

RYAN AND LACY





HELLO!





OUR NOTE TO YOU

We want to start by telling you that you are capable, strong, and so loved. We may not know you yet, but the fact that adoption has crossed our paths means you already hold a special place in our hearts. We can't fully comprehend the challenges you're facing, but we deeply admire and respect your strength and selflessness in considering such a heartfelt decision for your child's future. Our hope is that you find peace and clarity in whatever choice you make.

Please know we will be forever grateful and deeply honored to become the adoptive parents of your precious child. We will always speak positively about their story, including you and your family. We have so much love in our hearts to give and eagerly await the day when we can extend that care and support to you and your child. We are committed to providing a safe and loving home, full of adventure and wonder for your child. We're truly excited about the possibility of them joining our family.

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us!

*with love,
Ryan and Lacy*



OUR HEARTS FOR ADOPTION

When we began trying to grow our family and had no luck after six months, we started working with a fertility clinic. For the past three years we've been trying to conceive through many treatments. Unfortunately, all of our attempts have been unsuccessful.

Both of us have always been open to growing our family through adoption. Early in our marriage we attended an adoption seminar at our church to learn more. Though adoption was never off the table, we decided to pursue fertility treatments with the hopes of having a biological child first. The heartache we have experienced in the past three years has been insurmountable, but the yearning to be parents and unconditionally love a child remains. After our last failed fertility attempt, we revisited adoption and haven't looked back. Though our journey has been filled with a lot of hard turns, we feel excited and honored to be on this path to adoption and expanding our family.



FAMILY VALUES



Love for God and People

Our Christian faith is our highest priority and our compass as we navigate our lives together. We desire to honor the first commandment in our family and beyond by choosing joy, forgiveness, empathy, and kindness when interacting with each other and those around us. Our greatest hope is to reflect the love God has so freely given us by living out His example of what true love means.

Quality Time

We both grew up with consistent family dinners and we would like to continue this routine with our children. Gathering around the table everyday enjoying a good meal brings connection and time to speak into each other's lives. We would also like to establish a family fun night where we can share more light-hearted time together playing games, watching movies and trying a new restaurant or activity in our local area.

Education

We believe in life-long learning and that there is always opportunity for growth and improvement. Formal education will be held in high regard, but we will also encourage having a curious mind about the world and a willingness to pursue knowledge and understanding. We hold true that God created each of us with a unique purpose, and we desire to encourage one another's passions and creativity by finding joy in growing and learning together.

Character

We desire to embrace the work of Christ in us as we aim to develop the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). We believe that cultivating these fruits within our family will help to create a positive and supportive environment.



TIME TOGETHER

We highly value our marriage, but also our friendship.

We are spouses, but beyond that we are friends and confidants. We enjoy spending time together whether it involves being active or just being in each other's presence while doing our own thing. Ryan loves anything sports related and Lacy loves all things social. We make it a priority to be with friends and family whenever we can. We're always ready for an adventure—whether it's discovering new restaurants, exploring the outdoors, or traveling to new places and taking in the sights. We love simple things like cooking together, playing card games, watching a television series, and going on walks with our dog. We each have our own interests, and we honor the other's autonomy, but we both agree that life is better when lived together.

A few of our favorites

- Biking to an ice cream shop
- Playing pickleball
- Snowshoeing
- Attending our nephews' and nieces' activities
- Reading and traveling together
- Art fairs



OUR MILESTONES



November 2015

We met on a blind date at a local coffee shop after being set up by Ryan's friend's wife. Our shared faith and values were what instantly attracted us to each other. We dated until July 2017 then reconnected in October of 2019. While we didn't see each other nor communicate, Lacy and my mom remained friends and saw each other regularly at church. We reconnected at my mom's funeral in October 2019. Lacy had just bought a house, and I offered to help hang pictures because I wanted to spend time with her, not because I'm a good handyman!



July 2020

We got engaged on the north shore of Lake Superior and afterwards we had dinner on a deck overlooking the lake. We enjoyed the rest of the weekend exploring the beautiful scenic attractions.



October 2020

We got married surrounded by our immediate family and our pastor in Lacy's parents' backyard. It was a small, intimate gathering due to Covid restrictions. Our wedding was simple, but it was deeply personal and filled with unforgettable moments.



September 2021

We had a recommitment reception with all of our family and friends. We both love celebrating and Lacy especially loves dancing, so this was our big party! Covid may have dictated our wedding plans, but it all came together better than we could've ever imagined, and we wouldn't change a thing.



We have been married for over four years and a pillar of our relationship is our shared faith.

We believe in Jesus and we desire to live our lives fueled by His love. In our marriage, this looks like practicing humility, grace, honesty, forgiveness and words of affirmation. Our commitment to God, to each other, and to enjoying a life of fun and laughter strengthens our marriage through the good times and bad.





MY HUSBAND, RYAN

Ryan is loyal to the core. Most of his friends have been his friends since youth group and he is intentional with his friendships. He has a big heart and is always willing to help others. He was his mother's health advocate and the executor of her estate when she passed. He is taking on that role again, but now with his father and the way he cares for him is admirable. He is not only generous with his time, but also with his finances. He adores his family and spoils his nieces, nephews, and our dog too! He is selfless in our marriage as well, and he puts my needs above his own. He makes me feel loved and seen, just the way I am. He is caring and affectionate and knows how to make me laugh!

Even before we were dating, Ryan volunteered at Vacation Bible School and was a math tutor for kids; he loves pouring into others! We served in the children's ministry on Sundays, and he always looked forward to the opportunity to interact with kids. He would get down on their level and play with them. He is a good listener and is always excited to share what he learned from the kids that day. He thinks of his nieces and nephews often and finds special ways to connect with them. He makes a conscious effort to share their interests and converse with them. Every time I see him with children, I fall in love with him even more as he is gentle, tender-hearted, and loving and I know he will make an amazing father!

MY JOB

I work in a lead engineering and operations position for a vascular access medical device startup company. I enjoy seeing and hearing patients and clinicians tell their stories of healing as a result of the product development and clinical research I get to do. My role is family-friendly and flexible for appointments and vacations.

I look forward to loving, encouraging, and guiding our child as they grow. I am excited to marvel as they learn new things and see the world through their eyes. My greatest prayer for our child is that they always know they are loved by many.

My parents gave me and my brother a broad range of experiences through private and public schools, supporting our different interests, and through family vacations. They instilled the value of lifelong learning through education, curiosity, and exploration. I hope to give our child a variety of opportunities so they can figure out what they are good at, what they love, what the world needs, and what they can do to support themselves and their future family.



MY HOBBIES

I enjoy cooking and serving others. I love to be on the water whether I am boating, swimming, fishing, or ice fishing. I also love to spend time in the woods walking, hiking, running, and biking. I enjoy a lot of sports; anything from high school basketball, townball baseball, Golden Gophers, Vikings, Timberwolves, Twins, Wild, Loons and Aurora. I like to get up early on Saturdays and have coffee or breakfast with friends. Recently, I've gotten into bouldering and I climb at an indoor gym a couple times per week.

My greatest accomplishment, in my humble opinion, is being a good friend. While I received excellent grades through college and won awards for work, I'm most proud of the friendships I've built over time.



MY WIFE, LACY

Lacy is a great person who puts others as a top priority in life. She's friendly, social, and loves her family and friends. She can talk to anybody and is particularly good with my dad. Lacy loves to sing, dance, and entertain. Often, she's leading the charge to get friends together for dinner or a weekend at a cabin. She is also confident and driven. She is a great teacher and tutor. She forms great relationships with her students, even getting cards from them and being invited to birthday parties! She is an amazing wife who is intentional, honest, and trustworthy. She is quick to offer words of affirmation and I appreciate that she makes that a priority in our marriage. I love how we just "get each other" and our individual quirks and personalities.

I am so excited to see Lacy as a mother. She's looking forward to sharing her love and nurturing the joy of reading with our future child. As a teacher or tutor she balances serious instruction and learning with time for fun and games. When her tutoring students arrive, they're usually running to our front door to get started because they enjoy working with Lacy. She will take advantage of every opportunity to bond with our child - from cuddling and snuggling to walks and bike rides to playing at the parks to new experiences like a zoo. **Lacy has waited her whole life to become a mother and will be absolutely committed to loving, nurturing, and caring for our child.**

MY HOBBIES

I love staying active with yoga, paddle boarding, and road biking. Traveling and learning about different cultures is a big passion of mine; I've explored much of Western Europe and Central America, and I'm fluent in Spanish, always looking to deepen my understanding of the language. When I'm not out exploring, you'll find me curled up with a good book. Family and friends are incredibly important to me, and I make it a priority to spend quality time with them. Being an auntie is one of my greatest joys—my nieces and nephews mean the world to me. Our dog also holds a special place in my heart. I got her when I was single, and she's been a loyal companion ever since. I even trained her to be a reading therapy dog, and she's helped many children discover the joy of books. Recently, I've gotten into baking sourdough bread—it's become a therapeutic and fulfilling hobby.

I am wired to connect with children, and I yearn to give of the love that has been so richly given to me. As a teacher, I get to spend most of my time loving other people's children and I truly couldn't imagine doing anything else. Teaching children is where my gifting and talents are best used, but I believe in the core of my being that my greatest purpose is to be a wife and mother. I not only look forward to sharing unconditional love with our child, but also witnessing their development through life and guiding them as they grow. My greatest wish for our child is that he or she would know, without doubt, how much we love them and above all, how much they are loved by God. I pray that this love would give them confidence to navigate life's challenges with resilience and compassion. Though I lost my father seventeen years ago, my memories of how he loved me are clear as day. He was authentic, consistent and playful. Knowing that my father's love lives on in me, I hope to emulate these attributes when parenting our child.



MY JOB

I have worked in a Spanish immersion elementary school for the past seventeen years. I absolutely love what I do and even brought my profession into our home as I started a tutoring business to help meet students' reading needs outside of school. My schedule follows the school calendar, and I get all federal holidays and summers off. I have great benefits and I will be given parental leave after our child arrives. I may even be able to extend my leave for the first year while continuing my tutoring business in the evenings.

My greatest accomplishment is my work ethic and determination to rise above challenging situations. I cannot take full credit for this as I lean heavily on my faith and my friends and family for support. Even through loss and trial, I have pursued higher education and earned several teaching licenses.

A BIT MORE ABOUT US





Parenting + Faith

We are members of our local church and have been regular attenders for over fifteen years. We are thankful for a strong community and friendships with other Christians, including our small group. We know that this life is not meant to be lived alone! Intentionality in relationships is important to us, especially within our marriage and friendships.

Above all, we will teach our child to live out the greatest commandments—to love God first and to love others with a compassionate heart. We hope that our faith-filled love will guide and grow our child in being gracious and merciful in character. We desire to live with gratitude and thankfulness, so our child can experience the joy that comes from a humble heart and be a positive example to others.

Education

We plan to send our child to public school because Lacy teaches in the school district, it offers a Spanish Immersion program, and it's a consensus top ten in the state and top hundred ranked schools in the country. The middle school is also within walking distance of our house.

We are planning to send our child to college and have been financially planning for that outcome. We will support vocational education or enlisting in the armed forces or whatever their dreams may be. We want to encourage and financially support them to find personal fulfillment and positively impact the world with their gifts and skills.





H O M E S W E E T H O M E

We live in a rambler-style home. It was built in 2013 and has modern features. There are four bedrooms and three and a half bathrooms. Though we don't have much for a backyard, we do have direct access to a 340-acre regional park with trails, beach, and a playground! Our home has an open-floor plan that was designed for entertainment purposes. We love to host gatherings with family and friends. We consider our home to be our oasis as it is comfortable, yet inviting. We love getting out and exploring, but our home has our heart as it is where we feel the most at rest. We enjoy cooking, lounging by the television or with a good book, playing card games, working in the yard and snuggling with our golden retriever, Luz. She is gentle in nature and loves any attention she can get from people. When Ryan came into Lacy's life, Luz quickly took a liking to him and he even more to her. Luz is our faithful companion and we adore her beyond words.



Our Community

Our city has been recognized as a “best place to live” and continues to live up to its charm. We love the location as it is a peaceful and safe suburban neighborhood. It is centrally located, which makes it convenient when commuting to the neighboring cities for leisure or pleasure. There is a variety of dining, outdoor recreation, live music and family-friendly entertainment, including festivals and art fairs. We live in a reputable neighborhood, and it is filled with children of all ages. Our house is located right beyond the border of two cities, which affords us access to both highly acclaimed school districts. Our city is also known for its extensive parks and trails which we enjoy exploring on foot and by bike. We should also mention the numerous lakes that surround us as we love spending time near or on the water during all seasons of the year. Traveling to church, work, family and friends is a short commute, which helps us to stay intentional and involved with these important commitments in our lives.



Meet Our Extended Family



LACY'S FAMILY

My mom, Becki, is retired and enjoys reading, lounging, and shopping. My stepdad, Steve, recently retired, and enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time puttering in his garage. My older sister, Ellie has two boys Lawrence is seventeen years old and Kaleb is eleven years old. My stepmom, Jenifer, is also retired but does volunteer therapy for her church. I also have a stepsister, Emily and stepbrother, Henry. Henry's wife, Heather, is a college professor of child psychology. Their son, Charlie is fourteen years old, and Max is eleven years old. My other stepbrother, Willie, is a professional chef. Willie and Kelsey's daughter, Olivia, is seven years old, and loves animals, insects, and Jesus!

RYAN'S FAMILY

My dad (aka Bob or Bobby as the grandkids call him) is retired but still goes to his office to work every day! He is quiet, humble, generous, loves cars, cookies, and a good steak! My older brother, Brad, is a professional chef. He is easy-going and a good friend. Brad's wife, Mitzi, is a special education teacher, a dedicated mother, and a compassionate friend. Our nephew, Theodore, is eight years old. He is in second grade, and enjoys playing with Legos and reading "Dogman" books. Our niece, Rosemary, is four years old. She has spina bifida and uses a wheelchair. She gives the best hugs and loves all things purple and pink!

We have good relationships with our extended families and see them often as everyone, other than Willie and his family, live in the Twin Cities. Our families have been beyond encouraging and supportive of our decision to adopt!





HOLIDAY FUN

Spending quality time with our families is something we both deeply value. We gather with them over spontaneous meals or supporting our nephews' and nieces' extracurricular activities. We also have several formal gatherings to celebrate special occasions. When there is a birthday, the family member of honor gets to choose a favorite homemade meal or restaurant. Most of us have a sweet tooth so there is usually a delicious dessert, which often includes ice cream.

We host Thanksgiving and Easter meals and always make it a point to invite both sides of our families. Ryan's planning and culinary expertise are on full display for this gathering and all leave raving about the good food and the time spent together. We are blessed with stepparents and siblings which make our holiday celebrations plentiful. We have a second Thanksgiving at my stepmom's home for a non-traditional meal of lasagna. She also hosts a chili party for our family that started the year after my father passed away to bring people together in honor of his life. Another tradition that we shared with my dad and Jenifer was a fancy Christmas dinner together in lieu of presents, and we continue to gather in this way every year. Ryan's brother and our sister-in-law host Christmas Eve, and the tradition involves fondue and making my mother-in-law's famous broccoli and cauliflower dish in her memory. The celebrations continue for Christmas Day at my mom and step-dad's home, and it always involves a rich and delicious meal along with sharing gifts with one another.

We started the tradition of giving the children in our family a "Day O' Fun" where they get to spend the night at our home enjoying a variety of fun activities together. To survive the long winters in Minnesota, we try to do a cabin weekend getaway with our brother, sister-in-law, and their two kids. The list of family celebrations and holiday traditions is long, and we look forward to adding even more to it as our family grows.



OUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

IN RYAN'S WORDS

We plan to stay in our current home for a while because we like the location and purchased it with the intent to grow our family. Our neighborhood is safe, and our neighbors are welcoming and friendly. We like our proximity to school, work, and church. We're centrally located relative to our family and friends.

We like traveling and both agree that it is one of life's best educations; everything from a road trip to a cabin for a weekend to an international vacation. We hope to go on an annual family trip where we can explore and experience the wonders of this world together. We want to visit friends who now live in West Palm Beach, FL and Grand Rapids, MI. We hope to go to Guatemala and Spain as Lacy has lived in both countries, but Ryan hasn't been to either country. Any USA national park, Maine, and Japan are also destinations that are on our bucket lists.

We're open to continuing to grow our family, but understand that it may not happen. We believe life is a gift from God, so we choose to trust Him by resting in the goodness of His plans for us.





BEFORE YOU GO

Thank you for taking a look at our life and considering how your child might fit into our family.

We are deeply grateful and humbled that you're considering us to adopt your child. We have the utmost respect for the strength and love behind this incredibly selfless decision. If chosen, we will always honor you, your place in your child's story, and the loving sacrifice you've made.

Your child will be unconditionally loved, supported, and cherished. We will speak openly and positively about adoption, celebrating it as a beautiful part of their identity. We're also open and eager to talk about what connection might look like moving forward and would love to hear your hopes for the future.

Most of all, please know we will forever treasure this precious gift of life and do everything we can to provide a loving, stable, and joyful home for your child. And no matter which path you choose, we pray that you find peace and clarity in your decision.

*with love,
Ryan and Lacy*

YOU ARE LOVED

