



# Release Notes

## Jordan Alexander's Update Letter

**Release 7 – Fall 2023**

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## Fall at Camp Recap | ●●●

This Fall has been one of significant change. My core responsibilities at work have focused down, we've welcomed a new group of interns, and our retreat schedule has yet again morphed for the better.

I've been taking on more and more of the responsibilities of repairing, maintaining, and improving Lake Lundgren's IT infrastructure. To that end, much of my kitchen responsibilities have been handed off to one of our new Interns this year, Emma.

While she continues to help Josh on the weekend where I used to, I do still occasionally get to spend a Sunday in the kitchen such that Josh can have a Sunday off. Just as in years past, it's a lot of fun to spend time with this past Summer's staff as they spend

time volunteering here during the start of their semesters. That time is especially precious to me now, as most of my work responsibilities involve being behind a computer, in a data closet, or otherwise unable to interact with guests and volunteers while working.

As part of the new group of interns, we welcomed Caleb Lawyer as a new housemate in the log cabin, bringing the number of housemates up to four. While I was a little concerned about finding space for everyone when I first heard of Caleb's time here, we have been able to find some personal space for everyone, and have been learning how best to utilize the space we share together.

Probably one of the largest changes for all of us at Lake

Lundgren this year was the addition of a fifth weekend to our Fall Fest retreat. Fall Fest is an event we host especially for youth groups to come and spend time learning about God and relaxing at camp together during the start of the school year. It started several years ago as just one weekend, and has quickly grown to be half of our entire Fall season. I am personally thankful to see so many students have an opportunity to learn or be reminded of the gospel. Not only that, but the time I have to spend with volunteers is so much more valuable to me now that my main work is so much more focused; I have been especially reminded of how precious our time with other people is all throughout the Fall by God.

## IT Projects

My first task this Fall was to assess storm damage for repair and how to prevent that damage from happening again. We now believe the issue to be with the copper lines that carry signals between buildings. I've been researching and recommending a switch to lines that use light instead of electricity to carry signals; that would prevent lightning from traveling between buildings and frying equipment.

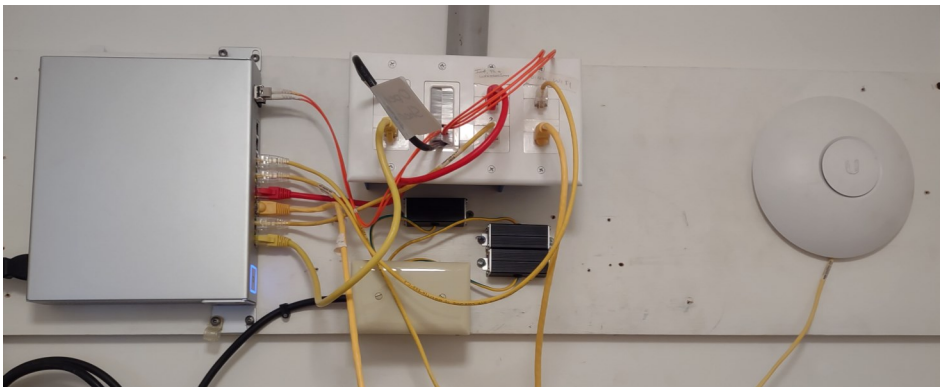
We use our network to operate equipment such as thermostats, cameras, and phones in almost every building. We shuffled some equipment around to recover from lightning damage, which exposed some weaknesses in how we keep track of what goes where and what it does. I've made some progress on documenting that information, but it's still an ongoing project.

I've been implementing a new work environment called Microsoft 365. It's a fusion of Gmail, Google Drive, and Google Docs, but Microsoft flavored. Since camp is a non profit, Microsoft provides a free package that includes many essential features. I have already transferred our email system which resolved the majority of our email issues. I am preparing to move all of our excel sheets, word documents, PDFs, etc. into a system akin to Google Drive or Dropbox. Just as with the email system, this should solve some standing issues and will make the information available to our staff from almost anywhere.



Left: Spending time with Caleb Pallex and Caleb Lawyer during Fall Fest.

Right and Below: I didn't get shoved into the basement or a closet, this is just the equipment I often work with!





## Personal Projects

I decided it would be prudent to learn about IT without experimenting on camp's equipment. To do so, I bought my own gear to practice on. Some of my projects have included:

- Learning Linux (it may or may not include a Minecraft server for all of us at home)
- Basic network infrastructure and security setup
- Windows active directory and deployment (almost as complicated as it sounds)

I am able to afford these learning tools because of your support. Not only have they helped me do a better job at work, I also find them quite fun! If you're curious about these projects, it's well worth a trip down Google and Wikipedia, or you can text or email me with questions about them; I will answer to the best of my knowledge. Thank you all so much!

## Coming Up:

- WinterFest: Dec 28 - 31
- Winter Family Camp: Jan 5 - 7
- Guest Group: Jan 12 - 14
- Guest Group: Jan 19 - 21
- Men's Retreat: Jan 26 - 28

## Kentucky Missions Trip | ●●●

Last Spring my Church sent a group of volunteers to Kentucky to help people affected by the floods of July 2022. We did so through an organization called Reach Global. There is still so much work of all manners that needs to be done even now. Physical work such as gutting, weather proofing, painting, and new construction all continue, but the wounds in the community run even deeper. In light of this, we organized another trip down to help as best and as much as we could.

As my work group rode to and from the site, Eric, the Reach Global Employee with us, pointed out many properties that have been abandoned and many

more with people unable to afford repairs. Now that most short term disaster relief has expired, the Reach Global team is one of only a few continuing external efforts to help and heal these communities. They have so much to do that they are starting to have to deny requests for assistance due to a lack of time, funding, and people.

It was a privilege to work both within our group, and with the Reach Global team; due to the nature of their mission, all work fell second to conversation with and prayer for homeowners and their neighbors. One of my favorite opportunities came when we returned to our job site to find that a

German Shepherd had gotten out and was... excited to greet us. We stayed in the car a to let the owner corral it, and in that time the only productive thing we could do was pray for each other and the people we saw around us. I rarely take the time to consider prayer as worthwhile during a project, and this forced all of us to!

We are planning several more return trips; the Reach Global team really appreciates returner crews, and the community is already starting to recognize us in particular. I personally appreciate the prayer and financial support that allowed me to be a part of this trip, and hope to return there again.

From left to right: Austin, me, Lin, and Eric. We had the last available boxes of that particular siding, so we had to be quite careful!



The Kentucky team in its entirety. The Reach Global staff are in blue shirts. The people in that area have started to recognize volunteer groups by that particular green shirt, even when they are just out and about.



## Support, The What and Why

My salary is made possible by financial donors. Because of this Lake Lundgren is able to offer camps at lower costs so that families of varying incomes can attend camp to experience the Gospel! If you have questions about support or the work I do, please email me at [jordan.alexander@llbc.org](mailto:jordan.alexander@llbc.org), or text me at (515) 497-4425. Thank you!

## ●●● | Prayer Requests

- Please pray for both the Reach Global team and the towns of Jackson county that they are serving. Supplies and money are short all around, and there are still many without safe homes for a second winter in a row.
- I am still very much in the process of learning and moving on from the breakup with my fiancé, Kaitlyn; God's been mightily showing me the gospel and how much I need it instead of my idols of performing for my and other's benefit. Please pray with me for complete healing, and that the Holy Spirit would continue His work of renewal in me.
- I'd like you to join me in offering up praise to God for all the blessings He has provided this Fall. Among them, an incredibly successful Fall retreat season, three great housemates who are some of my strongest brothers in Christ, and of course you, my supporters in both finances and prayer.