

# CarolMeierMusic Notes

August 2026, Vol. 7



Welcome to the seventh issue of carolmeiermusic notes!

Hello friends!  
Whether we've known each  
other for a long time  
or we are brand new friends...  
welcome to my newsletter!  
I'm glad you are here!

## **"Living Voice of Creation"**

**"Living Voice of Creation,  
through your beauty, you call.  
Tune our hearts  
to your invitation to sing  
a song of love for all."**

an excerpt from one of the songs  
in this issue's featured liturgy...

**Living Voice  
of Creation**

In this newsletter  
you can learn about:

### **TWO upcoming retreat options in September!**

~Ministry Leadership Retreat  
~Retreat for Church Musicians

### Featured liturgy: **Living Voice of Creation**

a new liturgical resource  
for the Season/Festival  
of Creation in Christ

Summer 2026 Highlights

As always: **FREE** songs!

September Retreat #1 ~ for all ministry leaders

# Ministry Leadership Retreat

at Clearwater Forest Camp & Retreat Center, Deerwood, MN  
September 20-23, 2026



*Ministry*  
**LEADERSHIP  
RETREAT**

This retreat will focus on Self-Care, featuring clergy self-care expert Joy Hensel & opportunities to experience Forest Therapy.

We will also learn about Respectful Conversations with Jerad Morey from the Minnesota Council of Churches, who is also a licensed Forest Therapist.

Carol Meier will be our worship leader & provide music- focused workshop opportunities.

**DATE: SEPTEMBER 20-23  
AT CLEARWATER FOREST**  
16595 CROOKED LAKE ROAD.  
DEERWOOD, MN 56444

**COST: \$430 SINGLE OCCUPANCY,  
\$325 DOUBLE OCCUPANCY  
\$200 NO LODGING**

Goals of the retreat:  
Join us for high-quality, meaningful learning and reflection, connecting with others while networking, and rest and renewal in God's creation.

**REST**  **RESTORE**  **RECONNECT**



***This retreat is for both clergy and lay leaders  
who are serving in ministry settings of all kinds.***

**[Register here](#)** (scroll to the “quick links”)



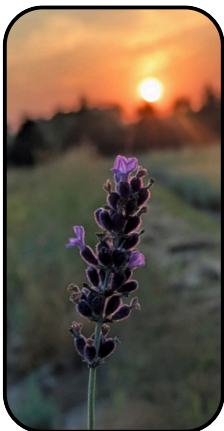
## September Retreat #2 ~ for church musicians

# Peace of the Prairie: Church Musician's Retreat



at Shalom Hill Farm, Windom, MN  
September 24-26, 2026

Peace of the Prairie is Shalom Hill Farm's annual Church Musician's Retreat dedicated to providing renewal, community, new tools and fresh ideas to allow church musicians to thrive. Offering a mix of opportunities to rest, worship, network, fellowship and make music with other church musicians, you can expect music, but you can also expect quiet. Shalom Hill Farm offers a beautiful setting on the prairie as well as an invitation to peace, community, rest and inspiration.



### Schedule:

Thursday Check in & supper:  
4:00-6:30pm

Saturday Check out: 12:00pm  
Stay for lunch, or grab it to go!

### Cost:

Inclusive Retreat w/ lodging:  
\$300  
Commuter rate: \$200



***This retreat is for church musicians in all settings:  
professional, volunteer, experienced, new, full time,  
part time, etc! All are welcome!!***

**[Register here](#)**

# Featured Liturgy

## *Living Voice of Creation*



**Living Voice of Creation** is a new liturgical resource for the church.  
As a Celebrate! Worship for the **Festival of Creation in Christ**,  
it was created as a project of Nourishing Vocations with Children  
through St. Olaf College.



# Living Voice of Creation

Creating *Living Voice of Creation* was a collaborative project involving a number of different partners! Hans Peterson (Dakota Road Music) and I co-composed all the music and a number of talented writers wrote liturgical texts and resources for children's engagement.

All eight of the new songs and many other elements were featured at St. Olaf's Conference on Worship, Theology, and the Arts in July! (see highlights page 😊)

This new intergenerational liturgy features:

- 8 new congregational songs
- a variety of activities for embodied worship
- spoken material contributed by
  - Rev. Meta Herrick Carlson
  - Rev. Dr. Charlene Rachuy Cox
  - Rev. Sherri Larson
- intergenerational and multi-sensory material written by Rev. Amanda Dahlseng-Monroe
- supplemental materials including more songs by Hans and Carol

***Living Voice of Creation is available to the church AT NO CHARGE!***

Use [this link](#) or the QR code below to fill out the request form.

The elements of worship invite us to:

- know our belovedness
- reflect on our relationship with God and creation
- embrace our call to stewardship
- live in hope of God's restorative work in this world



*access this entire new resource  
with the request form on this QR code*

*Living Voice of Creation* can be used as a complete liturgy or a resource from which churches can draw to build their own worship services, connecting God's Word and worship with God's world.

# Highlights - Summer 2026

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**June's highlight:** serving as the musician at Camp House



Camp House, a part of [Water's Edge Ministries](#), is on beautiful Lake George in Northern MN..

It was especially fun to serve with pastor/poet and dear friend Sherri Larson and to make music with Hannah again! It was also a joy to have my daughter, husband, and parents come!



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**July's highlight:** Sharing *Living Voice of Creation* at St. Olaf





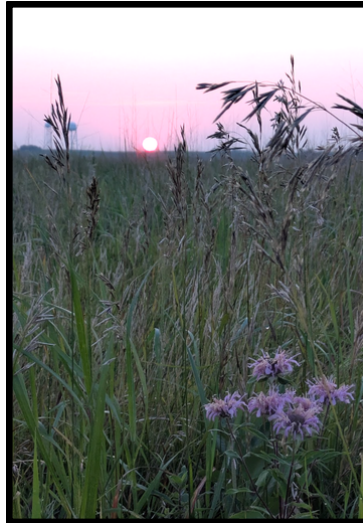
# Highlights - Summer 2026 continued

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**August's highlight:** Holden Pilgrimage on the Prairie:  
A Gathering of Worship, Creativity, and Faith



worship in Bethlehem Barn



sunrise on the prairie



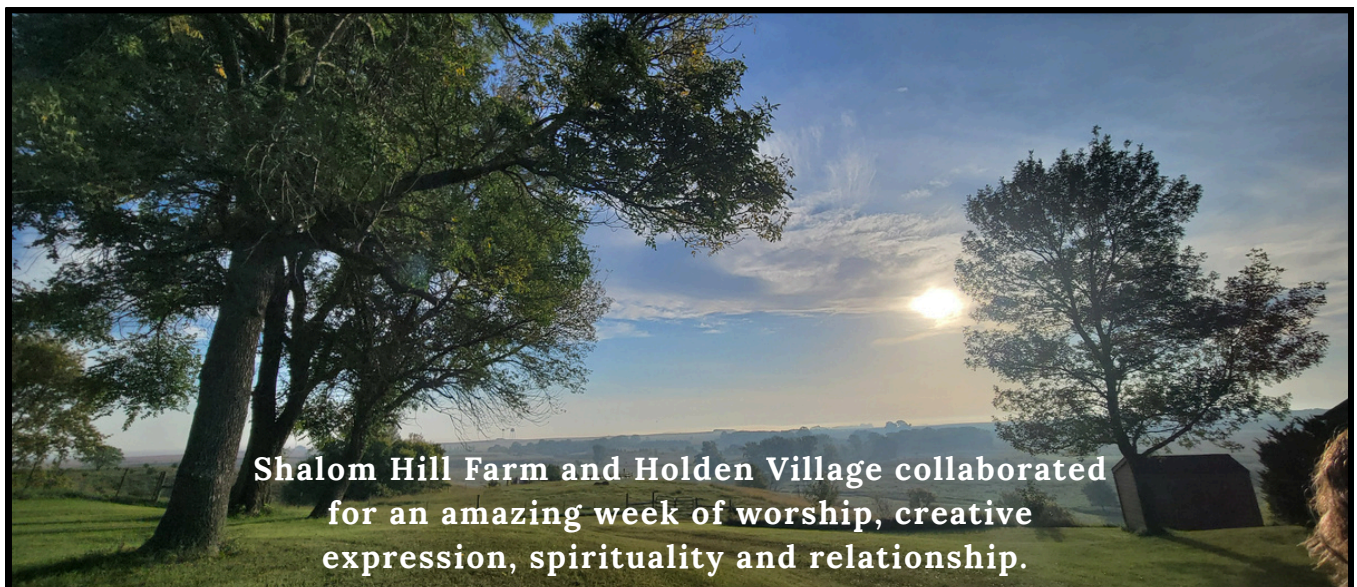
jam session in the library



puppets on the prairie



worship on the prairie



Shalom Hill Farm and Holden Village collaborated  
for an amazing week of worship, creative  
expression, spirituality and relationship.





## FREE SONGS!

Check out [my website](#) for these free songs:

- God of Shalom
- Child of God (a Baptism song)
- Paint a Mural of Your Splendor (new text)
- The Light Shines in the Darkness

Thanks for your interest in the music  
I am writing for the church!

It's an ongoing joy to connect with old friends  
and meet new ones at conferences, retreats,  
and other events!

I'd love to see you at the next one!

Interested in a collaboration?  
I'm available for:

- new commissions: text, tune, arranging
- retreat/worship leadership
- other possibilities

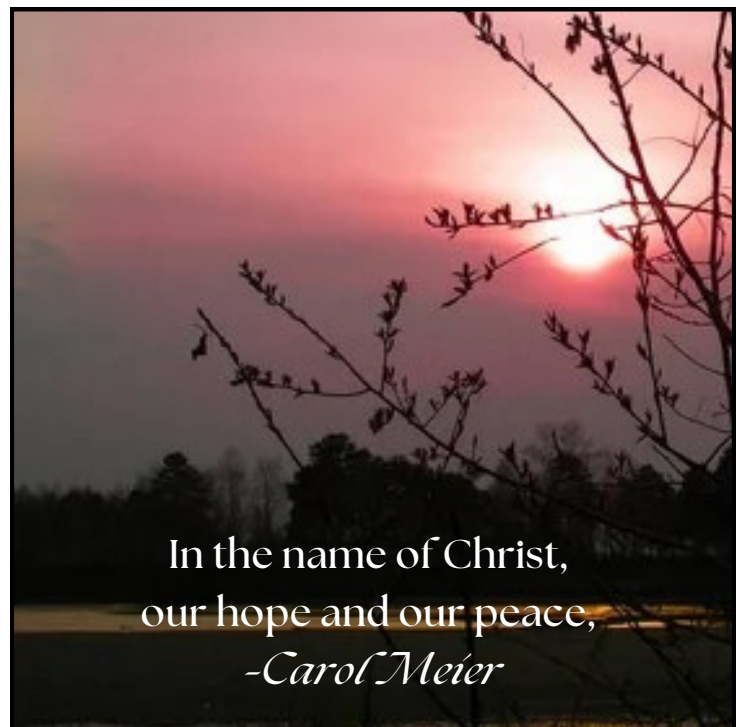
If you're interested in dreaming  
together, email me:

[carolmeiermusic@gmail.com](mailto:carolmeiermusic@gmail.com)

Other ways to connect:

[carolmeiermusic.com](http://carolmeiermusic.com)

[youtube channel](#)



In the name of Christ,  
our hope and our peace,

*-Carol Meier*