

Trail Ridge Camp

NOVEMBER 2025

THE HILLTOP HOLLER

Psalm 69:30, “I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.” It’s hard to write a newsletter this time of year without mentioning the topics of thanks and gratitude. Scripture mentions these topics more than 150 times, highlighting that they’re more important than just an annual thought every November. Thanksgiving should be a major part of the life of a believer! The Apostle Paul often started his letters with words of gratitude, expressing how thankful he was for the people God had placed in his life: “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.” (Philippians 1:3) We’d like to do the same. We’re grateful for everyone who is part of the Trail Ridge family. You’re an important part of the work God is doing here at camp!

CHAPEL-LODGE PROJECT

Exciting things are happening with the Chapel-Lodge Project. Our work crews have been hard at work, and we officially broke ground on September 30th! Just a few days later we gathered for a special groundbreaking ceremony during the Father/Son Retreat. We dedicated the building to the Lord and are excited to see how He will use it in the years to come!



RECENT RETREATS



Quirky Hobbies Retreat



Father/Son Retreat



Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe we're already nearing the end of 2025. No, we're not rushing things—it's just an honest observation about how thin the calendar is getting. Around this time each year, our home turns into what can only be described as a Thanksgiving decoration explosion. The bins come out, the turkeys and pumpkins appear, and before long, the entire house looks like autumn itself moved in. Someone recently asked me why Thanksgiving is such a big deal to our family. It's a good question. There's something about this season that is just special—the cooler air, the sound of leaves crunching underfoot, deer hunting, and those last bits of fall color that cling to the trees as winter slowly approaches. It's a season that feels unhurried. There are no gifts to buy, no long shopping lists, and no ugly sweater contests. Just come as you are. Some gather around the TV to watch the dog show or football, others head outside to hunt, and a few take a well-earned nap. The kids run and play, there's always something to eat, and by the evening, the leftovers have transformed into creative experiments. Thanksgiving is simple, peaceful, and rich with meaning.

Of course, it's also the time of year when someone suggests going around the table to share what we're thankful for. I used to dread that as a kid! I'd plan multiple answers ahead of time, just in case someone "stole" mine. This year, I asked the camp kids—the Hillbillies—and their answers made me smile. Here they are, in age order, for your enjoyment:

*Happy
Thanksgiving*

Hadley (10) – My family, my home, my books

Felicity (9) – Family and food

Ottillie (7) – Family and friends

Reuben (4) – All my stuff and family

Hunter (4) – Family and grass

Carrie (1) – Cheerios

Havilah (6 mo.) – Wooden puzzle pieces to chew on



We truly have so much to be thankful for—yes, even grass and Cheerios!

Here at Trail Ridge, our hearts are also full of gratitude as we reflect on another year of ministry. We've seen God's hand of provision in countless ways—through finances, resources, and abilities that have kept the ministry moving forward. We're thankful for the people who make this place special: our campers, who remind us why we do what we do; our volunteers, who show up with willing hearts and lots of energy; our staff team, who work tirelessly in the busiest weeks; our chapel speakers, who faithfully bring God's Word; and our prayer partners, who lift us up through every season.

We're also thankful for this place—a quiet spot set apart where people can step away from distractions and meet with God. The camp continues to grow and develop in amazing ways, with projects taking shape, activities expanding, and new memories being made. Through it all, we've seen God's protection time and again—through storms, travels, and long, full weeks of ministry.

But above all, we're thankful for our purpose. This year, we've witnessed decisions for salvation, renewed commitments to Christ, and so many steps of spiritual growth. God continues to use Trail Ridge to change lives for eternity, and that's something we never take for granted. We've also seen His personal work in our lives—our faith deepening, friendships strengthening, and partnerships growing in ways only He could orchestrate.

So as Thanksgiving approaches, we want to pause and say thank you—to each of you who have prayed, given, volunteered, and participated in this ministry. You are part of what God is doing here, and we're so grateful for your friendship and support.

Happy Thanksgiving from all the Staff at Trail Ridge

Follow us on social media to stay connected with
camp and get updates on upcoming events!



UPCOMING EVENTS

We're already looking ahead to next year and we've got a full schedule of events that you won't want to miss. Click on the Retreat and Events tab on our website to view everything that is coming in 2026!

52695 Cherith Way, Hillsboro, WI 54634 - 608.489.3810 - TrailRidge.org - info@trailridge.org