



Illinois Campers On Mission

November 2025

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President's Letter—

Hi COM family,

We went from summer to late fall in a hurry again this year but we are grateful for all that God has allowed us to do since our last project in September—hold the 50th anniversary celebration, tear out the old cooler at Lake Sallateeska, put on a new roof at the back porch of the lodge at Streator, and all the things we are doing at home.

If you are coming to the IBSA State meeting on November 4 & 5, please stop by the COM table and say hi. We will be located beside the camp tables and close to the IBDR area. We are hoping to see lots of people and get some new recruits to help us next year.

As we look to our Christmas party in December, you will see on the calendar that our normal caterer had a fire at her cooking location and everything was a total loss. Catherine and James Rentfrow are looking for another caterer to handle our luncheon so it is still on but we don't have cost or menu details yet. Please let Catherine know if you are coming by Nov. 26 so she can finalize details.

If you are planning to go to help at the Passion Play in November or Texas in January and have not told them, please let Don and Jan know ASAP. Don's phone is not working so call Jan 618-922-5549.

Fred

In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

I Thess. 5:18



COM Officers

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Historian - Irma Burnett, 309-253-8557

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

National website: campersonmission.org

2005 Schedule

Nov. 7 –16 The Great Passion Play work weeks

Dec. 6 Christmas Luncheon, Farina FBC, Doors open at 11. lunch served at 1. Please be in prayer for our usual caterer, Deb's Catering, as they suffered a fire that resulted in a total loss to their building. Catherine is looking for a different caterer at this time.

RESERVATIONS WILL BE DUE TO CATHERINE BY NOVEMBER 29.

PRICE WILL BE DETERMINED WHEN A CATERER IS CHOSEN.

Jan. 8—30, 2025 Piney Woods Texas work project, Contact Jan & Don.



- 1 Dick & Karen Mowers
- 20 Margaret McDowell
- 23 Richard Evans
- 26 Sondra McKenzie
- 27 Debbie Shelton
- 29 Terri Keller



2026 National Rally

**Scan for Online
Registration**



Registration is now open for the 2026 National Rally. It will be held in Amana, Iowa so very close for Illinois COM to travel.

Forms are on the National Website at Iowacampersonmission.com Please make your plans now to attend. For more information see the website or call Rick Mott (319-291-6805).





We got a thank you—

On behalf of everyone who is able to enjoy SICC Camp, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your generosity. It is thanks to your donation, and others like it, that we are able to keep the camp running and maintained without having to charge people for it's use.

Thank you and God bless, SICC Youth Camp Board

We have also received many kind words about the 50th Anniversary celebration. It was a great day and celebration of God's goodness, grace and compassion to IL COM.

Camping Trail Mix

Pretzel sticks = logs for your fire

Honey Graham cereal = base for s'mores

Popcorn with chocolate drizzle = marshmallow and candy in your s'more

Chocolate Chip Teddy Grahams = wildlife in the woods who have been in the dirt

M & M's = the beautiful colors God puts in the woods for us to see and enjoy like flowers, leaves, plants, animals

Mixed nuts = food for the animals or squirrels storing up food for the winter

We made this for the 50th anniversary celebration. Mix up a batch for family gatherings or church meetings and take this little explanation along with you. It will give you an opening to talk about IL COM and how many others can get involved and give your testimony. Recruit, recruit, and recruit!!!!

FAITH FOCUS:

I Will Enter His Gates With Thanksgiving In My Heart;

I Will Enter His Courts With Praise.

I Will Say This Is The Day That The Lord Has Made.

I Will Rejoice For He Has Made Me Glad.

He Has Made Me Glad, He Has Made Me Glad,

I Will Rejoice For He Has Made Me Glad.

He Has Made Me Glad, He Has Made Me Glad,

I Will Rejoice For He Has Made Me Glad.

That is the way I want to start each day but if I am truthful, it doesn't usually happen. The weight of the burdens on our hearts, the daily news of wars and death and hatred cloud our minds, the prayers for those around us who are struggling with health issues weigh us down, the guilt and shame for not starting each day feeling glad holds us back from being glad. We know we shouldn't feel that way, but we often do.

Think of the people in your life who do start each day like that—giving thanksgiving in their heart. They are a joy to be around. They encourage and lift and love and make us a better person because of their presence.

This Thanksgiving holiday, like so many in the recent past, seems to be forgotten and shoved aside between Halloween and Christmas. It is a 2 day holiday overshadowed by the big shopping push and the frantic pace of programs, parties, shopping, wrapping, preparing for events and all the other things that push into our days, requiring immediate attention and pushing our devotions side. What can we do to prevent that this year? Only you know the answer to what it takes in your own life and the life of your family.

Let's set it as a goal and not just post it on our mirror or refrigerator but really make it a priority for us as individuals and also for our whole family. Maybe we can team up as accountability partners with someone you know who will help you keep this goal as you also help them. Make November 27—Dec. 25 a time when we seek to find joy each day in something God has done and let it make us glad and rejoice.

Thank you Lord, for your patience and love as you alone are worthy of praise and thanksgiving. Amen

*Enjoy your time with family and friends this Thanksgiving
and share your faith with them.*



Illinois COM Prayer Requests & Praises

As of November 1, Jim and Marilyn Diercks will be handling the IL COM prayer requests and praises. If you have a prayer request for yourself or someone else that you would like to ask us to pray for or a praise you would like to share, please send it to them. As IL COM chaplains, they would like to take on this task. They are also asking that you keep in touch with them on updates on any prayer requests you send in so that they can pass that information on to us. We want to all rejoice with God's healings and answers and know better how to pray if the situation continues.

Jim: 618-965-9784

Marilyn: 618-317-2353

Jim's email: inchristwithu@yahoo.com

Marilyn's email: marilyndiercks@yahoo.com

You may also send prayer requests to me, Karen Mowers, at:

Text: 309-945-3971 or email kcc61254@gmail.com

I will make sure that they are sent to Jim and Marilyn right away.

Group emails to IL COM will be sent out as soon as possible but may not always be the same day as schedules allow.

We want to pray for our COM family and your personal family as brothers and sisters. Please let us lift you up and join with you in your burdens and joys.



Part of
Our
COM
family.
Pray for
them.

Streator Baptist Camp

October 13 - 15, 2025

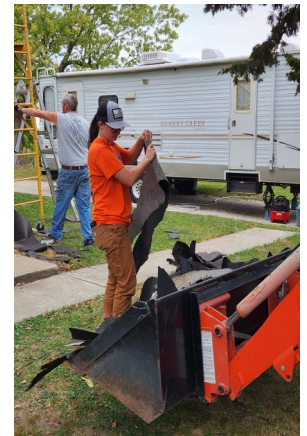
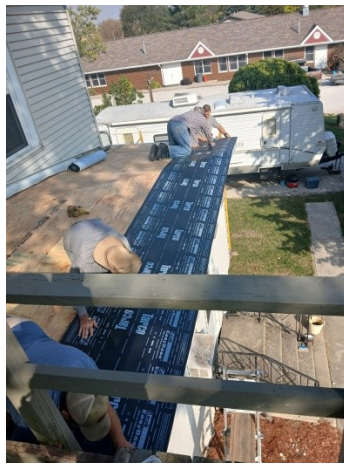
Roof replacement project on the lodge porch

Present:

Jim & Marilyn Diecks, James, Logan, Sky, Joanne, Ella & Eve, Aeris Huhman, Leroy & Irma Burnett, Dick & Karen Mowers, Jonah Griffin.

Projects completed:

Take out flooring on 2nd story fire escape to get at roof and replaced when done, tear off old roof, replace all of the underlayment, put down vapor barrier and put down rolled shingles, blew out the water line to lake pavilion for winterization, take paddle boats out of the lake, clean and put away for the winter, stain gaga ball pit boards by rec building, Stain seats and poles for the lights around fire pit by the pavilion





1. Come, ye thankful people, come, Raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;
God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come, Raise the song of harvest home.

2. All the world is God's own field, Fruit unto His praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown, Unto joy or sorrow grown;
First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear:
Lord of harvest, grant that we, Wholesome grain and pure may be.

3. For the Lord our God shall come, And shall take His harvest home;
From His field shall in that day All offenses purge away;
Give His angels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast;
But the fruitful ears to store In His garner evermore.

4. Even so, Lord, quickly come, Bring Thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou Thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified, In Thy garner to abide;
Come, with all Thine angels come, Raise the glorious harvest home.

May the Lord bless you and keep you this year and always!

Thanks be to God.

Kimbrough moves to Lake Sallateeska

October 23, 2025 By [Illinois Baptist Staff](#)

Springfield | Streator Baptist Camp manager Jacob Kimbrough will become the new manager for Lake Sallateeska Baptist Camp, following the departure of Brock Vandever in October.

“Jacob’s leadership at Streator camp these past five years has been exemplary,” IBSA Associate Executive Director **Mark Emerson** said. “He was able to build upon the momentum of the revitalization of the camp and expand the number of IBSA churches that are engaging the facility each year.”

Kimbrough joined IBSA in July 2020 and continued the renovations at Streator Camp initiated by Mike Young. He also advanced ministry offerings for pastors and led spiritual renewal for churches and campers in the northern part of the state. Kimbrough is joined in his work by his wife, Katie. They have a two-year-old daughter, Lila.

“Many pastors have shared that Jacob and Katie’s hosting of personal pastor retreats has been very beneficial to them and their families. We are confident that Lake Sallateeska will benefit from Jacob’s leadership into its next season of effective ministry,” Emerson said.

Vandever has joined Landsdowne Up, a nonprofit ministry serving East St. Louis. He will also serve Spring Valley Baptist Church in Shiloh as pastor. He is joined there by his wife, Polly, and son, Miles. Vandever served IBSA five years.

Advertising for a new Streator manager will begin immediately. Both IBSA facilities had banner years with record attendance of 1,175 at IBSA summer camps, with 47 salvations reported, and have hosted more than 4,100 people from more than 240 IBSA churches this year. This is the new peak in the five rebound years after Covid forced closures in 2020.

IBSA camp ministry dates back to 1941, when the Illinois WMU purchased the property that became Lake Sallateeska and gave it to the state association.



Jacob Kimbrough at Streator Baptist Camp.

NOTE: Thanks for your prayers and support for both camps as a new manager is chosen at Streator and the transition begins.

God bless Jacob and Katie in this new venture and Brock and Polly as they transition out.

May God prepare the new manager at Streator to lead with the integrity and Godly leadership that has come from Jacob and managers in the past and may God grant Jacob, Katie and Lila a fruitful ministry at Lake Sallateeska.

Lake Sallateeska is grateful for the help from faithful volunteers like Pattie Noeth, Ken and Marty Ramsey and Doug Kingsbury and many others as the camp continues to minister to those in southern Illinois and may many come to know the saving grace of Jesus at both camps as we all move forward into the future.