



WITH OPEN ARMS

MAR-LU-RIDGE



Many children and youth come to Mar-Lu-Ridge wondering, “What’s the point? Why am I here - at Mar-Lu-Ridge and in this world?” They leave with life affirming answers by way of new friends, stories, and dreams; by way of experiencing the hope their spirits long for. This may be because Mar-Lu-Ridge is an expression of who we are as synod-church together.

Mar-Lu-Ridge is a holy and sacred place where campers and leaders alike discover the possibility of relationship with the Triune God through interaction with God’s beloved and beautiful creation. It’s a place where those who visit expand their worldview and come to realize they have belonging: in and with creation, in the community, and in this messy complicated world and season in their lives; it’s a place where healing occurs because love is unconditional and available for all who enter, without exception.

Thanks be to God for Mar-Lu-Ridge and its faithful ministry; one that insists upon welcome, belonging, and hope.

In Christ,

Rev. Leila M. Ortiz

Bishop of The Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod



At Mar-Lu-Ridge, the Holy Spirit comes near in the creation and community, reminding us that we learn much from the diversity that is, rather than the uniformity of what was. Truly this is a place where we live out our baptismal vocation to honor the dignity and belovedness of all people. I have experienced that at Mar-Lu-Ridge, as have my children.

My family is supporting the **With Open Arms** Campaign in order to assure such a place and ministry for the next generation, as well. With much needed improvements, Mar-Lu-Ridge will be more accessible, more useful, and more beautiful for the community that will be able to use our marvelous facilities!

I often speak to our Delaware-Maryland Synod family, reminding them that Mar-Lu-Ridge is our little slice of Heaven; there’s no denying that the view has something to do with that, but it’s the community gathered in this holy place where we see God come especially close.

Thank you for your generous response to **With Open Arms!** It is because of your prayers and support that we live more fully into our commitment that all are welcome in this place.

Come and see!

The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr., Bishop

Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA



INCREASING OUR HOSPITALITY »

Despite our desire for Mar-Lu-Ridge to be a place that welcomes all people, some of our spaces do not reflect this commitment. Unintentionally, some areas of our buildings limit accessibility and full participation. Increasingly we turn guest groups away because we are unable to meet their accessibility needs.

This is not the hospitality we claim. This does not reflect our aim in welcoming all people to engage in this sacred place.

As we plan for the future of MLR and the next generation of outdoor ministry, we are committed to be good stewards of our spaces and resources by:

- » improving accessibility for all visitors and guests,
- » refreshing spaces within our existing footprint that will honor our commitment to conservation while better serving our ministry,
- » clearing the remaining debt for the reservoir to position MLR for strong financial footing.

GIFTS OVER TIME

AMOUNT PER WEEK	AMOUNT PER MONTH	AMOUNT PER YEAR	3-YEAR AMOUNT
\$256	\$1,109	\$13,332	\$40,000
\$192	\$832	\$10,000	\$30,000
\$160	\$693	\$8,333	\$25,000
\$128	\$555	\$6,666	\$20,000
\$96	\$416	\$5,000	\$15,000
\$64	\$277	\$3,333	\$10,000
\$32	\$139	\$1,667	\$5,000
\$23	\$100	\$1,200	\$3,600
\$12	\$52	\$600	\$1,800
\$6.50	\$28	\$336	\$1,000
\$3.85	\$17	\$200	\$600

\$1 per day for three years is a gift of \$1,095

"I have personally known the transformative role that Mar Lu Ridge can have in one's life and faith formation. I am committed to helping Mar Lu Ridge continue to do the same for others now and in the future. The goal of this campaign is to be able to further enable the ministry to be a place of welcome and inclusion for the people of God. I am happy to financially support this important project."

- Rev. Matt Fuhrman, Congregations Co-Chair, DE-MD Synod