



INSPIRATIONS

Volume 23 - Issue 1
Spring 2019



A LOOK INSIDE:
INSPIRATION POINT EXPANDS TO MEET GROWING NEED

GREETINGS FROM IPOINT



You've probably seen the research. Although some disagree, most studies show that young adults are leaving the church in droves following high school. A recent issue of USA Today (1/15/19) contained Lifeway Research's claim that 66% of those between the ages of 18 and

22 now report they've stopped attending church for at least a year. Of those, 31% later returned. In other words, for every 100 kids who attend church, 66 walk away – 46 of those forever.

What can we do? One thing that helps is getting kids to camp. That's right! At Inspiration Point where kids spend time living in a temporary community in the outdoors centering their week around the Bible, it is quite common for their spiritual lives to be impacted for years to come. According to The Effective Camp Research Project (ECRP), kids who attend religious camps are over three times more likely to keep up with their faith five years into the future as compared to children who did not attend camp. And it is not only their spiritual lives that are impacted. Soft skills such as interpersonal communication, confidence, and problem solving are also strengthened. Former U.S. Secretary of State and former Chair of America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth Colin Powell asserts his support for summer camp, saying, "It teaches them how to get along with other people – both other young people as well as adults. To give our children a safe place to learn and grow. . . camp does that."

Getting kids to camp has, perhaps, never been more important. That is just another reason Inspiration Point is committed to making camp available to every kid who wants to attend. Don't miss the article on the next page describing one big way we are addressing this!

Hope to see you this summer . . .

Greg



WHENEVER I AM AT CAMP
I ALWAYS GROW CLOSER
TO GOD.

8TH GRADER

Greg Anderson
President

Get Away.
Get Life.
Get to The Point.

I WANT TO BRING
MY FRIENDS HERE
BECAUSE EVERYONE
NEEDS TO KNOW
ABOUT GOD'S LOVE
FOR US.

6TH GRADER



GIVING HEARTS DAY HELPS KIDS GET TO CAMP

On February 14, 208 donors gave \$56,030 to help get kids to camp! Space and finances are the two main barriers that keep kids from attending Inspiration Point. Our 2019 Giving Hearts Day campaign addressed both of these barriers by providing funds to build a camper cabin at our new property (Twin Oaks) and scholarships for kids to attend IPoint this summer.

#countme
Feb.14 GivingHeartsDay.org

SOMA COTTAGES RECEIVE UPDATE



This winter we were able to make updates to the Soma Cottages. Each room received fresh paint, new flooring, and updated fixtures and furniture. Improvements to Soma Cottages were made possible by our campers and guests at closing programs last summer.

INSPIRATION POINT EXPANDS TO MEET GROWING NEED

It is bittersweet when camp has too many campers attending. While it is great to reach so many people, hitting capacity means some must be turned away. Summer youth camp attendance has increased 54% since 2010, and more than 300 kids had to be turned away in 2018 due to full camps. Because Inspiration Point desires that all kids who want to attend are able to do so, the board of directors acted boldly to address this crucial need.

Since expanding the current site was impossible, leadership commenced an exhaustive, 18-month search for additional property. The effort resulted in securing a truly remarkable piece of land only 12 miles from the current site, which allows for sharing equipment, staff, and other resources, thus lowering operating costs. Highlights of the property include: 1,000 acres of woods, water, and open spaces; a spectacular log lodge; nearly 40,000 square feet of other buildings already in existence; and loads of incredible potential. In the words of another Minnesota camp director who toured the property, "This is the most beautiful camp property I've ever seen."

Preparations to make this camp, named Inspiration Point at Twin Oaks, ready for the summer of 2020 are already underway. "We are elated to know that soon no child will have to hear the words, 'I'm sorry. We're full' anymore," says Greg Anderson, President of Inspiration Point. "Knowing the good that camp provides – relational skills, increased confidence, fun, experiential learning, increased hope, healthy challenge – we are excited that more kids will be able to experience these things. Furthermore, we will be able to employ and train more summer staff members for ministry during the summers and beyond."

Some have wondered what will become of the current location. Inspiration Point will continue to operate at its current location on Spitzer Lake, providing year-round camp and retreat opportunities for all ages.

Indeed, thousands of lives have changed course because of their encounter with Jesus Christ at camp. It is with great anticipation that we look forward to serving many more people with the message of the Gospel through this new property.

IPOINT IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY CHILDREN'S SUMMER. THEY LOOK FORWARD TO IT THE WHOLE YEAR AND CAN'T WAIT TO GO BACK. THE STAFF IS EXCELLENT AND THE COUNSELORS ARE AMAZING... SUCH WONDERFUL ROLE MODELS FOR OUR CHILDREN.

CAMPER PARENT



In August of 2018, Inspiration Point secured a second site, Twin Oaks, 12 miles from Spitzer Lake. This property features 1,000 acres of woods, water, and open spaces, as well as several buildings.

"We began giving to IPoint when our kids went to camp there. We continue to give because of the impact camp makes on young people."

- IPOINT DONOR

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Inspiration Point is on the move, and you are invited to join the journey as we prepare Inspiration Point at Twin Oaks for ministry. Henry Blackaby, in his book *Experiencing God*, said, "Find where God is working and join Him there." God is at work at Inspiration Point – for sure. If you're looking for a way to share your time and be a part of God's work at camp, we'd love to have your help.

Here are three ways you can be involved: 1) Get a group of friends together to tackle a project, 2) Take a project on as your own, or 3) Let us know you're available and we'll connect you with a group. Here is a sample of projects we need to complete at Twin Oaks this spring, summer, and fall:

- Build outdoor benches and picnic tables
- Build Octaball Court
- Replace an entry gate
- Staining and painting
- Install sand volleyball court
- Clearing areas in the woods
- Drywall and taping
- Gardening
- Install water softener

Please contact Molly at our office, (218) 998-4572, with your interest!

SUMMER 2019



Life can be confusing. There is so much noise in the world. Messages blast from the brokenness all around, and sometimes it's hard to know what to listen to and who to listen to. In our busyness, we often accept things without taking time to discern whether the messages we hear are even true.

IPOINT RECORDS was designed to help us identify the lies and tune in to the Gospel! At IPoint this summer we will hear the lyrics that bring HOPE. We will listen to the voice that speaks TRUTH. We will hear about a new life, a new attitude and a new song!

Here's a little glimpse into our theme days for IPOINT RECORDS 2019!

THE SONGWRITER: Just as a songwriter creates every song with its own unique beat, sound and lyric, God has made each of us uniquely. We are His masterpiece made for a purpose, to bring the message of God's love to the world. We will sing praise to the One who made us!

THE LYRICS: Since the Fall, voices of doubt, worry, false teachings, worldly pressure and the condemnation of our own hearts have spoken loudly. But the voice of God speaks the lyrics of life, truth, and hope. These are the lyrics we need so desperately, so we will listen to His voice through His Word.

NEW RELEASE: At the right time, God sent a new release into the world. His one and only Son was given to save us from the voice of condemnation and put a new song in our hearts. We will sing to the One who saves us!

REMIX: Knowing this new song, our lives become a remix as we are being renewed day by day by the One who loves us. We will discover the hope that one day, everything will be made right again, and we will be completely restored.



EARLY REGISTRATION DISCOUNT!

2019
SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS
 USE PROMO CODE:
SUMMER2019

SAVE \$30!

Registrations must be paid in full by April 1 to receive discount.

Camp	Grade	Dates	Price
Trailblazers 1	(1-2)	June 16-18	\$190
Trailblazers 2	(1-2)	July 21-23	\$190
FULL - Pioneer 1	(3-4)	June 9-13	\$355
FULL - Pioneer 2	(3-4)	June 23-27	\$340
FULL - Pioneer 3	(3-4)	August 11-15	\$375
Explorer 1	(5-6)	June 9-13	\$355
Explorer 2	(5-6)	July 14-18	\$350
FULL - Explorer 3	(5-6)	August 11-15	\$375
FULL - Jr. High 1	(7-8)	June 16-21	\$375
Jr. High 2	(7-8)	July 7-12	\$385
Jr. High 3	(7-8)	August 4-9	\$370
Sr. High 1	(9-12)	June 30-July 4	\$385
Sr. High 2	(9-12)	July 28-August 1	\$395
C.I.T. 1	(11-1st year College)	June 16-21 & 23-27	\$405
C.I.T. 2	(11-1st year College)	July 7-12 & 14-18	\$405

REGISTER ONLINE @

WWW.IPOINT.ORG



PARENT PERSPECTIVE: WHO DO THEY LOOK UP TO?



Dan Currell
St. Paul, MN

America started the 2018-2019 school year with six million teachers, professors and administrators. (For reference, the population of Minnesota is 5.8 million. There are more teachers in

America than there are people in Minnesota.) It's overwhelming to think about those big numbers – like looking up into a clear night sky and marveling at the stars.

God knows. In Genesis 15, Abraham comes out of his tent to gaze at the heavens, and God says, "So shall your offspring be." Indeed, what a promise. And what offspring! America has 74 million children right now.

There are lot of children out there, but as parents we know that young lives are built one at a time: one relationship at a time, one day at a time, one conversation at a time. It's hard work.

It's hard, but in a way it's simple. I actually think there's only one question you need to answer to know where a child's life is headed: Who do they look up to? When they get out of bed every day, without knowing it and without planning it, each young person is emulating someone. Who is it?



Relationships are funny. They can take years to build, but they can change your life in a flash. Abraham had a transformative relationship with God that was built over years but changed his life in just a few powerful conversations.

Our kids have been at IPoint every summer for almost a decade now. Whether they know it or not, there is nothing more powerful in their lives. When we visit, I look around the place and think, "If my child looks up to anyone here – literally any one of the dozens and dozens of counselors and staff that this amazing place has formed over the decades – we can declare victory as parents." Better yet, as our kids get older, they are becoming the ones that the youngest ones can look up to.

There's no textbook for that and there's no test you can take. We've got no bureaucracy for it, thank goodness. It's one child at a time, one relationship at a time, one conversation at a time. And as we all know, there's no place better for it than camp.

2019 DAY CAMPS

June 10-13

Our Redeemers - Minot, ND
Blom Prairie - Toronto, SD
Community of Joy - Eagan, MN

June 17-20

Victory Church - Jamestown, ND
Faith Church - Hendricks, MN
Westminster Pres. - Austin, MN
True Life - Rochester, MN

June 24-27

Emmaus Road - De Witt, IA
Christ Lutheran - Maple Plain, MN
Berea Church - Alexandria, MN

July 1-4

Jevnaker - Borup, MN
Bethel Church - Joice, IA

July 8-11

Elim Church - Clearbrook, MN
The LB Church - Williston, ND
Northgate - Ramsey, MN

July 15-18

Deer Creek UM - Deer Creek, MN
Living Word Fellowship - Dickinson, ND
Prairie Lutheran - Eden Prairie, MN
Praise Christian Fellowship - Barkhamsted, CT

July 29-August 1

Bethel - Battle Lake, MN
Good Shepherd - Fergus Falls, MN
Inspiration Church - Breckenridge, MN
Grace Lutheran - Erhard, MN
Ebenezer Church - Mayville, ND

August 5-8

Bethel - Fergus Falls, MN
Word of Life - Le Sueur, MN

August 12-15

Hope Church - Barnesville, MN
Faith Church - Blue Earth, MN
Sidney Lutheran Church - Sidney, MT
Oak Ridge Church - Menomonie, WI

CAMP IS A PLACE WHERE I CAN BE MYSELF AND NOT WORRY ABOUT WHAT OTHERS WILL SAY. I DEFINITELY GREW CLOSER TO GOD. I HAD AN AMAZING WEEK AND WILL REMEMBER WHAT I LEARNED.

11TH GRADER



BEYOND THE POINT

ERIC SMITH During my third summer at camp, I was counseling a cabin of middle school boys, and there was one student who stuck out. He had a whole toolbox of disruption at his disposal and was very willing to use it. Instead of trying to avoid or ignore, I had been taught at camp “the issue is not the issue,” so I stepped toward the problem and got to love him despite his distractions. We say “the issue is not the issue” because often times there is something deeper going on than what we see; most students, probably most people, show just a few symptoms of a much greater problem. I threw rocks at trees with this middle school student as he told me about how he had been labeled as wild and crazy and no one cared how he was feeling. I got to listen and then remind him of God’s incredible love for him, regardless of what others say.

“The issue is not the issue” pops into my head all the time when I’m spending time with people. I can only see the tip of the iceberg, the 10% of what is going on, but remembering there is another 90% beneath helps me to listen and try to love instead of trying to fix. So now, as I teach from God’s Word, I can focus on bringing the truth of the whole Gospel instead of aiming to just change behavior. People are sinners (see Romans 3:23 and the rest of the Bible) and God sent his Son to save us. Not from our day-to-day issues but from the incredible sin issue in our hearts, the real issue.



CAMP IS A GREAT PLACE TO RECHARGE AND STRENGTHEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS. IT IS REALLY FUN BUT ALSO REALLY POWERFUL.

9TH GRADER



Eric Smith served on our summer staff from 2010-2013 and graduated from CheckPoint in May of 2013. Eric and his wife, Mandi, live in Le Sueur, MN with their two children. Eric is the Youth Director at Word of Life LBC. The photo above is Eric with a group of campers in 2013.

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Ryan Hanson
Fergus Falls, MN



When asked why I joined the board at Inspiration Point this past September the simple answer is because I was asked. The deeper reason is that I believe “as each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace,” 1 Peter 4:10. We are here to serve by placing others first.

My wife, Maria, and I grew up in Fergus Falls and are members of Bethel Church. We have three busy boys, Owen, Lucas, and Jacob. Our boys have loved their time at camp, as have Maria and I while attending a marriage retreat weekend. As we dropped one of our boys off at camp a couple years ago we learned from Greg of the severe shortage of space for campers at IPoint. They were unfortunately having to turn away hundreds of campers because there was no room. From that discussion and many more to follow, I was blessed to work with IPoint as their Realtor in the search for additional space for camp.

What excites me the most about IPoint’s ministry is its continued focus on its mission: to provide time and space for people to encounter Christ. If our kids and family are anything like yours, we are busy. From sports to school activities to electronics, we are constantly stimulated and often distracted from hearing God’s purpose for our lives. IPoint offers a unique opportunity for kids and adults alike to get away from the busyness of life and listen to God in and through his wonderful creation.

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve on the board and look forward to being a part of IPoint’s continued ministry. With 1,000+ acres of God’s amazing wilderness now available at Twin Oaks, I am thrilled that IPoint has a long-term plan in place to ensure that all who want to experience the ministry of camp will now have that opportunity.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WOMEN'S RETREAT April 26-28, 2019

You're invited to join us for our 2019 Women's Retreat. This year's theme is "In God Alone." Kirsten King is our keynote speaker for the retreat, and she will lead us in a study of Psalm 62. Kirsten has been a Women's Retreat speaker in the past and is definitely one of our favorites! She has a passion for God's Word and the way it can change lives to bring God glory, and God has gifted her with the ability to communicate God's Truth through humor.

We are going to go even deeper into some of the specific concepts from Psalm 62 in our breakout sessions that will be taught by Carrie Bjorndahl, Connie Dummer, Lori Kettner, Gretchen Ronnevik, and Susie Townsend. These ladies are going to lead us in studying that only in God Alone is our Hope, our Strength, our Rest, our Trust, and our Rock. Other highlights to look forward to: Twin Oaks tour, sign making, thera-band workout led by a Physical Therapist who will also be available for questions, great food, massages, crafts, and so much more. After the cold, snowy winter, I can't think of a better way to come away and celebrate the beginning of spring; if the ice melts we may even be able to give Pontoon rides! You don't want to miss it!



WR SPEAKER: **Kirsten King**

Kirsten and her husband Kenny live in St. Paul. She is the Director of Youth Discipleship and Training at First Evangelical Free Church in Maplewood, MN. She is the author/host of the *Good Story* podcast and a highly sought-after women's speaker.

WR PRICES

- Soma Cottages - \$150
- Lakeview Lodge - \$130
- Maple Ridge - \$130
- Oak Point - \$120

Save \$25 when you register and pay in full by March 29. Use promo code: WR25



PATHFINDERS August 18-21, 2019



Adventure and learning experiences abound for adults with physical, developmental, and learning disabilities in our PATHFINDERS camp program. Our well-trained and supportive staff brings the Christian camp experience in a resort-like setting to guests looking for a place to enjoy the outdoors, try new adventures, and grow in their relationship with Christ. For more information or to download a registration form, please visit www.ipoint.org/pathfinders.

HANDS 2 HELP May 1-4, 2019



Looking to get more involved in the ministry of Inspiration Point? Volunteers make a big impact on what we are able to accomplish.

Please consider joining us for our Spring Hands 2 Help Volunteer Event - May 1-4, 2019. Come for a day or stay the whole week! Hands 2 Help is FREE for anyone willing to lend a hand. To help us plan meals, projects, and lodging, pre-registration is required. Register online or email us at office@ipoint.org.

*"Jesus works through this place
and He changes me every time
I come here."*

- 11th Grader

GRAND DAY OUT

GDO 1 - June 19, 2019 | GDO 2 - June 20, 2019

Join us for an intergenerational day trip to Inspiration Point! This camp is specially designed for one-on-one grandparent and grandchild interaction. Grandchildren involved must be entering Kindergarten through entering sixth grade. For more information please visit www.ipoint.org.



FAMILY CAMP



Family Weekends

FW1 - June 13-16 (FULL)

FW2 - June 27-30

FW3 - July 4-7

FW4 - July 25-28 (FULL)

FW5 - August 1-4 (FULL)





LUTHERAN BRETHREN BIBLE CAMP, INC.

Inspiration Point

CHRISTIAN CAMP + RETREAT CENTER

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For the most up-to-date information,
follow us on social media!

IPOINT IMPACT Rob Roise

As Director of Youth Ministries at Grace LBC in Bottineau, ND, I'm always thinking about ways to help teens encounter Jesus Christ through the Word of God with real, true fellowship with one another. This is easier said than done. But every now and then, we "hit on" an event or strategy that works! And Inspiration Point's Senior High Winter Weekend is one of those that works, where profound interest in scripture is kindled, genuine hunger and love for the Gospel ignites, and true fellowship and love for one another is experienced!

This isn't a formula. It's not a science. It's an opportunity.

An opportunity to get away from the distraction of their phones. Away from the crushing pressures and expectations from their peers at school or on social media. To come away for a weekend and just enjoy one another and find the things of God becoming central in their attention and affections... even for just an hour or two... and possibly for the first times in their lives.

Each year we've come to SHWW, for someone in our group this experience is life-changing. So much so that it's become a tradition! It's become an understood thing that on our six-hour bus ride home there's a gathering of students in the front of our bus... students that are being transformed because of their experience at camp! This gathering at the front of the bus is an opportunity to reflect on their encounter with the Lord and with His Word and preparing changed teens to reenter their lives strengthened in the Lord. The sweetest, and perhaps most profitable part of it all for the Bottineau group, is the time at the front of our bus on the six-hour trip home to process what God did while we were at camp! The incredible impact of Inspiration Point still lingering and lasting...even on our way back!



Get Away. Get Life. Get to The Point.

