



Illinois Campers On Mission

June 2026

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President's letter

Hello COM Family,

It has been a whirlwind since Lake Sallateeska Baptist Camp and then on to Sulphur Springs Baptist church in Golconda then to Streator Baptist Camp. We had a busy schedule, we had a lot of projects to do at these places and we completed them together. We completed 46 of the 53 projects at Streator. It was great to see all of those projects done.

It was great to see all of the people that came out to help. Welcome to our newest members, Roger and Vickie Walker. It was great to have them join our team.

We also enjoyed getting to work with Anthony Heathcoat, the new Streator Camp Manager. He will do a great job and has a great vision for Streator Baptist Camp.

We also want to recognize Sky Diercks who will be working at Lake Sallateeska and James Diercks who will be working at Streator Baptist Camp this summer. We are praying for you and glad you stepped up to help fill some of the camp needs.

Next up is the 2026 National rally in Amana, Iowa starting next week. We know there is still room to register if you have not done so and want to be part of the fun. Illinois COM will have a strong presence by helping to serve noon meals to the workers and attendees, presenting three seminars during the week and supporting Don and Jan Kragness as National Coordinators and Karen Mowers as National Secretary.

Psalm 119:75

I know O Lord that your judgements are righteousness, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.

God bless, Fred Riley, President



COM Officers

- President—Fred Riley, 618-508-3917, fred.riley1261@gmail.com
- Vice-President (Project Manager) - Richard Evans, 618-218-4546, akrlevans1@gmail.com
- Secretary—Karen Mowers, 309-945-3971, kcc61254@gmail.com
- Treasurer—Dick Mowers, 309-945-1477, 728 Cardinal Ct., Geneseo, IL 61254
- Chaplain—Jim & Marilyn Diercks, 618-965-9748 or 618-317-2353
- 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

Streator Baptist Camp – May 17 - 22**Present:**

Fred & Paula Riley	Richard & Anita Evans
John & Francie Lindeman	Randy McClellan
Leroy & Irma Burnett	Terry & Debbie Odum
Dick & Karen Mowers	Gary & Karen Watson
Randy Tedford	Cathryn St. Dennis
Jim & Marilyn Diercks, James, Logan, Sky, Joanne, Ella & Eve	Roger & Vickie Walker
Ryland Bonnell	

Work project list – 2026

Put boats in the lake
Plant flower beds in front of managers house by sign
Clean windows in dining hall & kitchen
Turn on water at lake pavilion and check for leaks
Paint sidewalk tripping hazards
Clean air vents and ceiling fans in dining hall
Trim bushes and trees around camp
Clean and organize kitchen
Stain lifeguard stand
Stain bell tower
Stain benches and posts at new fire ring by dining hall
Stain deck outside Anthony's office
Paint kitchen ceiling repair above ice machine
Sand and stain handrails outside pastor's apartment
Build benches for the trails and distribute
Clean up trails
Set up archery targets and hang sail
Made new targets for ax throwing and hang sail
Clean all doors around the camp
Paint new entry doors on milk house
Built 7 new picnic tables and placed by dining hall
Painted fence at manager's house
Checked trails and cleaned off branches and debris as needed
Checked and repaired all window screens in bunkhouses, farm house, dining hall, Prairie Center, Lake View Center
Check blinds in bunk houses
Hang signs around camp (speed limit, office, manager house, emergency location signs, safety location in storm
Installed an electrical clamp on box in pavilion
Check and replace CO2 (9) & smoke alarm detectors (11)
Check and replace bulbs in Exit signs
Check and replace batteries in emergency lights around camp
Rake gravel around camp out of grass



Work Project Report (continued)

Check all bolts in bunk beds
 Put the foosball table in rec room
 Resurfaced serving counter in dining hall with sanding and 3 coats of seal
 Put up glow in the dark safety tape in basement of farmhouse
 Built benches for farmhouse emergency shelter in basement
 Cleaned the pavilion in back
 Replaced soccer nets
 Checked and tightened volleyball net
 Cleaned gutters around the building
 Cleaned up kitchen after use
 Cleaned, removed outdated meds and restocked medical cabinet
 Built boxes for new water bottle fillers (5), put on fillers, put in place around camp
 Deep cleaned pastor's apartment
 Hang sun shade over gaga pit by Prairie Center

Tentative 2026 schedule**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 12 – 21- Passion Play, Eureka Springs, AR****Dec. 5 – COM Christmas luncheon****Jan. 18 – 30, 2027 – Piney Woods, TX**



- 12 Bryan & Terri Keller
- 13 Roger Walker
- 15 Tina Keim
- 17 Suzy Kingsbury
- 19 Jessica Bonnell



FBC Hamilton (joint project with Iowa)

June 22—26

This project will primarily be working on washing the outside of the gym building and doing some remodeling inside the church and finishing the siding job on the church that was started a few years ago. We will have scaffolding and there will be parking at the church. Illinois and Iowa COM are providing the electrical hook ups for the campers and we will probably only have 30 amp service. We will also have water available for the campers but there is no dump site available at the church so you will have to do that at another location. If you have questions, please see Fred Riley or talk to Rick Mott at the National Rally. The church is providing lunch.



Both ISBA camps (Streator Baptist Camp and Lake Sallateeska) still need camp volunteers and helpers during the summer. Come for a few days, for a few weeks, or special projects— - what ever the Lord calls you to do!!!! You can serve as individuals, groups or teams—just come.

Please call **Jacob Kimbrough (815-992-5947)** to volunteer at Lake Sallateesak or **Anthony Heathcoat (618-438-9162)** to volunteer at Streator Baptist Camp.

Any amount of time you can spare—mowing, kitchen, recreation, maintenance, cleaning—you come and the camp managers will find you a job!

COME JOYFULLY SERVE THE LORD!

Faith Focus—

Father's Day is a time to celebrate paternal figures while also reflecting on our ultimate Heavenly Father. Whether your relationship with your dad is strong, complicated, or somewhere in between, this devotion offers a moment of reflection and prayer for the holiday.

Society places heavy expectations on fathers--calling them to be providers, protectors, and leaders. While the reality is that earthly fathers are human. They make mistakes, fall short, and experience limitations.

Because of this, Father's Day can be a complex holiday. It can stir up gratitude for a dad who modeled unconditional love, but it can also surface painful "dad wounds" for those strained or absent relationships.

I John 3:1---*How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God.*---this verse reminds us of a profound truth; we have a Heavenly Father who never fails. No matter what your experience with your earthly father has been, you can look to God for perfect protection, comfort, and unconditional acceptance.

This Father's Day, as we honor the men who helped guide us, let us also pause to receive the lavish love of the only Perfect Father.

Over and over again in the Bible, we see how God calls us his children. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus uttered the word Father 41 times. In Luke, we see it 14 times, and in Mark, 4 times. And in John, the word Father is mentioned 112 times.

John says Christ repeated the word Father 49 times at the Last Supper alone. So what I am saying is that it is clear that Jesus wants to impress on us the Fatherhood of God. A Father --. a loving and tender Father.

Heavenly Father,

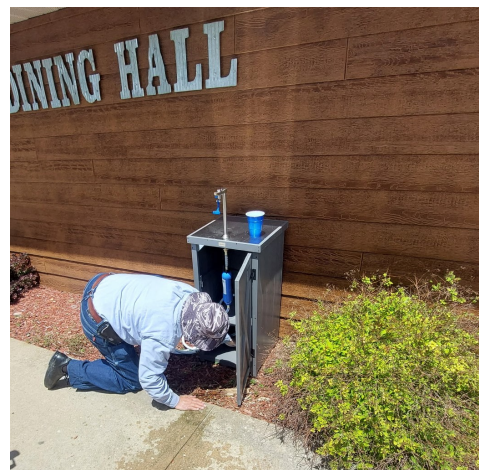
Thank you for loving me so much that I get to be called your child. I lift up the fathers and father figures in my life today; I pray you would grant them wisdom, patience, and strength. For any hurt or disappointment I have experienced, I ask you for healing. Thank you for being the ultimate Father who never leaves my side. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Jim and Marilyn Diercks
IL COM Chaplains





Photos of Sky and Ryland in the side by side, Anita and Paula working on the flower bed outside the dining hall, the guys building the ax throwing targets were waiting for the material they needed to finish the project so resting a minute, the little shed in front of the big barn that was remodeled to hold the archery and ax throwing equipment . The newly painted fence in front of the camp manager's house, and Vickie and Karen W. washing windows and doors all around the camp.



Photos of flowers in front of the camp sign, Logan and Randy Tedford cleaning gutters, the new picnic tables build for outside the dining hall, Dick Mowers hooking up the new water bottle fillers, the team building the new picnic tables



The team building the axe throwing targets and the group photo



Back row L-R : Roger Walker, Terry Odum, Randy McClellan, Anthony Heathcoat, Richard Evans, Jim Diercks, Logan Diercks, Gary Watson, Cathryn St. Dennis, Fred Riley, Leroy Burnett, Ryland Bonnell, James Diercks

Front row L-R: Vickie Walker, Debbie Odum, Randy Tedford, John Lindeman, Francie Lindeman, Anita Evans, Marilyn Diercks, Karen Watson, Karen Mowers, Dick Mowers, Paula Riley, Irma Burnett

Ground: Ela Diercks, Sky Diercks, JoAnn Diercks, Eve Diercks