

KRISTAN AND JAKE



HELLO & WELCOME

WE ARE



KRISTAN AND JAKE

PARENTS TO LINCOLN,
HOLLAND AND ELIZA
AND TWO DOGS,
RILEY AND ROSEY



WE ADMIRE YOUR
COURAGE + STRENGTH

FOR CONSIDERING ADOPTION and we're
honored to be considered **AS PARENTS** for your baby.

IN OUR HOME

your child would join a family who laughs and dances together, celebrates holidays and birthdays, appreciates learning, talks a lot and most importantly, loves each other.

We know you are making decisions based on your love for your baby and we promise to always let them know how much you love them. We hope to get to know you and share this experience with you, but no matter your level of involvement, you will always have our respect and always be in our prayers.

At Zion National Park



OUR LIFE TOGETHER



WE MET IN SEATTLE

IN 2008 and eloped a year and half later (our parents were our only wedding guests).

We moved to

Southern California for the sun and fun outside. We have found great friends through our neighborhood, our church, and our kids school and activities. We love traveling to the mountains to play in the snow, road trips to National Parks and visits with our extended family.

WE KNOW FIRSTHAND HOW BEAUTIFUL AND COMPLICATED ADOPTION CAN BE.

We always knew that families are created in many ways — Kristan’s mother was adopted (as well as her aunt and uncles) and both Kristan and Jake have cousins who were adopted. **We were thrilled to add Eliza to our family through adoption and treasure the relationship we have with her birth mother.** We have experienced the joy of adoption, and are aware of the hardships. We promise to help our children understand their story, help them celebrate their culture and feel confident in their love from us, and from you.



Celebrating “Eliza in ONEderland” for her first birthday



Exploring Joshua Tree National Park



Sunday Funday at Legoland

WE LOVE TIME TOGETHER.

Because the weather is beautiful year round, we spend a lot of time outside - at the beach, in the pool, going on hikes, bike rides and walks with our dogs. Inside, we love cuddling up for movies and story times, gathering around the table for family meals and game nights. We love time with our extended family, and our close friends who feel like family.

OUR HOBBIES

We love traveling and have a goal to visit 50 National Parks. The kids play sports, and we volunteer as coaches and at their school. We are active in our church. We are all trying to learn Spanish and the piano.

MEET
KRISTAN
WRITTEN BY **JAKE**



KRISTAN IS MY FAVORITE PERSON. I AM BEYOND LUCKY AND FOREVER THANKFUL TO BE HER HUSBAND.

Kristan is an amazing mother. As a big sister to three younger brothers, she knew early in life that she wanted to be a parent.

Being the big sister to three brothers gave her the opportunity to love on them as babies and beyond. I've learned so much about parenting from her.

After our second child was born, Kristan became a stay-at-home-mom. She does an excellent job of helping our children to learn and encouraging them to be kind. She volunteers with their classes, sports and Sunday School. She also has the power to make me snort laugh daily.

My favorite part about Kristan is her big heart. She is inspired by Jesus to be compassionate and understanding to others. Her big heart always leads her to help others.

THINGS THAT MAKE ME HAPPY

- JAKE
- OUR KIDDOS
- MY FRIENDS FROM COLLEGE
- OUR BROTHERS
- A GREAT TV SHOW OR A FUNNY PODCAST



Christmas hugs with Lincoln



Giggles with Eliza

Mommy and daughters



YOU MIGHT BE

SURPRISED TO LEARN...

- > I can do the **SPLITS** two ways
- > I ate an entire **CHOCOLATE CAKE** when I was 40 weeks pregnant with our son
- > I start planning for the next **HALLOWEEN** on Nov. 1
- > We **ELOPED!**
- > I'm $\frac{1}{4}$ **NATIVE AMERICAN**, my tribe is Kickapoo

YOU MIGHT BE

SURPRISED TO LEARN...

- > I taught myself how to play the **UKULELE**
- > I know every lyric of every song by **THE BEATLES**
- > I played **BASEBALL** in college
- > I'm **DUTCH**
- > I work with my **BROTHER**



Family silly face selfie

MEET

JAKE

WRITTEN BY KRISTAN



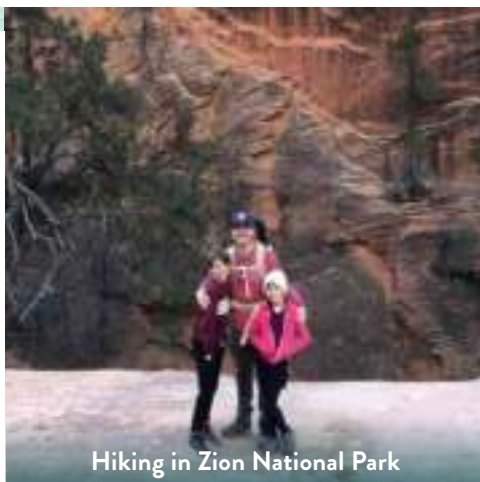
JAKE IS THE BEST PERSON I KNOW AND THE BEST DAD TO OUR KIDS.



Jake is hilarious, amazingly good at trivia (when we met, he guessed my home state with only two clues!) and as an engineer, he understands complex machines. He is also very artistic, knows several languages and is a phenomenal cook. **But what I love most is his loving and fun-loving spirit.** When he plays with the kids, the sound of laughter fills our home. He plays a hilarious game of hide-and-seek in the pool where he closes his eyes to activate as a robot, making everyone scream with laughter. He reads to them with the best accents, giving each character a special voice and adding pizzazz to each story.

I somehow fell even more in love with him when I saw him hold our children for the first time. He was incredibly involved with them, caring for them with a gentle tenderness as babies. He has remained so patient with them.

As parents, our relationship has continued to improve as we are truly parenting partners. **Jake is the love of my life. I look forward to seeing him become a father of four, and spending the rest of my life with him.**



Hiking in Zion National Park



Daddy with his girls, doggie Rosey, newborn Eliza and Holland

THINGS THAT MAKE ME HAPPY

KRISTAN
OUR KIDDOS

GREAT CREATIVITY
- ART,
MUSIC AND
BOOKS

DOGS WEARING HUMAN CLOTHES
OUR DOGS





Winter beach walk

OUR
KIDS



LINCOLN Our sweet, smart, kind and funny son.

A protective, caring and loving big brother, he is a natural as the oldest kid. He's very excited for another sibling.

HOLLAND Years ago, Holland was playing and explained that a small blue baby duck needed a home. Though

he didn't look like the 4 yellow ducks, they were now a family. She's talked about adoption ever since. She is very caring and thoughtful, silly and fun. She is a loving sister to her siblings.

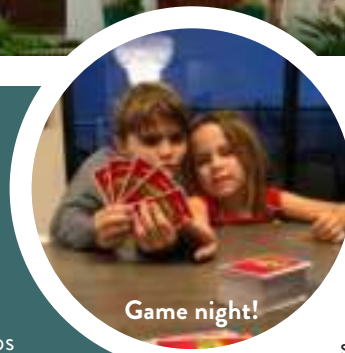
ELIZA Sweet, happy, adventurous and full of joy. She is absolutely adored by her siblings and loves babies — happily pointing out every stroller we see "Baby! Baby!".



**WE LOVE OUR HOME,
IT IS KID-FRIENDLY
YET BABY SAFE, OPEN
AND INVITING.**



Home sweet home



Game night!

OUR SWEET PUPS Our pack includes Riley, our one year old rescue from Mexico. He's playful, energetic and goofy. He's protective and loyal and makes us all laugh every day.

Rosey, our 4 year old labradoodle, is so much fun. She keeps us entertained with her silly personality and on our toes with her energy and spirit. She is very loyal to our family, follows the kids from room to room and always needs to be included in family cuddling sessions.



RILEY ROSEY

Our open concept kitchen, dining and living room is the heart of our home. Our family room is full of toys and has a big couch to snuggle up on for movies or reading. We have a baby's room ready. We enjoy our shallow pool that is fenced for safety and perfect for family games of Marco Polo. There are several neighborhood playgrounds; we are surrounded by hiking trails and we are near the beach. Our community boasts top-rated schools, is full of sports, community events and family-friendly celebrations.

What we love most about our home is who we share our community with - our neighborhood is filled with children. Families from all over the country and the world have made this neighborhood their home and these neighbors have become close family friends. We love to celebrate and support each other, and we look forward to our kids growing up together.

LOVE
MAKES A
 FAMILY

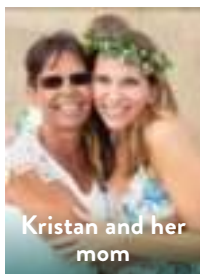
We both have large extended families, many of whom live in the Midwest. Our trips and travels typically are to see family at their home or explore somewhere new together.



Celebrating Jake's parents 50th wedding anniversary



Cousin crew in San Francisco



Kristan and her mom



Kristan's parents and siblings at a family wedding

Jake grew up in Washington state, where his parents, his two brothers and their families still live. The kids are the best of friends and call themselves the "Cousin Crew." Eliza was warmly welcomed as the youngest crew member, and they are all hopeful for one more.

Kristan was raised in Kansas by her dad and stepmom; and she visited her mom regularly. She was the oldest of three brothers. Sadly, one of her brothers died in 2021 and her father passed away in 2020. Kristan's family lives in Kansas and one brother lives in Michigan.

For us, families extend beyond our relatives. We have close friendships from every stage of life – childhood, college and Seattle as well as the community we've built in California. We have fun traditions with family friends, including themed Halloween costumes and ringing in the New Year.

Our family and friends have also been our sources of comfort, strength and reminders of our faith during the trying times and the people we love to laugh and celebrate milestones and accomplishments.



Some of our California community at our vow renewal



Alice in Wonderland



Off to see the Wizard



Toy Story had a friend in us

OUR **FAITH IS LOVE**

Love is the pillar of our faith. We hope our children will learn to love like Jesus did, with patience, grace, forgiveness and care for others. We hope our children will have faith in a higher power and turn to that power in times of trouble and gratitude. We hope our children will be respectful without judgement, and honor and celebrate differences with an abundance of love.

WE LOVE
 (LIKE REALLY,
 LOVE) GOING
 ALL OUT FOR
 HALLOWEEN
 WITH FRIENDS!

OUR HOPES



PROMISES

- > **WE HOPE TO KNOW YOU**, so that you will naturally be a part of our ongoing conversations about family and love.
- > **WE WILL RESPECT THE LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT YOU WANT**, and no matter what, we promise to honor you and your story. We will always explain that your decision was made with love.
- > **WE PROMISE TO LEARN, SHARE AND CELEBRATE YOUR CULTURE** and heritage so the child always knows and appreciates and has pride in theirs.
- > **WE PROMISE TO INSTILL A LIFETIME LOVE OF LEARNING** by giving them the resources they need for education. We promise to teach empathy, gratitude and tenacity.
- > **WE PROMISE OUR HOME WILL ALWAYS BE SAFE**, stable, and our family will always be loving and accepting.



THANK YOU



FOR GETTING TO

KNOW US

Thank you for considering our family. We hope you were able to picture who we are, how we love each other and how we will welcome your child into our family. We were called to this journey to grow our family long ago and along the way we have grown to love the possibility of having a lifelong relationship with you as well. We are praying for peace and love for you as you make your decision, and we will continue to pray for you and keep you close to our hearts as the next chapter of your story is written.

WITH OUR SINCEREST RESPECT AND APPRECIATION,
KRISTAN, JAKE, LINCOLN, HOLLAND AND ELIZA

