

hello!

we're Joe and Jess

Thank you for taking the time to get to know our family!

We can only imagine there is so much going on in your mind right now and we want you to know that we are praying for you. We admire your courage to consider adoption as you wrestle with deciding what is best for you and your baby. We're confident you will make the right choice, whatever that may be!

If adoption and our family is the path you choose, we promise to always show you respect and honor the level of openness you desire and are comfortable with. We promise to love and cherish your child as the God-given blessing they are. We promise to never take this gift for granted and provide your child with every opportunity available in life. We promise to surround your child with the love and affection they deserve.

We dream that your child will have a fulfilled life with much joy, happiness, and prosperity. We will provide every opportunity to explore the world, learn, and thrive. Your child will know early on how much they are loved, by you and by us.

This must be a difficult journey for you, and we hope that you feel peace with whatever you decide. We will continue to pray for you and your child in the hopes that your path will lead you to the best place for you and your baby.

After the birth of our son, Walker and daughter, Adriana (who passed away at just three months) we had difficulty conceiving. After many fertility treatments and the loss of another daughter to preterm birth at 16 weeks, we decided to look into adoption. We know we have more love to give and have always wanted more than one child.

"We believe that families are created by people who share great love for each other, whether related biologically or not."





our love story

We met in 2010 at work. Jess noticed Joe in a meeting one day and set out to enlist several co-workers to help her get to know him. After a few weeks of covert missions, we eventually met up at a work happy hour. We both really enjoyed talking to each other and ended up getting together again the next night. We started to spend more and more time together and became inseparable. While we were dating we loved going out to dinner, watching sports together, and going to the beach. We also loved all kinds of music and attended a lot of concerts: Foo Fighters, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Incubus, Fun, and Jimmy Buffet just to name a few. **We fell in love because we compliment each other so well. Joe is the calm to Jess's crazy and Jess is the organization to Joe's chaos. It became evident very early on that our relationship was going to last.**





From Joe: I decided to propose to Jess on New Years Eve, 2012. I arranged a nice dinner at a restaurant that had a special menu for the holiday and later got down on one knee where Jess agreed to spend the rest of her life with me. I surprised Jess with our closest friends and family to celebrate our engagement. We hopped into a limo and headed downtown while we sipped champagne. When we got downtown, there were even more close friends waiting there to help us celebrate our engagement - it was the perfect night!

We got married on May 24, 2014. This date itself was special as it was Joe's father's birthday (he passed several years ago). Our ceremony happened in the church Jess grew up in and everything went perfectly. Everything, except for the air conditioner. It was unusually warm that day and the AC wasn't working! Joe sweat through our whole ceremony. (Maybe it was nerves. Maybe it was the heavy suit Jess made him buy. I guess we'll never know!) Our reception was on a farm and our vibe was country chic with antique decor and beautiful flowers.



meet jess

I am a physician assistant in orthopedic surgery. I have been working with the same physician for 15 years and our practice is like a large family. We are a very close group and very family-friendly/flexible. I plan to take three months off for our adoption and use a great childcare when I eventually return to work.

My favorite hobby is organizing. I know, it's boring, but this is something I truly enjoy and brings me much joy! I find myself organizing when I'm stressed or anxious. I also like to sew and am currently spending a lot of time making hats my colleagues and I can wear in the operating room. I love music - anything from country to pop to classic rock to oldies. I enjoy making connections through social media. I enjoy reading scripture and daily devotions that relate scripture to current life. In the warmer months, I enjoy maintaining a garden and experimenting with new plants. I like to see new places and explore foods and cultures. I also love to play tennis, basketball, and softball as well as workout.

"My dream for my children is happiness
– in whatever form that may take. I
want them to be genuinely happy with
who they are as a person and the path
they have chosen for their life."



in Joe's words

Jess's greatest trait is, without a doubt, her strength. I have always known her to be a strong woman, but this was never more evident than over the past few years. Her strength continues to inspire me (and many others in our lives). Jess is the type of woman who knows what she wants and she goes for it. I love that Jess keeps me grounded. She has always been a source of inspiration and motivation for me. Her love is what drives me to be the best version of myself that I can be. She allows me to be myself while still pushing me to be my best.

*Jess is an incredible mom; she is loving, caring and thoughtful. She is the type of mom that will always make sure her children have everything they need; she'd rather pack too much than not enough! Jess is always there to make sure that Walker and I don't get carried away, but makes sure we have a lot of fun. **Jess would do anything for her children and is exactly the type of mother that I had always envisioned for my children.***



meet joe

I am the practice manager for an orthopedic surgical practice. I enjoy it because it is very challenging. My job provides me with a great way to provide for our family, but more importantly, it offers a great deal of flexibility. I have the ability to work remotely when needed, and can take off as much as I need to. I will have plenty of time off for our adoption.

In my free time, there's nothing that I love more than spending time with my family. I know this sounds a bit cliché, but my greatest joys in life come from being a father and a husband. Aside from that, I really enjoy playing golf and just relaxing by the pool or on the beach.

*I know that deep down inside I still have a lot of love to give to a child; so much that I can all but feel it bubbling inside. I can't wait to hold my child in my arms and rock them. I can't wait to take walks and show them the world. **I can't wait to experience all the joy that comes from being a dad to another child.***

"I pray that my children will never
take life too seriously and that they
will find abundant joy and
happiness."



in jess's words

*I admire how easygoing Joe can be; he is perfectly content without a plan. **I admire his creativity and ability to make almost anything more fun.** People are drawn to him and he has a way of making the most introverted people feel comfortable. He is there when I need to vent or talk things out, when I need a laugh, and knows when to give me my space when I'm overwhelmed or just need a break. We compliment each other in every way and more than husband and wife, we are best friends.*

*Joe is great with kids; he's a big kid at heart! He loves playing, imagining, and adventuring just as much as kids and has abundant energy. He takes Walker on dinosaur hunts and they come up with such involved plots: when they share their "story" it sounds like a Hollywood movie. Joe is excited about adoption and is looking forward to sharing his love and energy with another child. **I know adding another child to our family will only enable him to be more creative, energetic, & loving!***



our children

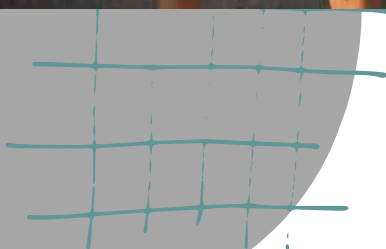
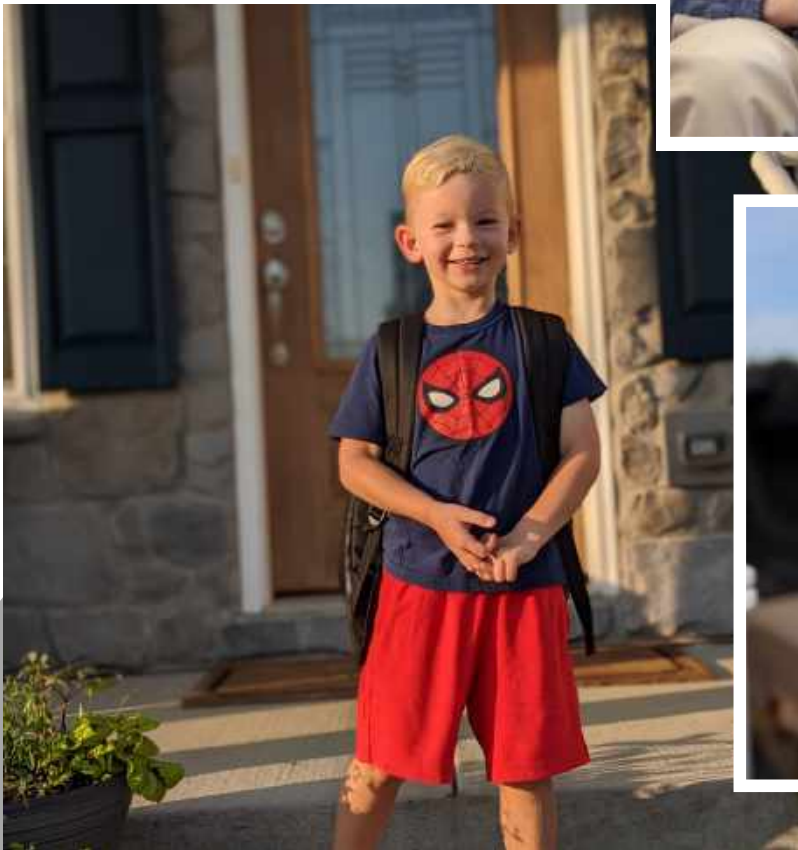
*Our son, **Walker** is five years old. Walker is currently in Pre-K and loves school. He is a rule follower and very obedient. At home, he likes to push the limits and give us a run for our money. Nevertheless, he is a sweet kid. He is very smart and into learning everything there is to know about dinosaurs. Recently, he and Joe have started watching Star Wars. He loves learning about the solar system. He is funny naturally, just like Joe. Walker loves babies and young children so much. He was such a great big brother to Adriana and looks forward to that opportunity again.*

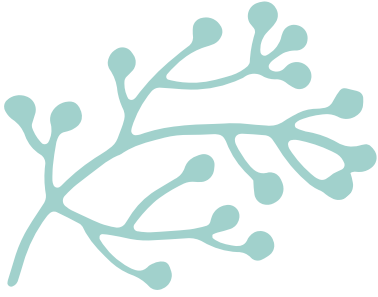
***Adriana** is forever 3 months old. Adriana was our second child. She was born when Walker was 3 and Jess spent 3 months at home with her. She was a challenging baby, but we were figuring things out and her personality was starting to form. She had an adorable smile and did this cute sideways thing with her tongue when she smiled. She died unexpectedly and it's been the hardest thing our family has been through. We were always close, but this has brought us closer in ways we can't even put into words. Adriana will forever remind us that life is short and to live each day in the present.*

***Blue** was our second daughter who was born at 16 weeks gestation*



"The love of a family is life's greatest blessing."





our home

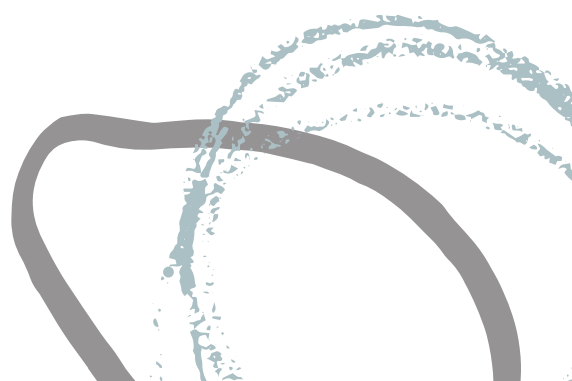
We live in a newer home with five bedrooms and three and a half bathrooms. We love that our yard backs up to two shared grassy areas and a farm giving Walker plenty of space to run and play. We have a large front porch that we love to spend summer evenings relaxing on. We enjoy spending time out there just the two of us after Walker goes to bed where we enjoy listening to music and discussing life.

We live in a large neighborhood in a wonderful part of Pennsylvania. The school district we live in is one of the best in the county. There are many activities for young children to participate in including many playgrounds, walking trails, climbing gyms, play towns, amusement parks, splash pads, public pools, basketball and tennis courts, mini-golf and regular golf and frisbee golf, tennis courts. We really love that we can raise a family in such a fantastic place!





"Our town is a true melting pot of people and cultures, and our neighborhood is no exception."

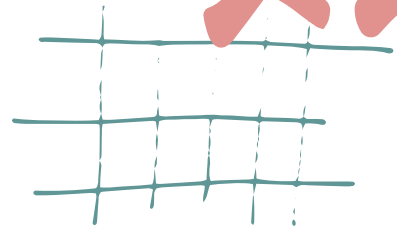


our life together



activities

Our leisure time interests have certainly changed since Walker was born! Currently we spend time frequenting local playgrounds and child attractions such as amusement parks, museums, live shows. We enjoy walks as a family and often end up on some sort of "adventure" exploring somewhere we haven't been before. We try to do something every weekend such as indoor trampoline parks/climbing gyms, going to the pool, and local attractions. We enjoy trips to Brigantine Beach where Joe's parents live. Here we are spoiled as we are able to drive our vehicle onto the beach. This gets us out of having to carry a day's worth of beach essentials across the sand. We also love to travel farther than just a day trip. We take a yearly trip to the Outer Banks, NC with our friend group and rent a different house every year. It always has a pool and a short walk to the beach. We take a winter trip with the same group to indoor water parks or cabins in the Poconos.



our cat, oliver

We have a cat named Oliver who is 13 years old and deaf. He is a Persian and the sweetest cat we've ever met. He is so patient and tolerant. He follows Walker everywhere and loves a warm lap. He loves to be around people.

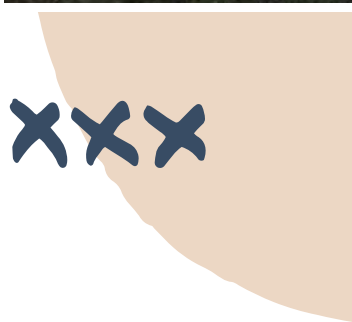


our families



joe's family

Joe's parents are Sue and his stepdad, Bill (his father, David, passed away when Joe was 8). He has three siblings: Krissy, Jill, and Michael. His sister, Krissy is married to Ross and they have three kids, Nick (4), Max (2), and baby girl on the way! His sister Jill is dating Matt and between them they have Ian (17), Christian (13), Ayden (17), Chase (11). Joe's sister lives just four minutes away and Walker is very close with Nick and Max. Krissy and Ross are our best friends and we do so much together. Joe's parents live in New Jersey but they come home often and stay with us or Krissy and Ross.



jess' family

Jess' parents are Bev and Dave. They have been married for 41 years. Jess's parents live just a few minutes down the road and we see them often - for holidays, help with childcare, visits/dinners together and trips. Jess has two siblings, Jonathan and Kyle (both unmarried). Jess' brothers both live in Maryland but have flexible work schedules that allow them to come home often.

Our family is very excited for us to adopt! They are also excited for a new niece/nephew/grandchild to join the family.



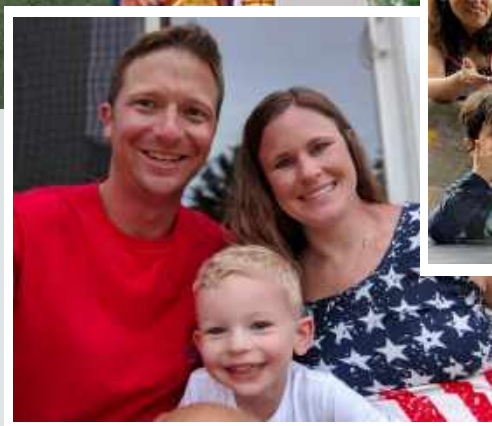
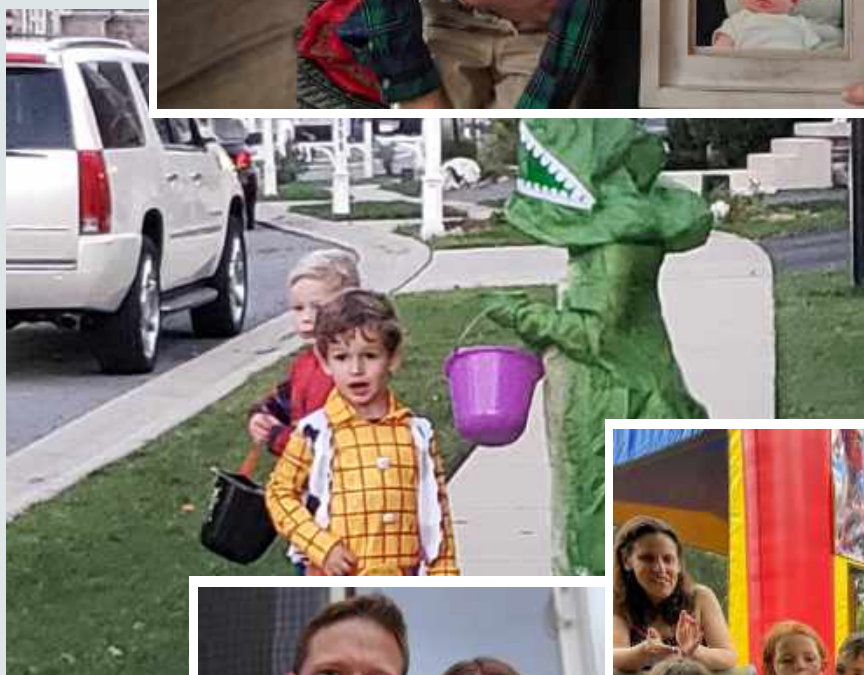
fun traditions



More than anything, holidays are about being together....and food, they are equally about food. For **birthdays**, the guest of honor gets to have their favorite meal. For example, Joe gets spaghetti with seafood sauce. His sister, Krissy, gets chicken cheese steaks. Sometimes there is even a special type of cake. The kids get to pick a theme each year. Jess has fun creating food to go with each theme. One year Jess carved a dinosaur head out of a watermelon. For Walker's Disney party, Jess had Donald's cheese and quackers, Minnie's bow tie pasta, and Plu-ta-to chips.

For **Halloween**, all the cousins have started trick or treating together. We gather at our house for pizza, put on our costumes and head out in our neighborhood. We live in a large neighborhood with a lot of houses and a lot of kids. Halloween is a huge deal here and a lot of fun.

Every year, typically the weekend before **Christmas**, Joe's family all gets together to make sand tarts. They've been making these cookies since Joe was a little child and the hope is to continue the tradition for generations to come. Christmas Eve is special in Joe's family. For many years, his aunt has hosted and cooked a variety of italian favorites like baked ziti, homemade meatballs, bracciole. After dinner we toast with Grand Marnier.





our future

We plan to live every day fully and focus on the love we have for each other while being grateful for the life we have. We built our current house and plan to stay here for a long time. Our location is perfect - right across the street from Walker's school and minutes away from close family and work. We will continue to pray about the future of our family and try to listen to the ways in which God is leading us. We would like more children and we hope that works out for us.

We were raised Catholic and attend church weekly if possible. But we also believe that your relationship with God exists outside of the walls of the church and never want to force religion on our children. Walker currently attends Catholic school and we truly enjoy the faith focused education he is receiving.

our family values

life

love

faith

fun



Our family values life. We spend each day with great intent and know that we are not guaranteed tomorrow.

We value love and openly show each other the love we have in our hearts. We value our faith and rely on this for comfort, hope and joy.

We value fun. Life and its circumstances can be so serious. It is very important to know how to have fun and even make things like getting dressed or making the bed a time that causes hysterical laughter.



before you go...



We would like to thank you for the opportunity to share our family with you. We want to thank you for considering adoption as well as considering our family for your child. We will continue to pray for you and your child. We hope that you feel loved and supported, no matter what you decide.

While we can't promise that your child will have a perfect life with us, or that we're perfect parents, we can promise your child will experience nothing but love and compassion from day one. We promise our home will be a place of nurturing and opportunity. And we promise to only speak of your love for your child in the highest regard.

Joe, Jess, & Walker

thank you for
considering us!



