



*Alyssa & Ian*

A GLIMPSE INTO OUR STORY





hello

**WE'RE IAN & ALYSSA**

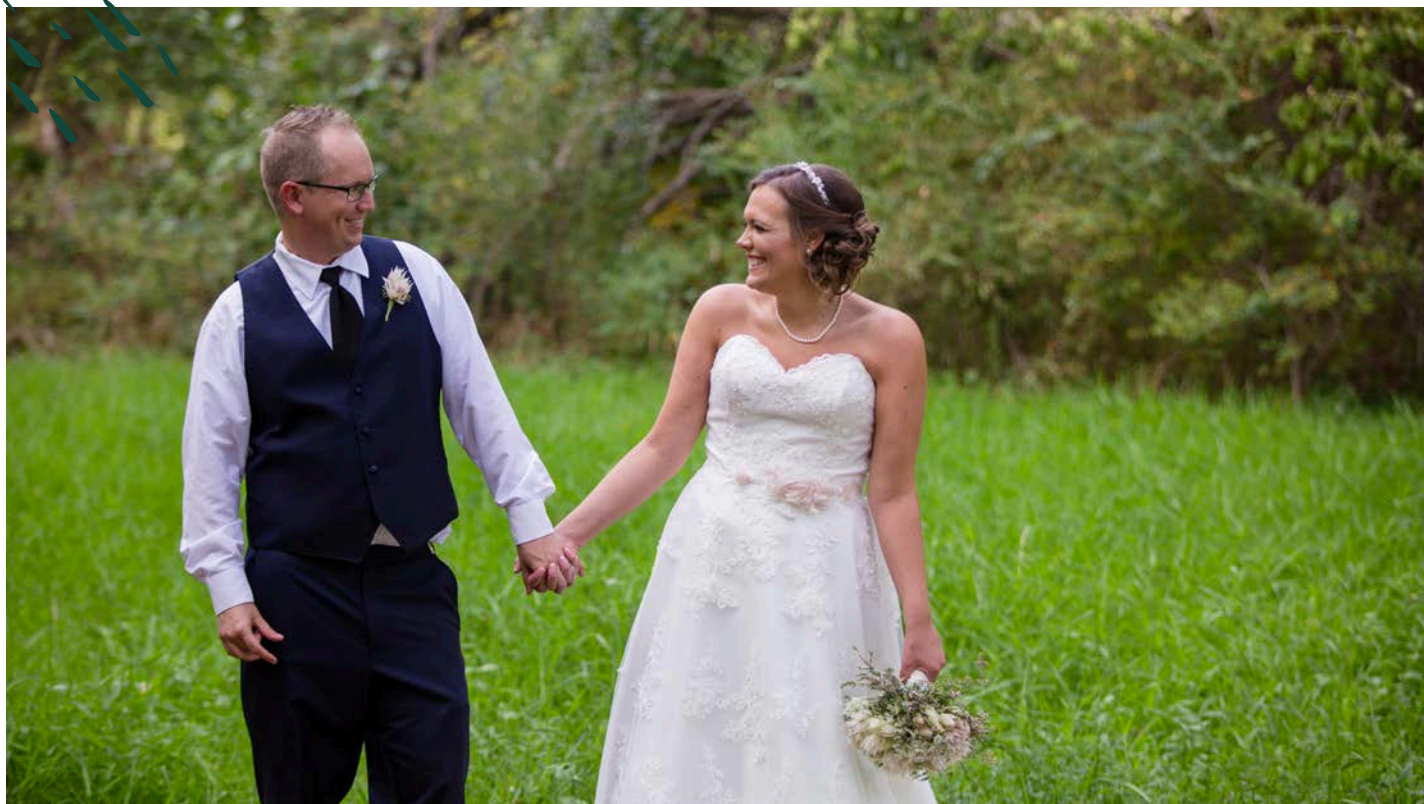
We have been praying for you without even knowing you. We pray for your life and for the life growing inside you, you both are precious. Words cannot express the amount of respect and gratitude we have for you; it takes a great deal of courage, bravery, and selflessness to consider adoption. We can only imagine the tremendous love you have for your baby!

This child is very much wanted, we have traveled a long road and have made great efforts to bring a baby into our family. We promise to welcome your child into a home that is full of love. We will make it our goal to ensure that your child will never question their value or worth: they will grow up knowing that they are loved immensely by us AND by you.

We have always wanted to grow our family through the journey of adoption. Adoption is already a part of our lives as Ian's step-sister was adopted at a young age, we have multiple friends who have adopted, and Alyssa's mom worked at a foster care agency for many years. Alyssa has some health issues that make fertility challenging and we have always anticipated growing our family through adoption. In 2008, we were surprised when we found out Alyssa was pregnant. After a high-risk pregnancy, Oliver was born. We look forward to growing our family now through the gift of adoption!



*Ian and Alyssa*



OUR  
*love story*

FROM ALYSSA

IT WAS OUR SISTERS WHO THOUGHT WE WOULD BE A GOOD MATCH AND CONNECTED US, AND TURNS OUT THEY WERE RIGHT!

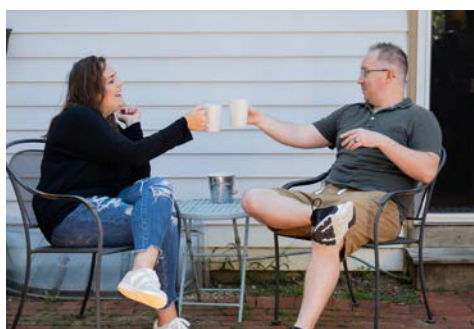
We quickly connected with our love of music and it didn't take long to realize we also held the same faith and values. Dates were spent enjoying everyday things together: getting take-out, watching movies, baking, and occasionally feeling brave enough to tackle a 1,000-piece puzzle together. We even went through a season where we trained for a half marathon together and spent most of our Saturdays doing long runs together at the park.

About four months after we started dating, I experienced a recurrence of my chronic illness and had to share the news with Ian. Essentially, I gave him an "out," informing him that this was something that was a part of my life and that if we were to move forward as a couple, it would ultimately impact him as well. Ian was not afraid! He was with me every step of the way, from every doctor's visit, and lab appointment, until the day of surgery. Even though we said "I love you" at different times, I believe it was this experience that really brought us together.

For our engagement, Ian ended up surprising me at the local theater he worked at, behind a piano with a ring facing me. He performed a beautiful song from a musical we both love and afterward got down on one knee and asked me to marry him. Afterward, Ian surprised me back home by hosting a small party with our close family and friends to celebrate.

Our marriage is a little bit unique and quirky, just like us. We were legally married before we had our actual wedding day. With an upcoming surgery, my super practical and caring husband thought it made the most sense to have a courthouse wedding so that my surgery would be covered under his health insurance and we wouldn't be drowning in debt as newlyweds. We got married on June 23, 2015 at a courthouse with just the two of us - so it was special! The next September, we were able to have the wedding I always dreamed of at a barn venue. The ceremony was outside under a beautiful oak tree and we celebrated with our family and friends inside a refinished barn. It was the perfect day!

We've now been married for nine years (but lived as husband and wife for almost eight!). We both signed up for marriage knowing it wasn't going to be easy and our relationship is built on knowing we can handle anything that comes our way together. Although there is a lot of beauty in life, there is also hardship and it was important to each of us to find a partner we could laugh and cry with. Together we celebrate every season and always tackle things as a team. Whenever we're together, you will often find us laughing. No matter how serious or hard life can be, we're committed to be weird and silly together. We are truly each others' best friends!





MY HUSBAND

*ian*

My husband is everything that I'm not, and I love and treasure him for that! Ian is logical and thinks things through. He does not do anything impulsively and always has our family's best interest at heart. Although Ian is an introvert and not always eager to be social, he makes an effort because he knows it is important for our family. He is self-disciplined and sticks to healthy habits of eating well and exercising. Ian's love language is "acts of service;" he is always checking in with our family to see if there is anything he can do to serve us better. He is sensitive to my needs and how I am feeling and he is always making me

**IAN IS TRULY MY PARTNER IN LIFE. WE WORK TOGETHER AND I WOULDN'T WANT TO DO LIFE WITH ANYONE ELSE!**

laugh! He stretches himself and is willing to grow in areas he is uncomfortable with if he knows it is important for me or for Oliver. Ian does not avoid conflict, he is willing to approach challenges with a practical mindset, always with the goal of finding a resolution. He is always intentional to communicate with me, whether it be about a big decision he has to make or a stressful day at work.

Ian is already a wonderful and loving father. Our pregnancy with Oliver was a surprise, but Ian adapted quickly to the role of fatherhood. Ian is constantly reminding Oliver that he is loved, even when Oliver makes bad choices or is being disciplined. In challenging parenting moments, Ian is willing to take the time to talk through the situation to make sure that Oliver understands. Ian listens to Oliver and validates his feelings. Oliver is a high-energy kid and Ian willingly participates in pillow fights and creates fun

games for our family to enjoy together. Most importantly, Ian looks to God for guidance and direction in his parenting. Being a parent is an ever-evolving role. Ian is always open to making changes or trying new things if it means that it is beneficial for our child. He understands that not "one size fits all" when it comes to parenting – every family is different and every child is different. I know he will approach any child that we welcome into our family with the same mindset and will do all he can to be the best father for that specific child.





MY WIFE

*alyssa*



ALYSSA IS IN TOUCH WITH PEOPLE'S HEARTS AND FEELINGS IN SUCH A UNIQUE WAY, AND IT IS THAT EMPATHY, COMPASSION, AND GENTLENESS THAT MAKES LOVING HER EASY.

My wife is the kindest and most caring person I have ever met. Her compassion and empathy know no bounds. The best way to describe it is to say simply that...she cares. She just genuinely cares how people are doing and is a master of encouragement. I tend to be so methodical or "black and white" in my thinking that her compassion and emotional intelligence serve as a great balance to me.

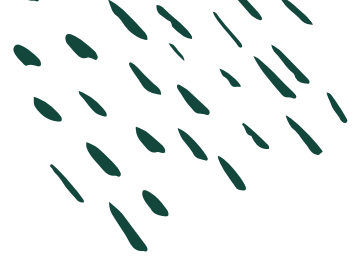
Alyssa is a wonderful mother. She has a tremendous amount of patience. It doesn't matter if it's a late-night wake-up due to a bad dream or a fever and sore throat, she never hesitates to get



and make sure that their needs are met and that mommy is here for them. She helps kids understand what they are feeling and why but also validates that those feelings are not only okay, but healthy, natural, and a part of being a person. She does great at any project involving art or fine motor skills and has become a world-class puzzler with our son. She was (and will continue to be) an incredible mother who will give anything for her children. She loves to spoil Oliver with little treats or toys to make he knows

he is loved and that she is always thinking of him. She has so much love to give and expresses it through actions, both practically and emotionally. The actions of caring for the child, such as feedings, changing diapers, even rocking them back to sleep at 2:00am fills her with joy and oozes love, and the way in which she speaks to (and of) Oliver, and already of our future child, sets them up for emotional growth and intellectual excellence.





## MORE ABOUT

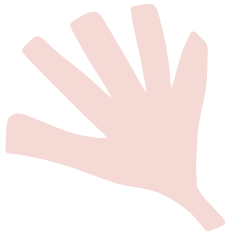
*ian*

I work as a Paralegal for a law firm that handles Estate Planning, Business Succession, and Charitable Giving for business owners and families. I love being able to help people make plans for their future and loved ones. It's a small firm that practices law in light of Christian values and faith-based beliefs. The environment is incredibly family-friendly and we're encouraged to leave on time and to leave work at the office. I plan to take plenty of paternity time once a baby joins our family.

My spare time is spent playing with our son, Oliver, whose favorite activities include puzzles, card and board games, and playing Minecraft. When I have a few moments to myself, I enjoy playing video games (Horizon, Mario Kart, and League of Legends are favs) or spending time outside jogging through the nearby trails and communities, weeding our flower beds, and mowing the yard among other projects around the house while listening to Big Band music.

I PRAY THAT MY CHILDREN WILL GROW UP HAPPY AND KNOWING THAT THEY ARE LOVED. I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT NEXT LITTLE PERSON WE GET TO HELP DEVELOP, GROW, AND LOVE.

*funny, compassionate, easygoing, and thoughtful*



## MORE ABOUT

*alyssa*

I work as an Integrated Behavioral Health Counselor within two different family doctor's offices. I love being able to help others and I love that my schedule works so well for our family as I work three days in the office and two days at home! I plan to take off three months when we welcome a new life into our family! Our plan is for the baby to attend the same childcare Oliver attended: it's close enough for us to walk from our home when the weather is nice and has wonderful teachers.

I enjoy listening to music, singing, and making up silly songs with our family. (We even made up a theme song for our cat, Betty.) I also enjoy grabbing coffee with a friend or going out to breakfast. I enjoy attending local "Maker's Markets" where local vendors sell their homemade goodies (candles, jewelry, home décor, etc). I like to read and occasionally enjoy binge-watching the latest Netflix show. Most of my free time is filled up with play dates or kid-friendly activities, like going to the pool or the park.



**I KNOW THAT BEING A PARENT IS THE HARDEST AND MOST WONDERFUL THING I WILL EVER HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO. I AM THANKFUL GOD HAS GIVEN ME SUCH A MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITY.**

*loving, kind, and caring*

## OUR SON

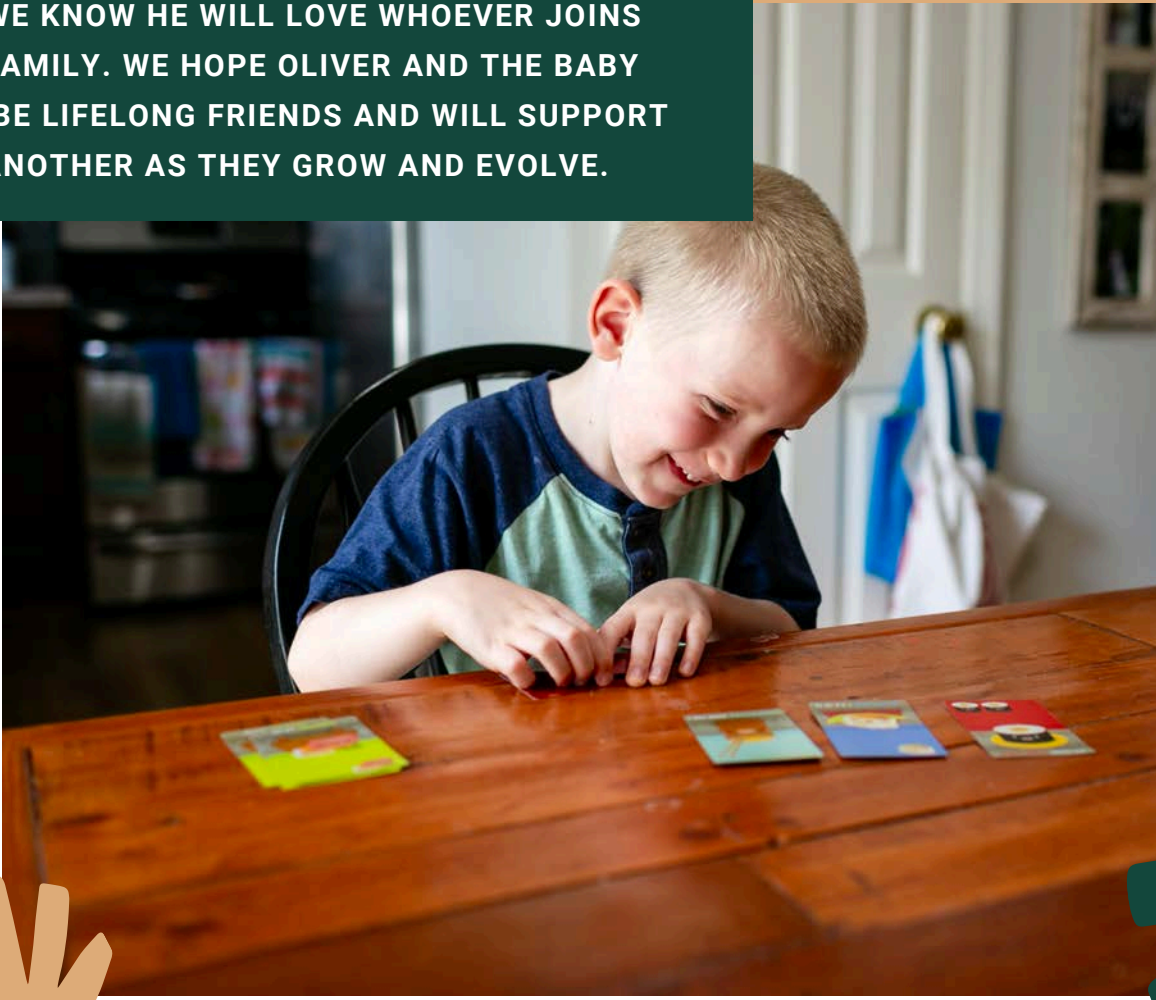
*oliver*



Oliver is a bubbly, energetic five-year-old with a big heart – he feels and loves big! He is friendly and outgoing and loves to make friends. He is starting Kindergarten this year and enjoys playing outside and spending time with friends. His interests are always changing, but he currently loves Pokémon, Spiderman, and Minecraft. He is extremely intelligent and is always asking questions so that he can learn more. He still thinks Mom and Dad are cool, so we are always spending time together. He hates being alone and LOVES anything to do with water. We actually think he may be part human, part fish.

Oliver is very much looking forward to having a sibling through adoption. He has been a big part of this process, we continue to communicate with him step by step. He is excited to talk to anyone who will listen about the baby brother or sister that will join our family. We often pray for the baby and birth mom before bedtime, and he will often ask, “When will I get my baby brother or sister?” He understands the concept of adoption as well as a five-year-old can, and like most five-year-olds is just having a hard time waiting! (Let’s be honest, adults have a hard time waiting, too).

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING OLIVER BECOME A BIG BROTHER! HE HAS SO MUCH LOVE TO GIVE AND WE KNOW HE WILL LOVE WHOEVER JOINS OUR FAMILY. WE HOPE OLIVER AND THE BABY WILL BE LIFELONG FRIENDS AND WILL SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER AS THEY GROW AND EVOLVE.

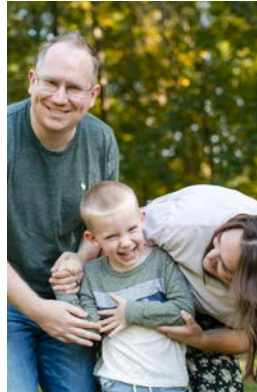


## OUR LIFE

# together

### THE THREE OF US

Living in a popular tourist town, there is always something fun to do! We have a good community of friends in the area and most weekends we will find things to do together as a family or find something to do with friends. We like to visit the local park, go out for ice cream, and take walks through our neighborhood. Our weekends are our opportunity to enjoy together as a family. One of our favorite activities is sharing our “favorite” and “hardest” part of the day with one another. It is something we’ve found we can do quickly around the dinner table and is a fun way to connect at the end of the day.



### CONNECTING AS A COUPLE

Since having a kid, the activities and hobbies that we enjoy as a couple look a little bit different. We make sure to find time together in the little things. Sometimes it's a quick run to Target together before picking Oliver up from school. Sometimes it's watching a television show or a movie together. Sometimes it's sending a quick text to one another with a new song that we just heard and love. There have been random times when we have both had off work, so we will use those to our advantage as a date day. Usually, our dates consist of grabbing coffee together and going to see the latest Marvel movie! We always make it a priority to connect with one another before we go to bed at night.

## TRAVELING AS A FAMILY

We enjoy taking trips in the summer to Ohio to visit family. Ian grew up on a farm in the middle of nowhere, so the family farm is the perfect place for a five-year-old to run around and get dirty. We've enjoyed taking trips to the beach, and will often do an annual trip to Ocean City, New Jersey with Alyssa's extended family. We live close to a local theme park and have a tradition of going as a family every Labor Day. We recently went to the zoo and Oliver was able to see his favorite animal (elephant!) live for the first time! Traveling with a child isn't always easy, but these experiences we've had together have been well worth it.



## MUSIC IN OUR HOME

We love all kinds of music! We enjoy and appreciate country, Broadway musicals, alternative rock, pop, oldies, contemporary Christian, R&B, K-Pop, rap, classical... Honestly, even before we had kids we loved Disney music! Ian went to school for vocal performance and Alyssa was always a participant in choir. We both love to sing!

## OUR "FOURTH" FAMILY MEMBER

Betty is our two-year-old American short-hair cat. (Alyssa is a Swiftie and named her after a Taylor Swift song!) We both grew up with pets and we knew that we wanted our family to have a pet or two. Oliver has learned how to be gentle and interact with cats, and he and Betty have grown to love one another. Betty is very friendly and interacts with our family on a regular basis. She has started eating from her food bowl during family meal times and comes to sit on the bed with us during bedtime stories. We even created a theme song for Betty! She is very much loved!





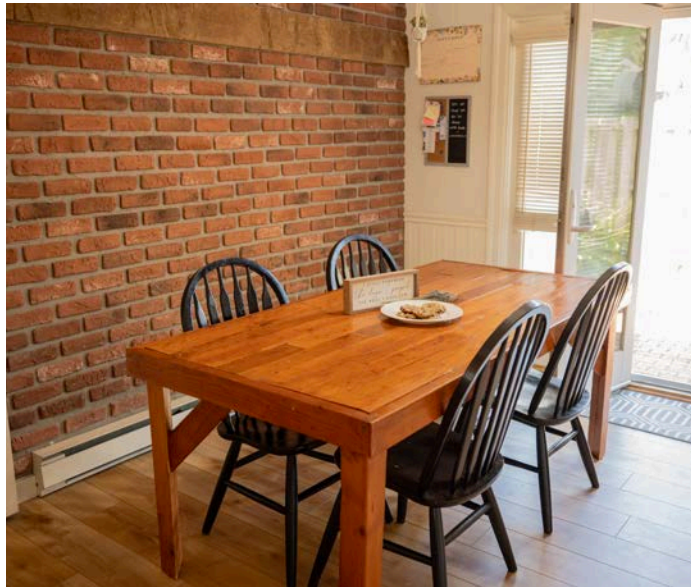
## OUR *home & community*

We live at the end unit of a row house in a quiet, friendly neighborhood. We have a cozy three-bedroom, one-and-a-half-bath home with a finished basement. Our backyard has great space to play with a shed to store bikes, scooters, and sidewalk chalk. Our house is extremely kid-friendly and has many activities for us to do. Our third bedroom is a dedicated playroom where we'll do puzzles, play games, and make crafts. We are always getting creative and building memories together!

We have the kindest neighbors you could ever ask for and sometimes we feel like we're living in a postcard! We live close to the local park, so we can usually walk to a majority of community events. We live in a historic, tourist town with a lot of beautiful old homes nearby, an annual Memorial Day parade, and a local creamery.

We currently live in a rural suburb of a larger city in Pennsylvania. We feel as though we have the best of both big-city amenities and small-town charm within arm's reach. If we go towards the city, there's dining, entertainment, live theater, art museums, and a minor-league baseball team with family nights. And five minutes in the other direction are farm stands, hiking trails, and countless parks. Our town, while small, has a public pool, and wildflower walking trail within walking distance from our home. Our community is ethnically diverse, including growing Hispanic and African American communities, which are also represented within our church community. We truly feel that we have the best Pennsylvania has to offer all within a stone's throw!





WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITY IN THE NORTHEAST!

# OUR EXTENDED *family*

There is a lot of love to go around! We try our best to make sure that time together is a priority, we want our children to grow up having a relationship with their grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. For our family specifically, that is quite a big group to consider. It involves a lot of coordination and planning, but for us, it is important and worth the effort. Oliver loves spending time with his grandparents and cousins.

OUR FAMILY IS ENTIRELY  
SUPPORTIVE AND EXCITED TO  
WELCOME ANOTHER BABY  
INTO THE FAMILY!





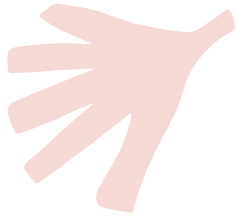
## IAN'S FAMILY

Ian's family is big and scattered across the country. Randy and Rita (dad and step-mom), both live in Ohio. Rita's daughter (Ian's step-sister), Sarah, also lives in Ohio with her husband, Josh. Lori and Brian (mom and step-dad), adopted Abby (19) when Abby was a baby. Lori, Brian, and Abby live in Texas. Ian has two brothers: Travis and Kristin live in Indiana with their kids James (16), Edison (13), and Ivy (11). Brett and Holly live in Ohio with their kids Lilly (3) and Zachary (6 months).



## ALYSSA'S FAMILY

Alyssa's family is a little bit smaller, and a little more close by within two hours' driving distance! Her parents are Joan and Bob (mom and step-dad) and Ron and Wendy (dad and his girlfriend). Alyssa has two younger siblings. Christy lives with her husband Ryan and their two boys: Jesse (4) and Connor (1). Zach and Bekah are newlyweds!



# DREAMS FOR *our future*

We plan to grow our family within our current home and community. We have set down roots in our town and have surrounded ourselves with a loving community who want to invest in our lives, and us in theirs. Our primary goal is to raise our children in a loving home, surrounded by a supported, nurturing community, and equip our children to have their own families and lives someday, whatever that may look like for them.

## EDUCATION

We are blessed that our school district is one of the best in the county. We value quality education for our children to help them grow socially, explore their interests (be it sports, art, science, etc.), and develop their own social circle of friends. We believe that public school will provide our children with a diverse experience! We also want to help our kids pursue their dreams in the future, whatever they may be. Whether this includes post-secondary education, trade school, parenting help for any kids they may have, or whatever we can offer, our job as parents is to equip our children and support them once they are out in the world.

## FAITH

Our Christian faith is important to us and we plan to raise our children surrounded by a loving community and taught the Word of God to help guide them. We are active in our church attending services on Sundays, attending a small group with other families, and getting our kids involved in the children's programs.

Our family loves Jesus, so for us, the most important thing is to do what Jesus taught us to do: love God and love others. We try to approach each and every day with this value in mind. Our hope is that this value will be reflected in our thoughts, the way we speak to others, and our actions.



A stylized illustration on the left side of the page. It shows a hand in a light brown color holding a baby's foot. The foot is pink and has several dark green teardrop-shaped spots on it. Above the hand is a dark green circular shape. The background of the illustration is a light pinkish-beige color.

# thank you

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

Know that we see the incredible love you have for your child and can't begin to express the appreciation we have for you. We would be honored if you decide to entrust your child to us. We will never let your child forget how deeply loved they are, by all of us. Your child will know that love was the driving force behind your decision, in hopes that they will one day be filled with the same level of love and gratitude that we have for you today.

We can promise that your child will always know that you had to make a difficult decision because they are so loved. They will feel loved and accepted, we plan to tell them the truth and welcome any questions they may have about you in the future. We can promise that you will have the opportunity to see how your child is growing with yearly letters and photographs. Our family would not be complete without you, we hope you know how very special you are to us. Every night before bed, we pray with Oliver and pray for our future baby brother/sister and for the mommy that is growing a baby in her belly.

We are thankful for your courage and going through nine long, challenging months to ensure that your baby could have a life. We understand the decision is not an easy one, and we are praying for you to have peace.

*with love,*  
*Ian, Alyssa, and Oliver*

