
Bank Of America CD	\$202,671.05		
Bank of America Checking	\$100.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$775,680.16</b>		

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## HEALING SUNDAY

