

Summer Camps 2026

"Family Camp With Ground Up Grace and Fine Arts Elements!"

Family Camp Week 1: June 20-26

Guest Teacher: Paul Oman

Guest Preacher: Matthew McCormick

Guest Musicians: Milt and Andrew Scott

Join us for a wonderful and unique family camp option! Mount Carmel has a rich heritage of the fine arts and this week we are going to celebrate that! If you're looking for a normal family camp experience, that will still be taking place this week, but we will be bringing in musical, artistic, and dramatic activities that you and your children can choose to participate in. For the adults, we have Paul Oman leading a wonderful week of Biblical teaching while encouraging you to get your hands dirty, painting, drawing, and sculpting along with him. Johan and Sonja Hinderlie will be joining us as well to add to the whole experience.

"The Gospel, Judaism, and Islam"

Family Camp Week 2: June 27-July 3

Guest Speaker: Adam Francisco

Guest Musicians: Milt and Andrew Scott

These lectures examine the historical and theological connections between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—often collectively referred to as the "Abrahamic faiths." While all three claim a connection to Abraham, their conceptions of God, revelation, and salvation differ in fundamental ways. We will examine both the shared roots and the profound theological divergences that shape each tradition. The goal is to understand not only where these faiths intersect but also why their identities remain distinct from one another. Adam is Director of Academics and Scholar in Residence at 1517. He earned his DPhil from the University of Oxford in 2006 and served as Professor of History, Dean, and Assistant Provost in the Concordia University System for nearly two decades.

"Sinner Saint: a Surprising Primer to the Christian Life"

Family Camp Week 3: July 4-10

Guest Speaker: Luke Kjolhaug

Guest Preachers: Paul and Katie Koch

Luke Kjolhaug is the pastor of Elim Lutheran Church in Osakis, MN. This week, we will embrace the paradox of sin and grace, explore the heart of the struggle, and dive into why this matters. Through straightforward storytelling and robust theological reflection, Luke will reveal a third way between simplistic "either-or" extremes. He will encourage you to recognize that you are fully known and profoundly loved, even in the midst of confusion or failure. The result will be a new lens through which to see your day-to-day struggles, offering solace that God's grace is greater than your shortcomings. Join us to explore the liberating truth that you are indeed both sinner and saint!

"The Holy Spirit: Experiencing New Life and Power in Him"

Family Camp Week 4: July 10-12 (Weekend)

Guest Speaker: Hector Franco

We will explore the person and work of the Spirit who dwells within every believer. Jesus promised His Spirit to guide, comfort, and empower us for life and mission. Together, we'll discover the Spirit's gifts and the fruit He produces in us as evidence of His work. We'll be invited to walk by the Spirit each day and see how He can transform ordinary people into faithful followers of Jesus.

"Parenting as Calling: Faith, Forgiveness, and Formation"

Family Camp 5: July 13-17 (4-Night)

Guest Speaker: Leon Miles

The vocation of parenthood is only one of many, but it is an important vocation, foundational for all our other vocations. This week, we will look at what the Bible says to parents and how God calls us to love our children in all the stages of their lives. Leon will break the teaching into four main areas. First, we will look at what the Bible says about parenting, loving, and disciplining your children. Second, we will look at parents, children, and the forgiveness of sins. Third, we will look at what it means to bear the cross in parenting and the sacrifices parents make. Finally, we will look at modern parenting problems: gender, sexuality, and high school culture today. Dr. Leon Miles lives in Brookings, SD and is the Vice President of Advancement and Dean of ILT's Christ College.

**To register, call our office at
(320) 846-2744 or email
registrar@mountcarmelministries.com**

2026 Camps Continued

"God's English Accent: How the Bible Came to Your Language Today"

Family Camp 6: July 18-24

Guest Speaker: Paul Cross

Guest Preacher: Corey Bjertness

Guest Musician: Mike and Kristin Pierson

2026 marks the 500th anniversary of the publication of the first New Testament into modern English. In 1526, fearing arrest, William Tyndale had fled England, setting in motion events which would have a lasting effect on future generations of English-speaking people around the world. As an outlaw, Tyndale would move from town to town throughout northern Europe, stopping long enough to find a printer who would be willing to print his recently translated version of the New Testament. Over the years, Tyndale's work would morph from one edition to the next, leading us to the Bibles we have today. It could be said he was the one who gave God an English accent and gave the English-speaking people the word of God. This week we will trace the fascinating account of how we came to have the Bible in English. Not only will we be looking at how the Bible came to us in English, we will be looking at the array of English translations available to us today and which one might speak best into your life. We assure you, Paul's teaching sessions will be above average.

"Exasperating Your Kids for the Glory of God"

Family Camp Week 7: July 25 - 31

Guest Speaker: Steve Olcott

Guest Preacher: Dave Wollan

Join Pastor Steve as we dive into Paul's letter to the Ephesians to explore what it means to live as part of God's family. Whether you're a parent, grandparent, single, or young adult, this week will help you see how the gospel shapes all our relationships—with humor, humility, and a few good stories along the way. Together we'll look at how God's grace transforms family life, not just in our homes but in the household of faith we share as the Church.

"Reclaiming Christian Hope in the Face of Death"

C.A.R.M.E.L. Camp: August 10-14

Guest Speaker: Dr. Beth Hoeltke

Guest Musician: Patsy Baglien

The promises of the Christian gospel shine brightest in the shadow of death. Dr. Beth Hoeltke will guide us to face death with honesty and hope, grounded in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Drawing from her expertise in end-of-life care, she will help us reclaim a distinctly Christian vision of death and eternal life—moving beyond euphemisms like "passed away" or "celebration of life" to speak boldly of death and the promise of resurrection. We will explore walking alongside the dying, making faithful burial decisions, and living in the confidence that because Christ lives, we too shall live.

Hymn Festival with Gracia Grindal

September 20-23

Come and sing and learn about the great hymns of the church! Gracia Grindal is a retired seminary professor and an expert in hymnody. This week Gracia will dive into the richness of the hymns and how God works through them. As we sing the hymns together, we proclaim our Christian faith to ourselves and to one another. We speak to God and God speaks to us. We will be studying familiar hymns and learning new hymns.

Mount Carmel Norwegian Christian Heritage Trip

August 14-28, 2026

Join Tim and Donadee Peterson and your Mount Carmel friends on a trip to Norway! We will be meeting and worshiping with our Norwegian Christian brothers and sisters in Christ, learning about the history of Christianity in Norway, and enjoying the scenery.

Tim and Donadee have enjoyed living in Norway, where Tim was interim pastor of the American Lutheran Congregation in Oslo. This trip will be limited to 30 people.

The picture on the left is the Geiranger fjord. On the right is the 2025 tour group outside the Hoppstad stave church.

