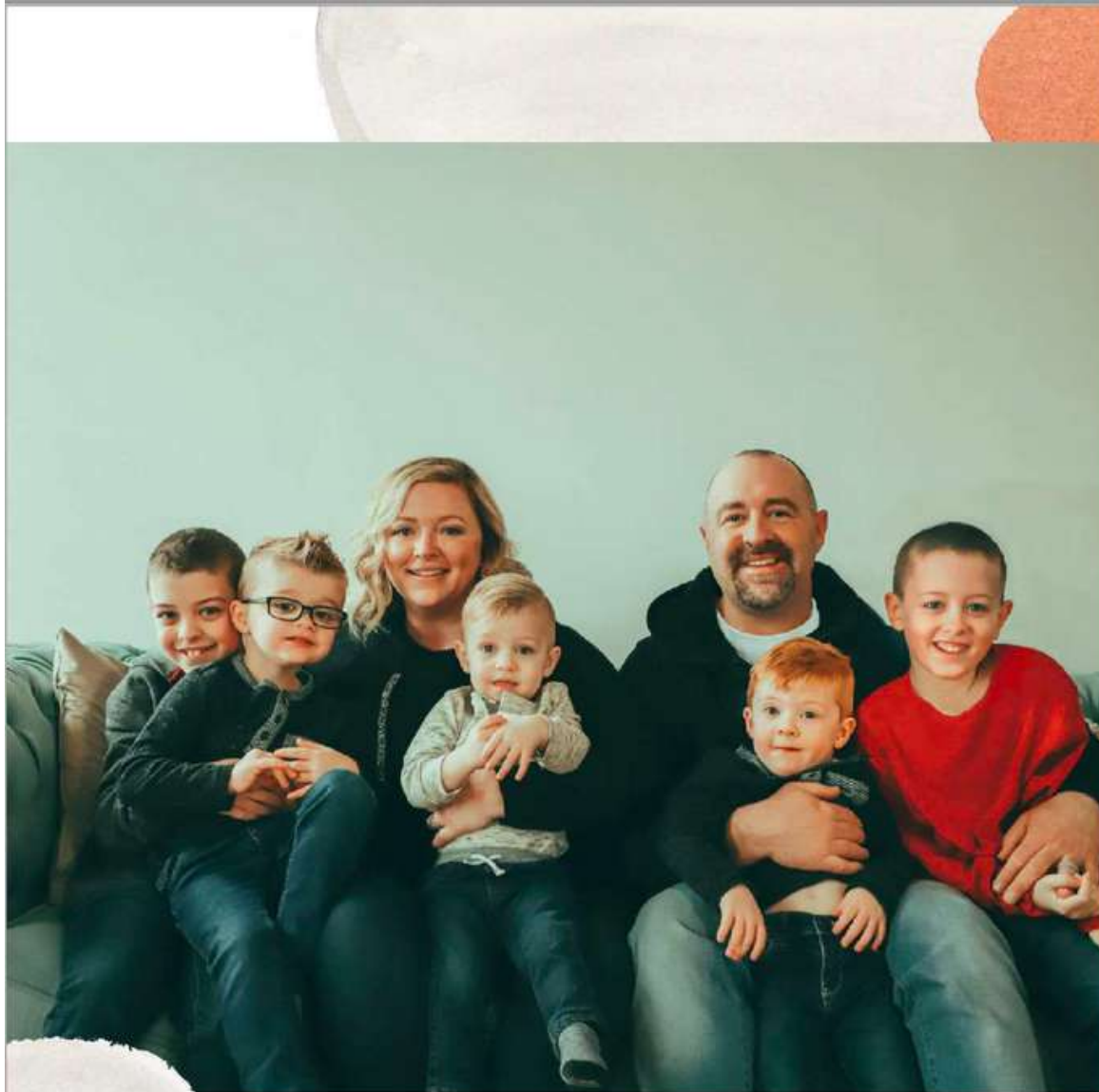




JIM AND KATIE



OUR NOTE TO YOU



IT'S SO NICE TO MEET YOU!

We are so humbled to know you are taking the time to get to know us through these pages. *The one thing we can see in you without ever having met you, is a heart so big and so beautiful, our admiration for you overflows.* We sit here, on the opposite side of these pages, praying for you. Praying your heart and decisions are supported. Praying you see the love we have for our family is our greatest treasure. And praying you see that, even though we have a large family, we have so much more room in our hearts and home for another sweet baby. When we look back on the last fifteen years of our life, we see a family that was built in a rather unconventional way, but that is bonded and woven together in a way that shows how evident God's grace is.

We hope you enjoy looking through our profile and pray it helps you get to know our hearts for each other, and for you and your child.

Jim and Katie





THE STORY OF US

We met during our senior year of high school. I had transferred from a different school and I was still meeting all new people. Jim and I ended up having a class together, where we got along from the start. After we graduated, we ran into each other randomly and he asked me out on a date. We ended up going our separate ways after that one date but God's timing is always best! Seven years later, we ran into each other again at Jim's cousin's wedding, and this time it was perfect. We were smitten that night and we have been together ever since.

Our engagement proposal was a dream! We were at my parent's cabin where we spend the Fourth of July each year. The lake at the cabin has surreal sunsets, with skies so pink and orange you know God painted it himself. One night, Jim had my sister send me down to the dock to chat and enjoy the sunset. Sitting on the edge of the dock, I saw something sparkling in the water. I commented that there must be some glass in the sand. Jim laughed, reached down with a shaking hand and took my ring out of the water. With my whole family watching, he asked me to marry him. When I yelled yes, my brother in law set off fireworks. It was, and still is, my favorite moment, in my favorite spot, with my favorite person.

We got married in a beautiful old church with tons of old world charm. It was a warm, fall day. Both of us have parents who are divorced so we have very large extended families. We were so blessed to be surrounded by them all as we celebrated. We made a vow that day, through thick and thin. And even in our most difficult days, we haven't ever wavered.

"WE BALANCE EACH OTHER SO WELL. WE LIKE TO SAY THAT WHEN WE MET, I BROUGHT A LITTLE COLOR TO JIM'S WORLD AND HE STEADIED ME, BRINGING A LITTLE BLACK AND WHITE TO MY WORLD."



WHAT LED US TO ADOPTION

We have been so blessed to be able to have five beautiful boys, but it didn't come easy for us. Our oldest two boys came to us the old fashioned way, and then secondary infertility hit us hard! After lots of testing and a few IUI's we moved forward with donor eggs from an anonymous donor in Texas! From her heartfelt donation, we were able to go on to have three more beautiful boys.

When we think about adoption, we cannot imagine rounding out our family any other way. What a beautiful way to further teach our children that DNA doesn't always make a family but love does!

JIM *in katie's words*

First and foremost, Jim is an honorable man. He is the guy who is always there when you need help and is happy to do so. He works so hard for our family, which makes it possible for me to stay home with our children. This is a dream I never thought would be possible. Jim is very level headed. If he comes home to a mess, he just steps in and asks how he can help. He loves us big, and loud, and deep. I thank him almost daily for our life.

Even before we had kids, I knew Jim would be an amazing father. He has such a big kid mentality that makes it easy for him to love kids. He marvels at each new milestone the boys reach. He strives to lead by example and teach the boys the importance of an excellent work ethic, and the honor of your word. He works daily to teach them how to treat a lady by loving their momma well. I have often said I don't deserve Jim, but I am so thankful and blessed to be his wife!

KATIE *in jim's words*

Katie is, and always has been a free spirit. She is very social and outgoing. I love that she helps bring me out of my shell. She loves being with friends and family and I love seeing her close involvement with the people she loves. She always puts other's needs before her own, whether it's our children, a friend or a family member. Katie is very caring and considerate. She knows how to make a person feel cared about and listened to. She has taught me what true love is and what love is really all about.

Katie is an amazing mother. Raising and teaching children is truly her passion in life. She has a huge heart and wonderful values to instill in our kids. She is great at quickly adapting to situations that arise, such as tough behavior, sick or hurt kids, or just dealing with an emotional child. She has taught me a lot about patience and how to talk to children on their level. I feel so blessed to have her as my wife and I am so thankful she is the amazing mother she is.





meet **JIM**

I love being a dad and having these small people looking to us for answers to the smallest things in life. I love teaching them and watching them grow. I enjoy each stage, whether it's the snuggles with a newborn or riding bike and swimming as they get older. As we add to our family again, I am excited to see the bonds that will form.

My family comes first in all things. I also enjoy doing projects around the house, watching and playing sports, going for walks and cooking. I have been working at the same place for the past twenty years doing refrigeration work. The place is like a family to me and I have always enjoyed my job.



meet **KATIE**

I have been asked what I love about being a mom, and I can say that it is continually changing! I adore each stage we have experienced so far with our boys. Watching a child blossom into the person God created them to be is such a gift. The responsibility that comes with parenting is not something I take lightly. I feel deeply honored and blessed to be a mother and spending time with my kids is my favorite thing in life.

Aside from pouring into my husband and children, I love to learn and research. I love learning about living as naturally as possible and in turn teaching my kids about a healthy lifestyle. Being a stay at home mother is a dream to me and I love having that time with the kids.



OUR TIME TOGETHER

Having five boys, it can be pretty hard for us to get time just the two of us. When we are blessed with family able to watch the kids, we love just enjoying a yummy, warm dinner, just the two of us. We recently started to get creative and do date box subscriptions, that give you fun games and activities to do at home. We love to sit and relax, talk about our days, the kids, and our dreams. We truly just enjoy each others company.



meet **OUR BOYS**

WILL

Will is our funny man and our jokester! He loves to play pranks and giggle at the outcomes. He has his struggles with learning disabilities, but loving his brothers has never been one of them. He loves all babies and says, "So small, so cute." to every baby he sees. He is guarded with his heart, but as his family, we get to see the precious and tender love that he has there.



COLBY

Colby is our artist. He loves drawing and illustrating his own comic books and putting on shows for us. He is his brothers' protector. He is always looking out for them. He loves playing with the twins after school and telling them all about his day.

JAXSON

Jaxson is nicknamed Mr. Responsible because even at three and a half, he remembers to clean up after himself and his brothers. He is always happy to lend a hand and help if we need it. He loves riding bike and playing outside. He is older than Cruz by two minutes. He is the quieter, more steady of the twins!



CRUZ

Cruz is our wild child. He is so outgoing and funny! He is a climber of all things and the instigator of madness. He is also so loving and caring. He is quick to offer a hug and a kiss if his brothers are upset or hurt. He is our free spirit and we love that about him!

LUCA

Luca is a very active little boy. At almost 2 years old, he does everything he can to keep up with his big brothers. It's so fun to hear him talking and see him climbing and jumping and just being curious! He loves having 4 big brothers watching over him and protecting him!



"I CHOOSE YOU. AND I'LL CHOOSE YOU OVER AND OVER AND OVER. WITHOUT PAUSE, WITHOUT A DOUBT. IN A HEARTBEAT, I'LL KEEP CHOOSING YOU."



FAMILY TIME

There is nowhere we would rather be than together as a family. We love to visit our local zoo and aquarium. Every summer, we rent a small cottage at a water park on a lake. We absolutely love it there! This year we took a road trip to Florida for the first time and we plan to make that a yearly tradition.

At home, we love movie nights and playing outside. We spend a lot of time outside during the summer. We like going on walks and bike rides to our neighborhood park. We also love spending time at Katie's parent's cabin. The boys love to go fishing with their grandpa, jumping off the dock, and playing with their cousins.

**"WE ARE A FAMILY FILLED
WITH LOVE, GRACE, A LITTLE
BIT OF CHAOS, AND ALL THE
ACCEPTANCE IN THE WORLD."**





OUR HOME

We love our neighborhood. There is a nice park, ponds and plenty of trees and places to explore. Our neighbors are friendly and kind. We live on an acre of land about thirty minutes outside of a major city. Our fenced in yard has a large swing set, a trampoline, and a huge outdoor swing. We love to spend time on the deck when the weather is nice. The house has four bedrooms and three baths. We are in the process of finishing the basement so we will have six bedrooms and four bathrooms.

The surrounding area has so many fun things to do! There are two zoos, some malls, tons of parks, lakes and hiking paths. There is also an amusement park and a few aquariums. We love visiting these places as a family and enjoy spending as much time outside as possible. In the fall, we love going to local apple orchards and picking apples and pumpkins!



A LITTLE ABOUT OUR FAITH

Due to our oldest son's needs, we are unable to go to a brick and mortar church. So we improvise a lot and watch church online. The boys LOVE the music and usually dance along. During the message, we ask them for a bit of quiet time so we can watch and listen and then we try to implement the messages into our week. It is not perfect and the Lord knows we have plenty of room to grow but we are good people, with loving hearts. We strive to teach our children by leading by example, showing them to hold doors for others, using our manners, showing grace and being kind. We speak of God in our home and encourage our children to ask questions.



OUR THOUGHTS ON EDUCATION

Right now our oldest boys go to public school. Our oldest son goes to a higher level school for children with learning disabilities. Colby has loved going to school so distance learning hasn't been his favorite. Due to the struggle with distance learning, we have been homeschooling him this year. We both have loved it. Seeing him learn and having a better understanding of how his brain works has been such a cool experience! As much as we have loved it, he is very much looking forward to going back to school next year and being with his friends in person!"

When it comes time for decisions after our children graduate, it will all still depend on each child and their unique personality and desires. We want to encourage them to follow their hearts and do what makes them happy! That has been our motto since before we had children. As long as they are truly happy, then we are happy too. If they pursue college, we will cheer them on. If they decide to enter the workforce right away, we will encourage them!



BEFORE YOU GO

We want to thank you again for taking the time to get to know our family. Whatever decision you make, we pray you will be able to move forward knowing we have nothing but admiration and respect for you.

If we are chosen to raise and love your sweet child, we promise to raise them knowing what genuine, unwavering love is. We make this vow to you and your baby, and they will always know that love started with you. We want to honor you, your path, and your walk, while also honoring our child's needs and their story. You will forever be part of our story, so it is important to us that you know how much we love and respect you. Words will forever fail us in thanking you for allowing us to grow our family. All we can do is love our baby as we love our other children. No boundaries. No strings attached. Just pure, honorable, deep as the ocean love.

Jim and Katie