

# MOUNT LUTHER SUNDAY 2018

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We hope your congregation will join with us as we celebrate the synod designated "Mount Luther Sunday" on **February 11, 2018**. The Upper Susquehanna Synod Council has designated that Transfiguration Sunday each year be "Mount Luther Sunday" to help promote outdoor ministries in our synod. It's a great day to celebrate the work we do as uplift mountaintop experiences of encountering Christ, like the disciples did on Transfiguration Day. Camp Mount Luther is an extension of the ministry that you do in your local congregation. We are here to help you in your efforts of sharing Christ in your local communities. We hope that you will join us in celebrating and uplifting the ministry of the camp. There are many ways that you can do that on Transfiguration Sunday. Here is a list of suggestions:

**HANDOUTS:** Make sure you have copies of our summer program brochure to hand out that day. Congregations are mailed those in January, but if you need more copies, contact the camp office. You can also download a two-sided general bulletin insert about the camp and our ministry. Feel free to copy it and distribute it in your Sunday bulletins that day. It's available on our website at <https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/General-Bulletin-Insert.pdf>

**WORSHIP RESOURCES:** Our camperson page on our website will have a resource for worship that helps you introduce our theme this summer at camp. Feel free to use those ideas when planning for worship. Maybe have the children's choir sing a camp song or use a camp song for a hymn of the day.

**TEMPLE TALKS:** Have your congregation camperson, our director, a board member or other supporter of Mount Luther give a short five minute talk at the beginning of your service(s) that day to tell your congregation what is going on at Mount Luther. To arrange someone to come speak at your church, please call the camp office at (570) 922-1587.

**CAMPER TESTIMONIALS:** Have campers from your congregation talk during the service, for the children's sermon, or during Sunday School, telling other children and adults about their camp experience. You could even have them write down some of their comments and print those in the bulletin that Sunday. Campers and parishioners could even wear hiking boots and camping attire.

**DISPLAY:** Make a display of camp memorabilia, photos, brochures and other promotional items. You could also make a bulletin board display of some pictures and comments from campers.

**FUN RAISE:** Set a goal for participation in summer camp programs. Then, think about having a fundraising dinner that day with funds going for kids to go to camp. Or, designate that a special offering or perhaps the loose change offering would go to Mount Luther for our ministry. Some congregations have also challenged their children to raise money for camp that Sunday and the congregation will match what the kids collect. **OR** Congregations could start an appeal for camp by asking folks to purchase a paper leaf for \$1 that can then be added to a tree poster, and one tree could represent \$100 or one campership...or some designated goal. The picture could be of a bare branched, winter style tree so that folks could work on "leafing" it up by spring, when the money needs to get to camp.

**GEAR UP!** You and your congregation can switch from your Sunday wardrobe to camping gear like T-shirts, sweat-shirts, hiking boots, jeans or shorts. You can even bring props like a backpack, flashlight, water bottles, or rocks, sticks, leaves, plants, tent, branches, or pinecones. Also have folks bring photos or other mementos. Make sure that if you want them to do that, you give them notice several weeks beforehand.

**PROMOTE CAMP SUNDAY:** You may want to go around to the various Sunday School classes and talk up the presentation a week or so beforehand. If your congregation has an e-mail or mailing list, let everyone know about Camp Sunday. Make sure announcements about the presentation are published in the bulletin and/or newsletter. The week after Camp Sunday, it would be good to make an announcement that last Sunday was Camp Sunday and that if folks missed it, they can still get information and get registered. During Sunday School, pass out brochures to those who missed them the week before.

If your congregation is unable to celebrate with us on Transfiguration Sunday, we encourage you to hold a Mount Luther Sunday at another time and join with us in emphasizing the importance of outdoor ministries in our synod. Make the service about changed lives and opportunities at camp. Make announcements, pass out information, and extend invitations to attend camp! You could also have a short promotional time each week in the course of a month or so.