

Friends of Mar-Lu-Ridge,

God is moving through and among this ministry. For scores of summer campers, youth, adults, and families, Mar-Lu-Ridge is a place of sanctuary. It is a place where the noises and distractions of the world fall away, allowing space to engage with God's created world, to hear God's reassuring promises. What a welcome gift in these times!



We are a community with a rich legacy. Our retreat groups and campers are diverse and faithful. As we build on the commitments of leaders and supporters from the last 63 years and position Mar-Lu-Ridge for a strong and vibrant future, we are renewing our efforts to provide a safe and inclusive environment which reflects the lessons Jesus taught us: To love one another, even as I have loved you. (John 13:34)

Renovating Ridge Inn for increased accessibility and hospitality is a big step for Mar-Lu-Ridge, but one that will have even greater return on our investment in welcoming people to encounter God's love through sacred hospitality, deepening relationships, and care for creation. Through this plan, we will be able to serve people in ways we are unable to at this time – especially groups and individuals with mobility needs. When these campaign initiatives are completed, the manner in which we welcome people will be more fully realized.

I am energized by the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of youth and adults of every walk of life and by the restoring messages of God's grace and love which will frame the way we think of each other and of ourselves. The impact of Mar-Lu-Ridge lives on in generations of campers, retreat guests, staff alumni, and our congregations.

I hope you'll join in this campaign for Mar-Lu-Ridge—for the future of our ministry throughout the region and beyond.

God's peace,
Sarah Lefler
Executive Director



MAR-LU-RIDGE VALUES »

Community. We are One Body that encourages, educates, mentors, loves unconditionally, and prays for each other.

Service. We believe in the benefit of educating our campers about organizations and people who work in the community and in the church to assist people in need, and to offer opportunities for our campers to improve the lives of others through service projects, prayer, and financial support.

Sanctuary. We will maintain the safety and wholeness of our natural space, respecting all life within – human, fauna, and flora. Mar-Lu-Ridge has been powered by 100% wind energy since 2017. In 2021, we entered into a Conservation Easement with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, preserving the land for generations to come.



— 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.

“Lutherans believe that we are called into a relationship with God where God’s promise of steadfast love and mercy, embodied in Jesus, draws us to a life of trust in God and to acts of service in our daily lives. Mar-Lu-Ridge manifests this belief with its mission to welcome all to encounter God’s love through sacred hospitality, deepening relationships, and care for creation. When we join together as individuals and congregations to make needed improvements to Mar-Lu-Ridge, we engage in grateful service that will help ensure Mar-Lu-Ridge’s continuing mission as a safe and inclusive environment that welcomes all people.”

- LeeAnn Hart, Congregations Co-chair, Metro DC Synod