



# INSPIRATIONS

Volume 23 - Issue 2  
Fall 2019



**A LOOK INSIDE:**

**MORE CAMP = MORE KIDS = MORE IMPACT**

A semi-annual newsletter of Lutheran Brethren Bible Camp, Inc.



# GREETINGS FROM IPOINT



I'm with you. I can't believe how fast the calendar pages turn (if you are a person that still enjoys the nostalgia of using a paper calendar)! Since we mailed the last issue of this newsletter, the summer camp season has flown by. This summer was filled with memorable and important events.

The memorable events are often defined by something unusual that occurred. Perhaps it was a surprise that took place or a challenge that arose. Looking back, I think of memorable events like tearing up the Lakeview patio and floor in the Worship Center in order to lay drain tile and install pumps to keep the rising water of Spitzer Lake away. I remember the crowds arriving for a Christ Hike. Certainly memorable were the sheer numbers of people served over the course of the summer – nearly 6,000, which is a record! I'll never forget driving busloads of family campers to our new camp, Twin Oaks, for their first glimpse of the property.

Then there are the important events. Importance is often tied closely to impact. Who can forget that 50 campers received Bibles this summer as they began their relationship with Jesus Christ? I think of the two high schoolers who were reconciled with each other after two very difficult years. There were 75 summer counselors and other staff members who were trained for future ministry. And the list goes on...

We have neither the space nor the time to share every important story with you. But we do desire that you get a taste of the impact that God is making in lives through this special place we call Inspiration Point. This edition of Inspirations is chock full of these reports. Enjoy!

Hope to see you soon!

Greg Anderson  
President

**I LEARNED THAT JESUS  
NEVER STOPS LOVING YOU.**  
5TH GRADER



# SUMMER 2019

BY THE NUMBERS...



**Get Away.  
Get Life.  
Get to The Point.**



# THE IMPACT OF A SUMMER SPENT AT CAMP

**KARINA LARSON** Inspiration Point has made a large impact in my life since I started attending summer camp in 2005. Looking back, I thank the Lord for camp because it has led me to some of the most solid friendships, taught me valuable leadership skills, and spurred on my spiritual growth.

Inspiration Point cultivates lifelong friendships. When you spend most of your time living, serving, cleaning, worshipping, teaching, laughing, crying, and praying together, it's inevitable that you grow close to those around you. I know I have a family of brothers and sisters whom I can trust to always have my back.

While staff training in itself is a whirlwind of emotions, I have begun each summer more confident than the last in knowing how to lead Bible studies and games, how to mentor and give wise, biblical counsel, how to have meaningful and purposeful conversations, how to share the Gospel, and how to care for specific needs of individuals. This training and practice are for more than occupational skills; they are life skills.

Camp has been hugely influential in my spiritual growth. From camper to staff, God has used Inspiration Point to remind me of my constant need for a Savior. At camp, we give to the point where total dependence on Jesus is all we have left. We go empty so that Jesus may be glorified in what He is doing. We go empty so we can sit open handed at the feet of Jesus and see His faithfulness. The best part of it all, is knowing that it's worth it. It's worth it to know I am not wasting my time. I'm serving the Kingdom.



**BEE LARSON** Inspiration Point has been invaluable to both Paul and me since we were both young campers, while Paul was a summer counselor in the early 80's, while our five kids were campers over the years, and now as our two youngest, Karina and Nate have been on summer staff for three years.

Working at IPoint has been a terrific opportunity for our kids to figure out their future careers. Both Nate and Karina have narrowed down their life's calling as they've tried on different roles at camp. Camp has been great prep for adulthood, career, marriage and parenting! As parents, we couldn't be more pleased that working at IPoint has helped shape their future plans. (Side note: It was while counseling at IPoint in the early 80's when Paul first heard his call to pastoral ministry!)

Our kids have grown in their own faith at camp and learned to boldly share the Gospel. They've learned to share it washing dirty plates and scrubbing showers. They've learned to share it one-on-one with a struggling junior higher. They've learned how to open up their Bible with a stranger and confidently work through scripture that points to Christ.

When I hear, "College is so expensive...my child needs a good paying job over the summer!" I can confidently answer, "My kids have truly had the best paying summer jobs." What they've gained personally and spiritually has been well worth any monetary loss. What they've gained at camp has been invaluable, and the future rewards are so much greater than a little bigger summer paycheck.

**ISAIAH DORN** After working at Inspiration Point for two summers, washing countless dishes, spending hours cleaning bathrooms, and ministering to hundreds of kids, I can say with complete confidence that serving on summer staff at camp is a job where growth happens.



Serving at camp grew in me a love for God's word. A summer at Inspiration Point is like a gospel-centered, scriptural immersion. The focus on the word of God, the emphasis placed on the truth it holds, and the devoted practice of entering scripture is inescapable at camp. All the teaching that takes place, whether it's oriented towards first and second graders or juniors and seniors, is grounded in the perfect word of God. Every single day at camp is a new testimony of how God made himself real in someone's heart through the power of his word.

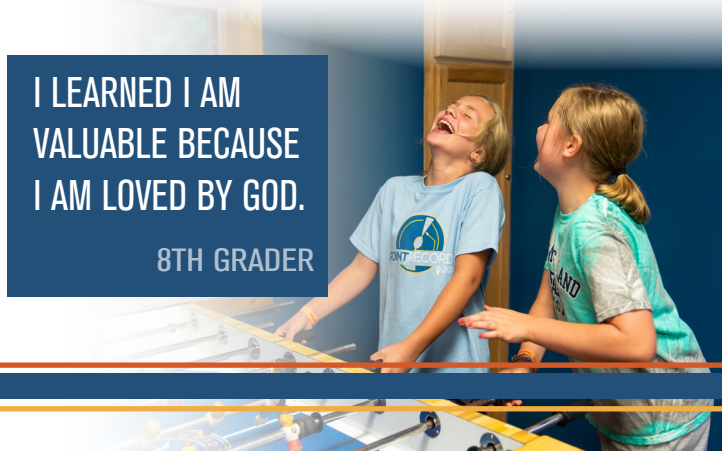
Serving at camp grew me in my passion for ministry. My entire understanding of ministry has expanded greatly from working at Inspiration Point. I've been able to see that building relationships with campers, offering myself to those in need, pointing others to the word of God, and finding the joy and silliness in every aspect of life are all ways that the name of Jesus can be proclaimed. Committing to a full summer of ministry and seeing how God can change lives has made me increasingly passionate to see others come to know the love of Jesus.

**KARI DORN** 3 John 1:4 says "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in truth." While John isn't speaking of his children in the literal sense, knowing that our children are walking in the truth definitely brought us joy and is the most important thing any parent could want for their children.

This joy continues to grow as we watch our children, now adults, share their faith and spiritual gifts with the people they encounter every day. Seeing pictures and videos of Isaiah counseling at camp and understanding the depth and meaningfulness of the group and one-on-one conversations he is having with his campers is priceless. It's hard not having him home for the summer, but knowing he is at IPoint, where he can continue to grow and mature in his personal faith while helping kids find their path in the Truth gives us confidence that he is exactly where God needs him to be.

I LEARNED I AM  
VALUABLE BECAUSE  
I AM LOVED BY GOD.

8TH GRADER



# MORE CAMP = MORE KIDS = MORE IMPACT

## INSPIRATION POINT EXPANDS TO MEET GROWING NEED

For more than 50 years Inspiration Point has been a gathering place for people of all ages. Nestled in the lake country of Minnesota, this Christian camp and retreat center has been a favorite of children, youth, adults and families.

While steady growth has occurred over its lifetime, summer youth camp attendance has swelled the past several years to where hundreds of kids must be turned away every summer due to full camps. We know the good that God provides through camp as we witness the lives of thousands impacted every year. Recently a high schooler said, "It is difficult to express what I've learned at camp over the years because I realized that it is core to me! Camp has formed me into who I am!" When kids want to attend but cannot because there is no room, it is obvious that something had to be done, for camp leadership desires that all kids have the opportunity to flourish at camp.

At the same time, the tiny peninsula on Spitzer Lake has been built out as far as possible with no more room to expand. Therefore, the board of directors put together an aggressive plan to locate, secure, and build a second property that will ensure that there is room for everyone.

Late in the summer of 2018 that plan took shape with the acquisition of a spectacular property located in the wooded lake country of Minnesota, only 12 miles east of Spitzer Lake. As a former private estate, it already contains many gorgeous buildings that Inspiration Point will be able to use as is. Others, like a shop and a garage, will be remodeled and repurposed to house our office and a craft room. Construction has been taking place at a vigorous pace, with nine cabins already being erected and a swimming pool and several other buildings under construction as well.

We are thrilled to announce that this new camp, Inspiration Point at Twin Oaks, will open in June 2020! This beautiful new location will be the camp home for Inspiration Point's youngest campers. Beginning in 2020 all first through fourth graders will attend camp at Twin Oaks. The benefits are many:

1. We will be able to specialize, creating a space that is built for this age group. As an example, campers will be able to have a blast in our swimming pool!
2. Campers will enjoy smaller staff to camper ratios, meaning each one will receive more individual attention.

3. Parents will be able to have their kids of different ages attend camp at both locations simultaneously, meaning fewer roundtrips and, essentially, gaining weeks back in the summer!
4. We will be adding weeks of camp for our older campers at our Spitzer Lake site, meaning campers won't have to be turned away anymore, and there will be more choices for families, easing the pressure on their summer schedules.

The new property will also host a week of camp for fifth and sixth graders, three family camps, and many rental groups. It will be available for family reunions, church retreats, and other events throughout the year.

Inspiration Point at Twin Oaks will have the same highly trained, committed, and fun staff. The culture of safety and care will remain. The food will be tasty, and the focus on the message of the Gospel will still be powerfully present.

We need your help in making this necessity and great opportunity possible. We are looking for volunteers in the coming months to help drywall, tape and texture, insulate, paint, clean, assemble bunkbeds, and more. Also, we invite you to join the hundreds who are supporting this bold endeavor financially. You can do that by supporting The IMPACT Campaign through the camp website, or by contacting [greg@ipoint.org](mailto:greg@ipoint.org). As places like IPoint are becoming more and more important in today's world, we hope you'll consider how you can help provide and ensure the future of camp for coming generations.

Watch for more information in the days ahead on the camp website, [www.ipoint.org](http://www.ipoint.org), and on the Facebook page of Inspiration Point Christian Camp and Retreat Center.

Inspiration Point has been and will continue to be about helping people grow in their relationship with God and with each other. Now camp will take place in two locations. We can't wait to see you in 2020!

**IMPACT**  
CAMPAIGN  
MORE CAMP = MORE KIDS = MORE IMPACT





# 2020 YOUTH CAMPS

Camp	2020 Dates	Grade	Location
Pioneer 1	June 7-11	3rd-4th	Twin Oaks
Explorer 1	June 7-11	5th-6th	Spitzer Lake
Trailblazer 1	June 14-16	1st-2nd	Twin Oaks
Jr. High 1	June 14-19	7th-8th	Spitzer Lake
C.I.T. 1	June 14-19 & 21-25	11th-1st year college	SL/TO
Pioneer 2	June 21-25	3rd-4th	Twin Oaks
Jr. High 2	June 21-26	7th-8th	Spitzer Lake
C.I.T. 2	June 21-26 & 28-July 2	11th-1st year college	SL/TO
Pioneer 3	June 28-July 2	3rd-4th	Twin Oaks
Sr. High 1	June 28-July 2	9th-12th	Spitzer Lake
Trailblazer 2	July 5-7	1st-2nd	Twin Oaks
Trailblazer 3	July 8-10	1st-2nd	Twin Oaks
Jr. High 3	July 5-10	7th-8th	Spitzer Lake
C.I.T. 3	July 5-10 & 12-16	11th-1st year college	SL/TO
Explorer 2	July 12-16	5th-6th	Twin Oaks
Sr. High 2	July 12-16	9th-12th	Spitzer Lake
Pioneer 4	July 19-23	3rd-4th	Twin Oaks
Explorer 3	July 19-23	5th-6th	Spitzer Lake
Sr. High 3	July 26-30	9th-12th	Spitzer Lake
Trailblazer 4	August 2-4	1st-2nd	Twin Oaks
Jr. High 4	August 2-7	7th-8th	Spitzer Lake
Pioneer 5	August 9-13	3rd-4th	Twin Oaks
Explorer 4	August 9-13	5th-6th	Spitzer Lake

WE ARE CALLED TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE AND HIS WORD WITH OTHERS...CAMP IS AN AMAZING PLACE TO INTRODUCE OTHERS TO CHRIST.

7TH GRADER

## EARLY REGISTRATION DISCOUNT!

**2020**  
SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS  
USE PROMO CODE:  
**SUMMER2020**

**SAVE \$35!**

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



Home for arts and crafts, with staff housing beyond.



Three of the new cabins that surround the Village Green.



Artist's rendering of the main camp area.



Twin Oaks Lodge with its beautifully landscaped backyard and lawn.



## A LIFE OF IMPACT: REMEMBERING JIM ANDERSON



He was as adept at providing hospitality as he was keeping the grounds and site looking great. Long-time staff member, Jim Anderson, passed away suddenly on September 2nd.

Jim and his wife, Ellie, arrived at Inspiration Point as staff members in June 1994 – Jim as Site Director and Ellie as Food Service Director. He served in that role until 1999 when he transitioned into guest ministries, serving as the director of that area of the ministry until 2007. Since then

he returned to camp nearly once a week making repairs, painting, and doing small projects that improved the camp. One person who knew Jim said, “His fingerprints are all over Inspiration Point!”

Jim was a favorite among summer staff members, known as kind, calm, and full of integrity. One staffer told the story of a time when Jim was asked if it was OK for a cabin group to “swim” in the huge mud puddles on the lawn following a rain. Jim said, “No, I’d rather you didn’t, but give me about 30 minutes.” As the story goes, he returned to the counselor to say, “I’ve got a big slip-and-slide set up on the hill for you to use instead!” He was skilled at helping people make memories, and he loved to make their days special whenever he could.

While we mourn our loss, we rejoice that Jim is present with His Savior, and we look forward to reuniting with him one day.

## IPOINT WELCOMES NEW STAFF



We are excited to welcome Kelsey Johnson, Kayla Hexum, and Seth Bercier to our year-round staff team. Kelsey has stepped into the role of registrar and office manager, Kayla will be serving as camp assistant for the next nine months, and Seth is working on our site & facilities team at Spitzer Lake.

## CHECKPOINT CLASS OF 2020



Photographed on their first day of class, these 12 CheckPoint students will spend the next nine months with us gaining ministry, leadership, and life skills.

Front: Morgan Ness, Augusta Ewan, Casey Perkins, Olivia Foss.

Middle: Jacob Asheim, Katie Minge, Gretchen Larson, Luke Wold.

Back: Isaiah Miller, Seth Hexum, Micah Schultz, Zach Nugent.



## OAE LAUNCHED AT TWIN OAKS

With over a thousand acres of woods, wetlands, and prairie, Twin Oaks provides a jaw-dropping setting to study nature and explore the wonders of creation. This past spring, we launched a brand new program at Twin Oaks – Outdoor Adventure Education. OAE is designed to give students an opportunity to go beyond the four walls of a classroom and wonder, explore, discover and learn in the beauty and vastness of nature. In May, four groups each joined us for a daytrip to do just that, customizing their time to fit their learning and interests. We want to share this thousand acres of wonder with as many public, private and home school groups as possible! If you or someone you know would like to schedule a group or learn more about OAE, visit [www.ipoint.org/OAE](http://www.ipoint.org/OAE).



# BEYOND THE POINT

**ISAAC ERICKSON** It is quite impossible to forget my time spent on Spitzer Lake, which included two summers on summer staff and nine months of Checkpoint in between. During the evenings and weekends of Checkpoint, I stumbled upon a different pace of life on the peninsula. Little did I know that this extra time was going to be how the Lord prepared me for future vocational ministry.

During Checkpoint, class was at 8:30 AM. Most days I would roll out of bed at 8 o'clock to get ready, until one day, by God's grace, I decided to wake up 15 minutes earlier so I could read my Bible. This was the first time I had ever intentionally made a plan to read my Bible, and somehow, I kept doing it. It started out as work. Those 15 extra minutes in bed always seemed like a good idea, but it turns out that God's grace extends way beyond the cross and into the daily fabric of our lives, giving us strength to do that which our sinful nature does not want to do. These humble 15 minutes were the inception of a life spent with God; what started out as work turned into an integral and joyous part of my day. Eventually I started to pray and discovered the gift of fellowship with the Eternal God, my Heavenly Father.

Through being in the word and in prayer, the Lord began to transform my life. The Lord transforms lives as we spend time with him. In Acts 4, Peter and John are before the Sanhedrin. Verse 13 says, "When [the Sanhedrin] saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus." Peter and John had spent three years with Jesus and had been forever changed. They had no fear as they stood before the Sanhedrin and boldly proclaimed the gospel of Christ Jesus.

In a world with an abundance of information at the tips of our fingers, we need transformation more. A simple Google search will render as much information as we can imagine. Transformation happens when we are with Jesus. I can personally say that time with Jesus happens more easily at camp. Worldly distractions are minimized, time is maximized, and you join in with creation glorifying the Creator. This is how and why camp has such a huge impact on so many lives, young and old: time. The Lord was preparing me for vocational ministry during my time at camp, because my time at camp was spent with Him.

# COMING THIS WINTER

## MEN'S RETREAT January 24-25, 2020

Men's Retreat is back in our retreat schedule with a brand new format! We get it...It can be hard for guys to get away for an entire weekend. In order to give more guys the opportunity to come to Men's Retreat, we will be wrapping up the retreat on Saturday evening. Guys that would like a little extra time at camp can register for an optional overnight on Saturday night. We are excited to welcome Dave Cornell as our speaker!



**MR SPEAKER:** Dave Cornell

Dave is a speaker, author, and trainer who helps individuals and organizations overcome fears by making courageous choices so they can lead more productive, passionate and engaged lives. Dave will be taking us deep into scripture as he talks about facing our fears and cultivating courage.

Dave is a favorite speaker at Inspiration Point. He and his family have been attending family camps and retreats at IPoint since 1992.

Dave and his wife, Amy, have been married for 37 years. They immensely enjoy time with their two grown daughters, son-in-law and four grandchildren. He also enjoys golf, basketball, and anything with a comedic bent.



### MR PRICES

Soma Cottages - \$115  
 Lakeview Lodge - \$105  
 Maple Ridge - \$100  
 Oak Point - \$90  
 Save \$25 when you register and pay in full by January 3.  
 Use promo code: MR25

I LOVE BEING AT CAMP... IT'S A GREAT PLACE TO JUST GET AWAY AND BE REMINDED OF GOD'S LOVE FOR US.

9TH GRADER



Isaac Erickson (standing in photo) served on our summer staff from 2015-2016 and graduated from CheckPoint in May of 2016. Isaac and his wife, Addy, live in West Fargo where Isaac serves as the Worship Arts Director at Triumph West.







LUTHERAN BRETHREN BIBLE CAMP, INC.

# Inspiration Point

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## THE IMPACT OF TIME AND SPACE

ALLEN AND DEB LARSON

In the early eighties, we were encouraged by family to attend the 4th of July Family Camp at Inspiration Point. We did, and we immediately knew it was something we wanted to make a regular part of our life.

Since that time, camp has been a place where we have experienced the words of Jesus to "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest" (Mark 6:31b) in tangible ways.

We have found that camp provides the time and space to relax and get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. It is a place to meet new friends and reconnect with old friends, spend time with family, and a place where we have always felt that our children, and now grandchildren, were learning and safely enjoying themselves.

But most of all, camp has proven to be a place where God meets us in unique ways. Through the teaching of the Word, the music, skits, the Christ Hike, the fellowship with believers, and the servant-like attention of the staff, the invitation of Jesus to "come away to a quiet place" is realized in a truly special place.

Get Away. Get Life. Get to The Point.

