



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA SOUTH

Tornado damages Camp Omega



Uprooted trees caused damage on the west side of the camp.



Shown are the bunk beds that were housed in the teepee.

On Thursday, Sept. 20, a strong line of thunderstorms raced across southern Minnesota. Shortly before 6:30 p.m., an area of rotation developed and a tornado touched down in Waterville, about 20 miles east of Mankato.

The tornado, rated an EF-1 with winds estimated by the National Weather Service between 90 and 100 mph, tracked northeast and struck the south and east ends of Camp Omega before dissipating two miles northeast of the camp.

Because the storm hit around dusk, Bob LaCroix, Camp Omega director, recalled his uncertainty about the state of the camp.

“There was a sense of relief the next morning as I drove around seeing the main camp mostly intact with very minor damage, just lots of trees down,” LaCroix said.

However, in other areas of the camp, the damage was more significant. “There were parts of the camp we couldn’t get to for a while because of the trees down, so not knowing [the damage] was the biggest concern.”

When the farthest reaches of Omega were finally surveyed, one of the tepees and one of the treehouses were found to be seriously damaged or destroyed. Additionally, the amount of tree damage throughout the camp property was found to be quite serious.

In the wake of the storm damage,

the volunteer response has been a blessing to Camp Omega, with numerous schools, congregations and individuals asking how they can help, according to LaCroix. He said that there will be a continued need for volunteers over the next six to eight months.

Some of the specific needs are:

- › **VOLUNTEERS** to haul brush and operate chain saws.
- › **WOOD CHIPPERS** to mulch branches.
- › **BUCKET TRUCKS** to aid in cutting down damaged limbs and branches higher up in trees.

“It’s the worst storm I’ve endured, but God’s hand continues to play out in the relatively minimal damage to camp property and buildings and the quick action from volunteers,” LaCroix said.

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Volunteers who desire to help clean up Camp Omega are encouraged to contact the camp office at **507-685-4266**.

School marketing summit

A school marketing summit will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 16 at Concordia Academy, Roseville.

The summit will feature marketing and enrollment strategies, including how to tell your story in a noisy world.

Do you want to learn how to:

- ▶ Clarify your vision and mission?
- ▶ Think through the story you tell?
- ▶ Market effectively on digital platforms?
- ▶ Take advantage of word-of-mouth marketing?
- ▶ Improve your enrollment closing process?
- ▶ Retain more of your current families?
- ▶ Handle the money issue with prospective families?
- ▶ Create an action plan and marketing calendar?

The masterclass also will feature Jim McKenzie, who tripled his school's enrollment over the past eight years.

Lunch will be provided!

Who should come?

All who help with marketing and the student-enrollment process are invited! This includes staff members, administrators, admissions counselors, administrative assistants, lay leaders, parent volunteers and pastors at high schools, elementary schools, preschools,



Japanese church has pastor

Rev. Gen Hashimoto (seated in the center) was installed as pastor of Japanese Fellowship Church-Lutheran in Minneapolis on Sept. 23. Japanese Fellowship is a new LCMS congregation that was welcomed into the Minnesota South District at its June convention. Seated to Pastor Hashimoto's left is Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, Minnesota South District president.

and early childhood centers.

The fee is \$60 per person or \$75 for a group (unlimited number of people) from the same school or center.

Jim McKenzie serves as headmaster at The Rock School in Gainesville, Fla. Since 2008, he's tripled enrollment from 140 to more than 420 students. The school has maintained strong retention rates and extremely high national parent satisfaction scores, and increased tuition more than 50

percent. Jim has 10 years' experience in coaching, training and consulting with Christian schools. Jim's presentations are consistently praised for his passionate and energetic delivery and for his ability to connect high-level strategy with practical application.

You'll leave with both the motivation and the mechanics to do marketing the right way!

To register, go to mnsdistrict.org/2018-school-marketing-summit.

Congregation mission receipts

For the period ending Sept. 30, 2018

Actual receipts	\$106,818
Budget receipts	\$200,000
Over (under) amount	\$(93,182)

Year-to-date receipts

Actual receipts	\$1,468,021
Budget receipts	\$1,800,000
Over (under) anticipated amount	\$(331,979)

Use of mission receipts (YTD-year to date)

50% remitted to Synod (YTD)	\$557,896
100% remitted to Synod (YTD)	\$55,228
50% for district operations (YTD)	\$557,896
100% for district operations (YTD)	\$297,001
Total receipts	\$1,468,021

Mission receipts—2018 vs. 2017

Mission receipts — YTD 2018	\$1,468,021
Mission receipts — YTD 2017	\$1,572,721
Over (under) last year	\$(104,700)

2018 congregational receipts budgeted at \$2,400,000

MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT LCEF

August 2018

New investments	\$1,239,785
Withdrawals	\$1,304,734
Net increase (decrease)	\$(64,949)

Year-to-date July 1, 2018–Aug. 31, 2018

New investments	\$2,511,480
Withdrawals	\$2,995,603
Net increase (decrease)	\$(484,123)

CAMP OMEGA

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

"We've got a long road ahead of us, but we'll get there."

This same line of thunderstorms spawned at least 16 tornadoes, according to the National Weather Service Twin Cities office. However, no other LCMS churches or schools were known to be damaged by the storms at the time of publishing.

MISSION GRANT SPOTLIGHT



THE DWELLING PLACE

The Dwelling Place is a Christian ministry that offers a safe shelter and services for women and children escaping the trauma of domestic abuse. The Dwelling Place is one of our mission grant recipients for the 2018-20 biennium and will receive \$15,000 for general operating support.

Work is underway to renovate a fourth

home, Lydia's Place, that will be open by late fall 2018. According to Linda Wiza, executive director, "This home will provide much needed women's and children's program spaces as well as living space for an additional 12 women and children. With this home, our capacity will increase to serve 52 women and children."

Thank you

Jordan Peiser

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. (second year)



I want to thank you and all the saints of the district LWML for your generous support of my seminary education. With your financial support, I will be able to study for the office of Holy Ministry, and dedicate more time to learning and practical experience in service. These will help in my future ministry.

Further, I hope to improve my comprehension and communication of Spanish. I had years of academic experience and had attended a primarily Hispanic church for years. With your support and prayers, I will be able to dedicate more time to this pursuit, which, I hope, will better equip me for serving God's people.

Tanner Post

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. (second year)



I am very grateful for the generous support you have provided for my second year at the seminary in Fort Wayne. I appreciate having a home district that is such a blessing to its students at the seminary.

I hope to return to the Midwest once I finish my education in Fort Wayne to be the pastor of a congregation in the rural part of the country. I have had many good role models growing up, all of whom have served as examples of humility and zealotness when working as undershepherds of Christ. I hope to follow in the same way and serve the people of God, bringing them His gifts through His Word and Sacraments.

Thank you for helping to give me the opportunity to study at the seminary and be formed into a pastor.

You are certainly a blessing to me and my family. Thank you and God's peace.

Meeting ends with service

As the women of **New Life Church, Hugo**, gathered for a society meeting and to plan the St. Croix River Zone Rally, they concluded their time together with packing school supplies for Lutheran World Relief.

The society packed the supplies in homemade pillowcase bags. These bags had straps made of cord attached to them, providing the children a way to carry their supplies. The supplies included notebooks, pencils, pens, crayons, erasers, scissors, pencil sharpeners and rulers.

The ladies will deliver more than 40 packed bags to the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) warehouse. LWR will deliver the supplies to children in Africa.

WANTED: District medallions

Ladies ... please be on the lookout! Our Minnesota South District medallions are in scarce supply again.

These medallions are the identifying marker for district ladies at national conventions, including the 38th Biennial Convention in Mobile, Ala., June 20-23. Many of your mothers and grandmothers wore these Minnesota-shaped necklaces and have them stashed in their drawers and jewelry boxes from long ago. If you happen to come across one, please give them to any active LWML member to turn in to a district or zone officer.

A bulletin announcement and church-newsletter blurb may turn some up, too. While you're at it, be sure to ask about the convention at which it was worn. There's sure to be an LWML story.

(Story written by Nancy Kohrs, past district president who also served as district convention chair for the 2018 biennial convention ... thank you Nancy!)

REAL. PRESENT. GOD.

LCMS YOUTH GATHERING
Minneapolis · July 11-15, 2019

Registration opened Oct. 17 for the 2019 LCMS Youth Gathering, set for July 11-15 in Minneapolis. Data entry for registration, which is exclusively online, began Sept. 5.



While there is no paper registration for the Gathering, each group will be required to mail in a Pastoral Affirmation Form, Registration Account Form (available to print after completing online registration) and the deposit payment.

The registration fee of \$365 per participant covers all Gathering program and administrative costs, participant items, post-Gathering resources and secondary insurance for all participants. The registration fee does not include meals and lodging.

Registrants may submit either the full amount or a non-refundable deposit of \$150 per person to secure registration. Registrations will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. When registration capacity is reached, remaining groups will be placed on a waiting list and admitted as space becomes available.



More information about registration for the Gathering – including a registration booklet, necessary forms, a registration timeline and a sign-up form for monthly Gathering emails – is available at lcmsgathering.com.



Send submissions for the district supplement to:

Billy Schultz

- ▶ billy.schultz@mnsdistrict.org
- ▶ 14301 Grand Ave. South
Burnsville, MN 55306-5707

Photos sent by email should be in high resolution, at least 300 dpi.

REAL.PRESENT.GOD.

2019 LCMS Youth Gathering

Local Volunteer Applications Open!

Learn more and apply at
lcmsgathering.com/gathering-volunteers/



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