

Meet our new Administrative Assistant: Michelle Behsman

Hilltop Church and The Southern Prairie District is happy to announce the hiring of Michelle Behsman. We believe Michelle has the organizational and technical abilities for the position, and also brings great communication and people skills. Beyond that, her obvious love for Christ, winsome personality, and her desire to work in a positive environment make her a great asset to us as we move forward in our common United Methodist Mission *“to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.”* I asked Michelle 10 questions so that you might get a sense of who she is.



1) Where are you from? Who are your people?

My Dad was born and raised in a small town near Peoria, Illinois. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force after high school and met my Mom while stationed in Taipei, Taiwan. They returned to Wyoming, Illinois with an infant son and I was born there a year later. We moved to Omaha, Nebraska when I was six and after eight years we relocated to Madison Lake, Minnesota. I attended high school in Janesville and college at MNSU-Mankato. I married the “boy-next-door”, Tom, who moved to Madison Lake from Owatonna just six months after my family settled here. We were married at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Eagle Lake twenty years ago and Tom and I are blessed to have three awesome kids – Will (17), Michael (15), and Allison (11).

2) What is your faith background?

My parents took us to the Toulon United Methodist Church and we also frequented the Wyoming Methodist Church with my grandparents, but after moving to Omaha we became members of King of Kings Lutheran Church (Missouri synod). I was baptized there at age eleven along with the Mom and brother. My mom’s choice to accept Jesus as her savior, while not being raised in the Christian faith, greatly impacted my faith life. I saw that it was important and valuable to be called a “child of God”. When we moved to Minnesota, my parents did not find a new church home, but I still felt the need to be connected to God. I often worshiped with friends, attending Trinity Lutheran church in Janesville or All Saints Catholic Church in Madison Lake. While in college, I felt an even greater call from God to be in community with fellow Christians. As students, Tom and I sought this fellowship with a student group, Christians in Action. As we talked about marriage, we both felt that God should come first in our union. We found a wonderful and loving church family at Epiphany Lutheran. Pastor Howie Skulstad got us involved with the youth of the church before we had kids of our own and we enjoyed seven years of leading the youth ministry. I stepped back from this role after the birth of our third child, but continued to serve in other ways. My conviction – I’m a sinner and sometimes get busy with the ways of this world and forget to put God first, but I know that he will continue to work on me because he is full of grace – always giving us what we don’t deserve. The best thing about being a follower of Jesus is the gift he gives us, the forgiveness of our sins. I love that I do not have to carry about guilt when I screw up, that I can say I’m sorry and begin with a clean slate.

3) What excites you about this position with us at Hilltop?

I have always felt closest to fulfilling God’s purpose when serving others. The evening of my interview I saw “fruits of the spirit” in the members of Hilltop - joy, peace, kindness, goodness, and gentleness. I am excited to use my God-given skills to work alongside with you increasing God’s kingdom.

4) What is one of your favorite films?

It is really difficult to pick just one, as I have several favorites – among them are “The Shawshank Redemption”, “Spanglish”, “The Matrix”, “The Notebook”, “Good Fellas” and “Fried Green Tomatoes”.

5) What do you like to do for fun?

I love camping in a tent under big pine trees with my family, falling asleep to the sound of loons calling. The best of times are spent on the water, either sailing, canoeing, waterskiing, or snorkeling. If I can’t be on or near the water then I enjoy biking, hunting morel mushrooms, and playing ukulele.

6) What's your favorite beverage?

I love my morning coffee and fresh brewed iced tea with lemon. There’s only one soda that I prefer above all others – Coca Cola.

7) If Hollywood was making a movie about your life who would you want to play you in the movie?

I would like to see Rachel McAdams or Jennifer Lawrence portray me in a movie, not because they look like me, but because of the acting skill.

8) How far have you traveled?

The farthest I’ve traveled is Taipei, Taiwan – I have more relatives there than in the U.S.

9) What was your favorite high school subject?

Psychology - it was also my major area of study at MNSU.

10) Who are the top 3 persons you text?

My husband and two close girl friends.

