



That's a wrap! Thank you to all who were able to help pack the PODS. Not Pictured: Dalmer Sercy, Ken & Callie Custer, Ed Skinner, Cole Snyder

November

THE CONTACT

The official publication of Incarnation Lutheran Church

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CONGRATS TROOP 8!



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PASTOR EMILY

O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise!
For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For he is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture,
and the sheep of God's hand.
-Psalm 95:1-7

It's November! Oktoberfest was a fabulous success and now and our attention is turning toward the rapidly approaching holiday season. We know that Advent and Christmas are just around the corner, but first we will give thanks for all of the blessings that God has poured into our lives. I was thinking about those blessings during my walk this morning with my two dogs. It was just after five and so it was still very dark, and most of my concentration was given over to the narrow beam of my flashlight. But as I walked down our lane, my attention was caught by the sight of the stars peeking through our trees. I couldn't look long, of course, because my two dogs were determinedly crossing in front of me, over and over again, in a concerted and devious effort to trip me. But every now and again, I could glance up and catch a glimpse of the incredible beauty of the heavens.

It occurs to me that this is the way most of us experience God. Often times, we get stuck in the mundane tasks of working, cleaning our house or yard, picking up kids from one activity and moving them to the next, or any one of a hundred things that you and I do every day. Most of us have a schedule, or at least a rhythm, to our lives. We tend to do the same things day after day. Even when we are traveling, we take those habits of heart, mind, and body with us and attempt to recreate them in new spaces.

Most of us keep our eyes to the path in front of us, comfortable in our well-worn track, making sure our leashes don't get crossed and send us tumbling. But every now and again, something spectacular will catch our eye. Every now and again, we see God so clearly that we wonder how we've missed seeing God's presence all the other hours of the day. And for just that moment, we have an inkling of the stunning nature of God and existence. It is in those moments that we experience the deep and abiding thankfulness that is a hallmark of the Christian faith. In those timeless moments when God is revealed to us, we are suddenly made aware of all that God has done for us, and all that God has made in this world that is good.

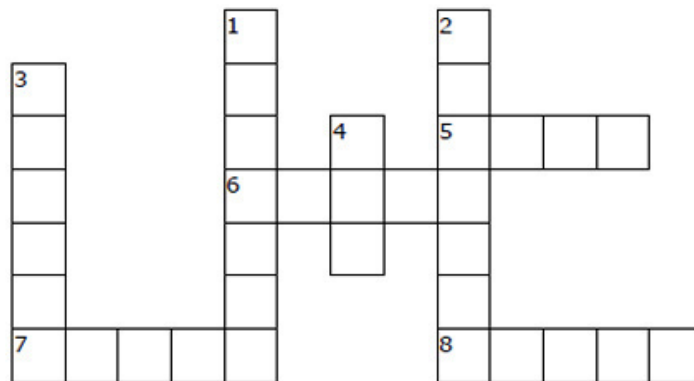
I think, perhaps, this is what keeps us all on this journey of faith. Those tantalizing flashes of the divine remind us that “we see through in a mirror dimly” but that one day we will see God face to face. That mystery, that promise, draws us forward and into the future of God and God’s kingdom, and it inspires within us a thankful and rejoicing spirit. May God bless you this November and may you find reasons to give thanks to our God.

Pastor Emily

Giving Thanks

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. Psalm 100:4

Puzzle is based on Psalm 100



ACROSS

- 5. A short piece of music that is sung
- 6. To talk or exclaim in a very loud voice
- 7. A small animal with a woolly coat
- 8. The planet where people live

DOWN

- 1. To express one's love and adoration for God
- 2. A field covered with grass where animals eat
- 3. An expression of appreciation
- 4. A feeling of great happiness

WORSHIP	SONG	JOY	THANKS
PASTURE	EARTH	SHOUT	SHEEP

CDC

Another Spooky Walk in the books!



FAITH FORMATION CORNER

It's the month of November which is a time where we tend to reflect on what we are grateful for. Gratitude calendars for the month of November will be available for you to take home in the Narthex on Sunday mornings or can be e-mailed. Each day there is a prompt for you to reflect on as an individual or as a family. You are welcome to write these down in a journal or make a gratitude garland by writing your answers on paper leaves. I hope you enjoy this time of reflection.



NOVEMBER 2023 GRATITUDE EVERY DAY

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1 A family member I am thankful for	2 A song I am thankful for	3 A memory I am thankful for	4 A food I am thankful for	5 A place I am thankful for
6 A book I am thankful for	7 A friend I am thankful for	8 An animal I am thankful for	9 A goal I am thankful for	10 A freedom I am thankful for	11 A dream I am thankful for	12 A teacher I am thankful for
13 A season I am thankful for	14 A treasure I am thankful for	15 A smell I am thankful for	16 A thing in nature I am thankful for	17 A possession I am thankful for	18 A promise I am thankful for	19 A time of day I am thankful for
20 An act of kindness I am thankful for	21 A piece of advice I am thankful for	22 A talent I am thankful for	23 A tradition I am thankful for	24 A memory from yesterday I am thankful for	25 A mystery I am thankful for	26 A word I am thankful for
27 A lesson I am thankful for	28 A game I am thankful for	29 An article of clothing I am thankful for	30 A color I am thankful for	Use the prompts each day to think about what you're thankful for. Share your answers with someone else or write them in a journal.		



FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Thank you all for joining for our past two concerts in October. This month of November we welcome the USC Choirs under the direction of Dr. Alicia Walker. Dr. Walker tells me that she loves having her students perform at Incarnation because of our wonderful church acoustics and that the singers love hearing their voices in our beautiful sanctuary. These concerts are free to the public so please invite your family and friends. Below is our concert schedule through February 2024!

Yours Truly,
Dr. Patrick Hawkins



**INCARNATION
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
3005 DEVINE STREET

2023-24

SUZANNA PAVLOVSKY CONDUCTOR
PALMETTO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

SUNDAYS AT 6:00 PM
OCTOBER 29, DECEMBER 17, FEBRUARY 25,
AND APRIL 28.

PATRICK HAWKINS, ORGANIST
HOMAGE TO JS BACH: WORKS BY
BACH, FRESCOBALDI, AND RAKICH
OCTOBER 15 AT 6PM
FREE TO THE PUBLIC

CONCERTS

USC CHORALE
FALL CONCERT: NOVEMBER 28 AT 7:30 PM
DMA CONDUCTING RECITAL: DECEMBER 7 AT 6 PM
SPRING CONCERT: APRIL 9 AT 7:30 PM

**THE SANDLAPPER SINGERS
AC FLORA HS CHAMBER
CHOIR
AND SHE SINGS**
FEBRUARY 10 AT 7 PM

MUSIC@INCARNATIONLUTHERAN.COM

STEWARDSHIP

30 Days of Thanksgiving



I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. –**John 10:10b**

Thankful people are happy people. It's not just a feel-good slogan on a refrigerator magnet or bumper sticker; it's proven science. "Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships," reports Harvard Medical School's *Healthbeat*. That sounds like the abundant life Jesus describes in the gospels, doesn't it?

So why aren't Christians more thankful and happy? While we all sometimes face hardships that can avert our thankfulness, many of us simply take our blessings for granted. Perhaps we have succumbed to the lie we hear from 24/7 advertising – that we never *have* enough and never *are* enough.

Hopeful news from researchers is that thankfulness can be cultivated. Those who consistently *practice thankfulness* develop gratitude and happiness. This November, the month of Thanksgiving, make thankfulness a daily spiritual practice.

Here are some ideas for "30 Days of Thanksgiving":

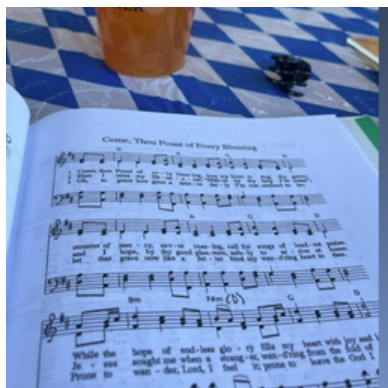
- **Pray thanksgiving.** In your morning and evening prayers, thank God for your life and whatever specific blessings come to mind.
- **Keep a thanks diary.** Every day write down what you are thankful for and why. Challenge yourself to find and pray about 10 things daily.
- **Say thank you.** Go out of your way to express thanks to the people you encounter every day.

Practice thankfulness consistently and you might be surprised to find yourself enjoying the abundant life Jesus promises us.

OKTOBERFEST!

Thank you!

A HUGE THANK YOU to the congregation for all of their support and volunteering to make O'fest 2023 a huge success. A wrap up meeting will be Sunday, November 5th after church. Check out some of our favorite Oktoberfest 2023 photos!



TROOP 8 NEWS

Great news from Pack and Troop 8!

Over 75 elementary kids and parents attended the district-wide recruitment event at Incarnation on September 12. Scouts demonstrated Pinewood Derby cars and knot-tying, among other skills, and served over 100 hot dogs. Nine new Cub Scouts have joined since, making the Pack's official enrollment 32, with 10 adult volunteers. Another 15 families are considering joining!

Troop 8 is rolling along with 26 Scouts. We graduated four Eagle Scouts last year, and one scout has completed his project and is working towards Eagle this year. The Troop sold over \$11,000 worth of popcorn as a fundraiser- thanks to all the Incarnation folks who purchased. Scouts are integral to Oktoberfest. They came out in force to unload the truck, set up, serve during the festival, and tear down the CDC parking lot.

The leadership has planned biking, wilderness survival, shotgun shooting, skiing, and more for this year. Troop 8 met with Mayor Daniel Rickenmann in the summer of 2022 and heard about local government. Sheriff Leon Lott also paid them a visit and talked about law enforcement and leadership. The boys asked a lot of really good questions!

During the past summer, the Troop was pleased to host representatives from Riverbanks Zoo and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, both of whom described their responsibilities and their career paths. Ten Scouts attended Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico and enjoyed some crazy outdoor time. Another contingent went to Camp Barstow for a week and earned multiple merit badges.

As always, the Pack, Troop and their respective leaders appreciate Incarnation Lutheran's sponsorship and support. Scouting is on the upswing in the Midlands, and both Pack 8 and Troop 8 are leading the way in participation gains in the last couple of years.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Time to put up the Chrismon trees and prepare for Advent!

Hanging of the Greens will take place Sunday, November 26th (the Sunday after Thanksgiving), following the church service. We will decorate the Chrismon trees and put out the wreaths and other greenery

We will provide a simple lunch for all - decorators are invited to eat lunch first, while another group sets up the trees in the sanctuary. Decorators will then eat, while the tree group gets their turn to eat.

Come help on this festive day!



NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>29</p> <p>9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship - 11:30am - Confirmation 11:30am - Trunk-Or- 6pm - Music - PCO:</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6pm - Troop 8</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9am - Staff Meeting 10am - Quilting Group 10:30am - Spooky Walk 3:45pm - Kid's Chapel in 6pm - Pack 8</p>	<p>1</p> <p>11am - Kids Chapel in 6pm - Handbell Choir 7pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6pm - Mary Martha</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship - All 11am - Executive Council 11am - Hotwash OFest 11:30am - Confirmation</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6pm - Troop 8</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9am - Staff Meeting 10am - Quilting Group 3:45pm - Kid's Chapel in 6pm - Pack 8 6:30pm - CDC Meeting -</p>	<p>8</p> <p>11am - Kids Chapel in 11am - Wednesday Bible 6pm - Handbell Choir 7pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 11am - W&M Meeting 11:30am - Confirmation</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6pm - Troop 8</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9am - Staff Meeting 10am - Quilting Group 3:45pm - Kid's Chapel in 6pm - Girl Troop Meeting 6pm - Pack 8 6:30pm - Council Meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>11am - Kids Chapel in 11am - Wednesday Bible 6pm - Handbell Choir 7pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 11am - Congregational 11:30am - Confirmation</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6pm - Troop 8</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9am - Staff Meeting 10am - Quilting Group 3:45pm - Kid's Chapel in 6pm - Pack 8</p>	<p>22</p> <p>11am - Kids Chapel in 11am - Wednesday Bible 6pm - Handbell Choir 7pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship 11am - Hanging of the 11:30am - Confirmation</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5pm - Music - USC: 6pm - Troop 8</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9am - Staff Meeting 10am - Quilting Group 3:45pm - Kid's Chapel in 6pm - Pack 8 7:30pm - Music - USC:</p>	<p>29</p> <p>11am - Kids Chapel in 11am - Wednesday Bible 6pm - Handbell Choir 7pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>

LITTLE FREE PANTRY

THE LITTLE FREE PANTRY IS EMPTY! As colder weather approaches, please remember the Little Free Pantry. We refill the pantry twice a week. Our community seems to depend on our help to feed them. Please remember to bring some of the items listed below or donate specifically to the Little Free Pantry online or in your usual donation.

Items needed: Tuna Fish, Canned Meals like Chili, Beef Stew, Mac and Cheese, and Ravioli, Cereal - hot and cold, Fruit cups, Soup, Granola Bars, Fruit bars Crackers - plain and filled, Pasta, Spaghetti sauce, Water, Toiletry items - toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo (NO mouthwash,) Hand Wipes, Hand Sanitizers - small size.

GET IN TOUCH

Our Ministry Staff contacts are:

Rev. Emily Willhide.....pastoremily@incarnationlutheran.com
Dr. Patrick Hawkins; Dir. of Music & Organist.....music@incarnationlutheran.com
Kimi Dail; Faith Formation Coordinator.....youth@incarnationlutheran.com
Amy Kehl; Bookkeeper.....amy.kehl@incarnationlutheran.com
Teresa Boykin; CDC Director.....cdc@incarnationlutheran.com
Cherry Samuel; CDC-Byron Rd.....cdcbyron@incarnationlutheran.com
Charlotte Dover; Parish Administrator.....office@incarnationlutheran.com

Worship: Sundays at 10 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages at 9 a.m.

(10 a.m. Worship is also live streamed on Facebook.)

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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