

④ 2017 GRADUATES

Hi! I'm Michela Blomberg and my parents are Steve and Krista. I have two older brothers, Joel and Landon, and a younger sister, Olivia. I have lived in Ogema, Wisconsin my whole life and although I enjoy visiting bigger places, I will always love this small town.

I think the Ogema Baptist youth group has been a big part of why I love this place so much. Many of my friends either have gone or still go to the youth group here. I hear other kids at school talk about their youth groups and it makes me so thankful for the one I have. The kids are friendly and energetic, the leaders are caring and compassionate, and the messages are about important things but still manage to be fun.



MICHAELA BLOMBERG

I also have really enjoyed the three missions trips I've been on. Each time, I have learned something new about God, life, myself, or all three. Both retreats and mission trips with my youth group have allowed me to grow closer to God and to find people who love God too. One other thing the youth group has done for me was through my Thrive group. It gave me an adult I could open up to and ask advice of without judgement and that was a really helpful thing for me.

My plan for next year so far, is to pursue a degree in psychology at U.W. Eau Claire. I'm not sure what career is in store for me but I'm trusting that God will lead me through that when I come to it. There have been many people in my life who have helped to get me where I am spiritually. My Aunt Jennifer, Cindy Mattson, and Aimee Blomberg have all discipled me at some point and I will always be grateful for the wisdom, love, and laughs they have shared with me. One of my favorite Bible verses is Isaiah 41:10 "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." This verse has always reinforced my belief in God's love and plan for me when I needed it. It reminds me that there is nothing I can't do with him by my side. I want to thank the Ogema Baptist youth group for teaching me this and for the people I've met there, without whom my life would be very different.



KRISTINA GEDDE

Hi, my name is Kristina Gedde. My parents are Christopher and Julie, and my siblings are Hunter, Autumn, George, and Levi. I enlisted into the National Guard in January, and I am planning to attend college when I come back from basic training. Youth group has made a large impact in my life. I have made many friendships and relationships with the other people there and I will forever be grateful for that. Youth group has taught me so many things, it taught me about all of the doors that I have that I can go into, it's taught me friendships, and taught me about making relationships and more so to make sure that God is in the center of them. I have learned about focusing on him, and knowing that he is the most important thing in life. I am glad that I have had the opportunity to attend this church and meet all of the people that I have. I am so appreciative of my leaders at ground zero especially Rebecca Anderson who has spent endless amounts of time with me, helping me in my walk of faith. Thank you for all who have been there for me, and helped me in my journey.

Hi, my name is Ethan Makovsky. **ETHAN MAKOVSKY**
My parents are Robert Makovsky and Jessica Lang. I've grown up with my sister and brother Tara and Justin Makovsky. Throughout my high school career I've gone to four different high schools; each one comes with its ups and downs. As many of you may know I am currently living with my mother's parents, Joan and Mike Gasser, who have treated me with more respect and hospitality than I probably deserve, and I'm lucky to have them as part of my family.





HESSTON MEIER

Hi, I'm Hesston Meier. My parents are Lance & Jenna Meier. I have 3 siblings. My sister Tirah is 16 years old, and my sister Taylor is 15. My little brother Lane is 13 years old. I've grown up very close to my siblings being close in age and spending a lot of time together.

I have been fortunate that all my grandparents live close by. I work with my grandpa, Gene Meier, often. My grandparents, Bob and Betty Faufau, I enjoy fishing and shooting sporting clays with.

I attended Rib Lake School for 2 years when I was younger. Most of my schooling has been homeschooling. My favorite subject has always been math. I have also enjoyed the SFI Forestry Training I have completed the past 2 years.

Ogema Baptist Church has always been my favorite church to attend. There are a number of adults at OBC who have had a significant impact on my life. I was privileged to go on the Canada fly in fishing trip with OBC, and I am very excited to go again this year. The Canada fishing trip was a great experience for me, and a time for me to reconnect with God.

I am excited for my future. I plan to continue growing my beef farm, as well as my forestry business. I plan on purchasing my own farm in the Spirit area eventually.

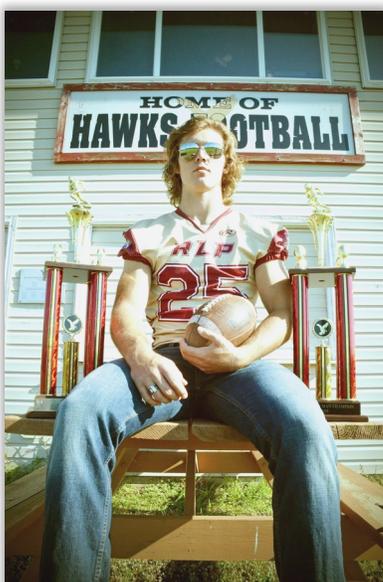
ELIZABETH NELSON

Hi! I'm Elizabeth Nelson but most of you know me as Liz. I grew up here on a dairy farm with my eight siblings (in order of age): Patrick, me, Hannah, Torrey, Justin, Sam, Annie, Leo, and Heidi, and my parents Dan and Adrienne Nelson.

I began coming to Ogema Baptist about 3 years ago and have grown to love it. Through church, youth group, Bible studies, retreats and mission trips I have met some amazing people who have helped me grow in my faith.

This fall I will be starting the next step in my life, college. I will be attending NTC to finish my generals and hopefully to get a more clear idea of what I would like to major in once I transfer to a four year.

I am going to really miss being here, yet no matter where I go I will always remember what I have learned here. I am sad to leave, but also excited to see what God has planned for me. For one thing I have really come to realize here is that God is always with me, and he will guide me through this crazy life.



HUNTER SWAN

I'm Hunter Swan. My parents are Dan and Alise Swan, and sister and brothers are, Ashley, Dan, Zack, Grayson, and Chase, along with my favorite nieces in the world Ahna and Lena. I plan to attend Marathon county for two years to save money and then transfer to a University (probably Stevens Point). I hope to attain a degree in the sciences. I am considering attending chiropractic school after that or maybe going for my masters and working to be a manager in a lab, but ultimately I will go where I feel God is most directing me.

Ground Zero has always been a constant in my life and that has positively guided me throughout high school. From being a freshman looking up to guys there, to junior and senior year just getting away to a place where I can worship, and that has been amazing for me. I have definitely grown the most whenever we have gone on missions trips, and it has been a really cool and fun experience to do physical work with my dad on those trips, along with spiritual work and growth with my Father. Ground Zero has helped me to be the person I am today, and I am sooo grateful for the wonderful program and opportunities for growth God has blessed me with.