

The *intetc.com* In Church and Community



From the Senior Pastor Ever Forward!

This is an exciting time of year at Our Savior's. It's stewardship season, that time when we dream together about how much OSL means to us and to the broader community and how we will invest in this ministry God has entrusted to us.



This year our strategic plan is guiding us as we look to the future. With three years of pandemic uncertainty behind us, it is critical to our mission that we strive together now to move ever forward, adapting and innovating as we put our trust in the One who has called and gathered us into this community we love.

Specifically, this strategic planning process has helped us identify that God is calling us to be a **Church of Substance**, a church that is *courageously vulnerable, deliberately atypical, shamelessly gracious, boldly exploring, and faithfully engaged*. In the year to come (and beyond), we will not only continue developing ministry initiatives that align with this identity—for example, fos-

tering a partnership with Ace Academy, forming a Creation Care team that will help us identify ways we can decrease our carbon footprint, exploring the process of becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation, etc.—but we will also begin marketing our ministry in the community using this newly claimed identity.

Engagement: Secondly, because the pandemic necessarily changed the way we engage church, we now need to focus attention on helping folks reengage our ministry in ways that not only serve them well but also serve the congregation's mission. At the top of this list is our priority to welcome folks

continued

Ever Forward

Faithfully Engaged
Transforming the World

Ministry Spotlight

Meet the New Youth Director!

Introducing Madelynn Skajewski

How often have you found yourself wondering about the path that brings people to where they are now? How often have you wondered about the path that brought *you* to where you are now?

Sometimes the route seems straight and obvious. Sometimes it is circuitous and unclear. Sometimes it seems to dead-end—but somehow everyone ends up at a destination, one that often seems “meant to be.”

Spending a little time with Madelynn Skajewski prompts some reflection along those lines.

Madelynn, as you likely know by now, is Our Savior’s new Youth Director, having joined the staff in April. She hit the ground running, since there was a lot going on with OSL’s youth leading up to seniors’ confirmation, high-school gradu-

ations, and all the usual end-of-school-year activities.

You may also recognize Madelynn from her frequently singing and playing with the Celebrate Band, since late last year.

Oh, and she’s also a professional photographer. You know, in her spare time.

And so the question naturally arises: “How did you get here now?”

“I’ve been involved in ministry for a long time, ever since I went on a Youth Gathering trip years ago,” Madelynn recalls. Initially, ministry for Madelynn took the form of healthcare work. “I was inspired by my grandpa’s heart issues,” she says, “and I became a cardiac tech.”

After several years in healthcare, life circumstances changed. “That led me closer to God in a new way,” Madelynn says. “I found Our Savior’s, and I felt led into worship and into joining the worship team. And then I found out about the Youth Director position.

“I think I have a heart for ministry,” Madelynn says, “a passion for ministry.” Madelynn believes that her passion for ministry and working with kids came through in her interview process, and led to her being offered the position.

“I feel called to do this,” she says, “and I feel I can accomplish what I’m called to do.”

What does that entail? Madelynn ticks off a number of goals:

- ♦ Helping young people know they are worthy of God’s love.
- ♦ Making sure they know that nobody should ever feel like they’re “not enough.”
- ♦ Giving kids a place where they’re comfortable to be themselves.
- ♦ Creating a fun, safe, and loving environment.

Her ministry at Our Savior’s is not far removed from her first experience working with kids. “I used to teach dance,” she says. “Ballet, tap, jazz, hip-hop—for kids from age two or three through



middle-school age.” She expresses a longtime love of being around kids, especially her three nieces. And through her photography business, which is mainly portrait photography, she also has opportunity to spend time with newborns, young children, and families. (You can see examples of Madelynn’s work at skiphotographyllc.com.)

So we have a fairly winding path leading Madelynn from her childhood in Moorhead, Minnesota, to high-school and subsequent years in Sioux Falls, to dance instruction, healthcare, photography, worship team, and, now Our Savior’s Youth Director. And yet at the same time it’s a logical path, one that now intersects with OS� youth and the broader congregation in ways that surely will enrich everyone.

Welcome,
Madelynn! ♦

*Here’s Madelynn with
her her nieces, ages 2, 4,
and 9.*



From the Senior Pastor, *continued from page 1*

back to in-person worship. Television and Facebook Live help us expand the reach of our ministry, but the full benefit of worship is best achieved when attending and participating in person. Thus it is our goal to grow not only our onsite worship attendance but also the number of folks who are actively involved in a ministry area outside of worship. We want to focus on relational ministries, those programs and activities that help us further develop our relationships with each other while welcoming and engaging those who are new to our community. In a word, this is about celebrating the FUN of being church together.

Finally, our strategy for mission requires an **Investment** from those who have been called and gathered by the Holy Spirit to be part of Team OS�. Everything we do as a congregation is funded by members and friends who share a portion of what God has given them with the church. This year’s stewardship appeal, *Ever Forward: Faithfully Engaged Transforming the World*, is your personal invitation to invest in this ministry we share. It is an opportunity to partner with your Our Savior’s

family in literally transforming the world through our mission of proclaiming Christ and nurturing faith that connects with everyday life.

After praying about this mission critical opportunity, complete your Estimate of Giving card that you either picked up at one of our stewardship events or received in the mail and return it to the church as soon as you can. The information you provide on this card will enable your leadership team to begin planning for an exciting new ministry year, which begins July 1. In addition, be sure to join us for worship on May 13 and 14 as we celebrate the completion of this year’s stewardship appeal and consecrate our Estimates of Giving as part of our offering.

Thank you for your partnership as together we move Ever Forward in mission and ministry.

Randy
Pr. Randy Gehring



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Saturday Evening – 5:00 P.M., Sanctuary

Sunday Morning

Celebrate Worship – 8:45 and 10:30 A.M., Celebrate Center

Festive Worship – 10:15 A.M., Sanctuary

Television and Internet

Celebrate: 9:00 A.M., KTTW (cable channel 9; channel 7.1)

Festive: 1:00 P.M., KSCB (cable channel 30; channel 53),

Facebook Live: 8:45 and 11:00 A.M.

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