Camp Mount Luther is a year-round ministry providing resources and experiences in faith formation, worship, recreation, and intentional Christian community for all ages.

**Our Vision:** Cultivate and integrate strong partnerships between Mount Luther and all expressions of God’s church.

Since 1963, Camp Mount Luther has served the church and the community as a source for outdoor ministry and education. Whether a summer camp program, a school environmental education experience, or a youth or adult retreat or conference, Mount Luther has been the year-round setting for growth and learning about environmental concerns and conservation, living together in community, and appreciating the wondrous creation in our wilderness setting. We welcome all to our facilities and programs.

**Leadership:** Camp Mount Luther is owned and governed by the Camp Mount Luther Corporation, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, made up of eleven elected members. Mount Luther employs three full-time staff: an executive director, office manager and site manager. In addition, a year-round part-time hospitality manager oversees the kitchen and coordinates retreats. In the summer, about 20 college students serve as counselors and program staff and go through two weeks of intense training. We also rely on volunteer pastors, nurses, and program staff.

**Summer Camp:** Our eight-week summer program includes Christian faith formation, worship, crafts, swimming, recreation, environmental appreciation, outdoor living, leadership development and team building. We have programs for school-aged children as well as adults and families. Mount Luther’s program is based on small group camping. Two cabins (male and female) are paired up and do all of most activities together throughout the week. Our summer staff also plans and leads day camp programs in local congregations. These are often done in place of a traditional Vacation Bible School program. The staff engages campers in Bible study, crafts, games, and other learning activities.

**Facilities:** Tucked in the mountains at the western end of Union County, five miles outside of Mifflinburg, the camp consists of 400 acres of woodland with trails for hiking and cross-country skiing, a picturesque lake which offers catch-and-release fishing and canoeing, and many other recreational activities including a low ropes course, sand volleyball court, and swimming pool. The two living areas include Maple Village (8 A-frame heated cabins that sleep 12 with a central lodge that can be used for both dining and meeting) and Pine Village (6 heated cottages that sleep 15 with a central lodge that can be used for dining and meeting). The Evergreen Center, a dining and activities building, serves as the main meeting area at the camp. Food service can be provided for groups there. The dining room seats 250 people and the whole building is handicapped accessible.
History

The purchase and development of Mount Luther was the first step in implementation of a 20-year plan to reorganize the camping ministry of Lutherans in Central PA. It was also a response to the need for a place to provide small group camping experiences. Outgrowing the facilities at Camp Juniata near Milroy, and a declining camping program at Camp Susquehanna on the campus of Susquehanna University, the synod’s Commission on Camping wished to have a central location in this area.

The synod purchased the 385-acre former Buffalo Valley Fruit Farm in western Union County, and the camp was dedicated in 1963. The property consisted of two house, two barns, and several other farm buildings. The initial stage of development consisted of planting trees, the construction of eight A-frame cabins, a kitchen/dining hall and a man-made lake for swimming, and development of a year-round site that could be used by congregations as well as synodical boards, committees, and agencies. When the camping season began that year, the A-Frame cabins in what is now Maple Village were not yet complete. Mount Luther enjoyed great success in its early days and often had a waiting list. To help accommodate more campers and provide some larger office facilities, Pine Village and the Administration Center were added in 1967.

The decade of the 1970s would prove to be crucial to Mount Luther’s survival as a building up of programs and facilities would need to be undertaken to combat burnout and the destruction of a main cabin, which burned down. The camp was part of the Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania from the mid-1970s until the early 1990s. The corporation operated Mount Luther, Nawakwa, in Arendtsville, and Kirchenwald in Colebrook. During that time, a capital funds campaign helped make improvements to the camp, including a swimming pool and winterization of the cabins. Trip and specialty camps and opportunities for younger children were added to the summer program.

With the formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 1988, the Upper Susquehanna Synod decided to bring local control to the camp and the Camp Mount Luther Corporation was formed in late 1990. Since then, Mount Luther has seen an increase in use and programs from the people of this synod. Full-time staff, including an executive director, were hired to provide quality facilities and programs during both the summer and “second season” when retreats and events began to be held. The summer camping program grew, with over 500 campers attending in 2002 and 2003. In 2004, the Evergreen Center was constructed because of the need for more dining and activity space. In 2006, the camp began a partnership relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania (ECUSA), offering a joint camping week for both Episcopalians and Lutherans. In the early 2010s, a new method of Bible study called “GROW Time” (Gather and Reflect On the Word) was introduced. In early 2017, the debt was paid off for the Evergreen Center, two and half year ahead of schedule. In addition, the total project, including the loan, was paid for by donations for the cause. No general operating funds were used for loan payments.

Philosophies and Guiding Principles: The camp’s goal is that each person who participates in our programs shall be renewed and strengthened in faith through their encounter with Jesus Christ in a camp setting. Children, youth, and adults learn, worship, witness and serve within a Christ-centered tradition. Our staff works to set a good, Christian example of respect for one another.

Connect with Others: Created as children of God, we strive to improve your sense of self-worth, discovering your identity and vocation and making new relationships that are often lifelong. We promote that you find your voice and most importantly, listen for God’s voice. Through that discovery, we promote service to others and Christian hospitality. We encourage a life of discipleship and Christian leadership.

Connect with Nature: God has given us much to care for and therefore we promote environmental education, stewardship, a love for the outdoors, and recreating in God’s creation. This includes regular nature activities, recycling, outdoor education, and teaching the “Leave No Trace” ethos to participants. You will participate in outdoor activities like swimming, canoeing, camping, campfire programs, hiking, sports, nature study and crafts. Mount Luther is a place for simplicity, relaxation, fun, freedom, and responsibility. You will enjoy living simply without the distraction of television, video games, cell phones and technology. You will sing, pray, splash, and run. We encourage Christian and effective use of outdoor leisure time and promote good sportsmanship.

Connect with God: Camp Mount Luther offers a safe place apart from the world that renews and strengthens faith through experiences with God. We are committed to serving and being in partnership with the interdenominational, interfaith, and broader community. During our summer camp, we live in an intentional Christian community largely based on small-group camping. We provide a staff trained in providing a safe emotional and physical experience for participants to grow in their faith. Activities that help that include worship, meditation, music, team building, Bible study, faith discussions, devotions, prayer, and other ways of sharing the love of Jesus Christ.