

Summer 2023



# INCREASE

He must increase, but I must decrease.

~ John 3:30

## Greetings from the Director

Wow, where did that summer go? I am not sure. This life seems to be moving at a faster pace the more we work to slow it down. I hope that is not the case for you. I pray that you have enjoyed a slow paced summer and have found time to rest. Most often the culture that we are submersed in is pulling us to move at a rate that is way beyond physically healthy. And what about spiritually? I pray that you have not sacrificed your time with Jesus to meet the expectations of the fast lane. When we give up our time with Jesus to jump in the fast current we are swimming in the wrong direction. Very quickly His voice is drowned out and it becomes very difficult to get turned around. If you have found your self in this position I pray that you take a moment to find a quiet place and just listen, open your Bible and read from the Living Word. He will meet you there.

It has been a very good summer for Increase. With events, weekly meetings, etc. A lot of students were away on vacations. But we were able to meet with the ones who were around. Continuing in the book of Romans in our study time has been very thought provoking for us as we listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying as we study. Bowling, camping, and swimming are some of the events that we engaged in to build some life relationships with students.

We are super excited for September with the Uprise festival, The Lampeter Fair, (stop by and see us at the Increase booth), and the annual Breakfast banquet/ Silent Auction. **YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THIS!!!**

I want to again thank all of you for your prayers. These prayers are what moves the Holy Spirit in the youths lives. Trust me He is moving, when you have teens in today's youth culture asking you questions about something they read in their Bible throughout the week, you know the Holy Spirit is moving. We need more people praying for the broken and hurting youth in our community. Is God speaking to you to commit to pray daily for Increase youth ministry? Is God speaking to you to become involved in Increase youth ministry? Please contact us if you are feeling that nudge or have any questions.

Thank you, Ron

## Board of Directors

**Chairman:**

**Pastor Jason Smith**

**Members:**

**Pete Kingsley**

**Executive Director:**

**Ron Peters**

## Vision Statement

Our vision is to increase positive Christ-centered relationships for youth, increase understanding between youth and their community, and increase opportunity for youth to hear, encounter and have a life changing revelation of Christ's sacrifice while participating in a youth center where youth can be themselves.

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to reach the youth of the Lampeter-Strasburg area, and beyond, with the life changing peace, hope, and love of Christ through the power of His Holy Spirit.

## How Do You Start Your Day?

2023 Breakfast Banquet & Silent Auction

***Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>***

We will gather at Lampeter Church of the Brethren (1900 Lampeter Road, Lancaster PA 17602)

Let me experience Your faithful love in the morning, for I trust in You.

Reveal to me the way I should go because I long for You.

Rescue me from my enemies, LORD; I come to You for protection.

Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

May your gracious Spirit lead me on level ground.

Psalm 143:8-10

Does your usual morning begin with a coffee? A tea? A smoothie? Are you usually in a chaotic hurry...or does the day unfold for you with a quiet rhythm? Are your hands full with the day's needs or open to receive from your Father? Your mornings may need a break from your usual routine and we invite you to let our breakfast banquet be an interruption to the "usualness" of life. Come set your eyes on the King of Kings and Lord of Lords with us, asking the Holy Spirit how He would have you partner with INCREASE in a new, maybe even unusual way. Continued on back at the bottom



# MYSTERY YOUTH ARTICLE

Who is the youth waiting for the invitation?

Who is the youth walking alone...and yet maybe even in a crowd?

Who is the youth tormented by fears, anxiety, and/or depression?

Who is the youth convinced they have no worth?

Who is the youth desperate for attention, recognition, a smile?

Who is the youth?

Who?

*This month's youth article* is dedicated to the youth who have yet to become a part of INCREASE.

*This month's youth article* is by a nameless youth who God sees and loves even though we haven't made space for him or her.

*This month's youth article* speaks for the one who feels left out, forgotten, and ignored. That may have been you in high school, or even now.

**This month's youth article** is a challenge for you to pray for this youth-God knows his name. God knew her in her mother's womb. God knows. Will you partner with us to extend the invitation that can lead to transformation, freedom, and an increase in God's Kingdom here and NOW?

Yes, we will have fun auction items to playfully fight over with friends (and family!). Items like one of a kind artwork, gift cards, locally produced items, homemade ice cream event, and local venues. Yes, we will have a delicious meal to enjoy. Yes, we will have a youth testimony for you to experience INCREASE through the voice of a youth. Yes, we will have a sweet time of worship. It is our prayer that through this morning, leading up to our offering of worship to the Only One Worthy, that you, yes, you, will experience the Holy Spirit in a new way. And just perhaps He will be inviting you to a deeper commitment with this ministry.

Morning is such a special time as the sky opens up with the rising sun. Let this morning be special to you, us, and the youth this year. Please join us on Saturday, September 30th with doors opening at 7am at Lampeter Church of the Brethren (1900 Lampeter Road, Lancaster PA 17602). Register online at [increaseyouth.com](http://increaseyouth.com) or call Ron at 717-575-8353 to sponsor a table, sponsor the meal, or donate an auction item or door prize.

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He (Jesus) got up, went out, and made His way to a deserted place. And He was praying there.

Mark 1:35

Seems Jesus enjoyed mornings, too :)



**Homemade Ice Cream Event**

See you at the  
**Annual Breakfast  
Banquet & Silent  
Auction**



INCREASE meets weekly and ALL youth 6th to 12th grade are invited to join us. There is no cost to our regularly scheduled nights. We meet every Thursday night beginning at 5:30pm. Your generous support will go a long way in helping us fulfill our mission.

**FIND US  
ON THE WEB**  
[increaseyouth.com](http://increaseyouth.com)

**Mail your donation to:**  
Increase, 334 Hilltop Road,  
Strasburg PA 17579