



Inspirations

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



A LOOK INSIDE:

2017 SUMMER
REVIEW

THE VALUE OF
A RETREAT

CHECKPOINT
TURNS FIVE

GREETINGS FROM INSPIRATION POINT

You can't imagine how difficult it is to take a summer's worth of stories and condense them into an eight-page newsletter. If the limit was eighty pages, I wonder if that would even be adequate! This issue of Inspirations is our attempt to tell the stories of these past months.

Once again, with thanksgiving to God we announce, "What a summer it was!" Youth and family camps ran at capacity, we welcomed 300+ people to our All-Staff Reunion in July, and thousands more were impacted by the time they spent at this special place. As we reflect, we are thankful for so much: the opportunities we had to share the good news of Jesus Christ, the impact of that message, the safety we enjoyed, and the list goes on. We are also grateful for the 79 staff members who were trained, served for 12 weeks, and have now returned to serve in their local churches!

At the same time, Inspiration Point's ministry doesn't stop just because summer is over! We welcomed nine students to CheckPoint, our nine-month ministry training and leadership program, and we're off and running with retreats for all, while hosting schools, colleges, churches, and many others in helping them achieve their missions.

It doesn't take much time to read through this publication, but I do hope you enjoy seeing how God continues to use this place we call Inspiration Point!

We hope to see you soon!



Greg Anderson
President

Get Away.
Get Life.
Get to The Point.



A GIFT FROM DAY CAMPERS

Emmaus Road Church in DeWitt, Iowa has a tradition during their week of Day Camp.

What is the tradition? Giving.

Every summer, the kids that attend this Day Camp give offerings all throughout the week. The total amount collected is then given to an organization, a different one each year. Often they give to those within their local community, which allows them to support and give back to those closest to them. At times they are even able to correlate the organization with the summer theme. For example, in 2011 the theme was "Built 2 Last," and their offering was given to Habitat for Humanity. This year the offering was given to camp to buy Bibles. With the amount given, we were able to purchase 200 Bibles to give to campers who need or do not have one. This offering is an incredible gift that allows us to give away the BEST gift -- God's Word.

Thank you Emmaus Road Day Camp kids for your generosity!



"Camp is a really good learning experience and a great time to grow spiritually."
-6th Grader



THE VALUE OF A RETREAT

Beep. Beep. Beep. The alarm sounds. You roll out of bed and hurry to get ready for the day. After frantically packing lunches and backpacks, you send the kids out the door to catch the school bus. You rush out the door right behind them to get to work. Somewhere on the road between basketball practice and piano lessons, you squeeze in a bite to eat and call it supper. As your head hits the pillow at night you wonder, "How did life get so busy?"

In the midst of the busyness of life, a retreat can offer much value. Whether you are gathering for a family reunion, a board meeting, or church retreat, there are benefits of getting away to a new environment. A retreat offers time and space.

When our best intentions fall flat, time or lack thereof is often a critical factor. Retreats are an opportunity to hit the pause button for a weekend and zero in on what is important. A retreat offers time to think, reflect, and connect. "Camp is an amazing time away from everyday life to dig deeper into God's Word without the distractions of our daily routine," said a family camp guest.

In addition to the time set aside, camp offers a place to rest from our over-stimulated culture. A recent retreat guest said this about her time at camp, "It was refreshing both mentally and physically. It was three days of not feeling the weight of all the stress in life."

Life can be stressful; rest is something we all need. In Mark 6:31 Jesus gives us an invitation, "Come away with me, by yourselves, to a quiet place and get some rest." We echo this invitation and encourage you to use Inspiration Point as a time and space to retreat with Jesus for some much needed rest.

ALL-STAFF REUNION 2017

On the weekend of July 21-23, 180 current and former summer staffers and their families gathered for an All-Staff Reunion. It was a complete joy to "Welcome Home" these people who have served Inspiration Point over the last 27 years. We had a great time sharing stories of God's faithfulness. While sitting around our evening campfire, one summer staffer said, "I will never forget all the times God provided energy and strength. I will never forget the lives changed and the evidence of God's power."

Every summer, God puts together the most incredible staff to serve the campers and guests who arrive on the IPoint peninsula. For over 27 years, staff members have cared for kids by showing them the love that Christ shows us on a daily basis. "At IPoint, God taught me the joy that comes from working hard, forgiveness, and that the best life lived is the one given away," reflected one staffer.

There is no way to fully show our appreciation for these people who give up their summers to serve at Inspiration Point. We are so thankful for all these beautiful families who came back "home" to Inspiration Point for All-Staff Reunion.

A SPECIAL THANKS

We are so thankful for all of the groups and individuals that gave of their time and resources to come alongside us at camp! Just a few examples:

- Thank you to the donors that contributed funds to add a deck onto one of our existing buildings and sending volunteers to build it! Marlon Kinrade, Sheldon Kinrade, and Brian Reighard drove eight hours through the night and spent all day working hard to get it done. We are so thankful for your dedication!
- Thank you to all of our Spring Hands 2 Help volunteers, including Tiras Banks, who used his knowledge as an electrician to help us install lighting along two roads. Many folks noticed and appreciated it!
- Thank you to Fred and Eileen Fetzer, who made two trips from Eau Claire to volunteer helping us get ready for summer!
- Thank you to Miriam Haugen, Swedberg Nursery, Natures Garden World, and Lakes Country Garden for helping us keep camp beautiful with flowers and plants.



SUMMER 2017 REVIEW

Our 2017 theme verse says, "I lift up my eyes to the mountains, where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:1-2) All summer at Inspiration Point, we looked up to the Maker of the mountains for help. We looked to Him to help us understand, grow our faith, and give us a clearer picture of who He is and what He has done for us. God was faithful to help individuals of all ages see things more clearly and grow in their faith! Here are two examples of the many lives that were impacted.

"At camp I learned that we will all face difficult terrain and valleys in life, but God will help us through it. He is powerful and He is faithful. He will be with us every step on the journey. Now God has given me a drive to go down the mountain and share His amazing message of love with others."
- 10th Grader

"On the mountaintop called the camp staff experience, I learned to look at life through the Gospel. With this perspective, I see campers as God's creation in need of the love of Jesus rather than just a bunch of kids in my cabin. Looking at life through the Gospel gives me clarity of purpose, because I am part of something bigger than myself as I'm called to encourage others to be closer to Christ. This clarity of focus helps me handle the valleys in life and enjoy the peaks even more! Gospel vision drives me to go out each day with strength and confidence knowing that I am secure in Christ, the message is too good to keep, and Jesus is by my side every step of the way."
- Grant Krieg, counselor



A SUMMER STAFFERS REFLECTION - TROY FULLER

This past summer, I worked at Inspiration Point, a place I had been to only once. A lot of crazy things happened to get me there in the first place. I now realize how God had woven everything into place and was opening doors for me to work at camp. It's amazing how God works.

I came into the summer with little connection to Inspiration Point. I had no idea what I was getting into. I will admit it was intimidating and a little scary. I can say now that working at camp was easily the best decision I have made in my life. I am so thankful that God gave me the opportunity to be in a place like Inspiration Point.

Throughout staff training, I had multiple people come alongside me and help me. They loved me with the love of Christ and pointed me to God like no one ever has before. Being surrounded by a group of people who love and serve God with all their hearts helped me learn a few things. I learned how to serve people out of love and with the love of Christ, rather than doing it to make myself feel good or impress others. I loved kids and intentionally invested in people in a way I never had before. Camp helped me become a better brother and son for my family. I learned how to

lead a bible study, clean bathrooms and do dishes, all while having a blast doing it.

The one thing that has impacted me the most from camp is learning that I can rest in the fact that Christ supplies all my needs. I won't always say or do things correctly, but He is always with me. I don't need to be anybody else or fulfill anyone else's purpose; God has a beautiful and perfect plan for my life. I may have been exhausted or overwhelmed during the summer, but God filled me up every single day. He was faithful to give me the strength when I felt empty, and let me tell you, empty has never felt so full.

"Camp is a place where I can grow in my faith and be reminded of my worth." – 11th Grader

SUMMER 2018 EARLY REGISTRATION

Register early and save \$35! Summer 2018 youth camp registrations paid in full by December 1 receive a \$35 early registration discount. Use promo code **SUMMER2018** when you register online.

THANK YOU SUMMER STAFFERS



What a crew! We are so grateful for these 79 individuals that helped make camp happen this summer. If you are interested in joining us for the summer of 2018, applications will be available on our website in November.

LOG ROLLING!



Log Rolling was a new addition to our waterfront this summer and was a huge hit.



Summer 2017

BY THE NUMBERS...

Campers came from **18** states
and **2** countries.

STATES:
CO, CT, FL, IA, IL, MD,
MI, MO, MN, MT, NC, ND,
NE, NV, SD, TX, WA, & WI

COUNTRIES:
USA & CANADA



475 first-time campers



283 different churches
had campers attend camp.

441 Christ Hike Guests

86% of parents
reported seeing evidence
of spiritual growth in their
children because of camp.



25 Bibles were
given to campers
expressing a new
faith in Jesus.

1,650 Youth Campers

1,378 Day Campers

1,010 Rental Group Guests

870 Family Campers



43,191

PLATES OF FOOD SERVED.



4,080

BURGERS GRILLED



1,900

GALLONS OF MILK



42 GALLONS
OF MAPLE SYRUP



2,790

SLICES OF PIZZA

Top
10

Camper Favorites



1. Gaslight Theater
2. Christ Hike
3. Adventure Course
4. Rabbit Hunt
5. Octoball
6. Cabin Activity
7. Staff/Counselors
8. Food
9. Camp Store
10. TAG (Time Alone with God)

CHECKPOINT CLASS OF 2018

We are excited to welcome the CheckPoint class of 2017-2018: Mali Larson, Carl Juhl, Jacob Johnson, Nate Christenson, Emily Pribbenow, Allison Rogness, Hannah Juhl, Jenna Law, and Kara Anderson. Please pray for these nine CheckPoint students as they take this next year to study God's Word, develop ministry and leadership skills, and serve at Inspiration Point. CheckPoint Applications for the 2018-2019 academic year are available online at www.ipoint.org.



PLANNED GIVING: HAVE YOU REMEMBERED INSPIRATION POINT?

God has changed the lives of countless children, youth, and adults over the years at camps and retreats at Inspiration Point. As people spend time away, they have opportunity to rest, spend time with others, and grow in their faith in Jesus Christ.

As you plan for the future, you can help provide the foundation for ministry at Inspiration Point for years and years to come. Planned giving enables you to establish a gift arrangement now – one that meets your wishes, meets current financial goals and obtains tax benefits, creates a stream of lifetime income, and provides a gift to Inspiration Point.

As you consider your future, thank you for keeping Inspiration Point in mind. Your giving will make a difference in the lives of others. If you would like to explore this, please contact Greg Anderson at the camp office. We work with several trusted financial advisors who can help you meet your goals while blessing the work that God does at Inspiration Point.

"At camp, I learned we have a mission...to live out our faith and share our lives with others." – 9th Grader

CHECKPOINT TURNS FIVE

TONY ROGNESS

In the first week of September, nine students arrived to begin a new year of CheckPoint. I was reminded of the day five years ago when we launched CheckPoint with four students and a plan for training them with the knowledge, skills and dispositions that would prepare them well for a lifetime of ministry. This year, as we begin our fifth class of CheckPointers, our current class of nine brings the total number of CheckPointers, current students and graduates, to 40. We have studied, evaluated and improved CheckPoint through these first five years, but our commitment to ministry and leadership training has never wavered.

As of May 2017, 31 young adults have graduated from CheckPoint. Of those graduates, 18 have gone on to serve in either full-time or part-time paid positions in a congregation or ministry organization. The others have become valued volunteer leaders in a wide range of positions. CheckPoint grads are currently serving many as leaders in children's ministry and youth ministry, as worship leaders, as small group/bible study leaders, in young adult ministry, and in church staff positions like administrative assistant, receptionist and church secretary. Others have gone on to take positions in schools and in communities working with children or youth and are using the skills they learned at CheckPoint to speak into the lives of people who may not otherwise have opportunities to hear Truth, spoken in love, by someone who genuinely cares about them.

Looking back on the past five years, it is clear that CheckPoint is making a difference. One of the first CheckPoint graduates said that the things he learned in CheckPoint have been "incredibly long-lasting lessons that are very valuable in all areas of [his] youth ministry." A pastor of a congregation that hired a CheckPointer said, "He came to us equipped, ready to jump into ministry, and ready to become a part of our ministry team. He was ready to take on whatever we asked of him."

As we look forward to another year of CheckPoint, please pray that God will work in the lives of these students and prepare them for the ministries in which they will serve. He has been faithful to this for the past five years. I know He will be faithful to this class of CheckPointers as well.



Sr. HIGH WINTER WEEKEND

FEBRUARY 9-11, 2018 &

FEBRUARY 16-18, 2018

In order to give more high schoolers the opportunity to experience IPoint in the winter, we've added a second Sr. High Winter Weekend. Join us for some cross-country skiing, a run down the snow tubing hill, or a game of broomball. Inspiration Point's very own John Osmundson will be our speaker as we dig deep into God's Word.



Registrations paid in full by January 12 (SHWW1)/January 19 (SHWW2) receive a \$25 early registration discount.

"My faith grows deeper at camp. I learned I am not defined by the world, but by who I am in Christ."

– 10th Grader



SCHOLARSHIP DONORS MAKE A BIG IMPACT

In addition to scholarship funds provided by churches, Inspiration Point was able to award a total of \$47,387.50 to help 214 kids get to camp this summer. These campers were able to hear the life-changing message of the Gospel because of the generosity of donors. Here is just one example of the impact a camp scholarship made in a kid's life:

"I really appreciate the time taken to call ahead to learn about our son's special needs. The care in being proactive was very professional and extremely kind! Camp helped him conquer his limitations and move forward in maturity. This was a huge accomplishment for him! He was accepted in a group for the first time in his life. He came home so excited about his faith and even asked if he could start helping at church. We hit a milestone with him going to camp, and it meant the world to receive a scholarship or else it wouldn't have been financially feasible due to medical bills."

ADVENTURE COURSE

Our 35-event low ropes course plays a major role in the summer program at Inspiration Point, and we aspire to use it more during the school year to encourage personal and interpersonal growth. "What is Adventure Course?" you might ask. It's kind of hard to describe and better understood once you experience it, but we hope this explanation will give you a glimpse.

Adventure Course is a series of teambuilding activities that involve problem solving, decision making, perseverance, cooperation, communication, respecting personal differences, and leadership/followership. Participants grow in confidence, interpersonal skills, patience, resilience, appreciation of others, problem solving, and more. We combine two cabins of students (about 16 people) and by the end of a week, they bond through the challenges that encourage them to communicate face-to-face and trust one another.

Inspiration Point's Adventure Course has also been used for teambuilding among sports teams, retreat groups guests and school groups. The 7th grade students, along with their 11th and 12th grade peer mentors, from Wadena-Deer Creek Public Schools have grown through Adventure Course for the past 24 years. The school receives a grant to bring these students to Inspiration Point each year, so they can learn the skills mentioned above and form a solid foundation from which they can build at the beginning of the school year.

Oxford Economics Research firm recently asked employers which skills they'll need most in the next five to ten years, and the results came back with priorities including relationship building, teaming, co-creativity, brainstorming, the ability to manage diverse personalities, and empathy. (Fortune magazine, July 23, 2015). These soft skills are exactly what participants in Adventure Course gain!

Leaders of school groups, coaches, employers, men's or women's groups: if you are looking for a way to strengthen your team in the soft skills, maybe an afternoon on the IPoint Adventure Course is just what you need. Contact us at info@ipoint.org or 218-998-4572 to inquire about booking your team building day at IPoint.





Lutheran Brethren Bible Camp, Inc.
Inspiration Point

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on Twitter or Instagram @IPoint63.

IPOINT IMPACT - CHARLENE ROGNESS

Inspiration Point has been a part of my life for almost 50 years, first as a camper myself, then as my four children attended numerous times, and now as I go to Pathfinders each summer with my sister Haidee, a developmentally-delayed adult. The camp buildings, staff and programs have changed significantly over the years, but what has remained the same is the mission of Inspiration Point to reach people where they're at with the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be a place of relaxation and fun.

Pathfinders is a unique program for adults with special needs. Those who run the program and the counselors who work with these adults do so with such cheerful and loving attitudes. Of course the campers respond with enthusiasm, and they in turn love and help each other and become good friends. Pathfinders is a wonderful time filled with music, crafts, games, outdoor activities, great meals, prayer and studying the Bible. I know for my sister and the two other women who travel to camp with us, it is their favorite time each year, and we begin talking about it and looking forward to it months ahead of time!

I'm so thankful that there is a Christ-centered program especially designed for adults with special needs and that Inspiration Point equips counselors to love these beautiful children of God in such an amazing way. Pathfinders meets the spiritual needs of these adults at their levels of understanding – and how fun it is to see them worship the Lord with unrestrained joy! Everyone involved is blessed immensely, even the caregivers who get to tag along!