

**Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center
and
Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp and Retreat Center
"I Love Camp" Month**

In February 2016, we have a special opportunity to join congregations across our Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod to celebrate the beauty of creation, to recognize the importance of retreating, and to honor relationships that are fostered through outdoor ministry at Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center in Fort Valley, VA and Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp and Retreat Center in Jefferson, MD.

Plan to Participate

Encourage your congregation to participate in Caroline Furnace and Mar-Lu-Ridge Ministry Month. This month is not only meant to raise an awareness of these camps and conference programs and possibilities, but also to express gratitude and support for both Caroline Furnace and Mar-Lu-Ridge, as well as for all the dedicated and talented people who serve there.

Why Celebrate the Ministries of Caroline Furnace and Mar-Lu-Ridge?

Camps and retreats have long been defining experiences designed to encourage people to hear, respond, and develop as spiritual leaders called to inspire and lead others in lives of love. Camps and retreats have as part of their purpose the responsibility to assist people in connecting the learning and transformation at camp or on a retreat with new ways of being and living in the world when they return.

Explore Spiritual Renewal

Our Biblical and Church roots affirm the values of occasional retreats for spiritual renewal and relationships. There were three annual worship/renewal pilgrimages expected of God's people; Passover in the Spring, The Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) in the summer, and The Festival of Booths in the Fall. God has often chosen to use retreats, revivals, pilgrimages, and even the "wilderness" to inspire, call, instruct, and/or renew people for service.

Get Involved

The Metropolitan Washington DC Synod invites your congregation to rejoice, remember, pray for, and visit Caroline Furnace and Mar-Lu-Ridge. This special emphasis month has been set aside by our Synod Assembly so that congregations all across our synod may recognize the ministry provided by Caroline Furnace and Mar-Lu-Ridge. As Lutherans, we are called to participate in active ministry. Our camps and retreat centers manifest that active ministry and nurture that calling. To find out more information about YOUR camps, contact Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center at 540-933-6266 and Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp and Retreat Center at 1-800-238-9974.

Offering

Your congregation might consider designating a percentage of the worship offering for a scholarship fund for campers from your congregation. Many congregations invest in the Christian faith formation of their members by providing full or partial registration support if the camper will be returning to contribute to the community. This offering could also be forwarded to Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center and/or Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp and Retreat Center to augment the scholarships they offer to others who need financial assistance for events. In addition, your congregation could plan a workday at the site and use the offering to purchase materials. For more information on projects at Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center, please call 540-933-6266, or on projects at Mar-Lu-Ridge, please call 1-800-238-9974.