



# INSPIRATIONS

Volume 24 - Issue 2  
Fall 2020



## A LOOK INSIDE:

SPITZER LAKE UPDATE | TWIN OAKS OPENS

## GREETINGS FROM IPOINT



Greetings from Inspiration Point at Twin Oaks! Camp has experienced an eventful year like everyone has, yet in some additional ways. Flooding at our Spitzer Lake site caused the property to be unusable for gatherings, so capacities at the new site needed to be expanded rapidly in time for summer.

Unfortunately, the situation at our Spitzer Lake property continues to deteriorate. At the same time, we began welcoming campers and guests to this beautiful (many describe it as stunning) new property we've named Twin Oaks. This issue tells the story.

God's faithfulness has been at the forefront throughout, providing everything we've needed to preserve opportunities for ministry, right on time. We've experienced great challenges and disappointments, along with many thrilling developments.

Whenever you're ready to come away for a retreat, we are eager to see you and serve you. We hope that will be soon!

Blessings,

Hope to see you soon!

*Greg*

Greg Anderson  
President

Get Away.  
Get Life.  
Get to The Point.



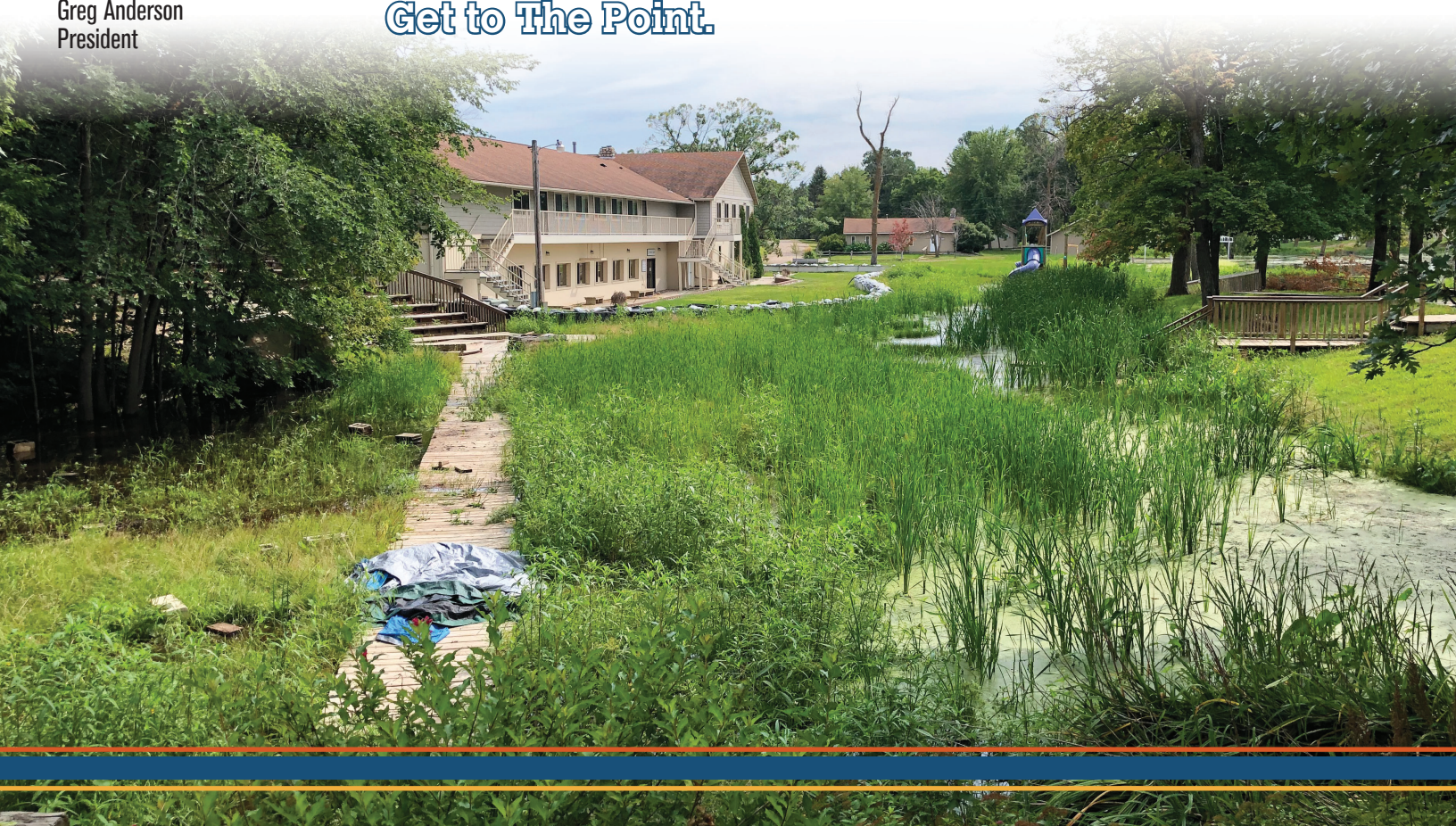
## SPITZER LAKE UPDATE

If you are one with a long history at Inspiration Point, you probably remember the days when we played volleyball where the John the Baptist scene in the Christ Hike now takes place. You might remember kids standing for photos on a boulder just north of the swimming area, or recall canoeing and bumping into submerged trees. Those trees and that boulder are now several feet underwater, as Spitzer has risen more than five feet higher than it was in the early 90s.

In the summer of 1993, we made shirts for the staff that read, "Our God reigns and rains!" It was a wet summer, indeed. As it turns out, 1993 was the beginning of a wet cycle that would severely impact the property for decades. There have been years that were drier than others, but the lake level has climbed steadily ever since.

You may remember the flooding in 2011. After a significant financial outlay, we were able to hold the water back for several years but now can do no more. In fact, we don't see the ability to return to the site on Spitzer Lake. That's right. It appears that ministry is going to have to continue exclusively at the new Twin Oaks site. Here's why...

The high water has caused significant damage. The lower level of Lakeview has mostly been gutted. Despite our efforts sandbagging, cutting concrete and laying drainage tile, and running multiple pumps continually, the floor is below lake level, which causes intense hydrological pressure forcing water up through the floor of the building.





There are many facts working against preserving the property:

- The lake has been rising for more than 30 years.
- If it were only about waiting for the water to go down, it would need to drop at least three feet and then stabilize before we could justify putting the hundreds of thousands of dollars forth to restore the property. That means that on a lake the size of Spitzer, nearly 800 million gallons of water would need to evaporate or be moved; that doesn't take into account any additional water from rains and runoff.
- We received a report several weeks ago stating that FEMA has now removed the Temporary tag and re-classified Spitzer Lake as a Permanent High-Water Level body of water.
- The price of insurance, keeping buildings heated, grounds mowed, and other minimum expenses is more than \$50,000 annually.
- Almost all the lawns have been destroyed and are either underwater or mud.
- There are more than 100 dead or dying trees.

We've also worked with engineers and the governing authorities to see if constructing an outlet on the lake is a possibility. But even if an unlikely approval were granted, it would take three to five years for the project, at a price tag of \$4-5 million, and there is no guarantee it would work.

There is a rich history of ministry at the Spitzer Lake site, and we thank God for that. We have much to celebrate as we remember how God used that special property as a setting where the Gospel could be heard. There is a wonderful story of a fifth grade camper who exclaimed at a campfire, "I know God doesn't speak any louder at camp, but I sure can hear Him better!"

Now we look forward to seeing how God uses another setting, Twin Oaks, as we continue the mission of "providing time and space for people to encounter Christ."



## TWIN OAKS PREVIEW

Someone told our staff this past spring that with Spitzer Lake flooding, God provided Twin Oaks as an ark! That certainly seems true! While we've wondered why something like the flood could happen to such a special place, we are reminded of how incredibly and generously God has provided in leading us to Twin Oaks. God has been faithfully at work ensuring that the vital, life-changing Gospel will continue to be shared through the ministry of Inspiration Point. Yes, we will provide the same Christ-central ministry in this new location. And, what a location it is!

Twin Oaks is a former private estate on 1,075 acres of prairie, woods, and water. When we purchased it in 2018, it already had asphalt roads, 12 miles of hiking trails, four lakes, numerous ponds, and beautiful buildings ready for use. We've been able to add nine cabins, a very nice shower house, and a swimming pool, while remodeling several other buildings. The result is a fantastic camp and retreat facility.

God's provision has been right on time. Twin Oaks was able to be opened the same year that the Spitzer property was unable to be used! It sure seems that God used the issues brought about by growing attendance to move us to this new place. If we hadn't run out of space, would we have sought out a new camp property just because the water was rising? We doubt it. Without purchasing Twin Oaks when we did, it is very possible that the ministry of Inspiration Point would be over. God had other plans, though.

The reaction of people seeing it for the first time has been noteworthy. "Wow, I never dreamt it would be this nice!" "This far exceeded my expectations." These are just a couple of the responses we've heard from people. A group of guys stopped by in September for a quick visit. Following their tour, one of them said, "I couldn't believe the pictures of this place that you showed me last year. But to see it in person is even more incredible!"

We look forward to your visit, whether it is attending a retreat, dropping off a child, volunteering for a few days, or making a Family Getaway part of your summer.



**"AS SOON AS WE STEPPED ONTO THE PROPERTY, IT WAS LIKE A DEEP BREATH OF FRESH AIR. LIFE'S PACE IMMEDIATELY SLOWED AND WE WERE ABLE TO ENJOY EACH OTHER AND HAVE FUN."**

TWIN OAKS GUEST



# TWIN OAKS CENTER

Twin Oaks Center is home to our dining room, gift shop, game room, White Oak meeting room, and Red Oak sleeping rooms. It is the central location of everything that is happening at camp. The sleeping rooms are ideal for anyone looking for comfort and convenience!

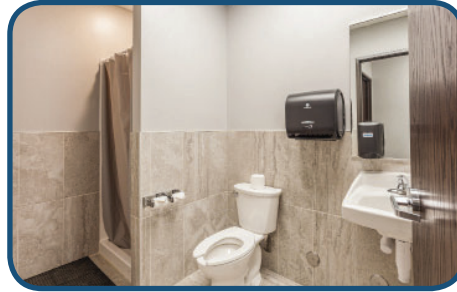
## WHITE OAK MEETING ROOM

The White Oak meeting room is a great gathering space for large groups! If you are looking to rent the camp for your youth group or for a family reunion, this is an ideal meeting space with capability for all of your audio/visual needs.



## RED OAK ROOMS

The Red Oak sleeping rooms have a queen bed and two bunk beds in each room. With five rooms total, this is a great space to reserve for family reunions or a weekend away with friends! There are individual bathrooms located across the hall from the sleeping rooms.



## DINING ROOM

The dining room is larger than the one we had at Spitzer, and with four overhead garage doors, we have a fantastic amount of natural light that fills the room. Get ready to enjoy fellowship and delicious food around the table!

## GAME ROOM

The game room has billiards, air hockey, carpetball, foosball, ping pong, and a wide variety of board games. It is also adjacent to our gift shop, so delicious snacks are always within reach! Wanting a place to have great conversations or enjoy some board games? Take advantage of the 10-foot farmhouse table, which is great for gathering friends and family!



## VILLAGE GREEN

The Village Green Cabins are furnished with six bunks and can sleep up to 12 people. They have spacious interiors and are just a short walk on a paved path to the shower house!

“NEW LOCATION, STILL  
A MEETING PLACE WITH  
GOD.”

TWIN OAKS GUEST



## OAK POINT

We were able to move the Oak Point cabins over from our Spitzer Lake site, and they have found a wonderful home at Twin Oaks. Soon there will be basements under both of the buildings that will each include three sleeping rooms, a living space, private bathrooms, and kitchenette! We look forward to how these new spaces will serve groups in the coming years!



## SWIMMING POOL

Looking for a place to cool off during the hot summer months? The pool is the place for you! We have a volleyball net and basketball hoop available to use in the pool, and they are a blast! There is plenty of seating on the pool deck if you want to read a book while kids make memories in the water.



## SHOWER HOUSE

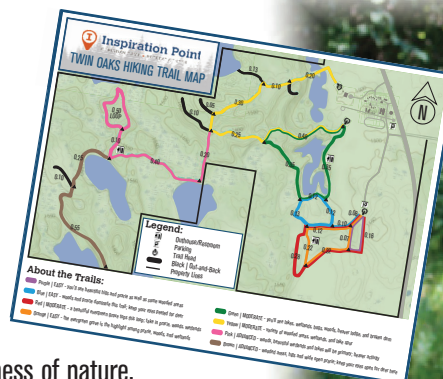
Our shower house will be used by guests staying in the Village Green Cabins, Caboose, and Oak Point Cabins. The shower house also has a family restroom located on the north side of the building with a shower and changing station.



## TRAILS

Ready to get out and explore the beauty of this place? There are more than 12 miles of trails that showcase the beauty of God's creation! Whether you are alone or with family and friends, it is a great opportunity to experience the tranquility of being in the vastness of nature.

We have eight trails total; do you think you can do them all?



# NEW LOCATION, SAME INSPIRATION POINT

## DARREN & DANJA HALL

Twenty plus years ago we attended our first family camp with our toddler, Elayna, and preschooler, Jayce. Family camps easily transitioned them both to youth camps and retreats throughout their years until graduating from high school.

Just when we were about to become empty nesters, God called us to our son in China. Tommy was nine years old when we sent him a picture book describing our family, and it included a few paragraphs about attending camp together. The entire book was transcribed by a friend into Mandarin so he could learn about our family. Of course, we had to tell him about our favorite place. The summer of 2018, we introduced Tommy to Inspiration Point with family camp. He fell in love with camp and felt at home just like his siblings, and he has gone on to attend retreats, youth camp and more family camps.

Fast forward to 2020, in the midst of so many shutdowns, we were thrilled to discover IPoint at Twin Oaks could still offer family getaways. We enjoyed the one in June so much we came back in July for another weekend with our adult kids joining us. The older two rediscovered the love they had enjoyed for many years as campers. We came home and took advantage our Thrivent Action Team project opportunity and returned for our third visit in August to deliver our projects.

We are so thankful that no matter where IPoint is located, or however the programs have changed, still the same Jesus is Lord of this camp, and His peace envelops us as soon as we arrive.

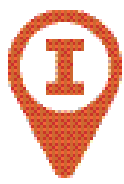


## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Give to the Max Day (Nov. 19th) and Giving Hearts Day (Feb. 11th) are two great opportunities for you to be able to partner with Inspiration Point as we look ahead to our future! Watch for more information about these events as we get closer to the dates!

give **TO THE MAX**  
Nov. 19, 2020





LUTHERAN BRETHREN BIBLE CAMP, INC.

# Inspiration Point

CHRISTIAN CAMP + RETREAT CENTER

16157 CO HWY 65 VINING, MN 56588

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PD  
FERGUS FALLS MN  
PERMIT NO 14

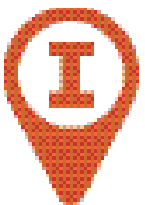


For the most up-to-date information,  
follow us on social media!



## BEYOND THE POINT SOLVEIG BRUNKOW

I started attending Inspiration Point at Spitzer Lake in second grade. I continued to go every summer, and eventually I was able to join the summer staff. I worked four summers and was also a part of the CheckPoint program in 2015-2016. Camp has always felt like home. It is the place where God has molded me the most and where I have been able to see Him work so clearly. Of course, I was ecstatic when I heard about the plans to create a second camp. "More camp! What could be better?" But as time went on, I grew apprehensive. Change can make me anxious, especially when it is relating to something I hold near and dear to my heart. I came to realize that if I wanted Twin Oaks to become home, just as Spitzer Lake has been, I needed to go all in. I needed to buy into the dreams we have for Twin Oaks and the expectation that God is going to do amazing things there. I was able to volunteer at Twin Oaks for an afternoon earlier this spring, and through just those few hours, I felt my heart opening up to the big change. Now I have a renewed excitement for camp's ministry and its future at Twin Oaks. I have also come to realize that what made camp at Spitzer Lake so special was the ways that God worked there. And if that is what I loved so much about it, then there should be no reservations about Twin Oaks because God has already been working in amazing ways there. I'm thankful that I now have another place to call home, Inspiration Point at Twin Oaks.



# Get Away. Get Life. Get to The Point.