

Athletes in Action

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“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
1 Thessalonians 5:18

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours! This is a natural time of the year to take a step back and think through all that you have to be thankful for. In our house we have a “thankfulness” wreath, where we pin paper leaves up with a word or phrase that describes what we are thankful for. Up there right now are things the kids have written like food, toys, leaves, grandparents and cuddles. Next to the wreath is a board where we write verses or important truths we are learning. This past week the board has had one of the Westminster Catechism questions that our kids are learning at church. The question has to do with our sinful nature as humans and how we are corrupt in every part of our being. In every part? The Bible says yes, and when I think through the selfishness and pride in my heart, I know it to be true. Re-engaging with that truth this month has made me all the more thankful for Jesus and His amazing gift of grace and mercy to us through His death on the cross. On my own I don’t merit salvation, but thanks be to God that He paid the price for my sinful heart. And when I savor that truth, I always have something to be thankful for. Gratitude for food, toys and the like can come and go with my mood or changing seasons, but a gratitude cemented in the firm foundation of Christ’s work on the cross for me brings eternal thankfulness. As we celebrate this Thanksgiving, may we all be evermore aware of our brokenness and God’s incredible grace toward us in Christ!

Thankful for Run51

This past month we brought in a band called Run51 to engage us in a night of high energy worship. Let me just tell you, the room was rocking and we had so much fun! Pictured below you can see one of our student leaders on the track team giving his testimony to the crowd there. Blake has an incredible story of being healed from bacterial meningitis as a kid, and how God has brought him to where He is today. We were so proud of him for standing up in front of his peers to share his story and give glory to God!



Thankful for Operation Christmas Child

It has become an annual tradition for the Michigan student athletes to participate in Operation Christmas Child with us, packing shoeboxes full of toys and supplies for needy children around the world. The night is filled with so much joy as the students eagerly wrap their boxes, while listening to Christmas music and munching on treats.

Perhaps my favorite part of the night is seeing who walks through the door to be a part of it all. Students who don't usually attend AIA events will come out to be a part this act of service. The entire women's soccer team showed up, as well as a significant number of men's rugby players, and women's rowers. I love meeting all the new people!

This year we had a friendly competition going with Michigan State's Athletes in Action to see who could pack the most shoeboxes. I guess God wanted us to remember that we are all winners in the Kingdom as our two groups packed the *exact same* number of boxes — 130 each! Crazy!



Women's soccer representing!



Moriah was loving her job as a helper.



Thankful for God's Word

As part of our discipleship group curriculum this year we are having the students read through the book of John and come prepared to discuss what they are learning. To see the students really grab a hold of God's Word and LOVE reading it has truly been a joy to our hearts!



Thankful for partnerships in Detroit where we came alongside Cru Inner City to pack "Boxes of Love" for needy families during the Thanksgiving season.

Please pray...

...for our Core group of student leaders as they lead their peers weekly in discipleship groups. Pray for wisdom from God and protection from the Enemy.

...for our students in discipleship groups to reach out to their peers and invite them to join in. Pray many new people would come and check it out.

...for our monthly gathering on December 7th. Pray word about it would get out well and that many students would come and be impacted by God's word.

...for wisdom for our staff team as we evaluate this semester and plan for the next.

...for rest and refreshment over the holidays.

Thankful for YOU! You are a constant source of encouragement to us by how you faithfully come alongside us in ministry! Our gratitude for you extends beyond measure!