

Emily & Evan





*From our hearts
to yours*

WE WOULD LIKE TO START BY
EXPRESSING HOW MUCH RESPECT
WE HAVE FOR YOU.

Your bravery and love for your child shine through as you consider adoption. We will not pretend to understand how overwhelming and difficult this time might be for you and we hope you'll feel confident in the choice you make. If you decide to choose adoption and feel that we would be the right fit to parent your baby, we promise to honor you and cherish the most special gift that you give us. Your child would never grow up wondering about you, instead your name and who you are would be beloved in our home and in our hearts.

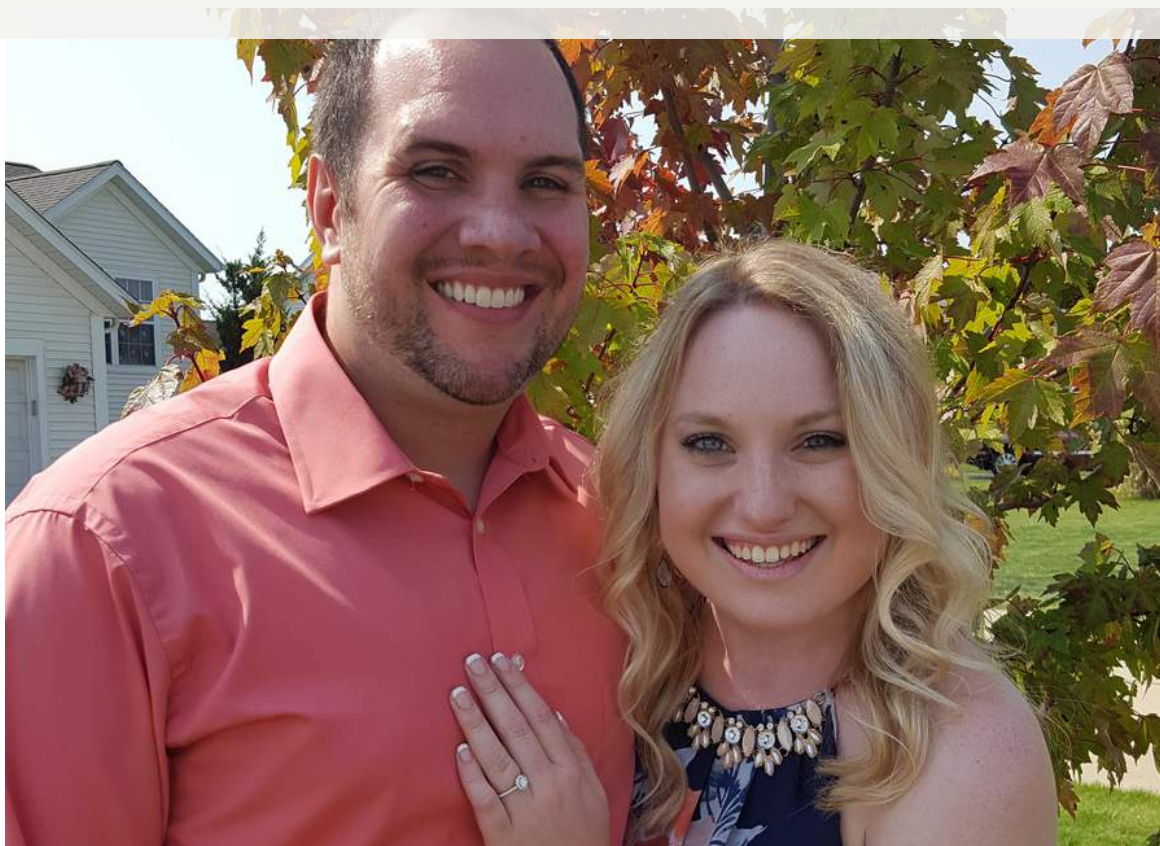
Regardless of your choice, know that we're praying for you. We know that God has a plan for your life. He loves you, and he loves your child. We're thrilled for the opportunity to meet you, and wish you all of the best.

With Love,

Emily and Evan



OUR STORY



How We Met

Our journey first began online in 2016. **Evan and I talked and video chatted for a few months before we finally decided to meet** for our first date. Evan lived 3 hours away from me and happened to be coming nearby for a work trip, so we thought it would work out great. We decided to meet in a little town called Frankenmuth, which is home to the world's largest Christmas store. Ev and I spent hours walking and talking through the store, and took a walk over a covered bridge eating homemade fudge. Evan used the bridge as an opportunity to try to hold my hand, but I was **too nervous to hold hands on the first date**. We were definitely smitten with each other from the start.

How We Fell in Love

The first date went so well that we decided to schedule our second date for the very next day. Evan and I settled on a hockey game since we both love sports. It was super crowded at the game and I knew I wanted a second chance at holding Evan's hand, but was too awkward to tell him. I asked him to grab my hand so we wouldn't get separated and **he was none the wiser to my ulterior motive**. While at the game, Evan's mom texted to see what he was doing and he told her that he was on a date. She didn't believe him so he had to send her a picture of me. I loved how great of a relationship that Evan seemed to have with his mom, and was totally down for the playful joke. Word traveled fast through Evan's family and he surprised them all since it had been awhile since he'd been on a date.



OUR HEARTS FOR ADOPTION

We have always known that we would grow our family through adoption. **I was diagnosed with infertility** at the young age of 15, so I knew that my dream of being a mom would be realized through adoption. I was so thrilled when Evan was just as open to pursuing adoption too! It was his openness and heart for adoption that truly made me fall in love with him and know that he was the one for me.

To us, **adoption means hope**. A hope that a child can have a wonderful life, with all of the opportunities that you want for them. A hope that us as an adoptive family can have children, despite not being able to on our own. A hope that beauty can come out of challenging and difficult circumstances. As Christians, we have seen how adoption is woven so beautifully into our faith. We are thankful that we can extend that hope to a child, just as it is extended to us.

TO YOU, MAMA

We want you to know we see you in this journey as well, and we hope we get a chance to meet and honor you in this season and throughout your child's life. We can't wait to get to know the person you are, and share all your unique qualities with your child. We already know that you are a beautiful and strong person, full of love and selflessness. We promise to always keep our word to you and to put your child's needs above all else.



WE PROMISE

01. To raise your child to know the love of Jesus and be faithful members in church
02. To have unconditional love for you and your baby
03. To honor your wishes regarding openness in the adoption and to encourage the relationship if desired
04. To be lifelong learners of your child's culture
05. To support your child with the best education and give them the opportunity to pursue their passions
06. To spend quality time together as a family and show them the world through travel

HEY THERE,



"My heart's greatest desire is to be a mama"

I have always loved music, and really enjoy going to concerts and musicals. When I was young, my Mom and Dad took me to the symphony to experience live classical music. This ignited a passion for the arts. Since that experience, I grew up participating in school plays (even a lead role in Les Miserables!), and attending musicals that would come to town. Recently, my 11 year old niece became passionate about singing, and she landed the role of "Berta Healy" in her school's musical - Annie! I was thrilled to attend the opening night show, and was a proud aunt quietly singing along with her solo performance of "You're Never Fully Dressed without a Smile."

*I'm
Emily*

HEY THERE,



I'm Evan

*"I hope that one day I'll be our child's soccer coach.
Hey, I'll even drive a mini van!"*



I have always had a **passion for working on cars**. I love getting my hands dirty and being the one to fix a car's issues. While in High School, I had an interest in cars and how they are repaired. I took advanced classes and passed the tests required to become a **certified mechanic as a teen**. Many years later those skills came in handy as Emily's brakes would randomly quit working on her car. She had taken it to multiple repair shops but none of them were able to locate the cause of the problem. Emily was so nervous to keep driving her car, but I did some troubleshooting and discovered that a hose was the issue. Emily was elated that her car was able to be fixed after months of worrying and I felt so relieved that my knowledge of cars is what helped keep her safe.



THIS PLACE WE CALL HOME

We live in a cute ranch style home at the end of a cul-de-sac in Michigan. We greatly enjoyed building our home from the ground up, and I (Emily) love interior design so this project was so much fun! On normal nights, Ev and I enjoy relaxing on the couch in our living room looking out into the wooded back yard. Our dog Bentley is obsessed with being outside and we often have to chase him down to come in! We love that we live in a state that experiences all four seasons.

A few reasons we LOVE our neighborhood:

- It is filled with lots of young children of varying ages, with little ones living right next door
- Four of our nieces and nephews live a street away
- It is connected to a nature preserve that has several hiking trails and a river to kayak on





“We love going on adventures, and laughing is our favorite sport!”

We love playing games together. Some of our best memories are playing mini golf. The running joke in our house is that Evan cannot seem to beat Emily’s put-put skills (or lack thereof). No matter what course, Emily always seems to beat Evan. This summer, we played mini-golf with Emily’s family at a local course. At one hole, Evan kept whacking his ball across the course and into the water. On the 5th attempt, we gave him a pass, otherwise we would have been there all day! We laughed at poor Evan’s wet shoes and commiserated together with some frozen yogurt.

Your child will learn to have fun regardless of winning or losing.

We love going on adventures. As a surprise to Emily, Evan booked a no-door helicopter tour over the mountains in Hawaii. Emily had never been more scared in her life. She had her eyes mostly shut, and had a white knuckle grip on Evan, who appeared to be having the time of his life. He thought it was pretty cool to hang outside of the helicopter, while Emily enjoyed looking at the waterfalls and lush greenery between peeks. While this was a once-in-a-lifetime thrill, **our typical adventures involve kayaking on a river, or going to a nearby zoo.**

OUR VIEWS ON

Faith & Education

We are a family of Christian faith and our **relationships with God are very important to us**. We are connected to church, and remain good friends with people we knew in our churches growing up. We recently got together with some of my friends from my childhood church. When I shared our adoption journey, my friends encouraged and prayed for us, and for you and your child. We felt immense peace after the prayer and we were grateful for their support. Your child will be surrounded by family, friends and faith.



"We strive to be a family who shows up for one another."

Located just five minutes from our home are the elementary, middle and high schools that your child would attend. The school district is ranked highly in the state for college preparedness. Although we are not currently involved in the schools yet, we regularly attend our niece and nephews' school sporting events and band concerts. Recently, we went and cheered on our nephew at his swim meet. Evan's **entire family showed up in support, like they do at every school function the kids have**. We watched him set a new personal best time for his least preferred stroke and we were so proud to see his accomplishment.



OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



Close-Knit and Close-By

If you choose our family, your child will be welcomed and loved by a great-grandparent, four grandparents, six aunts and uncles, and **seven cousins**.

Our family is **close-by, and supports one another** in everything we do. When we moved into our home, our families spent their evenings and weekends helping us pack, move and settle into our space. As we were unpacking our home, Evan's sister walked over with a spaghetti dinner for us to eat. It was a wonderful "Welcome to the Neighborhood!" meal. We are so grateful for their love and support, and we try to live by that as well. We make a point to get together for frequent meals as a family. Your child will be supported by their family through both the ups and the downs of life.



OUR FAVORITE FAMILY TRADITIONS

White Elephant Gift Exchange

One of my (Evan's) favorite Christmas traditions is a **white elephant gift exchange**. It's all for fun because you never know what you're going to get. The most memorable "gift" that I can remember is a pair of **very oversized leopard printed undies**. Those undies have become a staple at Christmas and every year everyone wondered who was going to get them. One year, my brother happened to pick that special "present." In a desperate attempt to get a new present from the stash, he quickly threw the underwear on over his clothes and modeled them for the group. He ended up stuck with the underwear and we got a good laugh!

Christmas Eve Surprises

Every year since me (Emily) and my sister Ashley were little, on **Christmas Eve**, we'd receive a **book and an ornament** for the tree. The book was usually a cute picture book to read together the night before Christmas, and the ornament always represented something that happened to one of the girls that year. Last year, my ornament was a little house key to represent moving into a new house. I love being able to look at dozens of ornaments that bring back forgotten memories. We'd love to learn about your favorite traditions and incorporate them into our celebrations for your child.

Pizza Wednesdays

We have little traditions that we love to do each week, like "**Pizza Wednesdays**." My (Emily) favorite food is pepperoni pizza and I look forward to this day every week. Last week, I was excited to order my favorite; Jet's Pizza. I used to get the deep dish pizza from Jet's as a kid, and my dad always made sure there was a corner slice left for me. It's the little things in life that bring us joy!