## My Perfect Life Aimee Walsh-Dierks Concordia University Chicago Director, Early Childhood Education Center

"You have such a great life!" and, "You do so many fun things!"

I do on both accounts! I am a child of God and He continues to forgive and bless me in more ways than He should! He has given me a wonderful, supportive community of family and friends that I can talk to about nearly anything. They walk me through joys and trials with an understanding of King Solomon as he writes in Proverbs 27:17, "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another."

Although it shouldn't, it does surprise me when people talk to me about my life happenings due to my social media posts. I have fun highlighting the "good" and "fun" things in my life. I'm not really inclined to post sad days and tough times, because when I am going through those situations, I tend to burrow in for a time and shore myself up until I am ready to get back to it. I don't feel the social media world needs to know about my awful times, my self-doubt, or the crazy parts of my life. However, by not revealing those parts, others have the illusion of a "perfect" happy life for me that is absent of everyday and extraordinary trials. However, I am totally aware that I am a sinner, but I am forgiven, loved and accepted by Jesus. He and His gifts of life and salvation are what really define me.

In reality, my life is perfect, but not in the social media "perfect" way. It is perfect, because Christ died for me, and the Holy Spirit has continued to work in my life through this life-long journey on which God has led me. I have learned to be grateful for all of the crazy, all of the stress, and all of the failures along with the joys and happy times. I have learned to keep pointing to Jesus at all times. St. Paul is so correct in Philippians 4:13 when he says, "I can do everything through Him [Jesus] who gives me strength." Through God's abounding grace and love in every experience He has given me and led me through, He has grown me in endurance, character, and true hope.

I wouldn't be me without <u>all</u> parts of my life - happy, sad, awful, and wonderful. God has made me a special kind of perfect through the saving work of Jesus. And through Jesus, He has made you perfect in a way only He can.