

CSI CHRIST CHURCH OF CHICAGO

Parish Messenger



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](#)

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at 1 312 626 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



The Pilgrimage of Trust

About 4,000 years ago, according to biblical tradition, a nomadic family left Ur of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran, a place associated with the modern village of Harran in southeastern Turkey. This family belonged to Terah, whose sons were Abram (later Abraham), Nahor, and Haran. Haran, the father of Lot, died in Ur before the family's migration. After his death, Abram and Nahor married Sarai and Milcah respectively, marking the continuation of Terah's lineage (Genesis 11:27-29). This relocation to Haran becomes the backdrop for one of the most significant spiritual turning points in biblical history.

While living in Haran, Abraham's father died. It is during this period of transition that Abraham experiences a profound inner calling. The text describes it as hearing an unearthly voice—understood as the call of God. Responding with trust, Abraham embarks on a journey of obedience. The divine command he receives is clear: "Go from your country, your kindred, and your father's house to the land that I will show you" (Genesis 12:1). This command requires radical departure from everything familiar and secure.

God's instruction to Abraham can be understood as threefold: he must leave his country, leave his people and family, and leave behind all that is emotionally and socially familiar. These demands represent not only physical relocation but also a deep existential break from identity, security, and belonging. Abraham is called into uncertainty without a clear destination, guided only by promise and trust.

The passage emphasizes that this journey not only altered Abraham's personal life but also reshaped the course of human history. His departure becomes a symbolic movement from certainty to uncertainty, from the known to the unknown, and from security to vulnerability. Abraham steps into a life defined not by visible guarantees but by faith in the unseen promise of God. His journey becomes a "pilgrimage" into the unknown, sustained by confidence that the One who calls him is faithful.

The reflection then extends Abraham's experience into a universal spiritual lesson. It suggests that this divine call continues to resonate today, inviting individuals into a life of trust, obedience, and courageous faith. This call is framed as an invitation to overcome three deep-rooted human fears.

The first is the fear of the unknown. Human beings naturally seek certainty and control, yet Abraham receives no map or timeline—only a promise. He moves forward without guarantees, trusting the reliability of God's word. His example challenges readers to act in faith even when outcomes are unclear, relinquishing the illusion of control and embracing uncertainty with trust.

The second fear is the fear of those who are different. Humans often resist differences, whether in culture, religion, social identity, or opinion. The text critiques tendencies toward exclusion, sectarianism, and withdrawal from unfamiliar perspectives. In contrast, Abraham's journey symbolizes openness to others and the breaking down of boundaries. His example is presented as a call to universal acceptance and a spirit of inclusion that reflects divine intent.

The third fear is the sense of powerlessness in the face of impossibility. Abraham and Sarah are described as being beyond childbearing age, making God's promise of descendants seem biologically impossible. Yet Abraham believes that divine power transcends human limitation. He trusts that God can bring life out of barrenness and fulfillment out of impossibility. This becomes a central theme: what is impossible for humans is possible for God.

In conclusion, Abraham's journey is portrayed not merely as historical migration but as a spiritual paradigm. He does not retreat into fear but moves forward as a bearer of blessing for all nations. His life becomes a model for transcending fear—of the unknown, of others, and of impossibility—and for embracing a broader vision rooted in trust, openness, and divine promise.

God said to Abraham "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing" (Gen 12:2). What's with all this "blessing"? --The Hebrew word for bless is *berak*- it means to bless or to kneel. Blessing, in Hebrew, is to bring a gift to another while kneeling out of respect; to do or give something of value to another. So not only will Abraham be given something of value (a blessing) he will also, while showing and living and kneeling in respect to God, give to all the people of the earth, a gift.

JUNE MEMORIES

Welcoming Rev. Arun Achen and Family



Ecumenical Family Night



JUNE MEMORIES

Annual Church Retreat



Fathers Day Celebration





LECTIONARY & DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

July 12, 2026, Theological Education Sunday/ 6th Week after Pentecost (Holy Eucharist-English)
Theme: Theological Education: To Make the Church a Learning Community

Old Testament	Nehemiah 8:1–12	Abraham Joseph
Psalm	Psalm 1	Aditya Thomas
New Testament/Epistle	1 Corinthians 14:20–23	Arya Thomas
Gospel	Matthew 13:16–23	Presbyter
Kiss of Peace/Elements		Sam and Sabreena James
Offertory		Koshy Mathew and Sahaja Koshy

July 19, 2026, 7th Week after Pentecost (Holy Eucharist in Malayalam)
Theme : Ordained Ministry: Call to Serve, not for Glory

Old Testament	Jeremiah 1:4–10	Koshy Mathew
Psalm	Psalm 132	Jenna Oommen
New Testament/Epistle	1 Peter 5:1–4	Bindu Thomas
Gospel	Matthew 20:20–28	Presbyter
Kiss of Peace/Elements		Bino Oomen & Betsy Thampi
Offertory		Elijah Chacko & Rian Varghese

July 26, 2026, 8th Week after Pentecost (Matin Service in English)
Theme: Marriage: Celebration of Unity and Partnership

Old Testament	Ecclesiastes 4:9–12	Sheela Abraham
Psalm	Psalm 128	Glenn Joy
New Testament/Epistle	Ephesians 5:21–33	Shiny Joy
Gospel	Matthew 19:4–6	Presbyter
Kiss of Peace/Elements		Mathew Karottu & Thankamma Karottu
Offertory		Nityan Joy & Allen Thomas

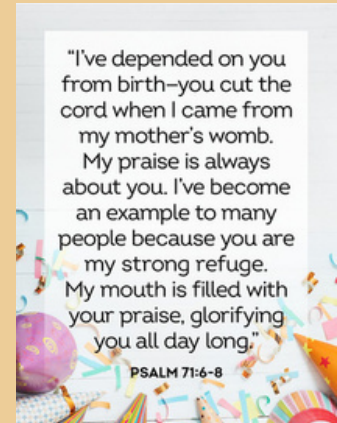
JULY CELEBRATIONS



Birthdays



- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 Achamma Lee | 24 Suja Pati |
| 5 Alka Meresh | 25 Ann Susan Lee |
| 6 Nevin Philip | 26 Sheela Abraham |
| 8 Abraham Joseph (Abuji) | 26 Anusha Suresh |
| 9 Abraham Mathew | 28 Bindu Thomas |
| 9 Jason Joy | 28 Kitty Thomas |
| 10 Aditya Thomas | 29 Micah Lukose |
| 10 Arya Thomas | 29 Elisha Mariam Chacko |
| 11 Koshy Mathew (Raju) | 30 Thomas Kurian (Titty) |
| 11 Sebreena James | 30 Abraham Manonmani |
| 14 Eva Sarah Lee | 31 Shawn K Mathew |
| 20 Anoop Koshy | 31 Elijah Joseph Idichandy |
| 20 Sosamma Mathews | |
| 21 Emily Ellie Philip | |
| 21 Tina Winston | |
| 23 Ani Roy | |



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

Anniversaries



- 4 Rajesh Benjamin & Diane Benjamin
- 8 Vinod Winston & Anitha Vinod
- 8 Thomas Kurian & Susan Thomas
- 12 Aby Z Thomas & Kitty Thomas
- 12 Edwin Meresh & Bindu Meresh
- 12 Samuel James & Annamma James
- 14 Bino Oommen & Betsy Thampi
- 16 Nibu Philips & Jolly Philips
- 18 Philip Chacko & Annamma Chacko
- 20 Geoffrey Hunt & Savitha Hunt

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

John 4:16

Happy Anniversary



CSI Christ Church of Chicago
Calendar Of Events Of The Year 2026

DATES	EVENTS
Jan 18	Annual General Body
Jan 25	Council Sunday
Feb 1	Installation of the Executive Committee for 2026
Feb 8	Healing Ministry Sunday
Feb 14/21	Lenten Retreat 10 am-12 pm
Feb 18	Ash Wednesday – Service at 6:30 PM
Mar 7	Ecumenical Council World Day of Prayer
Mar 8	International Women's Sunday
Mar 29	Palm Sunday
Mar 30-Apr 1	Vespers
April 2	Maundy Thursday - Holy Communion Service
April 3	Good Friday - Service 6:00 PM-9:30 PM
April 4	Women's Fellowship Chain Prayer & Evening Prayer at Church 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM
April 5	Easter Sunday
May 10	Mother's Day
TBD	Chicago Ecumenical Council Family Night
TBD	Youth Gathering at Parsonage
TBD	Regional Youth Retreat
June 7	Education Sunday/Celebrating Graduates
June 21	Father's Day
June 19-21	Weekend Family Retreat
July 12 	Theological Sunday
July 17-18	Unity VBS
July 23-26	35th CSI North American Family Conference (Dallas, TX)
Aug 1	Church Picnic
Aug 2/9	Back to School Prayer
Aug 9	Student Sunday
Aug 30	Harvest Sunday/Family Sunday
Sept 12	Women's Retreat
Sept 13	Women's Sunday
TBD	Choir Retreat

Sept 20	Senior Citizen Sunday
Sept 27	CSI Formation Day
Oct 16-17	Annual Convention 6pm-9pm
Oct 18	Choir Sunday/Parish Day
TBD	Ecumenical Council Convention
Nov 1	World Sunday School Day (Daylight Savings Day)
Nov 22	General Body Meeting for the Election of Executive Committee members for 2025
Nov 27, 28, 29	Christmas Carol Rounds
Dec 5, 6, 12, 13	Christmas Carol Rounds
Dec 5	Ecumenical Council Christmas Celebration 5pm
Dec 12/19	Carols and Lessons Service -5:30pm
Dec 12/19	CSI Unity Carol Service -5:00pm
Dec 25	Christmas / Sunday School Christmas Program 10 am
Dec 31	Watch night service -10:30 pm
Jan 17	Annual General Body meeting
Jan 31	Installation of New Church Executive Committee/Joint Committee Meeting

Monthly Accounts 2026 May			
CSI Christ Church of Chicago MayAccounts 2026		INCOME	EXPENSE
Category	May	May	
Subscription	\$3,525.00		\$0.00
Offertory	\$1,140.00		\$0.00
Thanks Offering	\$1,900.00		\$0.00
Tithe	\$620.00		\$0.00
Special Donation	\$0.00		\$0.00
St. Martin`s rent	\$0.00		\$2,200.00
Church Supplies/Communion Elements	\$0.00		\$0.00
Car Insurance	\$0.00		\$353.25
Church Car Maintenance	\$0.00		\$191.00
Church Maintenance/Emergency Repair	\$0.00		\$0.00
Church Cleaning, Land scape, Snow removal	\$0.00		\$500.00
Ch:ComEd	\$0.00		\$0.00
Ch:Peoples Energy	\$0.00		\$0.00
Ch&Psng Insurance	\$0.00		\$687.67
Ch:Water	\$0.00		\$0.00
Ch:Garbage	\$0.00		\$0.00
Psng:ComEd	\$0.00		\$89.09
Psng:Nicor	\$0.00		\$100.33
Psng:Clean/Maint	\$0.00		\$0.00
Psng:Internet	\$0.00		\$84.93
Psng:Phone, cell	\$0.00		\$148.61
Psng:Water	\$0.00		\$139.46
Presbyter's Honorarium	\$0.00		\$2,200.00
Presbyter healthcare	\$0.00		\$359.00
Hospitality/Refreshments	\$0.00		\$658.00
Mission/Charity	\$0.00		\$3,150.00
Women's Fellowship	\$250.00		\$3,701.00
Mens Fellowship	\$0.00		\$1,208.00
Sunday School	\$0.00		\$0.00
Youth	\$0.00		\$0.00
Choir	\$0.00		\$0.00
Visiting Pastor	\$0.00		\$700.00
Presbyter gift/Visiting Pastors	\$0.00		\$96.00
Legal/Tax/Visa Processing-W2/W3	\$0.00		\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00		\$0.00
Carol Rounds	\$275.00		\$0.00
Family Retreat	\$0.00		\$0.00
Building Fund	\$0.00		\$0.00
Kerala Fest Fundraising	\$0.00		\$0.00
CSI Council Membership / Conf	\$0.00		\$0.00
Ecumenical Council	\$120.00		\$0.00
Family Sunday/Harvest	\$0.00		\$0.00
Confirmation	\$0.00		\$0.00
Cottage Prayer	\$0.00		\$0.00
Parsonage Maintenance special Fund	\$450.00		\$10,000.00
Presbyter's PF in India	\$0.00		\$0.00
Presbyter-Visa Amendment/Processing	\$1,000.00		\$6,500.00
Sub Total	\$9,280.00	\$33,066.34	
Ledger Summary	General	Reserve	Building Fund
Opening balance at the beginning of the month	\$19,871.25	\$16,915.65	\$742,868.12
Add Income May	\$9,280.00		
Move matured CD to General	\$249,671.86		\$249,671.86
Less (Expenses) May	\$33,066.34		
Move General to CD	\$250,000.00		\$250,000.00
Move Reserve to General	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$0.00
Move Harvest Fund to Building Fund			
Move Kerala Fest to Building Fund			
Move Caroling contributions to Reserve Fund			
Closing Ledger balance end of the month	\$11,756.77	\$915.65	\$743,196.26

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let's pray together for an own place of worship!
Join our prayer programs until we buy the church. 🏠 🙏

JOIN ZOOM TONIGHT: 7: PM
WEDNESDAY PRAYER

Many Spl. Prayer Events

Full Bible Reading Plan by Church

Wednesday Prayer Through Zoom - 7 pm

CSI CHRIST CHURCH OF CHICAGO



ECUMENICAL COUNCIL OF KERALA CHURCHES IN CHICAGO

cordially invites all churches to the

BIBLE QUIZ COMPETITION

based on the Gospel according to

† **ST. MARK** †

DATE	Sunday, Aug 23 2026	TIME	2:00 – 4:00 PM
VENUE	St. Gregorios Malankara Orthodox Church 905 Kent Ave, Elmhurst, IL		

ONE TEAM PER CHURCH UP TO 3 MEMBERS ENGLISH OR MALAYALAM

FOR DETAILS & REGISTRATION

Rev. Biju Yohannan PRESIDENT & CHAIRMAN 224 304 9311	Mr. Premjit William CONVENER 847 962 1893
Mr. Benjamin Thomas SECRETARY 847 529 4600	Mr. Jacob K. George TREASURER 630 440 9985

CSI CHRIST CHURCH CHICAGO
GOLDEN AGE FELLOWSHIP

VISIT TO CHICAGO BOTANICAL GARDEN
1000 LAKE COOK RD.
GLENCOE, IL

THURSDAY JULY 9, 2026
10AM

July 17th: 10 A.M- 4:30 P.M
July 18th: 10 A.M- 6:30 P.M

VBS 2026

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22-23

Love • Joy • Peace • Patience • Kindness • Goodness
Faithfulness • Gentleness • Self-Control

Address: 116 E Church St, Elmhurst, IL 60126, United States

Registration Link: [Registration Form click here](#)

Contact Us: 847-903-2590
csicongregation@gmail.com

Activities: Studying the bible, learning new music, games, talent presentations, good fellowship, meeting new friends

CSI Congregation of Chicago,
CSI Christ Church,
CSI Calvary Church,
CSI Redeemer Church,
The Episcopal Church-Church of Our Savior

