



# INSPIRATIONS

Volume 25 - Issue 2  
Fall 2021



**A LOOK INSIDE:**

**SUMMER 2021 REVIEW | FAMILY TRADITION**

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

## GREETINGS FROM IPOINT



Greetings from Inspiration Point at Twin Oaks! With praise to God and thanksgiving for His faithfulness and provision, Inspiration Point wrapped up its first full summer at its new property. God has given us a gift—a beautiful new space where people can come away to experience and celebrate what God has done.

I often get asked, “How was the summer?” If only I could respond with an answer that captured it all! Let me try by sharing quotes I heard this summer.

“If only I could bottle this and bring it back to our congregation!” said one youth camp speaker.

“My buddies and I needed this week so much. There is no place like camp,” remarked a senior high camper.

“I always wondered how to go to heaven. This week I learned that Jesus did it all, and I can just trust Him!” testified a fifth-grade girl.

“Oh, we wouldn’t think of missing family camp. There is so much to do here—you could never do it all! We just spend the days making memories together,” stated one dad.

“I want to thank you for providing a place like this. Three years ago, my granddaughter returned home from camp and taught our whole family to pray. God used her experience to change our whole family,” said a grandmother of a junior high girl.

“I now think I’m being called into full-time ministry,” wrote a summer guys’ counselor.

I hope you get the picture. Take a look at the pages that follow to learn more about God’s good work at and through Inspiration Point. There really is something for everyone at this special place. We hope to see you at a retreat in the coming months, and it isn’t too soon to save your spot for next summer!

Blessings,

**Greg**

Greg Anderson  
President

## IMPACT OF DONORS

Throughout Inspiration Point’s history, people have given generously to camp with the belief that their gifts would have an eternal impact. With camp’s move to the Twin Oaks location the goal has remained the same. We pray that the Lord will use the gifts given to the Impact Campaign for His glory by drawing campers to Himself at this new property. While there are still many projects to wrap up, bills to pay, and a loan to pay off, it is safe to say that the Lord is already showing us the impact of people’s generous giving. This summer thousands had an opportunity to enjoy the beauty of creation here at Twin Oaks and to hear of the hope found in Christ Jesus. Thank you, donors! Without you, this wouldn’t be possible!



**“I SUPPORT THIS CAMP BECAUSE I KNOW MY MONEY GETS A BANG FOR THE BUCK. LIVES ARE CHANGED FOREVER AT CAMP, AND I WANT TO BE A PART OF THAT.”**  
IPOINT DONOR

## IPOINT INTERNS



Left to right: Lydia Juhl, Taegan Crabtree, Gretchen Larson, Titus Christofferson, Leah Koltes

We are thrilled to welcome these five IPOINT Interns to our team this year. Please pray for them as they have jumped into a brand-new experiential learning opportunity. The mission of the IPOINT Internship is “to provide a wide variety of camp experience and teaching to young adults so they gain critical skills and understanding for life.” These individuals will learn to serve in areas such as program and event planning and implementation, site and facilities, guest services, and much more. We can’t wait to see the impact this program will have on these young adults and on the ministry of Inspiration Point.



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

## FAMILY TRADITION

### JOLENE KOWALSKI

My involvement with Inspiration Point began when I was a little girl. My father, Curt Kavlie, was one of the board members in the early days of its existence. I remember that Joan (Watson) Carson, who gave the initial down payment for the purchase of the land, was our family friend. My parents faithfully sent each of my siblings and me to IPoint for a week in the summer.

It was always a highlight. When I grew up and married my husband Dan, we settled in Moorhead and began attending Triumph Church. We have fond memories of attending couples retreats, men's and women's retreats, and later, family camp with our young children. Going to IPoint was always a special treat for us, and we waited with anticipation for the days when our own children would attend. Eventually, they were old enough to think about a summer job working there. All three attended the CIT program and then worked at IPoint. Although it wasn't the highest paying job they could have gotten as struggling young college students, the eternal rewards and life lessons they gleaned while working at camp far outweighed the monetary rewards. At the most formative years of our children's lives, they were surrounded by godly teachers and like-minded adult mentors who gifted them with leadership skills, cleaning skills, service skills, child management skills, and an eternal focus on taking care of God's world and the people He put in it. Our kids would tell you that it was the "Hardest Job They Ever LOVED!" We cannot thank IPoint enough for the impactful teaching our children received as a result of their attendance and employment there. It is fun to see our children's children falling in love with IPoint now. For the past two summers, three of our six grandchildren have attended "Grand Day Out," and this past summer, our oldest grandchild had his turn to attend by himself for a week. We feel like we have come full circle. Our children are now bringing their families to IPoint, and it has been a blessing to see them faithfully return each summer with other families who are their life-long friends that they met as a result of working there. In a nutshell, I guess you could say that our roots and our love for IPoint run deep. We are forever grateful to the Lord for IPoint and the eternal impact it has made within the lives of our family.



## MORE HOUSING

This fall, Twin Oaks completed construction on several motel-like rooms underneath the two Oak Point buildings. Each of the two buildings has three bedrooms with private bathrooms, and each bedroom sleeps up to six. There is also a small kitchen and gathering area in each building, making these perfect options for midweek volunteers, families, or other small gatherings. Watch for them listed on registration forms as the Oak Point Suites.



### JEFF & KAYLIE (KOWALSKI) RISBRUDT

Spending quality time with family seems to get more and more challenging every year. As kids, Kaylie and I both had the opportunity to attend camp as campers as well as family camp with our families where intentional family time and the Gospel were intertwined so beautifully. Now, as parents of three young children, we fully understand the importance of spending that intentional time with our own family. Inspiration Point is where our love for Jesus exploded as young campers, where He changed our lives, and eventually where He led both of us to serve on staff together at the same time.

After getting married and starting our own family, we have now attended family camp with many of our friends and their families for the last several years. It is a staple weekend we look forward to each summer. Spending time together as a family in God's creation, doing family devotions, and creating lasting friendships with other believers is powerful. Camp helped shape who we were as individuals, and now camp is helping us shape our family. We hope that our kids see that camp is the catalyst that can not only provide us with much needed family time but also be the place to provide a safe space for spiritual growth. Camp helps our family stay focused on what is important and Who is important. And for that we are so grateful!



## YEAR-ROUND STAFF HIGHLIGHT TOMMY OLSEN

I started working on summer staff in 2010 and quickly realized the reason I loved working at camp, and the reason I wanted to keep working at camp, was to serve God by loving campers. I worked as a counselor from 2010 to 2012 and pioneered the inaugural CheckPoint class in 2012-2013. My final summer on staff in 2013 I worked on the program team. In May of 2021 I joined the year-round staff as a part of both site and program teams. Since CheckPoint in 2013, I had worked on staff at a few churches in youth ministry, and most recently I worked building countertops at a shop in Fergus Falls, MN. When I heard there was an open position on year-round staff at IPoint, it was an opportunity I couldn't let pass me by. It's been an absolute pleasure and privilege to be back at camp, and I continue to love working for the ministry of serving God by loving campers. It's a blast to be able to do that in so many different facets. Driving the tractor, playing guitar, mowing grass, sending guests down the zip line, building adventure course events, writing bible studies, taking out the trash, and hosting guests have all been examples of such a fun variety of ways I've been so thrilled serving God and loving campers.



# SUMMER 2021 REVIEW

**GAMEDAY 2021** was a summer to celebrate the victory we have in Jesus! Enjoy a glimpse of what campers learned each day this summer!!

## MONDAY: GAME PLAN

*"For when the time had fully come, God sent His Son to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights as sons." Galatians 4:4-5*

"God had a plan from the beginning. Jesus was always Plan A. I also learned that God has a plan for us." - 8th grade boy

"Before God made us, He knew we would sin, but He made us anyway because He loves us so much." - 5th grade girl

## TUESDAY: GAME CHANGER

*God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:21*

"My salvation is not because of anything I have done, Christ did it all. He died for me because of His love." - 8th grade girl

"I learned about the exchange, death for robes of righteousness." - 6th grade girl

"Jesus had no sin and yet He died for the people who have sin—all of us." - 5th grade boy

## WEDNESDAY: GET IN THE GAME

*"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10*

"God gave everyone a special gift or talent. Pursue the one He gave you." - 6th grade girl

"I've been playing the game on the sidelines, but now I'm listening to God, my coach, and I'm in the game for real." - 10th grade boy

"I was reminded that we are to be active Christians instead of just 'wearing the jersey'." - 7th grade boy

## THURSDAY: END GAME

*"I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given to me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace." Acts 20:24*

"God has given us a SURE victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" - 6th grade girl

"We need not fear death. We have the certainty of heaven!" - 8th grade girl

"I learned that death is only the beginning of true life." - 11th grade boy



INSPIRATION POINT IS AN AWESOME CAMP. DURING GAMES, ACTIVITIES AND BIBLE STUDY, I JUST KEPT THINKING, 'I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE ANYWHERE ELSE.' JUNIOR HIGH CAMPER

## 2021 SUMMER STAFF

Join us in thanking the Lord for this incredible group of young adults who gave their lives away for the sake of the Gospel! They were faithful in proclaiming Christ, upheld the Word of God, served joyfully, celebrated individuals, made memories with campers, spurred on and forgave one another, and learned that the best life lived is the one given away. Through it all they gave thanks to God for the victory given to us through our Lord Jesus Christ! What an amazing crew God blessed us with this year. Thank you SUMMER STAFF of 2021!

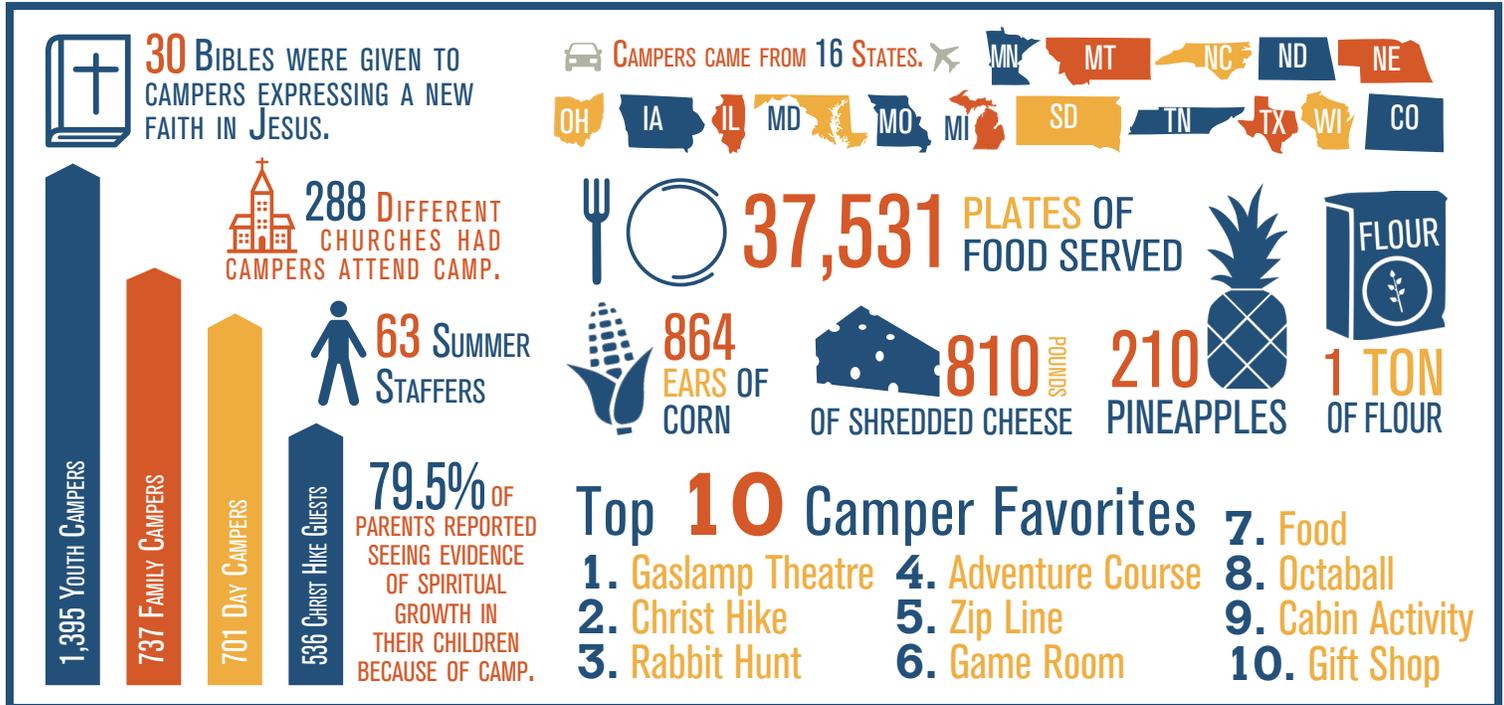


## EARLY REGISTRATION DISCOUNT!

**2022**  
SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS  
**SAVE \$35!**  
USE PROMO CODE:  
SUMMER2022

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

# SUMMER 2021 BY THE NUMBERS...



## SUMMER STAFF PERSPECTIVE



### ANDY LIEN

Working on staff at camp is unlike anything I have experienced. At times it was very challenging, but there is nothing more rewarding and worthwhile I could spend my summer doing. First, I was able to grow and serve with the best staff I could ever imagine. Each staff member is always ready and willing to help wherever they are needed. We all serve with the same desire and mindset: to share Jesus' love with every camper and give our lives away for God's glory. This results in a special bond. Second, getting to play, laugh, and have meaningful conversations with the campers was a daily highlight. My favorite part by far is getting to tell kids about how much Jesus loves them and what He has done for them. The staff at camp truly gets a front row seat to watch the Holy Spirit work in the lives of campers week in and week out. The Holy Spirit is present and at work at camp, and I am honored to get to be part of it.

### REBEKAH LAWATSCH

I got a front row seat to watching God transform lives this summer. A young woman who just experienced an incredible loss realized that she wanted her life to be about making Jesus known. I saw the beauty of simple, unquestioning faith in my little campers, and I pray daily that God will help me emulate them. I saw so many people trust Jesus for the first time. I watched high schoolers hit the reset button and go back to their schools on fire for the Lord, ready to take their place in the church with an abandon that I will spend my life working towards. I got to work alongside people who were passionate about the Lord and serving His people. I experienced life in a Godly community that can only be described as a little reflection of heaven—a place where distractions and complications are removed, and you're left with only people. I learned that service is a privilege. I came to camp with the intention of helping God further His kingdom, only to be hit with the reality that He doesn't need us to do His work. He lets us. He allows us to watch Him work and to be used by Him so that we can be encouraged in our faith. Service is a gift from God to His people. I had thought that I was coming to teach kids about Jesus, but the reality was that those kids showed Jesus to me. I think I learned far more from the campers God placed in my cabins than I could possibly have passed on to them, and I am so thankful that Jesus blessed me with a summer at IPoint.



## BEYOND THE POINT

### JARED RONNINGEN

“Meet them where they are at.” Those simple, yet powerful words regularly echo in my mind 15 years after serving on summer staff as a counselor at Inspiration Point. My campers were all at different places in their walks with Jesus, and we were always reminded to meet students wherever they were on that journey. It is easy to want to require people to be a certain way before we accept them; however, Jesus met people right where they were, sins and all.



At Inspiration Point, I was taught to accept people where they are at. This goes not only for my students, but for everyone in my life. If I look down on someone who isn't “good enough,” they will reject what I say, and my ministry becomes ineffective. Instead, I need to remember that Christ has accepted me and all my stains. When I do the same for others, His love can shine through me, and others can catch a glimpse of His unending grace. And this is the greatest lesson I could ever possibly share!



Jared worked at Inspiration Point during the summers of 2006 & 2007. He currently teaches Industrial Technology at Le-Sueur-Henderson Middle/High School in Minnesota.



## PATHFINDERS

### CINDY WALLER

Attending Pathfinders as the leader from Bethesda LBC in Eau Claire was truly a highlight of my summer! We arrived back at church about 7:30 PM, and my husband (who also attended as a leader) and I sat and chatted until midnight about the impact that camp had on so many of the individuals in our group! Accompanying this group to camp is honestly a very “life giving opportunity.” It makes me so happy to see how each of these individuals is truly cared for, regardless of their abilities. The week following this week for special-needs adults, I received several text messages from parents and campers.

“The young man that I brought to church on Sunday was not the same one that you brought back to me on Wednesday evening!”

“The experience that my son had was simply amazing, and he can't stop talking about it. I have even caught him singing various songs that I assume he learned while at camp!”

“We are thrilled with how much fun she had. I really have not seen her this happy in years. Thank you so much for encouraging her and making her feel so welcome.”

“Every day we ask our Pathfinder camper ‘what were three highlights from camp?’ Each day she names three different ones. Obviously, she loved everything!”

## FAMILY CAMP

### LUKE & ANGELA HANSEN

Several years ago when we first signed up for family camp, we simply thought it would be a great option for time away with friends where we could connect and not have to worry about the logistics of meals, lodging, and activities. Through the years it has been all that and so much more! Inspiration Point has been an anchoring point for our family to shift from the busyness of life and create margin to pour into building our family's foundation in Christ. From the awe of being surrounded by God's beautiful creation, to time spent in the Word, to incredible teaching, unparalleled staff, and endless options for activities, our time at Inspiration Point Family Camp continues to be a getaway that we highly prioritize and look forward to throughout the year. It has been such an incredible blessing in our lives, and I look forward to watching how God continues to use it as a tool to come alongside and strengthen families in Christ for years to come.



FAMILY CAMP IS A REFRESHING TIME TO GET AWAY AS A FAMILY AND HAVE FUN WHILE SEEKING THE LORD TOGETHER.

FAMILY CAMP GUEST

## 2022 SUMMER STAFF



If you have been around Inspiration Point before, you've probably heard the phrase "Lives are changed at camp!" It's true. The Lord does amazing things at this place—things we get to witness and participate in. Everyone, from counselor to cook, plays a vital role in this ministry. If you or someone you know are interested in joining our team for the summer of 2022, applications are available now on our website! Please join us in praying that the Lord will provide the staff to serve the campers and guests for Summer 2022.

WORKING AT INSPIRATION POINT HAS CHANGED MY LIFE. MY VISION HAS SHIFTED TO SEE EACH DAY AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPACT OTHERS AND TO HELP THEM DISCOVER THE JOY AND HOPE I HAVE FOUND IN CHRIST.

SUMMER STAFFER



## GET INVOLVED

The far-reaching ministry of Inspiration Point would not be possible without generous partnership with volunteers and donors. Each year hundreds stand in the gap providing time and resources that make camp possible. We want to say thank you to the many volunteers who have given of their time serving alongside the ministry here at Inspiration Point!



We have seen God use the work of our volunteers time and time again to bless thousands of people and further His Kingdom. If you haven't experienced this side of IPoint, now is a great time to consider joining our volunteer efforts. With our new location, Twin Oaks, we have many needs that can be met by volunteers, and we can't wait to plug people in!

Throughout the year we organize two Hands 2 Help volunteer events, one in the spring and one in the fall. Watch our Facebook page or mailings for more information about those two events. You can also give us a call or email [office@ipoint.org](mailto:office@ipoint.org), and we can connect you with a project that works for your schedule throughout the year. Whether you have a specific skill set you'd like to provide or just want to be plugged in wherever is needed, give us a call and join us out here at Inspiration Point as we continue in the exciting calling the Lord has for us!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MEN'S RETREAT

JANUARY 21-22, 2022

We get it! Getting away can be hard for guys, but we all need a little time away from the busyness of our everyday lives to have some fun, connect with others, and grow in our faith. Come out to Twin Oaks this winter and spend time in fellowship with other men and listen to a top-notch speaker.



### WINTER FAMILY CAMP

JANUARY 28-30, 2022

Need a place to enjoy some winter fun with your family? Look no further! We invite you to come out to Twin Oaks this winter for Winter Family Camp! Families will gather together for worship as well as play together in our great Minnesota winter wonderland. You can count on the great food and warm fellowship that you are used to at Inspiration Point along with activities for all ages. It is family camp but in January!



### SNOW FEST

FEBRUARY 4-6, 2022 | Grades 3-6

Tubing, good food, carpetball and Jesus. What more could you ask for at a weekend at IPoint? This brand new retreat is an awesome opportunity to spend time in the snow and in God's Word. Bring a friend and join the fun at our 3rd-6th grade winter retreat at Twin Oaks.





LUTHERAN BROTHERS BIBLE CAMP, INC.

# Inspiration Point

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## GET TO KNOW TWIN OAKS ZIP LINE

Strap on a harness, grab a helmet, and walk up the staircase to the platform that stands 14 feet high. After the lead technician clips you in and ensures safety, you are set to step off into the open air in front of you. Sound thrilling? Make you nervous? Those two different feelings were both present in most trips down our new 480-foot zip line this summer. More than 1,000 people of all ages enjoyed the thrill and overcame the nerves of a trip down the zip. What a joy it was to watch campers and guests connect this to trusting the Lord and learn that even more than trusting in this cable and harness to hold us safely down the zip line we can wholly trust God in the midst of thrill, fear and everything in between. His strength and care far exceed that of a zip line! Thank you to Lake Region Electric Association (Pelican Rapids, MN) for their gift of work, time and equipment to transport and set the poles. Thanks to each of YOU who gave to this project during Giving Hearts Day in February. Not only has the zip line been a fun addition to the activities at Twin Oaks, it has also provided another tool that God uses to grow and draw people to Himself.



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

