
Lay Education
L.E.A.D.
And Development
LEARNING PROGRAM



Course Syllabus
Fall 2026 Schedule
Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church
Diocese of North America





LEARN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

OBJECTIVES

Educate: *To help all generations gain a deep understanding of Scripture, Doctrine, and Faith*

Equip: *Provide practical tools and knowledge to serve as effective leaders within parish and Diocese*

Empower: *Guide towards continued spiritual and holistic growth as leaders*

LEAD Enrollment



Phase 1: Foundations of Leadership

Focuses on introduction to the Bible, Christian and Mar Thoma Church history, and the fundamentals of preaching and teaching.

Phase 2: Theological & Historical Depth

Explores Eastern Christianity and Syriac traditions, Christian counseling, science and theology, and eschatology.

Phase 3: Advanced Ecclesiology & Ethics

Covers the polity of the Mar Thoma Church, missiology, Pauline thought, Christian ethics, and Christian family and society.



PHASE
01
02
03

Tuesday, 7:30 PM – 8:40 PM EST
(Sept 29 – Nov 17)

Thursday, 7:30 PM – 8:40 PM EST
(Oct 1 – Dec 10)

Monday, 7:30 PM – 8:40 PM EST
(Sept 28 – Dec 7)

LEAD Enrollment



Eligibility: Member of a Mar Thoma Parish or Congregation, 18 and above.

Fees: USD \$30 / CAD \$30.

Platform: Conducted online via Zoom and Google Classroom.

Registration: Registration is complete only after Parish Vicar approval and fee payment.

Contact: marthoma.lead@gmail.com



PHASE 1



this phase provides a comprehensive introduction to biblical studies and general church history. It explores the specific heritage and sacraments of the Mar Thoma Church. Students also learn methodologies for effective preaching and teaching to enhance their local parish ministry.

- 1. Introduction to L.E.A.D. & Introduction to Christian Leadership**
- 2. General Church History**
- 3. Introduction to the Bible: New Testament**
- 4. Introduction to the Bible: Old Testament**
- 5. Mar Thoma Church History**
- 6. Mar Thoma Church Sacraments I**
- 7. Mar Thoma Church Sacraments II & Introduction to Doctrines**
- 8. Preaching & Teaching**

PHASE 2



This phase explores of Eastern Christianity, Syriac tradition, and basics of biblical languages. The curriculum addresses practical needs through Christian counseling and the study of the relationship between science and theology. Students will examine early church history and specific theological doctrines.

- 1. Introduction to Christian Education**
- 2. Introduction to Christian Apologetics**
- 3. Introduction to Eastern Christianity & Syriac Tradition**
- 4. The Writings (Old Testament)**
- 5. Christian Counseling 101 & Chaplaincy**
- 6. Introduction to Doctrines: History & Theology**
- 7. Basic Introduction to Biblical Languages**
- 8. Early Church History: Post Ascension to Early Middle Ages**
- 9. Science & Christianity: Exploring the Relationship Between Science & Christian Theology**
- 10. Christian Hope (Eschatology): Afterlife, Heaven, & Hell**

PHASE 3



Focusing on the 21st-century context, this phase covers the governance and mission of the Mar Thoma Church. Students engage with advanced scriptural interpretation through hermeneutics and the study of Pauline and prophetic thought. The phase emphasizes Christian ethics and the sacramentality of marriage and family life.

- 1. Ecclesiology & Polity of the Mar Thoma Church**
- 2. Introduction to Missiology: Mar Thoma Church Mission**
- 3. Introduction to Teaching Ministry & Lay Leadership: Church Practices**
- 4. Pauline Thought**
- 5. Mar Thoma Church Diaspora in the 21st Century: Present & Future**
- 6. Vision & Mission of the Prophets**
- 7. Hermeneutics: Interpretation & Teaching of the Bible**
- 8. Understanding our Neighbors: Diversity Within the Christian Denominations**
- 9. Christian Family: Sacramentality of Marriage & Family**
- 10. Introduction to Christian Ethics**



Leadership & Instructors

LEAD DIOCESE SUBCOMMITTEE

President: The Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Episcopa

Diocesan Secretary: Rev. Joel Samuel Thomas

Convener: Rev. Dennis Abraham

*Subcommittee Members: Rev. Jeswin John, Mr. Tom Philip,
Mrs. Puspa Samuel, Mrs. Bibina J. Varughese, Mrs. Riya A.
Varughese, Mr. Shawn Varghese, Mrs. Sharon Mathew*

INSTRUCTORS

Rev. Abraham Kuruvilla: New Testament

Rev. Biju P. Simon: History

Rev. Christopher P. Daniel: Theology & Christian Ministry

*Rev. Dennis Abraham: Theology, Old Testament, & Christian
Ministry*

Rev. Jaisen A. Thomas: Theology & Christian Ministry

Rev. Jess M. George: Christian Ministry

Rev. Jeswin John: Theology & History

Rev. Dr. K. Jameson: Theology & History

Rev. Larry Varghese: Old Testament

Mrs. Pushpa Samuel: Christian Ministry

Mr. Tom Philip: Theology & Christian Ministry

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

LEAD TA: Mrs. Neethi Prasad





LAY EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT 2026

L.E.A.D.

Tuesdays, 7:30PM-8:40PM (EST)

September 29 - November 17, 2026

Phase 1, Fall 2026 - Zoom & Google Classroom

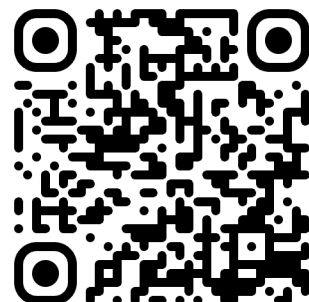
Classes are open for Mar Thoma members (Ages 18 & above) of parishes & congregations in the Diocese.

Registration deadline is 9/21/26, (or upon seat capacity fulfillment), and will be complete upon required Vicar approval.

Registration fees: USD \$30 / CAD \$30

For more information: marthoma.lead@gmail.com

-L.E.A.D. Subcommittee-





M A L A N K A R A M A R T H O M A S Y R I A N C H U R C H

Diocese of North America *Lay Education & Development (LEAD) Program Subcommittee*

Subcommittee Members

President

The Rt. Rev. Dr.

Abraham Mar Paulos Episcopa

marpaulos@marthoma.in

(516) 377- 3311

Diocesan Secretary

Rev. Joel Samuel Thomas

marthomadiocese@gmail.com

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Mrs. Riya A. Varughese

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Mr. Tom Philip

Mrs. Pushpa Samuel

Mrs. Sharon Mathew

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10

Place

Saturday, September 5, 2026

LEAD: Fall 2026 Phase 1 Notice

Respected Achens, and dearly beloved in Christ,

The Lay Education and Development Program (LEAD) aims to provide opportunities for all members of the church from different generations to learn and grow as leaders within the Mar Thoma Church.

The program's goal is to teach and equip church members with the knowledge and tools to be effective leaders and disciples of Christ within the Diocese, region, center, and parish. By empowering our members with education, training, and opportunities for development, the church will continue to implement more leaders across the Diocese of North America for its continued spiritual and holistic growth.

In order to facilitate learning, the Lay Education and Development Program (LEAD) subcommittee is conducting a weekly class online over a period of 8 weeks, on **Tuesdays from September 29 to November 17, 2026, 7:30PM-8:40PM (EST) via Zoom**, according to the new Phase 1 of the LEAD curriculum.

Classes are open for Mar Thoma members (**Ages 18 & above**) of parishes & congregations in the Diocese. Registration deadline is **9/21/2026**, (or upon seat capacity fulfillment), and will be complete upon required Vicar approval. Registration fees (upon approval): **USD \$30 / CAD \$30** (further instructions will be provided after Vicar approval and payment of registration fees).

After successful completion of the Phases 1, 2, & 3, a certificate of completion will be given. For more information, please contact: marthoma.lead@gmail.com

Your prayerful support and cooperation are appreciated.

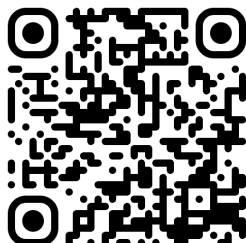
On behalf of the LEAD Subcommittee,

Rev. Dennis Abraham

Convener – Lay Education and Development Program (LEAD) subcommittee

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/GmHyvYN9DNQChTVY8>

QR Code:



**New Phase I Curriculum of the Lay Education & Development Program
(Approved by the LEAD Subcommittee & the Diocesan Council 2024)**

1. Introduction to L.E.A.D. & Introduction to Christian Leadership
2. Introduction to the Bible: Old Testament
3. Introduction to the Bible: New Testament
4. General Church history
5. Mar Thoma Church history
6. Preaching & Teaching
7. Mar Thoma Church Sacraments I
8. Mar Thoma Church Sacraments II/Doctrines





Mar Thoma Church *Diocese of North America*

Lay Education & Development (LEAD)

Online Learning Program (Phase 2, Fall 2026)

Thursdays, 7:30PM-8:40PM (EST)

October 1 - December 10, 2026

Phase 2, Spring 2026 Via Zoom & Google Classroom



Classes are open for Mar Thoma members (Ages 18 & above) of parishes & congregations in the Diocese, who have successfully completed Phase 1.

Registration deadline is 9/21/26.

Registration fees: USD \$30 / CAD \$30

For more information: marthoma.lead@gmail.com

Lay Education & Development (LEAD) Subcommittee



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Mrs. Sharon Mathew

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10

Place

Saturday, September 5, 2026

LEAD: Fall 2026 Phase 2 Notice

Respected Achens, and dearly beloved in Christ,

The Lay Education and Development Program (LEAD) aims to provide opportunities for all members of the church from different generations to learn and grow as leaders within the Mar Thoma Church.

The program's goal is to teach and equip church members with the knowledge and tools to be effective leaders and disciples of Christ within the Diocese, region, center, and parish. By empowering our members with education, training, and opportunities for development, the church will continue to implement more leaders across the Diocese of North America for its continued spiritual and holistic growth.

In order to facilitate learning, the Lay Education and Development Program (LEAD) subcommittee is conducting a **Phase 2 weekly class online** over a period of 10 weeks, on **Thursdays from October 1 to December 10, 2026, 7:30PM-8:40PM (EST) via Zoom**, according to the new Phase 2 of the LEAD curriculum. Please note this is for students who have successfully completed Phase 1 of the new LEAD curriculum.

Classes are open for Mar Thoma members (**Ages 18 & above**) of parishes & congregations in the Diocese. Registration deadline is **9/21/2026**, (or upon seat capacity fulfillment). Registration fees (upon approval): **USD \$30 / CAD \$30** (further instructions will be provided after initial registration and payment of registration fees).

After successful completion of the Phases 1, 2, & 3, a certificate of completion will be given. For more information, please contact: marthoma.lead@gmail.com

Your prayerful support and cooperation are appreciated.

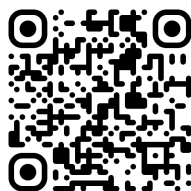
On behalf of the LEAD Subcommittee,

Rev. Dennis Abraham

Convener – Lay Education and Development Program (LEAD) subcommittee

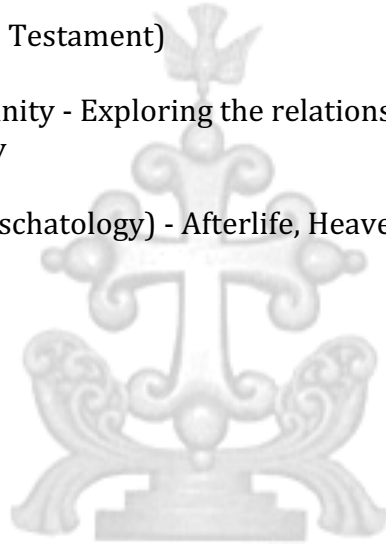
Registration link: <https://forms.gle/KMKuy2Lrr1fmseef7>

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**New Phase II Curriculum of the Lay Education & Development Program
(Approved by the LEAD Subcommittee & the Diocesan Council 2024)**

1. Introduction to Christian Education
2. Basic Introduction to Biblical Languages
3. Introduction to Apologetics
4. Introduction to Eastern Christianity & Syriac Tradition
5. Christian Counseling 101 & Chaplaincy
6. Introduction to Doctrines (History/Theology)
7. Early Church History (Post Ascension to Early Middle Ages)
8. The Writings (Old Testament)
9. Science & Christianity - Exploring the relationship between science & Christian theology
10. Christian Hope (Eschatology) - Afterlife, Heaven, & Hell





Mar Thoma Church Diocese of North America

Lay Education & Development (LEAD)

Online Learning Program (Phase 3, Fall 2026)

**Mondays, 7:30PM-8:40PM (EST)
September 28 - December 7, 2026
Via Zoom & Google Classroom**



Classes are open for Mar Thoma members (Ages 18 & above) of parishes & congregations in the Diocese, who have successfully completed Phases 1 & 2.

Registration deadline is 9/21/26.

Registration fees: USD \$30 / CAD \$30

For more information: marthoma.lead@gmail.com

Lay Education & Development (LEAD) Subcommittee



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Place

Saturday, September 5, 2026

LEAD: Fall 2026 Phase 3 Notice

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In order to facilitate learning, the Lay Education and Development Program (LEAD) subcommittee is conducting a **Phase 3 weekly class online** over a period of 10 weeks, on **Mondays from September 28 to December 7, 2026, 7:30PM-8:40PM (EST) via Zoom**, according to the new Phase 2 of the LEAD curriculum. Please note this is for students who have **successfully completed Phases 1 & 2** of the new LEAD curriculum.

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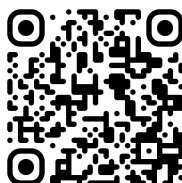
On behalf of the LEAD Subcommittee,

Rev. Dennis Abraham

Convener – Lay Education and Development Program (LEAD) subcommittee

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/HVMmaniXk8xYzTgQ6>

QR Code:



**New Phase 3 Curriculum of the Lay Education & Development Program
(Approved by the LEAD Subcommittee & the Diocesan Council 2024)**

1. Ecclesiology & Polity of the Mar Thoma Church
2. Mar Thoma Church (Diaspora) in the 21st Century: Present & Future
3. Introduction to Teaching Ministry & Lay Leadership & Church Practices
4. Introduction to Missiology (Mar Thoma Church Mission)
5. Vision & Mission of the Prophets
6. Pauline Thought
7. Hermeneutics (Interpretation & Teaching of the Bible)
8. Understanding our Neighbors: Diversity within the Christian Denominations
9. Introduction to Christian Ethics
10. Christian Family – Sacramentality of Marriage & Family

