



INSPIRATIONS

Volume 26 - Issue 1
Spring 2022



A LOOK INSIDE:
HELPING KIDS TRY SOMETHING NEW | A DAY AT TWIN OAKS

GREETINGS FROM IPOINT



What a winter! The past few months were filled with snow, wind, and frigid temps, but events at Inspiration Point kept rolling along. Campers have enjoyed the excellent winter conditions as they skated, went cross-country skiing or snowshoeing, or raced down the tubing hill.

Sometimes we get asked what we do when it isn't summer. Well, we usually have guests on site (18 days in January) and typically hold 210 days of events each year, which doesn't leave a lot of time to address other items. To give you a quick

idea, since last summer, when we haven't been serving guests, our staff has registered thousands of summer campers and retreat guests, planned menus, regularly cleaned 50,000 sf of facilities, repaired broken items, produced videos, traveled to churches, undergone training, written messages, planned worship services, interviewed and hired staff, built two offices, moved [literally] tons of snow, fundraised, and the list goes on.

This is all done so that camp can "provide time, space, and Biblical teaching so people encounter and follow Christ." A pastor who attended a recent retreat with his students wrote, "Camp gives me a chance to take my students to a distraction-free place to build stronger relationships and point them to Jesus." We believe there is no better place to do that and are awed by the work that the Lord does in the lives of people while they're here.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Inspirations. You'll find it filled with testimony to God's work, the reason for and value of a camp experience, and lots of information about what is to come in the months ahead. Whom do you know that you could bring to camp? We'd love to see you at one of the upcoming retreats, a family camp or youth camp, or perhaps you'd enjoy joining us for a few days of volunteering!

Blessings,

Greg

Greg Anderson
President

FALL & WINTER RETREATS

NAVIGATE All of the teaching at the IPoint fall retreats for students centered around a little student book called "Navigating Culture" by Dr. Walt Mueller. Students learned that the world is full of influences. People, advertisements, places, and all sorts of media sources influence our lives and speak into our lives. Some of these influences point us to truth, while others lie. God has graciously given us His Word as a map and a guide for navigating life. It's the story of God's creation, the fall of humankind, and God's plan to redeem us and restore everything. God's Word is trustworthy and true. Psalm 119:160 says, "All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal." As Christ followers, we navigate the influences of the world by measuring them with the Word of God. When they match up, great! When they do not match up, we're called to live set-apart lives and follow the way God has mapped out for us.



"I WAS REMINDED THAT IN ALL OF OUR TROUBLES AND NEEDS, GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR US. WE MIGHT WANT HIM TO REMOVE OUR BURDENS, BUT THEY ARE GOOD. THEY HELP US GROW CLOSER TO GOD AND BECOME STRONGER." WINTER BLAST CAMPER

GRACE IS > Campers of all ages who attended winter events learned four ways to describe grace: love stooping down, unmerited favor, a gift of God, and a means of salvation. Our weekend was set up with three equations. Grace is > all of our sin. "The law was given so that sin would increase. But where sin increased, God's grace increased even more. Sin ruled and brought death, but grace rules in the lives of those who are right with God. The grace of God brings eternal life. That's because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done." Romans 5:20-21 Grace is > all our weakness. "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9 Grace is > all of our circumstances. "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

MORE FUN COMING

Inspiration Point is excited to add a Slide Mountain playground to the site this spring. The name says it all! Three slides, three climbers, and other components make this playground fun for children of all abilities. A big thank you to the donors who made it possible and to the volunteers who will make it ready!



I
Get Away.
Get Life.
Get to The Point.

HELPING KIDS TRY SOMETHING NEW

BY GREG ANDERSON

When I had finished fourth grade, I was invited to go to camp with some kids from our church. Having never been there before, I wondered what to expect and remember the feelings of nervousness as the day approached. That is a common way people of all ages can react to new experiences.

Over the past several years, we have seen a decrease in kids' willingness to try new things. Why? There could be many reasons: a fear of failing, fearing the unknown, or something else. Sometimes kids are scared to try something they haven't done before because they think that "everyone else is an expert." It is a big step to go to camp for the first time, but kids who do learn to summon courage and depend on God to be with them have an opportunity to grow and build new skills and perhaps experience something they really love.



How can parents help their child face new experiences? Here are several ideas:

- 1) Continually work to expose them to new things
- 2) Try new things together, i.e., things that are new to you, too!
- 3) Celebrate small wins
- 4) Remind them of past wins when they were able to say, "I did it!"
- 5) Remind your kids that God goes with them. We are promised in the Scriptures, "Never will I leave you. Never will I forsake you." What a great way to learn this.
- 6) Tell your kids that you believe in them and encourage them. The word encourage literally means "to turn toward." Your encouragement helps them turn toward a new experience with wind in their sails.

Then, regardless of the outcome, emphasize their effort and any improvement that might be present. Sure, it is possible that they could fail. However, failure IS an option, and it can help them learn to cope, develop grit, and become more resilient, all vital skills for living in our 21st-century world.



NO PLACE LIKE CAMP



A camper parent recently told of her son arriving at camp with one of his friends. Her son exclaimed to his friend, "Welcome to the best place on earth!" Years ago, another mom reported the story of her son's response to his teacher's question, "If you only had two weeks to live, what would you do?" Her son replied, "I'd sure try to squeeze in camp at Inspiration Point one more time." What is it about camp that elicits such feelings?

Truly, it is more than just the variety of recreation available, for there are many places in our world that offer more. It must be more than just the fun that will be had, for there are experiences that deliver beyond what camp can. So, what is it about camp?

Last summer, kids arrived at camp from 16 different states, coming from all different socioeconomic backgrounds and experiences. When they come together for a camp experience, there is a great leveling that occurs. You see, no one knows if your family has riches or struggles to get by. In fact, no one knows if you live with your family or not. Camp is a place of fresh starts and new beginnings, leveling the playing field. Kids get to be just kids.

Time and again, campers tell us that one of their favorite things about camp is that they feel safe here – physically, socially, and emotionally. There is an atmosphere of welcome and participation, and friendships are formed between who in other circles would be opposites.

Kids need time and space to consider who they are and the call on their lives by a holy God who loves them so. Whether talking with camp staffers or spending time alone reading their Bible, camp provides ample opportunity for them to assess their lives, respond to God's invitation to follow, and learn that they are not alone in the journey. Do you know someone who needs to squeeze in a camp experience this summer?



A DAY AT TWIN OAKS



FIRST WORD

T.A.G. TIME ALONE WITH GOD



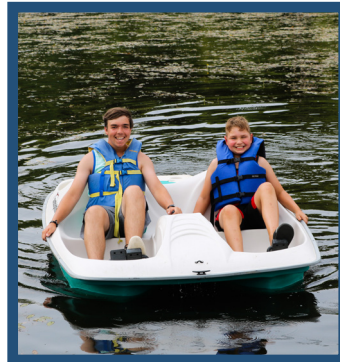
BIBLE STUDY

BREAKFAST



LUNCH

KOINONIA



FREE TIME





ADVENTURE COURSE

RABBIT HUNT



GASLAMP THEATRE

CABIN ACTIVITY



SUPPER

CAMPFIRE



CHRIST HIKE



BEYOND THE POINT

RICH MARTINSON

I served on staff at Inspiration Point from 2011 to 2016 in a variety of different roles. After spending several years living in Colorado after leaving camp, I now live in Duluth, MN with my wife, Laura, and our two-year-old daughter, Eloise.

One of my favorite parts of serving on staff at Inspiration Point was getting to see the body of Christ working toward a common mission. Each staff member possessed unique talents, and the Lord always combined them in a way that yielded fruit in the lives of campers. Nowadays, I get glimpses into the larger body of Christ at work throughout the world in my job with Compassion International.



Although my time on staff at camp has come to an end, the friendships that I formed, memories that I made, and principles that I learned during my time there continue to shape my life. One of my co-workers recently discovered the phrase, “If you see it, you own it.” To them, this was a new concept, but to me it was a decade-old guiding principle.

I first heard this powerful reminder when I joined summer staff. In the early days, “seeing it and owning it” applied to smaller things like wiping down a dirty table after a delicious camp meal. However, it has taken on greater meaning over the past decade and helped me establish a mindset of ownership and intentionality. Whether it’s in my role as a father, husband, employee, or Christ-follower, the opportunity is endless to “see and own” needs in my life and in our world. I’m thankful for this teaching that I first encountered out at camp, and I encourage you to look for ways “see and own” a need around you today!

WHAT PROVISION!

God has provided incredibly as Inspiration Point has purchased and built a brand new camp and retreat center, and by the end of this year there will be only \$1.8 million remaining to pay off the mortgage on the property!

If you haven’t yet participated in the IMPACT Campaign, an effort to fund the acquisition and construction of a new camp, we need your help. Thank you for considering how you might join in God’s work at and through Inspiration Point with a one-time gift, three-year pledge, or estate gift. You may also indicate your desire to partner financially with camp by visiting ipoint.org. Please also watch your mail for more information in the coming months. Your partnership counts!



SPITZER UPDATE

The final chapter at Spitzer Lake closed on November 30, 2021 with the sale of that property. While we grieve the loss, we praise and thank God for providing and using this special site for decades. Thousands of people of all ages point back to a time in their lives when God met them in a powerful fashion on the shores of Spitzer Lake. What a precious and enduring legacy! How marvelous to see how God provided a spectacular new location to carry out the ministry! All proceeds from the Spitzer sale were directed toward the mortgage at Twin Oaks.

FAMILY CAMP

JOHN & ANDRIA MESSELT

IPoint Family Camp has become a family summer tradition. It's an opportunity for us to play together, worship together, grow together AND do some fun things we wouldn't normally do, like have a campfire breakfast, sleep in an old train caboose, and laugh until we cry while watching the staff "Gaslamp Theater." Our kids talk about family camp and summer youth camp all year



long. We value the investment of the staff in our kids and know they're making an impact on our family!

It's also a way for Andria and I to grow closer together, helping us become better parents and stewards of our family's faith journey.

IPoint has become part of our family story, a place where we are creating lifelong memories together. It's the

first thing we add to our summer schedule! Thank you IPoint for pointing our family & people of all ages to Jesus!

GET INVOLVED

We often say around here that everything at Inspiration Point is a gift. The reality is that people give to camp in many ways. Much of the work that happens at Inspiration Point is a result of the gift of volunteering. From working in the Office, to the Oak Point Suites, to the Northern Pine craft building, to the Caboose, to all sorts of work outside, our volunteers' fingerprints are all over this place and have helped make ministry possible here. We want to say a special thank you to our friends at Bethesda Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI who have worked on each of these projects listed! They regularly send crews of 10+, sometimes multiple times a year. This consistent help is such a blessing. If you want to be a part of the volunteer work happening at Twin Oaks, give our office a call or send an email to aj@ipoint.org. We can use volunteers any time, but a great time to join us is for our spring Hands 2 Help event. All are welcome that day to help us prepare for our busy summer season!

"GOD IS MOVING IN THIS PLACE, AND IT'S EXCITING TO BE A PART OF IT."

BETHESDA VOLUNTEER



UPCOMING EVENTS

HANDS 2 HELP

MAY 4-7, 2022

Volunteers are key to the ministry of Inspiration Point! Each year we rely on volunteers to help with us with special projects around camp that we wouldn't be able to accomplish without their help. Hands 2 Help is a special opportunity for people of all ages and skills to get involved in the ministry of Inspiration Point.



FAMILY CAMP

There is something for everyone at Inspiration Point's popular family weekends. You can expect delicious meals, a setting where you can really relax and know your kids are safe, worship and growth opportunities for all ages, and a staff that will "knock your socks off!" Join us – you'll want to come back again!

FAMILY WEEKEND DATES

FW1: June 16-19, 2022

FW3: June 30-July 3, 2022

FW4: July 7-10, 2022

FW5: July 21-24, 2022

FW6: July 28-31, 2022

FW7: August 4-7, 2022

FW8: August 12-14, 2022



CHRIST HIKE

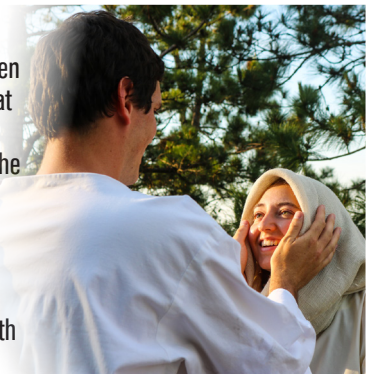
Step back 2,000 years into the days when Jesus walked the earth. Experience what it may have been like to follow Him... literally. Please join us and experience the powerful retelling of this life-changing, true story.

PERFORMANCE DATES:

June 14th, 17th, 22nd, 28th

July 1st, 5th, 8th, 13th, 19th, 22nd, 29th

August 3rd, 5th, 10th, 16th



GRAND DAY OUT

JUNE 22, 2022 OR JUNE 23, 2022



Join us for this intergenerational day trip to Inspiration Point. Your day will include... Chapel, Bible study, games, crafts and activities like swimming, campfire, climbing tower and so much more! Grandchildren involved must be entering kindergarten through entering sixth grade.



LUTHERAN BROTHERS BIBLE CAMP, INC.

Inspiration Point

CHRISTIAN CAMP + RETREAT CENTER

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follow camp on social media!



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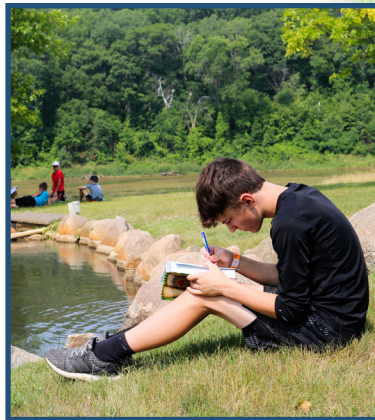
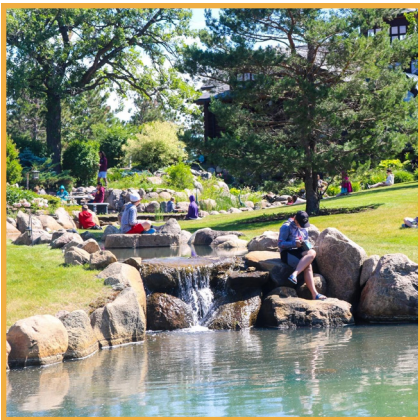
218-338-5379



OFFICE@IPOINT.ORG

GET TO KNOW TWIN OAKS THE STREAM

Research shows that the outdoors “makes us happier, healthier, calmer, more creative and more capable of awe. The mere sight and sound of water produces a flood of neurochemicals that promote wellness and relaxation.” (qz.com, a global business news outlet, 8/15/2018). Nestled between Twin Oaks Lodge and the wooded hillside beyond the boating pond lies a winding stream with several ponds and two waterfalls surrounded by stunning landscaping, making this a favorite spot for relaxing, reading, and taking family photos. During summer youth camps, it is also where we gather daily for TAG (Time Alone with God). Imagine the benefits when we spend 15-20 minutes of solitary Bible reading in this serene area! Even the youngest or most restless campers name this as a favorite experience.



Get Away. Get Life. Get to The Point.

