



Illinois Campers On Mission

April 2026

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President's letter—

Hi IL COM family,

This has been a month of grieving, planning to start projects, strange weather of hot and cold and snow and winds, seeking God's wisdom and peace for all that COM does and the outreach we have and thanking God for the family that we have together in encouragement, prayer and friendship. God is good and faithful.

We turn our minds to the start of our project year in April at Lake Sallateeska and look forward to working with Jacob and Katie. Jacob has a list of projects for us to do to prepare the camp for the coming season of presenting the Word of God to kids, adults, volunteers and all who come on the grounds. We are blessed to be there to help.

April also means holding the Spring Rally and auction. I hope you are all cleaning out your camper, house, garage—whatever you have to clean out—to find treasures for the auction. People ask me how COM can financially sustain our work and it is through the generosity of many and the funds raised at the auction. Get ready for fun as we sell, sell, sell!!!!

Don't forget that we also have a project at Sulphur Springs Baptist Church in Golconda immediately after we finish at Lake Sallateeska.

Check all the information in this newsletter.

Working together, Fred



COM Officers

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Food Supervisor— Francie Lindeman, 618-713-2402

Historian - Irma Burnett, 309-253-8557

National Coordinators—Don & Jan Kragness, campersonmission72@gmail.com

National website: campersonmission.org

Project list for Lake Sallateeska

COM List Lake Sallateeska:

- Remove old doors off the old log cabin (we will use them in the new office)
- Build new gift shop in the game room. (2 walls and 1 door)
 - Frame wall, possibly some electrical, Drywall, paint, install trim, install door
- Build wall in old gift shop to turn it into an office and a coffee bar (1 wall and 1 door)
 - Remove fan, frame wall, possibly move some electrical, drywall, paint, install trim, install door
- Build coffee bar
 - Install cabinets, install countertop, run water line for coffee maker
- Build fence at manager's house (Metal fence from Menards with 2 gates)
 - Dig holes, set posts, install fence panels, install gates
- Clean out leaves under decks
 - Ford, Wilma, Dining Hall, Pastor Apartment, Hotel
- Enclose decks so no more leaves go under
 - Ford, Wilma, Dining Hall, Pastor Apartment, Hotel
- Install gutter on back of dining hall
- Modify drainage on dining hall to move water away from the buildings better
- Build automatic water stations at each location listed below
 - Dining Hall
 - Gathering Grounds
 - Back 3
 - Emlings
- Scrape old paint off propane tank by the dining hall
- Help Katie paint the tank by the dining wall to look like a watermelon
- Organize pantry
- Deep clean kitchen office
- Clean hotel room AC filters
- Wash out ac units around camp
 - Dining hall (3)
 - Ford (1)
 - Wilma (2)
 - Worship Center (4)
 - Pastor Apartment (1)
 - Hotel (1)
 - Harrison (1)
 - Hinkle (1)
 - Metro (1)



Tentative 2026 schedule

April 26 – May 1 – Lake Sallateeska & Spring Rally

May 3 – 8 – Sulphur Springs Baptist Church, Golconda, IL

May 17 – 22 – Streator Baptist Camp

June 2 - 4 - National Rally at Amana, Iowa—DON'T MISS THIS EVENT!

June 22 – 26 – FBC Hamilton (joint project with Iowa)

July 19 – 24 – MorningStar Mission – Joliet

August 16 – 21- Baptist Children’s Home, Carmi

September 20 – 25 - SICC, Makanda, IL

September ? - Carmi Fall Fest

October 18 – 23 – Lake Sallateeska & Fall Rally

November 9 – 21- Passion Play, Eureka Springs, AR

Dec. 5 – COM Christmas luncheon

Jan. 18 – 30, 2027 – Piney Woods, TX



- 3 Marty Ramsey
- 4 Irma Burnett
- 4 Paul & Debbie Shelton
- 5 Paul Shelton
- 7 Leroy Burnett
- 12 James Diercks
- 18 Gary & Karen Watson



DO YOU HAVE SOME TIME TO HELP AT CAMPS??????

Streator Camp Weeks

Lake Sallateeska Weeks

June 8—12

June 1—5

June 15—19

June 8—13

July 6—10

June 15—19

July 13—17

June 21—25

July 23—26

June 28—July 2

July 4—11

July 14—17

July 19—24



Please contact Jacob Kimbrough for Lake Sallateeska (815-992-5947) or Anthony Heathcoat for Streator Baptist Camp (618-438-9162).



They would appreciate any time you could offer to help during these weeks. It does not have to be the full camp week. There are many jobs to do: help in the kitchen, help with cleaning, maintenance and mowing, running the snack shop, helping with crafts and outdoor activities and many more ways you can serve the Lord. There are some jobs that do not involve standing a lot. They also would appreciate your prayers for the summer camp that many will come to know Jesus.

**This is a great opportunity and they do need help
Please consider this request and help as you can!!**

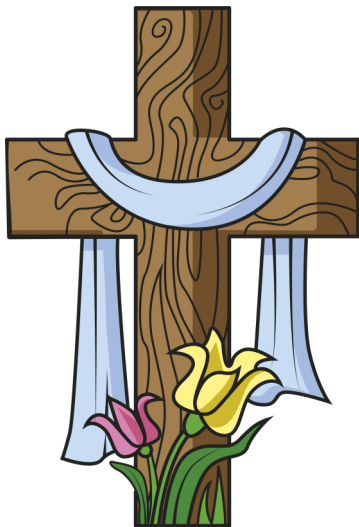
**These are our children and grandchildren that need
your presence and you can help to change a life.**

The camps especially need help in July.

Faith Focus— For some Jesus is the *Rabbit's Foot Redeemer*—a good luck charm used to get you out of a jam. For many he's an *Aladdin's Lamp Redeemer*—your wish is his command. For others, Jesus is a *Game Show Redeemer*—let's make a deal! Few demands, no challenges and no need to sacrifice or commitment.

That's not the Redeemer described in the New Testament and that's not the Redeemer seen by the frightened woman who was caught in the act of adultery. The leaders were going to stone her, but Jesus intervened. If we could somehow transport her to Calvary she would recognize his hands—hands that still hold no stones. She would recognize his voice, “Father, forgive them..” And she would recognize his eyes, the eyes that saw her not as she was, but as she was intended to be. Behold! The Redeemer from Heaven.

Only a week has passed since that triumphant Palm Sunday entrance into Jerusalem—but what a difference in the little procession that set out now! No cheering crowds, no waving branches. Just a few silent women setting out in the gray dawn to perform the last sad rites at the tomb.



The day that changed human history was not a public occasion but a private one. The day when everlasting life broke into earthly time began not with celebration but with tears.

This is still the way Easter breaks into our lives—when we least expect it, when all seems lost. That's when the stone rolls away and the angel speaks and death is swallowed up in victory (I Corinthians 15:54).

If it seems too good to be true, this joy that invades our hearts, it seemed so on the first Easter morning too. Mary Magdalene could not believe what her eyes were telling her. She took Jesus to be a gardener at work early among the graves. Preoccupied with her loss, she barely glanced at the figure standing before her on the path. She had a mournful task to fulfill and -- “Mary.”

There in the first light of dawn, Mary stood still. That voice, that tone of loving involvement. This was the moment, the moment when Jesus called her by name that Easter broke like sunrise into her heart. It is how we recognize Him still. The risen Jesus calls us so personally, comes into our lives so individually, that with Mary Magdalene, we cry out in glad recognition and then we do what the women did on that first Easter Sunday. Dropping their spices and ointments, the burdens of their sad errand, they rushed to tell the others. They met the living Jesus and they brought the good news to those who grieved. That's always our role too when it's Easter in our lives to tell someone else that He is the risen one.

Jim & Marilyn Diercks
IL COM Chaplains





**COM workers at The Great Passion Play
this spring:**

IL COM—Don & Jan Kragness, Fred & Paula Riley, Terry & Debbie Odum, George & Penny Meese, Scott & Sue Naevested, Jim & Marilyn Diercks, James, Logan, Sky, Joann, Ella, Evie, Chet & Debbie Whyers, Cathryn St. Dennis, Harold & Susan Mills

Iowa COM—Denny & Bev Davis, Phil Sutton

Georgia—Jim & Laura Parks

Nevada—Ken & Tracy Ash

Mississippi—Gary Elam

North Carolina—Scott & Diane King

Arkansas—Mr. Hoppe





It is exciting to see the changes at Lake Sallateeska. Can't wait to see you all in April.

RALLY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, 1 pm —Executive Board Meeting, Dining Hall

Wednesday, 6:30—General Membership Meeting, Dining Hall

Thursday, 5 pm - potluck supper, Dining Hall
6:00—auction, Chapel

Friday—finish projects and head for Golconda

Sulphur Springs Baptist Church Project List

May 3—8, 2026

Location: 4 Sulphur Springs Road, Golconda, IL 618-672-4293

Camping arrangements: park at the church with electric and water provided

Or there are several campgrounds in the area that you may contact

Projects to be completed:

1. Tear off old siding on back of church (1 1/2 stories tall)
2. Put in insulation and sheeting
3. Install siding
4. Install a new window
5. Install a few electrical plug ins



Those signed up to attend:

Fred & Paula Riley

Richard & Anita Evans

Harold & Susan Mills

Gary & Karen Watson

Leroy & Irma Burnett

Terry & Debbie Odum

Randy McClellan

Dick & Karen Mowers

IT IS TIME!!!!!!

For what you say??????

The annual Spring Rally and
The **AUCTION!!!!!!**



Please be gathering your valuables that you know some one else will be thrilled to purchase to support Illinois COM.

We will be gathering items in the chapel during the week and ask that you have them brought in by Wednesday if possible so that the clerks have time to get them organized.

The **silent auction** items went so well last year, we are going to do it again. If you can bring a few nicer items, please let the clerks know they are for the silent auction.

We will also have a **kids area** again for toys and books and stuffed animals and things that our younger members would enjoy that will be available outside of the auction.



The COM treasurer would like to thank you for your generosity in the past with items to auction and for bidding high but mostly for making it a really fun time!!!!!! Funds raised go to support the expenses of Illinois COM. Thanks!

Those signed up to attend the work project and spring rally:

Fred & Paula Riley

Richard & Anita Evans

Dick & Karen Mowers

Harold & Susan Mills

Leroy & Irma Burnett

Terry & Debbie Odum

John & Francie Lindeman

Jim & Marilyn Diercks

Gary & Karen Watson

Andy & Marilyn Thomson

Randy & Kay McClellan

Doug & Suzy Kingsbury

Cathryn St. Dennis

Jessica Bonnell

George & Penny Meese

Don & Jan Kragness

Randy & Sandy Tedford

Doug & Suzy Kingsbury

Pattie Noeth

Aeris Huhman