

OMEGA WORD



WINTER 2011

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Merry Christmas

Christmas Greetings to the friends of Camp Omega. May yours be filled with love from family and friends, good food, warmth, music, and most of all, the knowledge and peace of Christ's great love for you. May He who came to earth to be our Savior be the center of your celebration. To all of you from the staff of Camp Omega, Merry Christmas!



Camp...it does your spirit good!

Who taught you what you believe? When I think back to those who taught me, I am reminded of my parents, grandparents, church community, neighbors, and teachers. They took time to care and helped me take important steps in growing in the Christian faith. Now that I am a parent, I have the same questions and concerns my parents had. Who will assist in teaching my children?

DID YOU KNOW ...

- ☞ Lifelong habits, values and attitudes are formed between the ages of 5-12 (K-8th grade).
- ☞ By age 9 (4th grade) most of the moral and spiritual foundations of a child are in place.
- ☞ By age 13 the spiritual identity is largely set in place (8th grade).
- ☞ The spiritual condition at age 13 is a strong indicator of your spiritual profile as an adult.
- ☞ 4.5 kids out of 10 admit they don't have a good role model to follow.



Rooted in Christ, Camp Omega is . . .

. . . dedicated to assisting the congregations of the Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and other Christian and community groups in nurturing the spiritual, emotional, and intellectual growth of people of all ages through the camp's sponsored programs, resources and facilities in an outdoor setting.

Today's families are challenged by new obstacles and are often pulled in different directions. Information can be found with the click of a button. We can get directions, movie times, menus, and even make appointments on the go. One thing that hasn't changed however is the need for significant relationships, especially ones that are Christ centered and will influence young people in positive ways.

(cont.)

Did you know...

... that on an annual basis, more volunteer hours are contributed to Camp Omega than are paid staff hours? This is a testimony to how valuable volunteers are to the ministry of Camp Omega. Thank you to the over 440 people from 84 cities who provided Camp Omega with more than 18,800 volunteer hours of service in 2010! In researching this data for our annual Camp Omega dinner this past fall, we were reminded of the importance of volunteers whose time and expertise make ministry at camp possible. Virgil Luehrs, speaker at the Appreciation Dinner, reminded the 265 guests that volunteers receive the personal blessing of serving their Lord with the gifts and talents given to them. Volunteering at camp is a blessing to both the volunteer and to Camp Omega. Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents with us.

Thrivent Choice

THRIVENT CHOICE continues to be a valuable source of gifts for Camp Omega. Thus far, camp has received nearly \$5,000 as a result of qualified donors who direct Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to send eligible amounts to camp. If you qualify as a Thrivent member, please consider calling 1-800-THRIVENT, or jumping online to:

www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice

and direct your THRIVENT CHOICE dollars to Camp Omega. The procedure is simple, non-invasive and results in a much-appreciated gift to Camp Omega.

Camp ... it does your spirit good! (cont. from cover)

HOW CAN CAMP OMEGA SERVE YOU?

Parents say... (American Camping Association Survey):

- ☞ 70% – “My child gained self-confidence at camp.”
- ☞ 63% – “My child continues to participate in activities learned at camp.”
- ☞ 69% – “My child remains in contact with friends made at camp.”

Camp is a place where children have an opportunity to develop independence and self-worth. They form friendships and grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Campers are mentored and given a chance to explore their unique abilities. Here's what campers say,

“Camp Omega made my relationship with Christ stronger, gave me strength to share my faith, and made me see my faith in a new light.”

“I think camp is the greatest thing that has ever happened to me. The counselors are awesome role models, listeners, and friends.”

“Tomorrow, my sister Martha leaves for camp. And then guess what?? In exactly one week, I'll be going to camp, too! I've been looking forward to attending camp all summer, I can't handle the anticipation. That place is my second home, my safe haven.”

Parents have also commented on their child's camp experiences.

“I count Camp Omega as one of the top three influences in my daughters' lives.”

“A nurturing and safe Christian environment in which my children's faith has grown and they've built lasting friendships.”

“Camp Omega's staff are trusted for their high-quality, Jesus-centered, relationship-building ministry to our children.”

Camp is a place where God takes ordinary people and does extraordinary things with them. Through the work of the Holy Spirit and dedicated staff, a camp experience changes lives. Staff members, volunteers, campers, families, and church groups share the love given to us by our Heavenly Father. We pray you and your loved ones will journey with us at Camp Omega in yet another amazing year of life changing experiences.

– Bob LaCroix



Thank You!

The following pages highlight individuals and organizations whose financial support demonstrates their care, commitment, compassion and leadership to the mission and vision of Camp Omega from January 1, 2010 through November 30, 2010. We are grateful for your kind and willing spirits!

OMEGA SOCIETY ... gave \$250 or more

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GENERAL FUND ... gave \$1-\$249

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We make every attempt to list all donors, but mistakes do happen. Please call us at (507) 685-4266 or e-mail at info@campomega.org if we have inadvertently omitted your name or listed you incorrectly.

FOR THE CHILDREN FUND CAMPERSHIPS...

... those who recognized the importance of helping every child attend camp regardless of economic status.

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LWML Minnesota South District; Rochester, MN
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Genesis; Le Center, MN
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Jerry Krause; Owatonna, MN

... Ruth Villwock:

Carl Villwock; Kilkenny, MN

DESIGNATED... those who

recognized a need and gave freely to make sure it could be accomplished.

St. Paul Lutheran Church; Waseca, MN
Cross View Lutheran Church; Edina, MN
MNS District DCE Conference; Burnsville, MN
Messiah Lutheran Church; Lakeville, MN
Messiah Lutheran Youth Mounds View;
New Brighton, MN
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GIFT IN KIND... those who thought of camp when looking for a new home for items of value.

Hewitt Machine & Manufacturing Inc;
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Lynn & Patty Zellman; Cologne, MN
Andy & Heather Zellman; Gaylord, MN

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

...those who recognized the valuable ministry that is taking place through the power of the Holy Spirit at Camp Omega.

Congregations and Schools:

Bethlehem Lutheran Church; Morristown, MN
Bethlehem Lutheran Ladies Aid; Morristown, MN
Emanuel Lutheran Church; Hamburg, MN
First Lutheran Church; Waldorf, MN
Good Shepherd Luth. Church; North Mankato, MN
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Our Savior Lutheran Church; Mankato, MN
Redeemer Lutheran Church; Owatonna, MN
Redeemer Lutheran School; Wayzata, MN
St John's Lutheran Church; Stewartville, MN

DID YOU KNOW...

Camp fees at Camp Omega only cover about 68% of the annual costs of summer camp and retreat events. Camp relies on generous individuals like you to help make up the remaining 32%.

St. James Lutheran Church; Northrop, MN
St. John Lutheran Church; Austin, MN
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The Rock Church; St Paul, MN
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Trinity Lutheran Church; Waterville, MN
Trinity Lutheran School; Janesville, MN
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Brownsdale, MN
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Holy Cross Ladies Guild; Prior Lake, MN
Immanuel - Dorcas Society; Courtland, MN
Immanuel Ladies Aid; Elgin, MN
Tabitha Circle; Minnesota Lake, MN
St. John Ladies Aid; Austin, MN
St. John's LWML; Sherburn, MN
St. John's of Rich Valley Ladies Aid;
Rosemount, MN
St. Paul Lutheran LLL Men's Group; Waseca, MN
St. Paul's Ladies Aid; Green Isle, MN
Trinity Guild; Elgin, MN
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Zion Ladies Aid & LWML; Cologne, MN

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Other Organizations:

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Good Search; Los Angeles, CA
Hoffman Printing; Faribault, MN
National Hmong Pastor Conference;
Howard, WI
OUMC - Owatonna; Owatonna, MN
State Bank of Faribault; Faribault, MN

Camp Omega Winter and Spring Retreat Events

WINTER DAZE! - JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUPS

Bring your youth group out for a fun-filled day. Activities include snow tubing with tow rope, broomball, Christian growth, outdoor games, singing and devotions. Event runs from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Date: December 28, 2010 **Cost:** \$20 per participant

SENIOR HIGH RETREAT

Grow in the Christian faith while having a blast with other high school youth from around Minnesota. Activities include snow tubing with tow rope, broomball, Christian growth, games, singing and devotions. Event runs from Tuesday 6:30 pm to Wednesday 4:00 pm.

Dates: December 28-29, 2010 **Cost:** \$45 per participant

WINTER KINDERCAMP

A weekend of winter fun for children ages 4-6 and their parents. Winter Kindercamp offers parents, grandparents, or other adults the chance to be a camper and spend time with their child at camp. Lots of winter fun – both inside and out. Event runs from Friday 7:00 pm to Sunday 1:00 pm.

Dates: February 25-27, 2011 **Cost:** \$75 per participant

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Join other confirmation groups for a fun-filled weekend of Christian growth, songs, group building and games. Camp Omega will lead two Bible Studies, evening camp fire, and morning devotions. Outside activities include fun games and service projects. Come for fellowship, fun, and time to praise God. Event runs from Friday 6:30 pm to 4:00 pm on Saturday.

Dates: April 15-16, 2011 **Cost:** \$55 per participant

ANNUAL WORK WEEKEND

Join others in Christian fellowship while preparing Camp Omega for the arrival of over 1600 children, youth and adults for summer camp programming. Entire families are invited to join in the service, fun, and recreation of a fulfilling service weekend. Camp Omega staff will lead the youth and children in age-appropriate service projects and recreational activities. The weekend kicks off Friday evening and lasts through lunch on Sunday, but join us for any part of the weekend as your schedule allows.

Dates: May 27-29, 2011 **Cost:** This is a FREE event!

CAMP OMEGA DAY

Come for the day or just for a few hours and enjoy a free day of family fun in God's creation at Camp Omega. Activities include a picnic lunch, swimming, hayrides, pontoon rides, archery, canoeing, and a variety of other staff-led camp activities for the whole family. RSVP is preferred, but not required. To RSVP, contact the camp office by email info@campomega.org or call (507) 685-4266

Date: June 4, 2011 **Cost:** This is a FREE event!

Needs List:

Please contact the camp office if you can help camp obtain these items:

- 20 person voyager canoe
- Roto Tiller (walk behind for garden)
- Pressure Sprayer
- Fireplace Tool Set-THANK YOU!
- Dehumidifiers
- Sofa (no hide-a-beds please)
- Projector Screen (6x6 or larger)
- Parachute (\$50)
- Safety and Regular Scissors
- Gator Skin Balls (\$12 each)
- Four Wheeled Mule/Gator type vehicle
- Pool cover (\$2500)-THANK YOU!
- Pontoon Boat Large enough for 15-20 People
- Pontoon Boat Lift THANK YOU!
- Dock THANK YOU!
- Winter Sno-tubing Tubes (\$15 each)
- Taxidermied Animals and Fish
- Clipboards
- Disc Golf Baskets THANK YOU!
- White T-Shirts (new) for Crafts
- Duct Tape
- Archery Targets THANK YOU!
- 30 Cup Coffee Makers THANK YOU!
- Mini Van
- Four Door Sedan
- Art Supplies:
 - > Drawing Paper
 - > Brushes
 - > Drawing Pencils
 - > Watercolor Paints

OMEGA E-WORD

This past fall, Camp Omega started sending electronic Omega Words out by email. Subscribe to keep up with Camp Omega news on a monthly basis at www.CampOmega.org.

Camp Omega
22750 Lind Avenue
Waterville MN 56096
www.campomega.org



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Summer Camp 2011
information
available online at
www.CampOmega.org.
Online registration
will open by
January 1, 2011.



Camp Omega Gift Certificates for Christmas!!



What a great gift for family and friends this Christmas! Share the gift of Camp with your children or grandchildren and see them grow in the knowledge of Christ as their Savior... a gift that lasts a lifetime. Contact the Camp Omega office for more information (507) 685-4266.

Give to Camp Omega While You Search or Shop Online!

GO TO GOODSEARCH.COM:

1. Enter Camp Omega as your charity and select "verify".
2. Search the internet as you normally would.
3. GoodSearch donates to Camp Omega for every search.

GO TO GOODSHOP.COM:

1. Enter Camp Omega as your charity and select "verify".
2. Select the links to your favorite stores and shop as usual.
3. GoodShop will contribute up to 30% of your purchase to Camp Omega.



*It's That Easy -
Thank You!*

A New Venture

Camp Omega is looking forward to a new funding opportunity that will be directing dollars back to Camp Omega. Financial development for Christian charities is difficult in today's financial climate. A new non-profit organization called "Creative Connections 2 Christian Charities" is developing in southern Minnesota. The goal of this new charity is to send profits and proceeds to Camp Omega. Watch for more details on this encouraging effort as it unfolds.