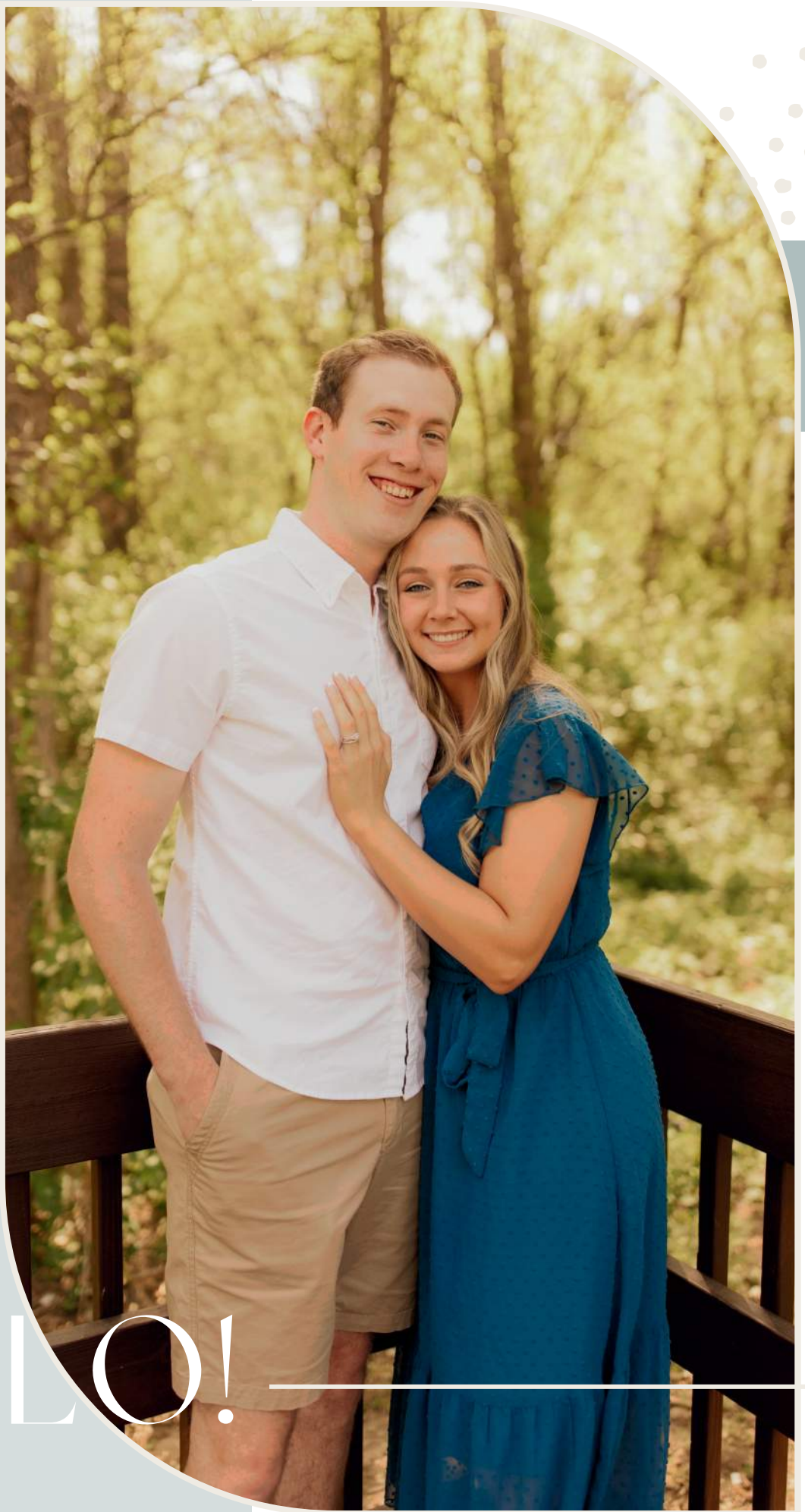


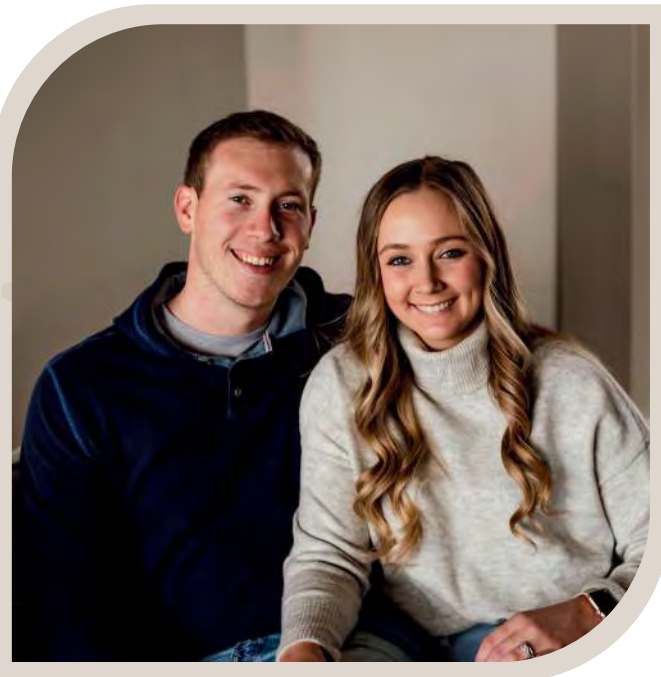
ISAAC + RACHEL





HELLO!

OUR NOTE TO YOU



DEAR EXPECTING MOTHER,

Wow. We cannot begin to imagine the whirlwind of emotions you must be facing right now. We understand that this decision is not an easy one, and admire the sacrificial love you have demonstrated by considering adoption. We want to sincerely thank you for taking the time to learn about our lives.

We want you to know that although we do not yet know you, we already love you. You are so brave. You are courageous, and you are strong. You are selfless and caring and have so much love for your child. We know these things, and we assure you that this is how we will always portray you to your child if we have the honor of being their adoptive parents. We have so much admiration and respect for you as a mother, and we know you want your child to have the best life possible. We acknowledge that this whole process must be so difficult. Please always remember that our love for you and your child will far surmount anything else. If chosen, YOU are the reason we would have the honor and privilege of being parents. That fact will never be forgotten.

If chosen, we promise to cherish every moment with your child. From the minute they are born, through their graduation from high school and beyond. We promise to do everything in our power to ensure that they are happy, safe, and feel unconditionally valued and loved through both the good times and the bad. We promise to never miss an opportunity to tell them about the brave, strong, and selfless woman that their birth mother is.

Your child would be the highlight of our entire life. We have so much love to give and want nothing more than to shower it unconditionally upon your sweet baby. Please know you are in our daily prayers, no matter what you decide. Thank you for considering us to have the absolute honor of parenting your precious child.



Isaac + Rachel



WHY ADOPTION

We got married at a young age and had dreams of starting our family early. However, we knew that it might not happen as easily for us as it does for some. Rachel had already undergone two separate surgeries to remove endometriosis before we got married, and infertility is present in both of our families. Therefore, after about a year of trying to conceive with no success, we began our two-and-a-half-year journey of fertility tests and treatments. Despite countless medications, injections, ultrasounds, and another surgery for Rachel, the pregnancy tests continued to be negative. This is when we were once again faced with the question that had been lingering throughout our entire infertility journey: Should we continue down this path of medical intervention, heartbreak, and waiting or should we pursue another route to start our family?

The conversation about adoption started early in our relationship, even before our engagement. We agreed that at some point in our lives we would love to adopt. Therefore, after struggling to get pregnant for our first four years of marriage, we asked ourselves, "Why not begin the adoption process now?" Rachel's aunt and uncle adopted two babies internationally, and the oldest is now in high school. Their adoption experience has been a positive example for us to reference and ask questions along the way. Isaac's brother and sister-in-law have also recently begun the journey to grow their family through either foster care or adoption. We are excited to know that our future children will have that unique bond with, and support from, cousins on both sides of our family.



”

WE MET DURING OUR FIRST SEMESTER OF COLLEGE. WE BECAME MEMBERS OF A RATHER LARGE FRIEND GROUP, WHICH WOULD CONTINUE THROUGH COLLEGE TO BECOME A LIFE-CHANGING GROUP OF FRIENDS WHO STILL KEEP IN TOUCH TO THIS DAY.

OUR LOVE STORY

I was drawn to Isaac's kindness, goofiness, and love for Jesus from day one, but was disappointed to learn that he was still dating his high school girlfriend. We hung out in our friend group, went to church together, and just became good friends. Fast forward to our second year of college after Isaac became single. One night, after a volleyball game with our friend group, I was determined to get some ice cream. However, nobody else wanted to join me. Isaac felt bad and said he would join just so I didn't have to go alone — even though deep down he was a sucker for ice cream as well. That ice cream run turned into a two hour session of laughter, deep conversations, and the first consideration that our friendship could become something more. We realized that our silly sides complimented each other, and we had never failed to just simply have fun together with our cheeks and ribs inevitably aching from constant laughter. Soon after, we began our "official" dating relationship which featured painting date nights, baking tasty desserts, and attending as many college sporting events as possible. We dated for a little over three years before getting engaged. - Rachel



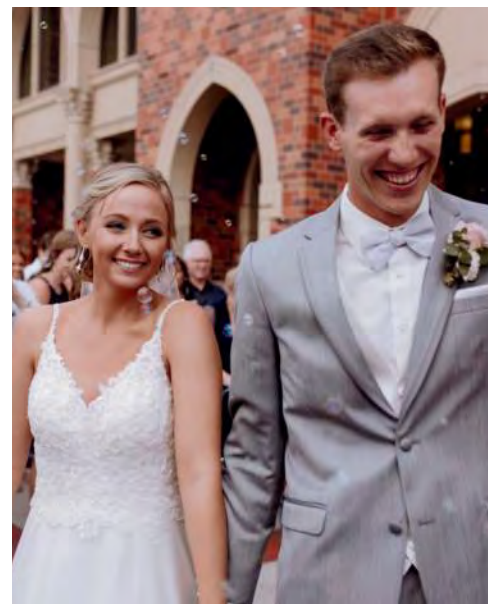
OUR ENGAGEMENT

We had gone ring shopping before the proposal, which made it hard for me to keep the proposal a surprise for Rachel. I devised a plan for our friend group to sign up for an architectural tour of the church on campus – the church where our relationship really grew through our faith. Rachel took the bait and was pumped for the tour. I then meticulously directed each person of the group to back out throughout the days leading up to the event. On the day of the proposal, the last friend remaining had the perfect excuse to bail on us, meaning it was down to just the two of us. Rachel called me one hour before the tour and began explaining the terrible day she had at nursing school, and how she thought the tour would be awkward with just the two of us. She contemplated staying home. Thankfully after some convincing, she showed up late to her unknown engagement, and the tour was phenomenal. As we walked down the aisle to leave, I popped the big question. Rachel was completely shocked and had not seen it coming. As we walked out the front doors of the church, we were met by a crowd of family and friends cheering in celebration! - Isaac



HAPPILY EVER AFTER

We got married in June of 2020 in the same church where the proposal occurred. The excitement of our wedding day was also matched with some stress during the roller coaster ride of COVID-19 restrictions and shutdowns. Luckily, we were only limited to 50% capacity for both the ceremony and reception, and both venues were large enough to fit most of the family and friends that we had hoped to celebrate with. One fun fact about us is we LOVE donuts. We love them so much that we didn't do cake for dessert, but instead had an epic donut display. The big surprise we kept from our guests was our four minute long choreographed first dance - courtesy of Rachel's background in competitive dance. Isaac did his best to keep up and remember every move. It was a hit, and we love to go back and watch the video of it. We have started a tradition to re-perform and video record the dance every year on our anniversary, without any practice, to see how much we can remember. The goal is to continue this tradition even into old age, and try not to fall down and break a hip in the process!



MY HUSBAND



ISAAC

Life is not easy, but navigating through life's trials with Isaac is. He is the perfect combination of silly, serious, and sweet. He is organized, methodical, and keeps our household running with his disciplined system of spreadsheets. He also is easily the silliest and weirdest person I've ever met – in the absolute best way possible. You cannot help but smile when you are around Isaac in his comfort zone. You can almost guarantee that on an evening of hanging out with him, Isaac will burst out in a random made-up song, tell a dad joke, and call you a goofy nickname at least once. Isaac is also an extremely thoughtful and kind husband. It is not rare for me to come home from work to a sweet note, a plate of cookies, or a freshly picked up living space. He always has dinner ready for me when I get home from day shift or before leaving for night shift. I could go on for days about all the great things about Isaac, but my favorite thing of all has to be his selflessness. He always considers the needs of others before himself, especially family. He is the best.

Kids absolutely love when Isaac is around. Whether it's the neighborhood kids, nieces and nephews, or kids out in public, they naturally flock toward Isaac and get so excited when they see him. He radiates warmth and fun, and never fails to entertain kids and make them laugh. At family gatherings, Isaac is the first person to go play with the kids. He never misses an opportunity to race cars on the kitchen floor with our nephews, play board games with my little cousins, or help our niece build the most epic marble race maze to ever exist. Isaac's fun-loving nature, high energy personality, and tendency to put others before himself are all qualities that will make him an amazing father. He will do everything he can to ensure his children live the best life possible. I cannot wait to grow with and support him as he steps into this role.



MEET ISAAC



My hobbies revolve around anything associated with being active and being outside. You can usually find me alongside Rachel going on evening neighborhood walks, taking kayaking and fishing trips to the nearby lake, or simply enjoying the evening on the deck or in the backyard playing yard games. I enjoy officiating basketball for area high schools, and I still find my way to the local golf course to play a quick 9 holes of golf with friends and co-workers.

I am a licensed professional civil engineer for a small engineering firm. I have recently become a Project Manager within our Land Development group with a primary focus in residential subdivision design. I truly enjoy going to work every day because of the people I work with, and I can refer to many coworkers as friends outside of the workplace. My company takes pride in its culture and work-life balance approach. The flexibility of working hours is unmatched to most firms in the industry. Since Rachel currently rotates day and night shifts at the hospital, I can modify my working hours to maximize our time spent together or make sure I am home to prepare meals before she leaves for work. It is common to also see someone bring their child into work during the afternoon if the school has an early dismissal.

Becoming a parent will definitely have its challenges, but I am so excited to learn every step of the way while working as a team with Rachel. I look forward to bonding with a newborn and witnessing each of the developmental milestones along the way. I want to ensure the safety and well-being of our child is kept to the highest standards at all times. The anticipation of having the chance to grow our family has immensely increased through this adoption journey, and I cannot wait to see what the future has in store for us.

My biggest wish for our children is endless happiness. No matter the challenges or setbacks that occur, I want our children to understand the unconditional love and support we will provide to ensure a positive outcome or learning experience for any situation.

GOOFY CARING EXTROVERT ORGANIZED

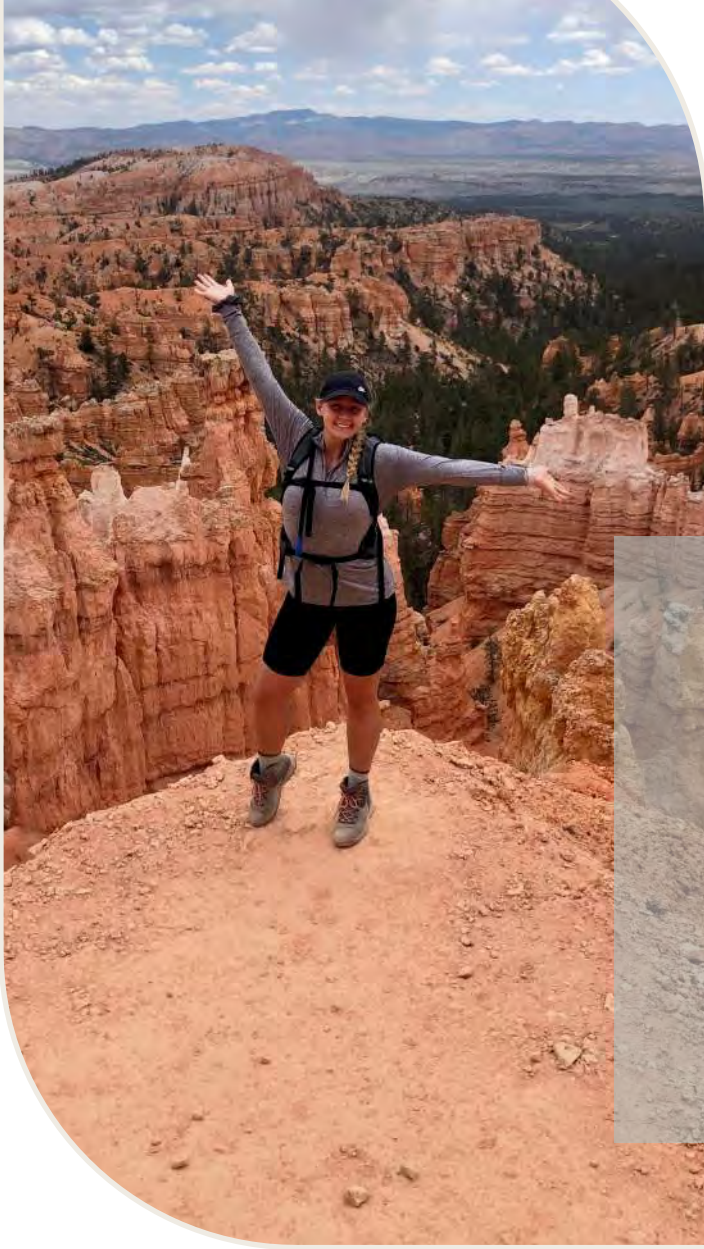
MY WIFE



RACHEL

Rachel's kindness is one of her top traits. She is always willing to put others' needs first. Over the past three years, Rachel took the lead on our volunteering commitment to teach educational courses at a pregnancy center once a week without receiving any pay. She went out of her way to sacrifice her sleep during her night shift rotations to make sure the class material was prepped. Her compassion extends into her workplace as she is the only NICU nurse at her hospital this year to have been nominated for the high distinction Daisy Award. This award acknowledges nurses who "provide above-and-beyond compassionate care to patients and families." At home, Rachel provides abundant love with both her words and actions. Whether it's just simple love notes, making my favorite meal, or surprising me with fun dates, she always puts a smile on my face. Rachel's contagious giggle can immediately fill the room with laughter and joy. Her selfless and caring personality makes me feel loved beyond explanation. I can always count on her to brighten my day.

It might be hard to find someone who enjoys the presence of babies or children more than Rachel. She loves them so much that she works as a NICU nurse caring for sick babies. Children of all ages have a natural tendency to find their way within Rachel's circle of non-stop love and fun. When we are with friends or family with kids, you can typically find Rachel in the backyard being swarmed by kids wanting her to play in the sand, push them on a swing, or chase them around in tag. Rachel's excitement to be a mother has reached a new high as we step into this adoption journey. I know she will be the best mother any husband could ask for.



MEET RACHEL

I love doing anything outdoors. Whether it's kayaking, camping, biking, playing yard games, going to the pool, or just going for a walk; being outside just can't be beat! We live close to a lake, and that is one of our favorite places to be. During the colder months, we still enjoy doing things to stay active. Building snowmen, going sledding, and making snow forts were my favorites growing up, and I can't wait to make these memories with our future children. I also enjoy reading, listening to podcasts, and finding fun ways to workout. I grew up as a competitive dancer, and my passion for dance has carried over into adulthood through my love of cardio-dance workouts.

I am a Registered Nurse and started working in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit right after graduating. I love being a NICU nurse. Witnessing tiny one-pound babies grow up and go home with their parents is indescribable. I often tell people that my job is to hang out with babies and witness miracles - what could be better!? I currently work full-time, which means I work three twelve hour shifts per week. My schedule is 50% night shifts and 50% day shifts, and I am on the waitlist to be granted 100% day shifts. The pro of working three shifts per week is that I have the other four days off! Although we have not set a childcare plan in stone yet, our future children will not have to be in daycare full-time as I will be home some days. I will likely cut my hours to part-time after we welcome a child into our home. My company also offers a twelve week maternity leave after adoption.

I have dreamed of having children for as long as I can remember. As the oldest of four children and fifteen grandchildren, I grew up around babies and young kids. I started my own babysitting "company" in middle school. My passion for children increased through volunteering in daycares, teaching dance classes, babysitting and nannying, and choosing a career path focused on babies. Even after years of infertility, I never doubted that we would welcome children into our family. I cannot begin to explain how giddy I feel when I imagine welcoming a baby into our home. I am excited for all of it—the good things, the difficult things, and everything in between. I can't wait to witness our babies reach milestones, see them smile for the first time, and hear them speak their first words. I can't wait to watch them grow, plan their birthday parties, and create memories with them. I also can't wait for the diaper changes, the blowouts, and the sleepless nights. Being a mom will be the greatest honor and privilege that I will ever experience.

KIND GENEROUS PERFECTIONIST GOOFY

OUR MARRIAGE



WE HAVE BEEN MARRIED FOR FOUR YEARS

Our marriage is deeply rooted in our faith, and we vowed to each other that divorce will never be an option. We have a strong understanding of and belief in the words “until death do us part.” When conflicts arise, we have a rule that everything must be resolved before going to bed. We will communicate as long as it takes until apologies and forgiveness are exchanged. One thing we love about our marriage is our open communication with each other. We make it a point to do “marital check-ins” anytime we go out of the house to eat a meal. We each have to answer the following questions: What is something I have been doing well at, and what is something I could be doing better for our relationship? What is something YOU have been doing well at, and what is something YOU could be doing better for our relationship? This helps us recognize our differences in our love languages, and oftentimes the open dialog prevents future conflicts.





QUALITY TIME IS OUR PRIMARY LOVE LANGUAGE. THEREFORE, WE LOVE DOING ANYTHING AS LONG AS IT IS TIME SPENT TOGETHER.

We love spending time together, especially outdoors. Physical exercises such as neighborhood walks, long bike rides, kayaking, and playing in the backyard are just a few of our favorites. We love to travel! We really enjoy tent camping at local state parks with opportunities to go fishing or kayaking. This past summer we did our first national parks road trip which involved traveling throughout the southwestern USA and camping over a span of ten days. This trip is how we discovered our love for hiking, and we definitely want to continue visiting national parks in the future. Exploring the world as a couple has been wonderful, but being able to share the experiences with children will be even better!

At home, we love to cook new meals or bake goodies to please our sweet teeth. We tend to be pretty competitive, and a board game or deck of cards is within reach most free evenings, oftentimes with another couple. If we are feeling extra nostalgic, a little nerdy, and feel that competitive itch, we whip out Mario Kart on the Wii. If we are in the mood for something less competitive, puzzles and a bowl of ice cream are another favorite! We also are big Nebraska sports fans, and if we aren't at the games, you can be sure that they will be playing on our TV. We attend several Husker home games each year, and started a tradition of purchasing football tickets to one away game annually.

Finally, it wouldn't be a list of our favorite activities if we didn't mention ice cream. Our love for a fro-yo shop in our college city was so intense that we actually took some of our engagement photos there. There are no frozen yogurt shops in our current hometown, but there is a Dairy Queen. And boy, have we given them a lot of business since moving here! We've passed our love of ice cream on to our puppy, who can barely contain herself once she realizes we are in the drive-thru. We often create our own blizzards/sundaes from home as well. Our friends are always shocked by the ice cream experience at our house!

HOME SWEET HOME

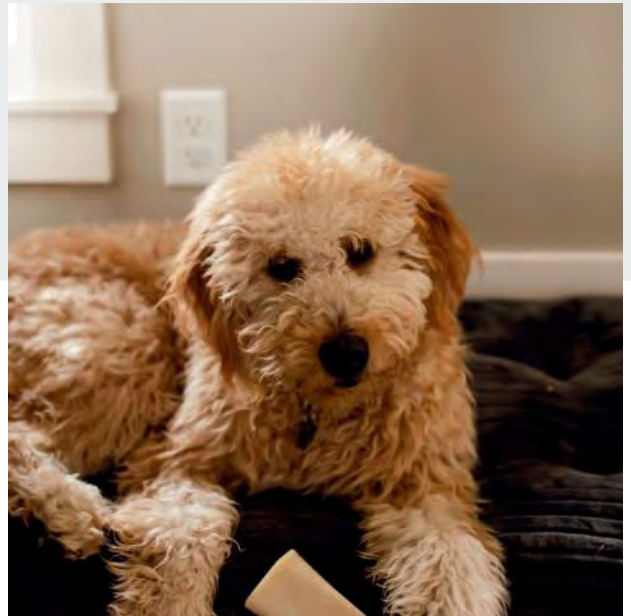
Our home was newly constructed in 2022 and it is a single story ranch with a walk-out basement. The main floor consists of three bedrooms, two bathrooms, and an open concept for the living, kitchen, and dining areas. The basement was left unfinished, and we have plans to finish it in a few years. We are located on a corner lot with a standard sized backyard. We spend the majority of our time, if weather allows, outside on our covered deck with a beautiful view overlooking a small pond, agricultural land, and a pedestrian trail. During the summer, you can almost guarantee that you will see us eating dinner from our patio set on the deck. We love to invite guests over for dinner or sporting watch parties. There's a pretty good chance by the end of the night, the kitchen island is full of ice cream and every topping you could imagine!

We both grew up in Nebraska. Almost all of our family members still live somewhere in Nebraska. Therefore, we decided to stay in the state after graduating and getting married. We live in a small community within thirty minutes of two major cities. Our community is considered a "big" small town that is growing like wildfire. It is predominantly white with a small presence of Hispanic and African American residents. There are public and private school options located within city limits. Both receive recognition for providing great education and smaller classroom sizes compared to neighboring cities. The city provides an extensive trail network connecting key parts of the community together such as schools, parks, the pool, the library, and downtown. Just outside of city limits is a big lake and campground that offers excellent fishing, playgrounds, disc golf, nature trails, and a trail around the perimeter of the lake. The lake is just a three minute drive or short bike ride from our house. Our community is extremely family-friendly and hosts events downtown for almost every holiday and special occasion. These events often include parades, crafts, animals, and other activities to keep kids entertained. The people within our community have been exceptionally welcoming. We have only been here for a little over a year and have made countless relationships. Our entire block is very active and young. Most evenings, the adults congregate to one or two driveways to socialize and supervise all the kids playing outside.



MEET GRACIE

We recently added a goldendoodle puppy named Gracie to our family. She has stolen our hearts and is definitely spoiled by our friends and family. Gracie is extremely smart and has already learned many tricks in her first few months with us. Gracie seems to be the neighborhood celebrity pet, as the majority of the neighborhood kids know her by name and love to come over to play with her.





OUR VILLAGE





Isaac's Family - My parents, Keith and Jodi, still live on the farm we grew up on about one hour from us. My sister, Tatem, and her family recently moved back to Nebraska to a small community within thirty minutes. They have two sons who are five and two. My brother, Micah, and his family live in Texas. He and his wife have a five year old daughter, Roux, and are hoping to grow their family through foster care or adoption. Despite the distance, my brother and I are extremely close and stay in touch with regular phone calls and visits. As the baby of the family, I have two older siblings that I can look up to and rely on for any life situation. They have supported me in so many ways. My family is strongly connected through group messaging by sending regular updates of photos and videos. We all get together at least once a year for a holiday, and the in-state family members meet up on a much more frequent basis. Much of our time together these days is focused on playing with nieces and nephews. Regarding my extended family, I am grandchild number thirty-three out of thirty-seven! Our extended family meets up once a year, and it's not uncommon for the house to fill up with over one hundred relatives once you add in my cousin's spouses and kids. It can be hard to keep track of, but the scene of kids running around everywhere does not disappoint. Both my immediate and extended family are eager for us to add a child to our family.

Rachel's Family - All of my siblings, parents, and grandparents live in the city where I grew up in Nebraska. This city is about forty-five minutes away from where we live. Since my parents' divorce, I only see my dad, Troy, and his family a few times a year. However, I have a much closer relationship with my mom and her family. My mom's whole extended family including her parents, siblings, nieces, and nephews get together at least once every year for either Thanksgiving or Christmas. There is an annual 4th of July party that most of the family makes it to as well. I am the oldest cousin in my family and the only one who is married. There are plenty of kiddos since my youngest cousin is still eight years old! This is also when we get to see my two adopted cousins. They were both adopted from China as babies and have fit into our family perfectly. Adoption is a familiar and very positive subject in my family, and they cannot wait to welcome another baby!

I am very close with my mom, Carol, and my siblings, Kaylee, Nathan, and Lauren. We see them about once a month. My youngest sister is still in high school, and she rarely misses an opportunity to come stay the night at our house during her breaks. We also regularly see my mom's boyfriend, Steve, especially around the holidays when he cooks feasts of amazing food. Steve has five kids ranging from middle school to high school, so we anticipate large family gatherings once he and my mom get married. All of my siblings and my mom are huge baby lovers and were so excited to hear that we have started our adoption journey. They are eagerly anticipating the arrival of our future child.



HOLIDAY TRADITIONS



Like many other families, the most extravagant holiday we celebrate is Christmas. We pick a day on our calendar specifically for decorating. We turn on the Christmas music, heat up the fireplace, put on our Santa hats, and get to work! Another Christmas tradition Rachel started two years ago is creating a homemade advent calendar. This calendar consists of a ladder strung with burlap sacks that countdown the days until Christmas. Each sack contains a surprise for Isaac (and eventually, our kiddos) to open up on each respective day. The surprises vary from simple snacks to love letters, DIY crafts to Nutcracker ballet tickets, pairs of socks, or small gifts to activities like Christmas puzzles, movies, or ice skating. We also started a Christmas cookie baking tradition with Rachel's youngest sister the year we got married. We usually bake close to ten different recipes and are always sure to try a few new ones each year. We also love keeping a little healthy competition in our marriage by holding a gingerbread house competition each year. One of our favorite Christmas traditions is calling a local school to connect with a family to send Christmas gifts. It is so fun to shop for each kid's presents. We want our kids to know the true meaning of Christmas and focus on giving instead of receiving.

Other holidays that we've formed (slightly competitive) traditions for are Easter and Halloween. We each color our own Easter eggs and carve our own pumpkins, then let the people (aka social media polls) decide who the winner is. Other traditions include family Halloween costumes, Easter egg hunts and Easter baskets, Valentines Day gifts and goodies, lighting off 4th of July fireworks, and a Thanksgiving meal courtesy of Isaac's cooking skills.

Since we do not have any children yet, we do not have any fun birthday traditions in place. However, we cannot wait to create them. We hope to make our children's birthday a day all about them and make them feel as special as possible through their favorite foods, activities, and themed birthday parties.





THOUGHTS ON *education*



Between the two of us, we have experienced all three forms of education. Rachel was homeschooled through 8th grade before attending a large public high school. Isaac received all his education from a small private school. We remain open to all three of these options knowing that our community provides an excellent public and private option, and Rachel would have the resources and understanding to navigate homeschooling. If we had to choose today, we lean towards sending our children to a private school through middle school when they will have received all their sacraments. At that point, we would let them decide on continuing high school at the private school, or making the switch to the public school.

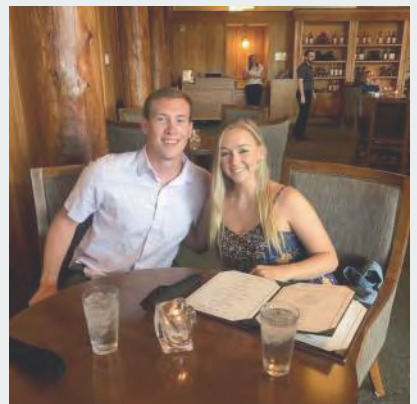
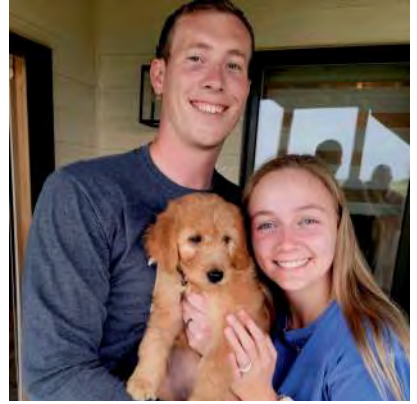
We will encourage our children to pursue a college education. We plan to create and allocate money to a savings fund for each of our children's college education. However, we do understand that there are plenty of career options that do not require a college degree. We ultimately want our kids to discover their passion and be happy and successful. We will support them in fulfilling whatever their dreams are.



our faith

Since faith is a top priority for us, we plan to attend Mass every weekend with our children and support them through receiving their sacraments. Prayers before meals and bedtime are a routine we will establish with our children. As they get older, we hope to expose our children to many volunteer opportunities and teach them charitable ways of giving. We will encourage our children to participate in faith education, and we want to be a source for them to open up to and ask questions. We hope to have frequent and honest conversations about faith as a family. Our church community is full of young families, and our church is always full of the beautiful cries of babies and babble of toddlers during mass. Our church also hosts various festivals and fundraiser events that provide fun family-centered activities. We have formed a friend group through our church that meets bi-weekly for a Bible study. All three couples in our bible study have recently welcomed their first baby. We are excited to raise a child in this community knowing that they will be welcomed with open arms.





Whether our children are all adopted or a combination of both adopted and biological, we have always dreamed of having a bigger family. We would love to have at least four kids, but trust God's plan for our family. We love our current community and plan to stay here at least until our kids have finished high school. As previously mentioned, we do hope to continue traveling and going on fun vacations with our kids. We would love the opportunity to make unforgettable memories throughout the world as a family.



OUR *family* VALUES



FAITH

Faith is a top priority in our household and a core value we plan to raise our children with. We strive to live by the motto: God first, family second, everything else next.

FAMILY

It is important to us that our family remains connected, even through the busyness of life. We hope to foster future “family nights” with everyone together in the living room, even after our kids are grown.

KINDNESS

Kindness can be as simple as practicing the golden rule: treat others the way you would want to be treated. We also believe kindness encompasses charity. We hope to involve our children in volunteering and giving back to the community with us.

INTEGRITY

We believe that integrity is important to ensure that both our marriage and our relationship with our children are based on honesty and open communication to build trust in one another.



BEFORE YOU GO



We want to sincerely thank you for taking the time to review our profile and learn a bit about us. We hope this gave you a sneak peek into our life, and enabled you to envision what life with us would look like for your sweet baby. We want to again reassure you of our love for not only your child, but also for you. This decision exemplifies your tremendous strength and selflessness, and we are so inspired by the sacrificial love that you are showing your child. If chosen to parent your child, that is how we will always portray you.

We want your child to grow up knowing how deeply loved they are by you. We want them to know how strong, brave, and selfless you are. And most importantly, we want them to be able to hear these things from you yourself one day - if and when you both are ready. Therefore, we would be eager to work together with you to formulate the best plan of openness post-placement. Please know we will continue to pray for you and your baby. Our love for you is great, but God's love for you is greater than we can even comprehend. We pray that you feel His love surround you, feel His peace in whatever decision you land on, and see yourself as He sees you - as the incredible, beautiful person you are.

Love,

Isaac + Rachel





You are loved!



"Dear Lord Jesus, we thank you and pray, for family and friends and for this day. Help us become who you want us to be, and protect us from fears and anxiety. Keep us together, help us be kind, give us patience, and strengthen our minds. When temptation arises or life gets tough, remind us Your love is always enough. Amen."