

The following resolution was adopted by the 2014 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly which met on June 21, 2014 at the Fairfax Campus of Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Virginia. "Whereas" clauses are listed as background for Voting Members. The Assembly votes on "Resolved" clauses only.

"I LOVE CAMP" MONTH

WHEREAS, there is a need and desire to recognize that Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp and Retreat Center (MLR) and Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center (CF) are both ministries of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. (Metro DC) Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

WHEREAS, MLR's mission statement is:

We welcome all people to a mountain-top experience of Christian community that changes lives, makes disciples, builds friendships, and encourages care of God's creation;

and CF's mission statement is:

The purpose of Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp is to provide an intentional Christian communal experience where one meets God in God's awesome creation; and

WHEREAS, MLR serves annually close to 1000 campers ages 6-17 in its summer camp programs, and in addition, many family and adult campers during its summer sessions, and CF serves annually close to 450 campers through its summer program and Family Camp; and

WHEREAS, MLR and CF also offer retreat opportunities year-round to a wide variety of groups; and

WHEREAS, MLR and CF are non-profit ministries, depending upon donations and fund-raisers to help keep costs affordable as they support current expenses and employee costs; and

WHEREAS, MLR has a 54 year history of positively effecting children's lives and also has maintained good standing within the American Camp Association; and CF has a 57 year history and meets all required state standards for health and safety; and

WHEREAS, MLR and CF have created a solid reputation within the Synod and surrounding areas; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the month of February annually be declared: "I Love Camp" month within the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod are encouraged to use all manner of communications available to them (such as announcements, bulletins, newsletters, websites, Facebook pages, and the like) to share and distribute information and materials from and about Mar-Lu-Ridge and Caroline Furnace, in particular regarding summer camp; and be it further

RESOLVED, that, at any time, but especially during February, congregations are encouraged to invite staff members of Mar-Lu-Ridge and Caroline Furnace, who are willing and able, to speak before them in an effort to raise awareness of these ministries; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod are encouraged to pray for the ministries of Mar-Lu-Ridge and Caroline Furnace, to seek to partner with them in a variety of ways (including encouraging their children and youth to attend their summer camps, using camp facilities for congregation retreats and Council retreats, and hosting mobile Day Camps in their congregations), and to support Mar-Lu-Ridge and Caroline Furnace in all ways possible (including participating in Volunteer Service events at camp and providing direct financial support).