

## “Profile Report”

This week’s feature: Rachel Drobnak



Rachel Drobnak was born in Westlake, Ohio. She grew up with her parents Joan and Tom, with brothers Mark, and Brian in Olmsted Township. She was baptized and confirmed at POP. Attending Sunday School, performing in Christmas programs, and The Children’s choir was important in her Faith Journey. Her Junior and Senior High School involvement in Band was a priority as participating in Marching, Concert, and Jazz Band along with Pit Orchestra and Baldwin Wallace Community Band was gratifying. After graduating from Olmsted Falls High School, she was accepted at Michigan State University to major in Crop and Soil Sciences. She also minors in Spanish and Environmental Studies and will graduate in May. Rachel plans to pursue her graduate degree in Crop and Soil Sciences at Michigan State University next fall, based out of a research station in Kalamazoo. This will fit in with her goal of responding to the needs of the environment. It has an effect on all citizens and knows this is how to make a difference.

She has been active in many groups and activities throughout her life. Much of her time away from her studies are focused on music, ministry and the outdoors. Rachel enjoys playing the piano, saxophone, and the bell

tower carillon with an organ style keyboard used to produce beautiful music. Many members will also recall The Drobnak family performing at services over the years. She has worked in a cherry orchard, an agricultural research station, and as a teaching assistant among other positions. Hiking with friends through State Parks included a 20 mile, four day camping trip in the Upper Peninsula recently. Having a passion for Campus Ministry as a student leader started with her involvement at POP Youth events. Being active in the confirmation class here, attending Youth Gatherings and planning future events, and being elected President of the synod Lutheran Youth Organization while leading the 2020 Northeast Ohio Youth Gathering before Covid, gives her much to be proud of. Other projects are too numerous to mention here.

As a Campus Ministry Leader at MSU, Rachel attends a local Lutheran church with a focus on inclusion. Two full time pastors provide spiritual guidance. Although not directly funded by MSU, they have a robust program that has contributed to many important missions. Working with Habitat for Humanity, trips to underserved communities in South Carolina, regular Bible Study, and dinner Gatherings have worked well to spread The Good News!

Something that people may not know about Rachel is that she would like to forge a bond between Ohio and Michigan that is lacking. She wants to shut down any "Ohio Slander" when it is mentioned. The solution she offers is to be positive and show how both states are special in their own right. Visiting friends that return from an Ohio trip relate that Cleveland is an especially great city. It sounds like the effort is working

As you see her at the POP services when in town, I encourage you to learn more about Rachel. The future is in Great Hands with people like her!

*By Tom Robinholt : Profile Reporter*

