



INSPIRATIONS

Volume 27 - Issue 1
Spring 2023



A LOOK INSIDE:

SUMMER 2023 PREVIEW | 60 YEARS OF MINISTRY | HIGH ROPES COURSE

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

GREETINGS FROM IPOINT



A couple of summers ago, we received a note from a pastor who wrote, "It literally feels like yesterday that I was serving at IPoint. God used my summers of serving on staff in some life-changing ways, and many of those ways are still impacting my life today. There's just something about camp that is hard to find anywhere else." That young adult spent the equivalent of one year of his life serving at camp and being trained for the future. God uses this setting to do work that is vital not only in the lives of individuals and families, but for the Church as a whole.

Barna Research reported in its 2017 Pastors Poll that 60% of U.S. pastors attended camp as a youth, and of those, 96% reported it was instrumental in their faith. Furthermore, 39% of U.S. pastors report that they received their call at a Christian camp. How does that play out at Inspiration Point? Since 2012, 50% of those who have attended an Inspiration Point post-high school gap-year program (CheckPoint or, now IPoint Interns) went on to serve in full-time ministry. Furthermore, more than 90% of IPoint's staff members assist or lead a ministry following their summer of service at camp!

I hope you'll enjoy reading this issue containing several stories of how God has used time spent at camp to impact lives with the Gospel. Watch for opportunities for you and your family to join in God's good work at and through Inspiration Point. We would love to see you!

As you read, you'll also catch a glimpse of some of the future recreation plans being put into place – tools we use to teach, train, encourage, and equip.

Thank you for reading. I trust you'll enjoy and be encouraged!



Greg Anderson
President

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



COMING SUMMER 2023: HIGH ROPES COURSE

Is the High Ropes Course fully funded?

Yes! We are so grateful for the generosity of many donors who raised the money needed to complete the project! Thank you to everyone who gave to make this project possible.

How is the building progress for the High Ropes Course coming along?

So far, we have the course designed and all of the materials ordered. The ground has been cleared and prepped, and the poles are in the ground. We are so grateful to Otter Tail Power Company for donating the labor and equipment to dig and set the poles! The next step of the building process during the month of March is to set anchors in the ground and rig cables, called guy lines. These will go from the ground anchors to the poles, and from each pole in a line to the other poles to give the course its form, structure, and strength. During the weeks of April 9th and 16th, we will be working to build the tower and stairs, mount platforms, and hang elements and belay cables.

How will the High Ropes Course be used to further the mission of Inspiration Point?

When anyone attempts the high ropes course, they have the opportunity to take action and have faith in ways that allow them to encounter God uniquely. First, they bring their God-given physical ability to a unique physical challenge. 1 Corinthians 10:31, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." Scripture shows us we can bring glory to God in the action of attempting the ropes course. Second, they bring their human limitations and fears to a uniquely limiting environment with real and present physical risks. Psalm 23:4, "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." Scripture shows us we can trust in God's presence and comfort when we experience fear in the action of attempting the ropes course. We also see our limitations are not God's limitations, and we need to rely on God's strength, because ours will fail. Third, they bring their willingness and resolve to follow a course that requires faith and trust in an object to hold them fast. Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Scripture shows us we can be sure in the hope that we have when the object of our hope is trustworthy. We can show we are able to trust God when we trust a belay device in the action of attempting the ropes course.





ROCK SOLID

INSPIRATION POINT 2023

SUMMER 2023 PREVIEW

Students are asking questions like “What can I count on?” and “How can we know for sure that God is real?” These questions come from experiencing unexpected change, unmet expectations, disappointments and uncertain times. When we experience these things, we can tend to doubt or wonder if anything is reliable. **ROCK SOLID** was designed to point campers and guests to the undeniable certainty of a Creator God who loves us, gave His Son to redeem us and is the rock-solid foundation on which we can build our lives. Our theme verse, Psalm 62:2 says that “God alone is our Rock and our salvation. He is our fortress. We will never be shaken.”

Our daily themes teach campers the Good News that in Christ we have a **SECURE SALVATION** (Monday), a **FIRM FOUNDATION** (Tuesday), an **INDISPUTABLE VALUE** (Wednesday) and a **STEADFAST SHELTER** (Thursday). Every day, we are teaching and demonstrating the Gospel message – that we are made right with God by grace through faith in Jesus, and we can build our entire lives on this Solid Rock.



At Inspiration Point, we connect young people to a Christian community, engage in Bible study and personal time in the Word, foster conversations that count, and show campers that our faith is relevant in every aspect of the day. Of course, we have a ton of fun throughout our days at the pool, high ropes course, game room, climbing wall, racetrack, volleyball court, fishing/boating pond and so much more!

We’re praying that God will use the theme **ROCK SOLID** to fill campers with joy and peace as they trust in Him, so that they may live their lives overflowing, NOT with doubts, but with HOPE! May each camper that attends Inspiration Point in 2023 “trust in the Lord forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the ROCK eternal.” Isaiah 26:4

Who do you know that should experience a life-changing week of camp at Inspiration Point?

“THIS PLACE HAS COMPLETELY CHANGED MY FAITH WALK. IT ALTERED THE COURSE OF MY LIFE AND CHANGED ME INTO THE PERSON I’VE BECOME. THERE ARE PEOPLE IN MY LIFE WHO SAY THEY ENVY HOW STRONG MY FAITH IS AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE. I TRULY BELIEVE CAMP IS WHAT ALLOWED ME TO GROW SO MUCH.”

SENIOR HIGH CAMPER

For more information or to register for Summer 2023, visit ipoint.org or scan the QR Code.



60 YEARS OF IMPACTFUL MINISTRY

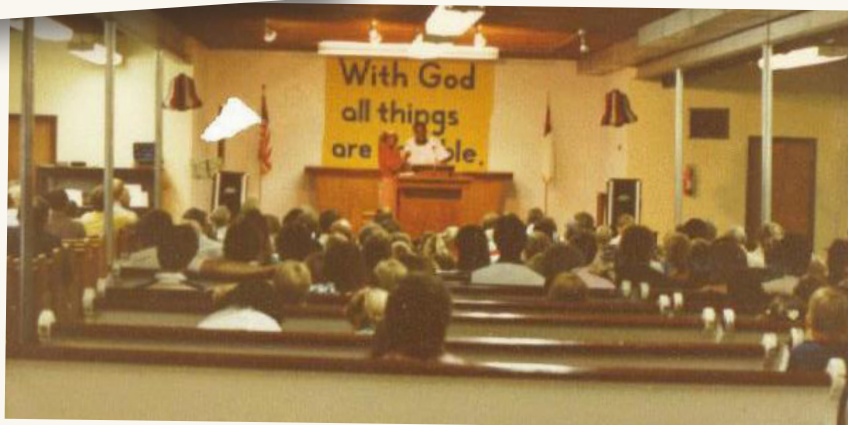
God led a group of people to step out in faith and purchase a peninsula on Spitzer Lake in Central Minnesota, and the ministry was dedicated to God 60 years ago in 1963. Since its inception, tens of thousands of lives have been significantly, perhaps eternally, impacted through this ministry. Inspiration Point has been, and will continue to be, about helping people grow in their relationship with Christ and each other. Whether a child, teen, adult, or family, God touches them all through the power of His Word and the “still small voice” of His Spirit while at camp.

Although much has changed over the years, including the location itself, much remains the same.



Worship Services

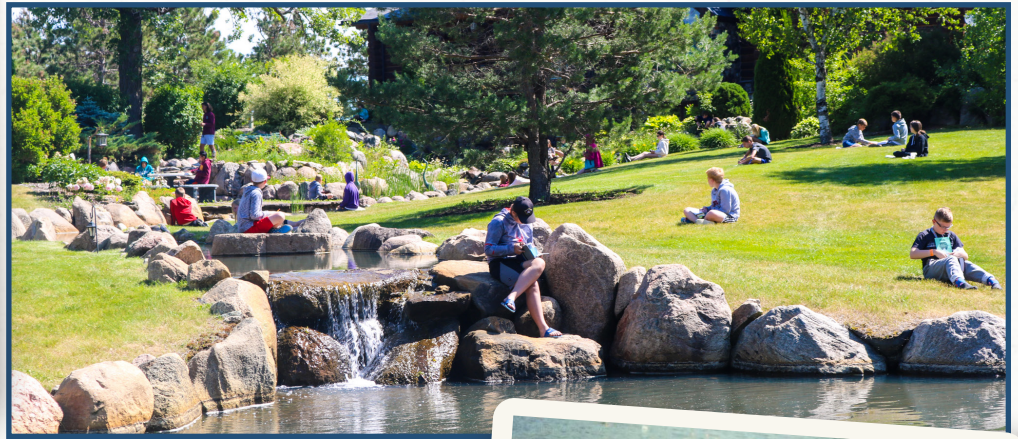
The entire camp gathers together each day for Koinonia, which means “fellowship.” Components of that time include music, a skit that teaches a lesson on the theme, and a message from a speaker.





Bible Study

One of the primary reasons for providing a camp experience is so that students have time for concentrated Bible study. This has been a staple of the ministry since its inception. Each day following Koinonia, campers interact with scripture on their own during Time Alone with God (TAG) and then along with their cabin group, led by a trained staff member, where they focus on the daily theme.



Recreation

A third component of a camp experience centers around being active. From the beginning, camp at Inspiration Point has offered opportunities for fun. At the Spitzer property, the lake was the focal point.

Activities at the Twin Oaks property are centered around adventure and the outdoors. The zipline has become a favorite, and the new Tower Hill Aerial Park will be a hit this summer. The property also has a pond for paddleboating and canoeing, and a small pool. Plans are to add a larger pool, splashpad, gymnasium, and other activities in the coming years.



What began in the late 1950s as a desire to have “a summer camp of our own,” God has expanded. Founding board member, Wally Erickson, once exclaimed, “We never dreamt it could be like this!” Inspiration Point served people on 235 days in 2022 and welcomed summer campers from 294 different churches in 18 states. In addition to summer youth and family camps, Inspiration Point also hosts retreats throughout the year, training events, and outdoor education for private, public, and homeschool.

God has used Inspiration Point to minister to hundreds of thousands over the decades. Those who have witnessed God in action at this camp – those whose lives have been changed forever as a result of time spent here – know firsthand the value of an Inspiration Point experience.

Lives are changed, impacted, and equipped at camp!

BEYOND THE POINT

INTERVIEW WITH JOSIAH MILITZER, GRANT KRIEG, & SAWYER BRUNKOW BY KARA ANDERSON

One of the primary ministries of Inspiration Point is to train and equip young leaders to serve in the church. Each summer, our staff discover true joy in sharing the Gospel and often leave with an eagerness to continue serving. Josiah Militzer, Grant Krieg, and Sawyer Brunkow served a combined twelve years on our summer staff and completed Checkpoint together. Since finishing their time at camp, each of these three men have stepped into full-time ministry positions. They are currently using the gifts that God has developed in them and are putting into action the skills that they learned at Inspiration Point.



Grant, Sawyer, and Josiah explained that camp was a training ground that prepared them for the roles in which they currently serve. They shared that camp was the place where they learned to teach a Bible Study for the first time. Camp was the place where they were pushed out of their comfort zone and encouraged to do new things. Camp was the place where they learned to walk alongside people who have questions about the Bible. Camp was the place where they gained confidence to speak in front of others. Camp was the place where they learned servant leadership. Camp was the place where they learned the beauty of God's strength showing up in our weakness. Camp was the place where they began to desire hard work for the glory of God. Sawyer said, in summary, that "camp taught him practical, personal, and spiritual skills that have impacted the way he does ministry every single day."

For years, God has used Inspiration Point as a place to call individuals to serve in the church. Sawyer described his call into ministry like this: "As I spent my summers at camp and sat through the Checkpoint discipleship program, I became aware of my LOVE for teaching God's Word. I sat under biblical teaching every single day and I began to see its transformative power. Because of this, I started eagerly looking forward to opportunities where I could share the Good News of Jesus. I would watch students get excited about reading their Bibles, and began thinking to myself, 'I could do this for my whole life!'" Josiah expressed that the Lord used camp to show him what it is like to be on the "front lines" of what God is up to in the lives of students. Week after week, God grew a love in his heart for the campers that he invested in, and later, he sensed a desire to partner with the local church so he could invest in students on a consistent basis throughout the year.

Even in their new roles, these three young men have expressed the desire to remain connected to camp as partners in the Gospel. Grant shared that he is glad to be involved at camp year round, as he sends students to camp, attends retreats alongside them, and encourages many to pursue working at camp themselves. Josiah, in reference to sending his youth to camp, said, "I love knowing that my students will be met with God's Word at Inspiration Point. I love knowing that they'll exist in a community at camp where distractions are removed. I love knowing that they'll have conversations that count." He also shared, on a personal note, that he is looking forward to sending his own kids to camp as they grow up. He anticipates that camp will be a place where they will build lifelong friendships and grow deep roots in the Lord.



Staff at Inspiration Point learn to give their life away for the sake of the Gospel. They learn to die to self and to act as the hands and feet of Jesus. While they sacrifice day after day, they also experience a multitude of reasons to be thankful. Josiah shared, "I am extremely thankful for the kingdom perspective that I gained throughout my time at camp. It brought me to a place of viewing the Gospel as a way of life. It provided me with a solid, biblical worldview." Grant and Sawyer both expressed a gratitude for the relationships that they built. Grant explained that most of his relationships before camp were shallow, but as he spent time in Christ-centered community, with people who desired the same things as him, he built friendships that will last a lifetime.

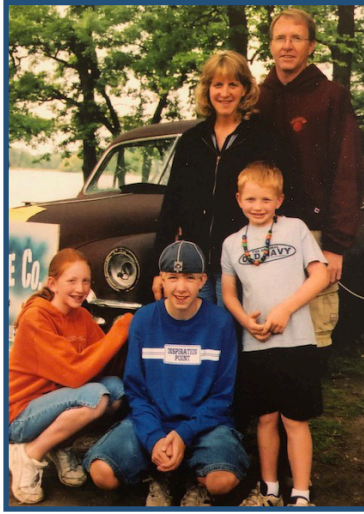
We are deeply grateful for the way that God uses the ministry of camp to train, equip and call young leaders to serve Him with their lives. Grant, Sawyer, and Josiah – thank you for your continued partnership with Inspiration Point! It is a joy to watch God use you to point students to Himself!



FAMILY CAMP IMPACT

TODD & MARY JOHNSON

We began attending family camp in the early 90s when we were just starting our family. It was an easy decision to make family camp a priority in our summer schedule. We loved the quality programming for all ages, connecting with staff who truly cared for our kids, and vacationing with a purpose. Since our kids grew up at family camp, they transitioned well to attending youth camp, as it felt like a second home to them. That was important to us, because we knew any time spent at camp meant they would grow in their relationship with Jesus, and they would be equipped to serve God and others. Now, as our three children are adults and our family has grown, we continue to enjoy attending family camp together.



Our son Jacob said, "At a young age I loved family camp for the bonus time with the summer staff outside of youth camp. It was also at family camp when a counselor encouraged me to apply for camp staff, where I ended up serving for many summers."

Kayla stated, "I have great memories from camp growing up, which has kept my desire to continue attending camp to pursue growth in Christ and have fun with family."

Erika said, "Knowing the positive impact family camp had on my life as a little kid is only one of the many reasons we bring our family each year. It's a time to pause and connect with God and each other."

Camp provides a beautiful setting for us to spend intentional time together away from the distractions of life and carry on traditions that have been established through the excellent programming provided.



UPCOMING EVENTS

HANDS 2 HELP

MAY 3-6, 2023

Join us this spring for Hands 2 Help! Volunteers are key to the ministry of Inspiration Point. Each year we rely on volunteers to help 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.



SUMMER FAMILY WEEKENDS

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!

- FW1:** June 16-18
- FW2:** June 22-25
- FW3:** June 29-July 2
- FW4:** July 14-16
- FW5:** July 20-23
- FW6:** July 27-30
- FW7:** August 3-6
- FW8:** August 11-13



GRAND DAY OUT

JULY 3, 2023

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.



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.

2023 CHRIST HIKE PERFORMANCES

- June 14, 20, 23, 27, 30 (Seating at 7:30)
- July 5, 12, 18, 21, 28 (Seating at 7:15)
- August 1, 4, 9, 15 (Seating at 7:00)





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Inspiration Point

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GET TO KNOW TWIN OAKS

CAMPFIRE

When people think of camp, one of the first things that often comes to mind is singing around a fire while sitting under the stars. It is a trademark of the camp experience. Whether the time includes singing camp songs or viewing the end of a Christ Hike, nearly every night at IPoint ends at this location. Closing the evening this way provides intentional time to process the day and recap what the campers have learned. One evening this past summer, a staff member asked the campers, "What are some ways that we can see evidence of God's love for us?" A young camper raised his hand, pointed to the cross, located right in front of the campfire spot, and said, "We can see it right there!" Another tradition at camp is a closing campfire, held on the last night of every week. This time allows students to share what God has taught them during their time at camp. One student last summer shared, "This week, I was reminded to live with an eternal perspective, because the things of this world will pass away, but the things of God never will." Another said, "This week, God showed me that my life should be all and only about sharing the Gospel." Our campfire spot at Twin Oaks has become a special location where truths of God's Word are proclaimed over and over again!



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