

THE PROCLAIMER

MAY/JUNE 2022 A BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

CALVARY CHRISTIAN
REFORMED CHURCH IS
CHRIST-CENTERED
BIBLE-BELIEVING
GOSPEL-MOTIVATED
COMMUNITY-BUILDING

OUR MISSION IS TO
PROCLAIM THE GOOD
NEWS OF JESUS
IN WORD AND DEED
HERE, NEAR, AND FAR.

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EDINA ROTARY CLUB

Every month, the Edina Rotary Club celebrates the club anniversaries of every member with a simple "shout out" from the Club President. This past month, Pastor Eli and I celebrated our third anniversary of being part of the Edina Rotary Club.

When Calvary Church called us, part of our calling was to help Calvary become better connected to the surrounding community and to be the presence of Jesus and his church here in Edina. We joined the Rotary Club three years ago with the belief that the Holy Spirit had led us into this opportunity as a way of carrying out what we have been called to do.

Three years into our membership, we firmly believe this is still the case. Each week, we attend meetings, help lead the meetings in various capacities ("Invocation" involves scripture reading/prayer), develop deeper relationships within the club, and help as members of different committees in the club. We've also had

occasional visitors from the Edina Rotary at our worship services.

Recently, Pastor Eli and I have noticed that the longer we are part of Rotary, people know who we are, where our church is, and that we are friendly pastors of an active local church. Rotary Club members come to us with prayer requests, stories of challenges, their struggles and joys with their own churches, and their spiritual struggles, and questions. Since Rotary is not a Christian organization, our involvement has been a great way to not only be connected to our community, but to be the presence of Jesus and his church here in Edina and to Rotarians who may not know Jesus.

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Editorial by
Nick Van Beek
Lead Pastor
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I am part of the Local Grants Committee at the Edina Rotary Club. This committee's job is to solicit, vet and approve grants to local nonprofits of \$5,000 or less. This past month, we completed our grant process and are giving just short of \$100,000 to nonprofits in the Twin Cities for unique projects.

As part of the committee, I vetted grants for five nonprofits including Cornerstone Advocacy (which provides services for victims of domestic abuse, human trafficking, and crime), Hope Academy (a Christian School in South Minneapolis which Calvary supports), and JCS Sober Living (a Sobriety Home for those recovering from alcoholism).

I have really enjoyed my involvement on this committee. I have gotten to know some amazing, servant-hearted Rotarians, become more familiar with some community-transforming non-profits/schools in the Twin Cities, and empowered Kingdom work through the funds that we've been giving.

Pastor Eli and I are thankful that Calvary continues to encourage us and support us in our efforts to help Calvary be more outward focused. Through our involvement in Rotary, we continue to believe that Calvary is becoming a stronger presence for Christ here in Edina and throughout the Twin Cities.

If anyone from Calvary would ever like to join us for an Edina Rotary Club meeting, please let us know! We would love to have you attend as our guest. The Edina Noon Rotary Club meets on Thursdays at 12:30 pm.

May God continue to bless us as we seek to become more connected to our local community!

By Pastor Nick



MINISTRY UPDATE

HERE

Easter Baptisms

Baptism is a sign and seal of God's covenant of grace. The Heidelberg Catechism says, "God wants to teach us that the blood and Spirit of Christ take away our sins just as water removes dirt from the body." (QA 73) At Calvary, we usually baptize babies by sprinkling because they are born into Christian families where the Holy Spirit is active. The promise of the gospel is sure for them and the biological family and the church family are covenanting to raise the child to follow Jesus. This sign of the new covenant replaced circumcision as the sign of the old covenant.

The legitimacy of the baptism is not based on who does the baptism, what church the baptism is done, or what age the individual is baptized. The legitimacy is based in baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. That's why getting baptized once is enough. To get rebaptized basically says, "The promise from the triune God wasn't powerful enough the first time, so I want to do it again." We believe baptism in the Trinitarian name as Jesus teaches in the Great Commission is valid. That is why the Christian Reformed Church accepts baptisms done in other churches - Lutheran, Catholic, and others.

If the individual comes to faith in Christ as an adult and has not been baptized yet, we will happily mark them with the sign and seal of God's covenant. That is why

we celebrated the baptisms of Zayna Oliver and Chris Petersen on Easter Sunday. Neither had been baptized yet and they believed the Spirit led them to Calvary and they wanted to profess their faith in Christ to our church and to the world. Adam was already baptized and that is why he shared his profession of faith.

So why did we dunk them? Why full immersion in water? Because the Bible tells us so. When John the Baptist was preparing the way for Jesus the Messiah, he called the people to be baptized in the Jordan River to show their repentance - turning away from sin and receiving God's forgiveness (Matthew 3). Ritual bathing was not a foreign concept for the Jewish people. If someone was unclean according to the law of Moses, after a specified time the individual would be dunked in a Jewish mikveh, which was basically a bathtub near or in a Jewish synagogue. The person would come out of the water cleansed, and would be able to participate in worship at the synagogue and rejoin the social life of the community.

We see other examples of full immersion baptism in the Acts of the Apostles. Philip baptized the Ethiopian in water after he understood the Isaiah 53 prophecy was about Jesus (Acts 8). Peter baptized the Roman centurion and his entire family (kids included) when they believed in the gospel about Jesus (Acts 10). The family baptism is significant for our Reformed tradition because we see adults and their children welcomed into the church. The adults were baptized and their children were baptized to show their initiation into God's family.

We will continue to praise God for the opportunities our church will have to baptize newborn babies into Christian families and adults who come to faith in Christ by the sanctifying work of the Spirit. Below are the faith stories of Adam, Zayna, and Chris when they were welcomed into our covenant community.

Adam and Zayna Oliver's Calvary story

Zayna was born in Liberia, Africa, and I was born in Anchorage, Alaska. We met about halfway between the two here in Minnesota. We are both students. I'm finishing up my law degree and she is working on a degree in criminal justice.

We started attending in August and have been so blessed with finding Calvary. We were looking for a Reformed Church and were drawn in by how welcoming everyone was. Our first Sunday we tried to escape after the service without socializing, but our efforts were thwarted by the many people that approached us and introduced themselves. In our short time here, we have already had some big moments. In November, we were married by Pastor Nick and Eli in this sanctuary, and now Zayna is getting baptized so this church will always have a special place in our heart.

What I'd say what really brought us here, was our desire to find a Christian community. We realized that the Bible only talks about Christians being with other Christians. The faithful are always a part of a faith community. Matthew 18:20 says, "When two or three of you are gathered, I am with you." That has been so true at Calvary.

Zayna's decision to get baptized

Since childhood I was raised in church and taught to always serve God because he was the creator of everything. As I grew older I always knew in the back of my mind I believed in God. The past couple of years I have been able to learn more about God. Through this learning and understanding I believe Jesus died for my sins, and I want to live righteously for my Savior who died to save me.

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I love Jesus with all my heart and want to live my life righteously according to his word. Being baptized is one of the many steps I believe will make me closer to my Savior and show him my love and gratitude for him. Through this baptism I want to be able to leave behind my sinful ways of living and live a new faithful life that will draw others around me to Jesus as well.

The Faith Story of Chris Petersen

I live in Victoria with my wife Lindsey. I grew up in the Minnetonka/Chanhassen area. I currently work at Lifetime Corporate as an accounting specialist. I've always felt God in my life but never went to worship. I always participated in Christian celebrations, holidays and beliefs but always felt like an outsider looking in. The older I've gotten the more I questioned why I believed in God but didn't actively acknowledge it or show it. In more recent years I found myself feeling angry, scared, and somewhat lost without a purpose. I realized

I'd been searching for more meaning in my life and that's why I'm here. Accepting God and Jesus in my heart has given me a renewed sense of peace, happiness, and excitement towards life and the journey that I am here for.

I'm very grateful for my friends, the Terpstras, Andy especially. Andy and I attended high school together and then reconnected ten years ago through work. We both have a love of music and definitely bass guitar. That commonality and interest created a strong and lasting friendship with us. Over the years I answered Andy's questions about guitar and bass and he answered my questions about God, faith, and the church. I came here with Andy and felt a sense of calm and peace. I decided I wanted to come as a member and not as a visitor. I met with Pastor Eli and Pastor Nick after filling out a Connection Card. We had a great conversation over lunch and after that I knew Calvary was where I wanted to continue my spiritual growth.

SPHERE SOVEREIGNTY

*Interview with
Aleida VanderBrug*

NEAR



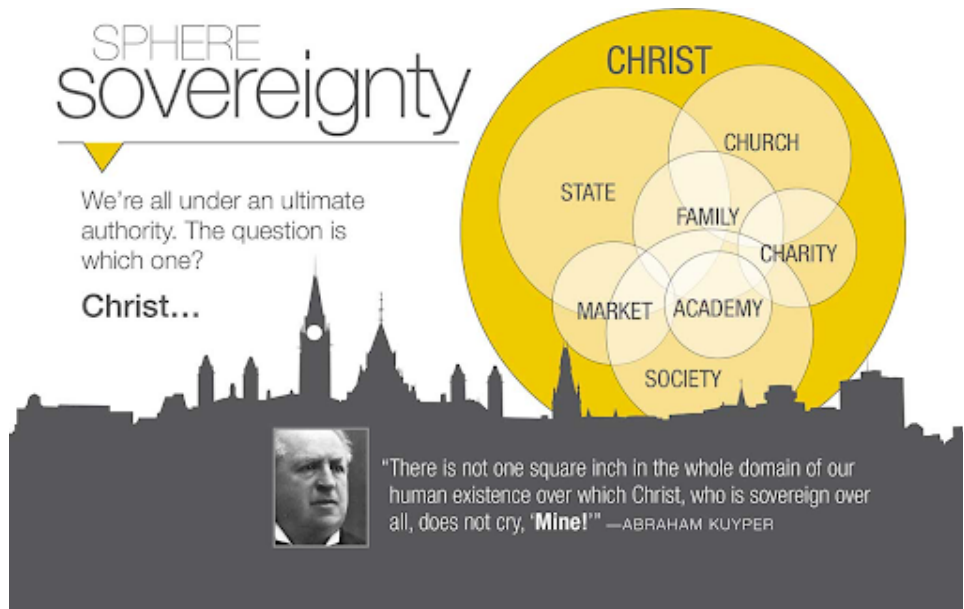
Where do you work?

Throughout the last year I have been working on completing training and certification to work as a birth doula. I have been working as a doula intern at the Minnesota Birth Center since September and will finish up my internship in May. I offer my services as a birth doula at a decreased cost for clients at the birth center, and in return, the birth center advertises their interns on their website and

the midwives really encourage all their clients to hire a doula. I am self employed throughout the internship, but have been able to work with many families throughout the last nine months.

What are your roles and responsibilities?

As a birth doula, I work to support my clients prenatally, throughout their labor and delivery, and in their early postpartum period. Typically, I see each of my clients and their partners for two prenatal visits. Since many of my current clients are first time parents, we spend a lot of our prenatal visits talking about what to expect during labor and delivery and what different routines and procedures they can expect to encounter. A big part of doula work is providing clients with research and evidenced based information on different topics to help them make informed decisions for themselves during the birthing process. I often spend a lot of time discussing pros and cons of many different aspects of labor and delivery to help my clients feel informed and empowered to make decisions that they feel are best for them and their own situations. Our prenatal visits also extend into discussions about preparing bodies for labor and delivery prenatally, tools and techniques to help manage pain in labor, planning for postpartum, basic information and questions about lactation, etc. I aim to be a resource for my clients and also offer referrals to outside resources for any additional support they may need. I am on call for each client beginning at 38 weeks of pregnancy to work with them throughout their labor and delivery. Once my client is in labor, I join them when they feel they need extra support from someone in addition to their partner. During the labor process, my goal is to support my client mentally/emotionally and physically, I don't catch babies! I have vast knowledge of baby positioning and body positioning and how to use movement



to encourage the labor process. I'm also able to do a lot of problem solving and position work with my clients if there seems to be a stall in labor, a fetal positioning problem, or many other things you might expect to encounter during the labor and delivery process. I also meet with my clients once postpartum to debrief how they feel their birth went, check in on their well being, and see how they are adjusting to life with a new baby.

What are you currently working on that you are excited about?

Doula work and self-employment are all very new to me, so the whole process has been very exciting to learn. Everything from doula work itself to understanding how to run my own business and market myself. If I had to pick one specific thing I am most excited about, it would be implementing the Body Ready Method training that I completed in January, while working with my clients. The Body Ready Method is all about how birth workers (doulas, midwives, bodyworkers, physical therapists, etc.) can work with clients prenatally to optimize the body for childbirth. As a Body Ready Method certified pro, I have learned how to use movement and observation to assess a client's alignment, upper body, core, pelvis, and pelvic floor (we call these the five BRM pillars).

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COMMUNITY BUILDING

15 things you didn't know about The Soerens Family



Casey

1. Works in tech support for Omnitrac, working with the trucking industry
2. Enjoys playing World of Tanks in his down time
3. Has multiple school/home projects running at once

Shannon

4. Grew up a Terpstra at Calvary

5. Teaches 5th grade at Eagle Ridge Academy
6. Loves backcountry camping, especially the BWCA but hates spiders

Gabi

7. Graduates from Eagle Ridge this spring, where one of her favorite classes has been Humanities

8. Will be studying Nursing at Trinity Christian College next year
9. Loves languages and has been studying Latin for seven years

Grace

10. Was born on the Fourth of July
11. Is a sophomore at Eagle Ridge where she has been in Drama, Volleyball, Pep Band, & Junior Classical League
12. Worked up north last summer as a camp counselor and lived in a canvas tent for five weeks

Josiah

13. Is in 6th Grade at Eagle Ridge
14. Has a habit of doing multiple 500+ piece puzzles at the same time
15. Cares a lot about wildlife and ecology

May Birthdays

- | | |
|-------|--|
| May 2 | Camryn Rettig |
| May 3 | Matthew Beekman, Cade Mellema, Sam Workman |
| May 4 | Nicole Staudt |
| May 5 | Kyla Orcutt, Carey Rettig |
| May 6 | Jesse Post |
| May 7 | Jack Zylstra |
| May 8 | Janette Kamp |
| May 9 | Katie Abbring, Mark Douma, Lucy Vliem |

- | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| May 10 | Ben Rindels |
| May 11 | Kristin Koelewyn, Dave Terpstra |
| May 12 | Carolyn Liddle, Cel Schrotenboer |
| May 14 | Camden Mellema |
| May 15 | Judah Kobes |
| May 16 | Shar Jelgerhuis |
| May 18 | Soren Moser |
| May 19 | Brayden Beckering |

- | | |
|--------|--------------------------------|
| May 19 | Darcy Terpstra |
| May 20 | Ed Attema, Tanner Hulstein |
| May 22 | Ian Zwagerman |
| May 26 | Matt Koelewyn, Michael Schmidt |
| May 28 | Asher DeKam |
| May 30 | Wyatt Hoekman |

June Birthdays

- | | |
|--------|--|
| June 1 | Jack Brouwer, Daryl De Kam, Carl Vrieze |
| June 7 | Kathleen Beekman, Duane Zwagerman |
| June 8 | Ally Terpstra, Craig Veurink, Braden Vis |
| June 9 | Emily Kobes, Aaron O'Donnell |

- | | |
|---------|--|
| June 12 | Richard Rosenwinkel, Truman Van Hulzen |
| June 16 | Marta De Kam, Sam Zylstra |
| June 17 | Nick Hoekman |
| June 18 | Marilyn DeVries, Faye Ross |
| June 19 | Pat Blankespoor |

- | | |
|---------|----------------------------|
| June 22 | Alaina Terpstra |
| June 23 | Michelle Hoekstra |
| June 24 | Katherine Beekman |
| June 27 | Andrew Bosch, Greg Stewart |
| June 29 | Grace Attema |

Worship Service Schedule

May 1

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Exodus 31:1-5; 35:30-35
Echoes of the Holy Spirit:
Skills and Gifts
Offering: VEAP

May 8

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Numbers 11:16-30
Echoes of the Holy Spirit:
Leading and Helping
Offering: Christian Education
Fund

May 15

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Judges 6:33-7:8
Echoes of the Holy Spirit:
Weakness and Strength
Offering: Children of the
Promise

May 22

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Psalm 51
Echoes of the Holy Spirit:
Cleanliness and Joy
Offering: Honduras Discretionary
Fund

May 29

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Ezekiel 36:16-32
Echoes of the Holy Spirit:
Renewal and Deliverance
Offering: Christian Education
Fund

June 5

Worship led by Pastor Nick
Joel 2:28-32
Echoes of the Holy Spirit:
Restoration and Empowerment
Offering: Resonate Global
Systema

VEAP PARTNERSHIP

NEAR



VEAP Thanks You!

Thank you, Calvary, for your generous response to our recent laundry detergent drive for VEAP. We collected 134 bottles of detergent, well over our goal of 100 bottles! A shout-out of gratitude to some of our snowbirds who participated in our drive from afar and helped us surpass our goal. The volunteers were THRILLED every time we dropped off the weekly donations of detergent. It is such a valued commodity at the food shelf and is rarely in stock.

Thanks, too, to Natalie Hoekman, my faithful poster maker for our drives!

VEAP had a very successful March/April drive, collecting \$241,802 and 105,530 pounds of food and household items. They are so grateful for the generosity of their supporting churches like Calvary. If you are interested in volunteering at VEAP or have questions about VEAP's important work in our community, don't hesitate to contact me.

Linda Ribbens, Calvary's VEAP representative

Recent Offering Totals:

World Renew-Unrestricted:
\$1,741.15

World Renew-Ukraine Disaster
Response: \$13,190.85

Urban Homeworks: \$701.00
Honduras: \$827.16

Christian Education Fund:
\$3,870.65

Calvary Ministries Fund:

Actual Given for 6-1-21 to 4-23-
22: \$573,045

Annual Budget 6-1-21 to 5-31-
22: \$660,000

Amount left to make budget:
\$86,955

GRADUATE PROFILES

College Graduates

Paislee Olson

Paislee graduates May 21, 2022 with a Bachelor of Nursing degree from Carthage College in Kenosha, WI. After graduation she will live in Kenosha and continue working at Ascension Hospital. She plans on taking the NCLEX-RN exam in June with her focus/specialty on pediatrics.

Grace Schmidt

Grace graduates from Dordt University this May with majors in Accounting and Spanish. She was involved on campus as a player and manager for the women's basketball team, a leader in the business club, a tutor for finance and accounting. Grace also worked internships at local tax firms during her junior and senior years and volunteered with Hispanic families at the preschool in town. After graduation, Grace will finish taking the CPA exam, and in August she will start full time at KPMG in their advisory practice based out of Minneapolis.

Connor Van Hulzen

Connor graduates from Dordt University with a degree in Business Administration and emphases in Marketing and International Business. He has been a member of the choir, a writer for the school newspaper, The Dordt Diamond and worked as a filmer for the football team all four years. After graduation he will be going to Austria and the Czech Republic with the Concert Choir and continue his job search.

Joseph Veurink

Joseph will graduate from Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California on May 7 with a Business major. While at Westmont, he enjoyed playing rugby, spending time at the beach with friends and writing for the school newspaper. He is planning on working in the Southern California region after graduation.



High School Graduates

Katherine Diane Beekman

Katherine will graduate from St. Croix Lutheran Academy. While attending high school she played on the varsity volleyball, basketball and golf teams and served as a captain for all three. She also played in the concert band and Oakdale Avenue jazz band and served as President of the National Honor Society. Katherine will attend Dordt University in the fall, majoring in Engineering, performing in the band, and playing golf for the Dordt Defenders.



Andrew Jay Bosch

Andrew graduates from Southwest Christian High School. While at Southwest, he played soccer all four years, winning the 2021 Boys Soccer State Championship. He also played basketball, and golf. During his senior year he was a member of the school's inaugural boys volleyball team. This fall, Andrew plans to attend Colorado Christian University in Lakewood, Colorado.



Libby Kamp

Libby graduates from Holy Family Catholic High School in May. Future Plans are to follow her dream to play D1 hockey at St. Michael's College in Colchester, VT and explore a possible future in the health science field. We will miss you! Love, Mom, Dad, Jannes & Maggie



Camden Mellema

Camden will graduate from Southwest Christian High School. He participated in the National Honor Society as well as played soccer, basketball, and baseball. Camden is thankful for all the experiences he had at SW as well as the friendships he made. He will attend college in the fall but is still undecided on which school that will be.





Michael Schmidt

Mike graduates from Southwest Christian High School. Some of his high school activities included choir, National Honor Society, basketball and tennis. Highlights of his years at Southwest were the senior service trip to Puerto Rico, his senior basketball season, and spring break trips to Florida. In the fall, Mike plans to attend Grand Canyon University in Phoenix to pursue a major in marketing and graphic design.



Gabriella Soerens

Gabi graduates from Eagle Ridge Academy where she has attended 6th - 12th grade. Before that she attended Life Academy for K-5. At Eagle Ridge, Gabi has participated in Volleyball as a JV captain and Varsity player. She was recognized for her cheerful, encouraging attitude and leadership in sportsmanship and team morale. She has also earned a number of awards from the National Latin Exam and worked on the stage crew for several theater productions, most recently as a stage manager for the Wizard of Oz. Next year Gabi will study nursing at Trinity Lutheran College in Palos Heights, IL.



Abby Vis

Abby will graduate from Southwest Christian High School on May 27. During her four years at Southwest she participated in Band, Scholastic Art Competitions, and National Honors Society. Her plans are to attend Dordt University where she will work on a degree in Psychology.



Sam Zylstra

Sam graduates from Southwest Christian High School. He is grateful that he could attend a school that helped strengthen his faith with teachers that he enjoyed learning from -- both with rigorous academics and solid Christian faith. During his time at Southwest, he was involved in baseball, choir, basketball, and the National Honor Society. He particularly enjoyed traveling to Puerto Rico on the senior service trip. Sam is thankful to God for everyone at Calvary who fulfilled their baptism vows and helped him grow as a Christian. He is looking forward to college in the fall.

Middle School Graduates

Levi Abbring

Levi graduates from 8th grade at Avail Academy, where he has attended since Kindergarten. Levi has participated in State Science Fair, State History Day, Geography and Spelling Bee, and he plays the baritone in band. He has also played on Avail's soccer and basketball teams. Levi will attend Southwest Christian High School in the fall.

Breanna Beckering

Breanna will graduate from Avail Academy in Edina this May. She has enjoyed making many friends at Avail, gaining a great education and forming relationships with her teachers over the course of nine years.

While at Avail, she was involved in basketball for two years, volleyball, band, choir and track. Breanna will attend Southwest Christian High School in Chaska in the fall of 2022, where she plans to play volleyball and possibly participate in track.

Natalie Hoekman

Natalie graduates from 8th grade at Avail Academy. While at Avail, Natalie enjoyed her friends, being part of sports teams and learning under wonderful teachers. She participated in volleyball, track, basketball, band, state science fair and state history day. Natalie plans to attend Southwest Christian High School in the fall.

Carter Miedema

Carter graduates from 8th grade at Avail Academy on June 2. Carter has attended Avail since kindergarten and will attend Southwest Christian High School in the fall. While attending Southwest, Carter intends to play hockey and golf.

Alaina Terpstra

Alaina graduates 8th grade at Chapel Hill Academy (CHA) on June 1st. She has attended CHA since kindergarten and volleyball was her favorite sport. Alaina has enjoyed all of the friendships that she made there. She will attend Southwest Christian High School in the fall and plans to continue playing volleyball.





Vacation Bible School

June 20-24

9:15-11:45 AM

Register at :

www.calvarytwincities.org/youth

...Sphere Sovereignty continued from page 5

All of these areas are intricately connected to the core system and working on any tight or overstretched areas of these five pillars prenatally can increase balance and function within the body. The aim of all of this work is to "stack the cards" in your favor for a more comfortable pregnancy, a (hopefully) smoother labor and delivery, and easier postpartum recovery.

Since God is sovereign over every sphere, how do you see God at work in your work?

Watching babies being brought into the world is nothing short of a miracle, it is impossible to witness a birth and not be in awe of how God has intricately designed our bodies. Another aspect where I see God in doula work is when things inevitably don't go as planned. I can appreciate how God has created everyone with different talents and gifts so that the advances of modern medicine can be available to my clients and their babies when and if necessary. It is also my hope and my prayer that as I continue to work as a birth doula and learn how to best serve my clients, that God can work through me to be a blessing to others.

Are your co-workers Christians? Have you had opportunities to talk to them about what they believe? Have you been able to share your faith in Christ with them?

Since I am self employed, I don't have any "official" coworkers, but I get to know my clients intimately, and through my internship I have gotten to know a few of the midwives at MBC over the last few months. Many of my clients have been Christians and it has been really valuable to share this connection with them during their labor and delivery process, especially my clients through the internship, as all the births at MBC are natural without pain medication. It has been beautiful to see how some of my clients and their partners pull their faith into the birthing process through prayer, scripture, and/or song. I have had the privilege to pray with some clients, and knowing they are Christians allows me to support them in a different way emotionally as they work through labor. I am eager to see how I can continue to incorporate my faith and beliefs in my work with clients as I venture into more diverse work and as I work with a wider variety of providers and clientele.

By Aleida VanderBrug



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