



# Cornerstone

Summer issue ~ 2023

## Your Summer Mission Trip!

**“You cannot be in relationship with Jesus and not be on mission”.** Go back, read that sentence again. What is your reaction when you read that statement? If ever there was a statement designed to get church members off the sidelines and into the game, that is it. God has called you to join Him on a mission trip, a mission trip right where you live!

The whole point of this statement is understanding the call that God has placed on ALL believers. Over the past few Sundays, we have been looking at the scriptures and how when Jesus ascended into heaven, He gave us the Holy Spirit. The purpose of the Spirit is to #1) point us to Jesus and #2) form us into the body of Christ so that we, through the power of the Spirit, are on mission for God here on earth. This means that the church (all of its members) is God’s mission team in the community it lives in.

Being on mission with Jesus begins by pursuing a deep and intimate fellowship with God. This is the first and most important part of our mission. The deeper we explore God’s love for us, the more we understand His call on our life and our entire life’s purpose! We were created to worship God, and Him above all else.

As we explore the love God has for us an amazing thing happens. He makes us more like Christ and fills us with

His love for others. In other words, evidence of our love for God shows itself because we just can’t HELP love those around us, regardless of how similar they are to us. Our love for others is given by God supernaturally!

To know God is to know His love for us, to be filled supernaturally with His love so that we love those around us, and to respond to His invitation to join Him where He is already working in our communities. Our mission is to adjust our lives to God and let Him work through us to draw the world to Him!

So as summer begins, so does your mission trip. Now is the time to think about the community God has placed you and ask, “how can God use a person like me to impact the community around me”? It will look different for everyone depending on your location, career, life stage, etc. But one thing that won’t change is that each and every one of us is called to be on mission with Jesus. He has amazing things He wants Christ Lutheran Church to do in our communities, this summer and beyond, and He WILL accomplish His plans. The only question is...will you join Him?

In Christ,

~ Pastor Wes

# Mission Partner Update:

## Rising Hope Foundation



We have all heard the admonition “see something, say something”. Our kids and grandkids have grown up hearing it constantly, likely to the point of mental exhaustion. Yet if we don’t know what we are looking for, if we don’t know the signs, the dangers, the magnitude we assume it’s like the previous warnings we were taught like “don’t take candy from a stranger”, “stop, drop, and roll”, or “stranger danger”. We were all warned over and over how to be on the lookout to not get kidnapped in a sketchy van with no windows or what to do if we should find ourselves on fire, but as we lived life and those things didn’t happen we stopped listening to catchy phrases that warned against dangers. Human Trafficking is different though and in the last 2 decades it has become an evil that has crept out of the shadows and has become so prevalent within society that we don’t even notice it. This sin is damaging our children in unspeakable ways.

Modern day slavery takes many shapes and forms. What is modern day slavery? It is human trafficking (exploiting a person through force, fraud, and coercion) through domestic servitude, forced labor, and sex trafficking. Human trafficking is the 2nd largest criminal industry generating over \$32 billion annually in the US. None of the trafficking is more pervasive though than the sex trafficking of minors. Sex trafficking of

minors is even more sick and sinful than any of us wants to think about. The stark truth is that most often children aren’t being lured away by strangers in the night. They are being sold and exploited by a relative, friend, boyfriend, or someone they met online.

**Why are we choosing to work with Rising Hope as one of our mission partners when there are so many other places we could give our tithes?** To put it simply the need is far greater and those helping survivors of trafficking are way too few. What we like about Rising Hope is their Christ centered approach to helping these young girls heal from trauma. There is so much more to providing rescue than just removing the girls from being trafficked and putting them in a safe place. The psychological trauma is just as real as the physical trauma and takes years to heal from. Through Freedom Ranch girls will be in a long-term residence facility that is a safe environment, be given the necessary time to heal, and learn skills that will set them on a course for successfully living on their own.

Rising Hope is also committed to helping these rescued girls by using multiple revenue streams to fund the rescue. They use fundraisers like Thrivefest and selling their fresh roasted coffee to help offset their costs. Then they depend on other individuals and churches to come

alongside and support the ministry.

If you would like a packet with more information on trafficking and ways you can be active in helping with the “see something, say something” initiative to end human tracking, please visit the office during business hours or contact one of the members of the Rising Hope Team (Adrienne, Paula, Val, Kirsten, Anya). Because of the sensitive nature of this topic, much of the information included is not something we want falling into the hands of our young children, as sex trafficking is such a graphic topic.

If you have any questions about Rising Hope or trafficking, the Rising Hope team is available to answer any of your questions to the best of our abilities.

**For more information about trafficking check out these websites:**

<https://risinghopefoundation.org>

<https://ourrescue.org/>

<https://theexodusroad.com/>

<https://www.a21.org/>

# Spend Summers at the Point... Inspiration Point!

## Christ Hikes:

Grab your family or a group from church and join us for a Christ Hike this summer! Step back 2,000 years into the days when Jesus walked the earth. Experience what it may have been like to follow Him...literally



**Christ Hike  
Passion Play**

**2023 Performances**  
 June 14, 20, 23, 27, 30 (seating at 7:30 pm)  
 July 4, 12, 18, 21, 28 (seating at 7:15 pm)  
 August 1, 4, 9, 15 (seating at 7:00 pm)

## Family Weekends at Ipoint:



**SUMMER  
FAMILY  
WEEKENDS**

*"A relaxing and refreshing  
time at a place where you feel  
loved and cared for."  
-FAMILY WEEKEND GUEST*

**2023 FAMILY  
WEEKEND DATES**

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

## Kids Camp at Ipoint:

AS OF 5/30/23	CAMP	DATES
LIMITED SPACE	Trailblazer 1	July 5-7
LIMITED SPACE	Trailblazer 2	July 23-25
BOYS FULL	Explorer 1	June 18-22
	Explorer Bonus!	July 2-7
FULL	Explorer 2	July 16-20
LIMITED SPACE	Explorer 3	August 13-17
LIMITED SPACE	Navigator 1	June 11-16
	Navigator 2	July 2-7
GIRLS FULL	Navigator 3	July 9-14
BOYS FULL	Navigator 4	August 6-11
	Sr. High 1	June 25-29
BOYS FULL	Sr. High 2	July 30-August 3
GIRLS FULL	L41	June 11-16, June 18-22
LIMITED SPACE	L42	July 9-14, July 16-20

## IPoint comes to Christ Lutheran!



**ROCK SOLID**  
INSPIRATION POINT 2023

**DAY CAMP**  
@Christ Lutheran  
Church

**WHO:** Students grade 1st-6th  
**WHEN:** July 10-13, 2023 | 9:00 am-3:00 pm  
**WHERE:** 5084 Main St E; Maple Plain, MN 55359  
**COST:** FREE!  
**REGISTRATION:** Please register by June 30th.  
 To register go to [mpcl.org](http://mpcl.org).  
**OTHER INFO:** Day Campers will need to bring a sack lunch. Pre K-Kindergarten VBS available for ages 4+ from 9-11am. See website for more details.



Join us for...

# Outdoor Worship

*Come and enjoy Minnesota Summers by worshipping OUTDOORS in the Christ Lutheran Parking Lot. We will be worshipping outdoors 3 times this season.*

*June 25th*

*July 23rd*

*Aug 27th*

*Bring a lawn chair and a friend!*

## Minnesota Fishing Challenge: Celebrating 15 Years!

By Steve Pennaz

In the fourth chapter of Mathew, Jesus asks Peter and his brother Andrew to lay down their fishing gear, follow him and become fishers of men. For the last 15 years, our congregation has been a strong supporter of the Minnesota Fishing Challenge, an annual one-day fishing tournament that supports Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge. In a very real way, anglers who fish the Minnesota Fishing Challenge—and those who donate to it -- are answering Jesus' call to become fishers of men and women. To date, the event has raised more than \$4 million in support of MNTC, including \$520,000 raised just last year. Our church members alone have donated more than \$35,000 in support Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge!

MNTC is a Christian-based organization with a proven track record for helping addicts break free of their addictions, which saves lives and heals broken relationships. The funds raised ship. The funds raised have helped MNTC grow significantly over the last decades. MNTC operates 12 locations across the state, including the Twin Cities, Brainerd, Duluth and Buffalo. Even with their growth, the need for MNTC continues to grow, as addiction issues continue to increase here and across the nation.

I can tell you fishing this event is powerful and fun. Participants find themselves closer to God while in fellowship with program participants and other anglers. Anglers can fish any water in the Gull Lake Chain near Brainerd, and weigh a variety of species like walleye, bass, northern pike, and panfish. Fishing is usually exceptional during the event.

For more information, including results from last Saturday's tournament, visit:

<https://www.mntc.org/event/fishing/>

**UPDATE!!! The June 4th Minnesota Fishing Challenge broke a new record with \$548,000 raised!**



**“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8)**

Jesus sent his disciple to these places to share the gospels. We use this verse as a guiding principle in our mission and outreach for the church. Our Jerusalem is our surrounding community, Judea is the state of MN, Samaria represents the broader community outside our comfort zone and end of earth is the world. How can a small Lutheran church in Maple Plain MN serve such broad needs. The answer comes from Jesus in **Mathew 19:26** “... **With Man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.**” Over the next few months we will be bringing information on our mission partners, educate you on the earthly challenges they serve, and share opportunities to get involved in their missions.

Our Judea partner is Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge (MNTC). The MNTC mission is to assist teens and adults in gaining freedom from chemical addictions and other life controlling problems by addressing their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Drug and alcohol addiction in MN affects 4-7 % of our state from 12-65 years old. MNTC offers hope to those stuck in an addictive lifestyle through Christian faith-based treatment programs at their 12 facilities across MN. The MNTC licensed treatment programs include short & long term, residential & outpatient, and post-graduation programs through the Teen Challenge Leadership Institute. The Lakeside Academy for teen boys is even a state licensed high school. MNTC treated over 3,800 people in 2022, a 10% increase over 2021, with an incredible success rate. A recent Wilder Foundation survey of their graduates found 80% sobriety, 80% improved relationships with their families plus 78% were working full time or in school. The MNTC, “Know The Truth Prevention Program” reached 43,000 middle/HS students in 191 schools.

Addiction sucks and recovery from addiction is hard. It takes strong faith in God working through many people to change lives. How can we/you support the great work of MNTC?

- **Pray** for the staff and the clients in the program.
- Learn more about MNTC programs and share with people stuck in addiction. <https://www.mntc.org/>
- Volunteer at a MNTC event. These events are Christ focused and uplifting – they love the Lord!
- Support our CLC Fishing teams at the annual MNTC Fishing Tournament
- Support our Quilters who donate quilts to Lakeside Academy and campuses in Minneapolis.
- Attend their Choir events at church and Galas. The testimonies are inspirational God moments.
- **Become a mentor to a client. Ask Mark what is involved – it will change your life.**
- Cars for recovery – donate an old car, truck, RV, and even old farm equipment.
- Make a contribution of stocks or in-kind gifts.
- Send an uplifting card to a client or staff to let them know you are praying for them.
- Sign up for their newsletter.
- Did I mention **Pray** for MNTC and all those stuck in addiction.

Addiction in our “Judea”, our beloved state of MN is real and MNTC is committed to making a difference in people’s lives. The list of how to get involved is just a starting point. If you have other ideas how we can support this important ministry. Reach out to me or Steve Pennaz.

Your brother in Christ,

Mark Mundahl

## Day Camp at Christ Lutheran is coming up July 10-13!

This year's theme is Rock Solid. We once again will have trained counselors from Inspiration Point Christian Camp come and run a full day (9am-3pm) of camp for your students filled with songs, games, crafts, bible lessons, and more! Know of someone who is interested? Grab a registration and pass it on!

### We need help Getting Ready for Day Camp as well!

There are many ways you can help from providing food or money for lunches or snacks, to helping with set up and take down, to even hosting the day camp staff for dinner! If you can help sign up on the "Serve the World" board!



### Come and see what they saw.

The Chosen is the first-ever multi-season show about the life of Jesus. This series allows viewers to see the life of Jesus through the eyes of those that knew Him. Follow the transformations of His followers through the ministry of Jesus as He journeys to change the world.

### Watch Season 1 Wednesdays at Christ Lutheran Church Starting July 19th @ 6-7:30pm.

Invite a friend, watch the episodes, stay for the discussion, and see how the words Jesus spoke changed the course of history-along with the lives of twelve very ordinary men.

Dear Church Family -

I wanted to share a good update for everyone after the long, hard winter my family and I had in 2023. First and foremost, my thanks will be undying to all of you for supporting my family with giving's and prayers and support, which was felt on every front! We experienced a great loss, but amazing grace on the other side! I will always be grateful to Christ Lutheran for the love that God has given me through you all. God has been good indeed. I'm so thankful to be a part of this family.

Wouldn't you know, we had keys to our new rental in Mound the day we had to leave the hotel! And after some months going by, we are finally starting to feel settled. It hasn't been easy, but still God pulls us through! My oldest, Anastasia, graduated high school, and in a few days we will have our son, Ezekiel (14), home with us again! (Ana, Bella & Zeke) We also added a new puppy to the family (Willie Coda Nelson; who is a German Shepherd, Husky, Pitbull, Australian Cattle dog mix). He's another blessing of a dog, just like our previous. My family will have a busy summer, with home adjustments, and with my disc golf job keeping me extra busy! I look forward to more music, worship, drama and praise at Christ Lutheran Church!

We were cared for by so many people during our loss, that it is hard to put into words how much it means. Thank you again! God's blessings are yours now and forever!

Sincerely,  
Eric Hutchison



# THANK YOU, DANIELLE!!!

*At the end of May Danielle Thomas announced that she is stepping down as Kingdom Kids director. She has served faithfully with our children's ministry for nearly 4 years. We will miss her greatly in this role but are thankful for the time she gave. Please be in prayer as the council takes the steps needed to fill this role, and the next time you see Danielle show her your appreciation for her ministry!*

