Mount Luther takes seriously our mission from God of sharing Christ and planting seeds! We work hard to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, in the beauty of creation, and serve the people of Central Pennsylvania. That is done mostly through worship, study, recreation, and Christian fellowship in a place set apart by God.

2020 was our 58th year of ministry and due to the global pandemic, it was like none other in the camp’s history! Because traditional summer camp was cancelled, the camp engaged in some creative ways to still have camp activities despite not being together on-site.

#1 Committed to providing some type of camp experience this summer, twelve returning staffers were hired for three weeks to do leadership training, service work, and develop a virtual camp. Three recorded “Zoom” worships were posted online prior to the staff’s arrival on July 15. Then, Virtual CML launched on July 28, which the staff developed the two weeks prior. It was full of Facebook Live events, pre-recorded videos, and activities to do at home. They even had a Flipgrid so campers could share what they did with us. You can view all the materials at www.campmountluther.org/coronavirus.

On Sunday, August 2, staff welcomed friends for three events. Former senior high campers reunited in the afternoon and they played some Frisbee Golf. Then, a Take-Out Spaghetti Supper was held, complete with socially distanced eating outside! That evening, an outdoor worship service was at the Amphitheater, with Upper Susquehanna Synod Bishop Barbara J. Collins preaching and the staff leading a worship they planned. About 85 spaghetti suppers were sold and had about 80 (all masked) in attendance for worship.

This year’s theme at Mount Luther was “From Generation to Generation.” Campers explored the stories of familiar Bible characters and their responses to God’s call and promised faithfulness in their lives. They saw how the enduring love instilled in the promise to Abraham and Sarah continues through Old Testament characters, to Jesus, to the early church, and on to them! Through the camp’s method of studying the Bible, called “GROW Time,” staff helped campers Gather and Reflect On the Word throughout their day, even in a virtual setting. No off-site camps were held in 2020.

#2 In an immediate response to the pandemic, the camp provided activities on our website for kids to do while not in school and offered families the opportunity to come for hikes and stay at camp in a cabin or tent for a family getaway. Several families enjoyed spending time together in the outdoors.
#3 Thanks to the Graphic Hive in Williamsport, Mount Luther was able to host an online apparel store with all proceeds benefiting CML! There was a new shirt for 2020 "I Don't Get Homesick, I Get Campsick!" and other long-sleeve shirts, hoodies, tank tops, and women's apparel in lots of colors. Sales were so good that they won the company's monthly sales competition and got a dozen free shirts for our summer staff.

#4 Through the generosity of our valued donors and several grants, the camp was able to replace normal program income during this economically tough year. In addition to our friends and supporters who generously gave in 2020, we were the recipient of a CARES Grant from Union County, the benefactor of the George and Doris Robinson Golf Tournament proceeds, a federal Payroll Protection Program loan that was forgiven, and a Total Inclusion! Grant from the ELCA.

Our unaudited budget summary for 2020 included $381,642 in income and $300,324 in expenses.

#5 New staff positions in 2020 included Linda Aurand transitioning from her longtime role as full-time officer manager to part-time bookkeeper because of her retirement. Charlene Rineer, our summer assistant director, added Administrative Assistant to her title, helping in the office year-round.

#6 Had several Thrivent Action Teams do work for camp during the year, including renovations to Pine 3. The interior of that cabin was refitted with knotty pine boards to give it a more modern look.

#7 The camp participated in their eighth Raise the Region, a 30-hour online fundraising campaign, sponsored by the First Community Foundation of PA. We raise $18,610 which was given by 129 donors.

#8 In the Fall, we hosted a Whoopie Pie sale in place of the normal stand that we usually hold at the Selinsgrove Market Street Festival. We also held Frisbee Fundays on October Sundays.

#9 In a new effort sparked by the pandemic, we participated in Lutheran Outdoor Ministries’ Run4Camp. About 15 walkers, runners, and bikers did a personal 5K and raised funds for the camp.

#10 We continued several programs including our Digital First Light devotions, GROW in the Snow, Mount Luther Sunday, Bishop’s Open Golf Tournament, Dandelion Run, Evening at Shade Mountain, and sending Christmas and birthday cards to each summer camper.
Personnel
We are grateful to those who serve providing governance, hospitality, and quality programming and facilities.

Board of Directors
President:
Rev. Bill Henderson
Vice President:
Ms. Nancy Wood
Secretary:
Rev. Andrew Weaver
Treasurer:
Mr. Terry Gardner (Synod Council Representative)
Synod Bishop Representative:
Mr. Ty Turner
Diocesan Bishop Representative:
Rev. Kenneth Wagner-Pizza
Diocesan Council of Trustees Representative:
Mr. Bob Kilp
Board Members:
Rev. Andrew Fitch
Mrs. Malea Haflett
Mr. Sam Leister
Mr. John Knouse
Mrs. Sandra Strother
Mrs. Truly Zimmerman

Year-Round Staff
Executive Director:
Chad Hershberger
Site Manager:
Tom Watters
Hospitality Manager:
Toni Gessner
Administrative Assistant:
Charlene Rineer
Bookkeeper:
Linda Aurand

Summer Ministry Team
Assistant Director:
Charlene Rineer
Co-Program Directors:
Anne Harshbarger, Noah Roux, Tori Callahan
Program Counselors:
Marie Barnard, Alex Beaver, Kalley Betz, Maddie Hunt, Joey Martin, Grace Roux, Cassidy Stumpf
Tech Coordinator:
Ty Turner
Kitchen Staff:
Eric Gessner
Kyle Gessner
Ryan Gessner
Amanda Yoder
Levi Yoder

Summer Volunteers
Due to the pandemic, we did not have any volunteer Chaplains, Health Officers or Program Volunteers in 2020.

Camper Stats
A list of where our summer campers came from in 2020.

- Buffalo Valley- 0
- Juniata Valley- 0
- Middle Creek- 0
- North Branch- 0
- Tulpehocken- 0
- West Branch- 0
- Other Synods- 0
- Episcopal Diocese- 0
- Other Denominations- 0
- Confirmation Camp- 0
- Non-Church Affiliated- 0

Top churches in 2019:
- Trinity, McAllisterville- 16
- Trinity, Milton- 13
- Messiah, Mifflintown- 12
- Christ’s, Lewisburg- 11
- St. John’s, Lewistown- 10
- The Table, Bloomsburg- 10

Use of Camp
We had about 1,400 people use camp during our retreat season including: Anne Harshbarger, Brown Family, Callahan Family, Catherman Family, Christ’s, Lewisburg, Cub Scout Pack 3520, Delcamp Family, Episcopal Diocese of Central PA, Gayer Family, Kratzer Family, LeBlanc Family, Lowell Chilton, Mertz Family, Mid Penn Trail Runners, Renee Gessner, Shrawder Family, Trinity, Mount Joy Upper Susquehanna Synod, Watters Family, Wild and Free Group.