

LUKE + KATELIN









HI THERE!

WE ARE KATELIN & LUKE.

We are so incredibly honored and humbled that you would consider us for the privilege of loving and raising your baby. **Your strength and selflessness to consider this decision are a testament of your love and character, and we will honor that fierceness in our love and commitment to your baby.**

We have always dreamed of having a larger family and for our almost four year old daughter to have a sibling. We have hoped endlessly for another little love to join us and add to all our family adventures; to be a part of our weekly pizza and movie Fridays, to introduce us to a whole new set of silly moves for our daily living room dance parties, to add a new and different voice in our car jam sessions, and to help our family dynamic change and grow into something even more beautiful. Between the three of us, we have so much love to give and hope and dream of the way a baby will add to our family.

You are an incredibly selfless woman and mother. We pray for your health, your mental fortitude in your decision to bring your baby into this world, your strength to carry on through the hard days, and for self assuredness in your decision. Only a mother's love is as fierce and all consuming to make a sacrifice this large and we are so incredibly grateful to get to be even a small piece in your story while you're reading more about us. Know that regardless of your choice - we will continue to think of and pray for you and your baby.

*with love,
Katelin + Luke*

OUR HEART FOR ADOPTION



The idea of growing our family through adoption has been woven into our story for the last year. Since having our daughter, Shay, we have gone through countless fertility treatments and experienced three pregnancy losses that have come with a heartbreak no one expects to face when they dream of having a family. As we continued to experience failed treatments and losses we knew we needed to take a step back and consider what was truly the right path for growing our family. We began having conversations about what it would look like to expand our family through adoption. As conversations progressed, we realized that the picture we had in our heads of our future family had slowly and naturally changed - it was not just the three of us anymore, but four. A family with the central and most important tie being love and commitment to each other, our similarities, and our differences.

Connection to Adoption - In Katelin's Words

We feel deeply connected to adoption as the path to grow our family. Both the gift and heartbreak that coexist in adoption is something we feel ready to embrace and protect with open hearts for the rest of our lives. **Our hearts are open to the diversity and new traditions that come from adding a child to our family through adoption.** As a former preschool and elementary school teacher I had kids in my classes that came from many different family dynamics (formed by adoption and foster care, blended families with step parents and siblings, kids with grandparents or extended family raising them). It was eye opening to hear the stories that different children shared about their families (weekend traditions, family vacations, difficult times going on at home) that were so universal, despite being from such different backgrounds. That teaching experience reaffirmed our strong belief that families are built in so many ways with the most central piece being the love and commitment you have for each other.



We have the utmost empathy for a story beginning with loss as it does in adoption, because that is how our journey to get to you was formed, too. We will never be able to understand the weight and difficulty of the decision to place your child for adoption, but we can offer an empathetic ear and an open heart to both you and your child.



OUR STORY

We have been married for seven years.

We first met doing something we both loved - playing soccer. Although our paths only crossed briefly initially, we were reintroduced two years later in the same way and that time we both knew that what we had was something special. Our relationship through the twelve years we've been together still resembles that college connection in some ways: the shared love of being active and playing sports, the relentless drive to do well in school or now our adult professions/parenting roles, fun dates where the main event was and still is dessert; but it has also grown in more ways than we could have anticipated.



We've walked through the hardest seasons of infertility together and have seen and comforted each other in our lowest moments. We have learned how to communicate our needs directly and in the moments when they're not being met with grace and respect. We've adjusted and grown to know that our conversation styles around big topics are different and where one of us may be ready to discuss everything immediately, the other needs time and space to gather their thoughts. We have grown to prioritize connection in the simple moments of everyday life like going as a family to a cafe for a Sunday morning treat after church, or playfully joining in on the game of chase with our daughter to sneak up on each other, too. Our connection now does look different than it did before we became parents and we wouldn't change it for the world. We work most of our "date nights" in after bed time with a favorite show, conversation at the kitchen island, or over coffee in the mornings. **Our hope as parents and partners is that we can model for our daughter and future child that the love in a marriage is a commitment for life and that love paired with faith is the foundation for our family.**



OUR TIMELINE

First Met - Fall 2012

Reintroduced - Fall 2014

Began Dating - November 2014

Got Engaged - September 2017

Got Married - November 2018

Shay Was Born - May 2022





FAMILY VALUES

We prioritize our faith and our collective and individual relationships with God. We pray every night before dinner and attend weekly mass at our Catholic parish. We ground ourselves in our faith to help us through tough times and celebrate all of life's wins. We've developed strong relationships with members of our church and the families we've met through the Catholic preschool we send our daughter to.

We love to travel! We enjoy going to the beach as a family, swimming in the ocean, riding bikes, and walking on the boardwalk. We also love going to Disney and the magic and childlike wonder we all feel while exploring the parks!

We really enjoy the little things in life. Getting to a local coffee shop before all of our favorite cinnamon rolls sell out, a slow weekend morning when we play pretend with all our daughter's favorite toys and enjoy each other's company, and the conversations we have over meals shared together are some of our favorite moments.

We value being active and love organized sports and activities as a way to build character and friendships. We met playing soccer in college and have made some of our closest friends in sports. We will follow our children's lead in what activities they are interested in! We are currently Shay's biggest dance and gymnastics cheerleaders and are excited to learn more about whatever world our children invite us into with them.



01

OUR FAVORITE ACTIVITIES

Our family's favorite activities include going on adventures to explore our town, getting outside to move our bodies, making food together, and having cozy time at home. A typical weekend starts out with the three of us making pizza together at the kitchen island, followed by picking out a favorite movie to watch where we squeeze three people and two cats onto one tiny corner of our couch so we can all be cozy! Saturday mornings are either spent in our pajamas having breakfast at home and playing pretend with Shay's favorite character toys or getting out and about early to get a special breakfast and coffee at one of our favorite local coffee shops! We also enjoy being active and like to go on local adventures like swimming at the Y, playing at a playground, or visiting our local sports club to play soccer or jump on their extra big trampolines.



02

SUNDAY TRADITIONS

Sundays are centered on church and family. We attend mass weekly where Luke's brother, our sister in law, and nephew also attend mass. After church we like to catch up with our family and friends and spend the rest of our day playing at home, cooking and baking together, and during football season, hosting Luke's siblings, spouses, and parents for a day of food, football, and fun! Go Ravens!



03

ADVENTURING TOGETHER

We also love to travel. Each year we go on a week-long vacation with Luke's family to either a lake or a beach. We all stay in the same house and get to enjoy a week of slowing down, playing in the sand, swimming, playing board games, and having family movie nights. Kate's family also does a yearly vacation to the shore during the off season. The week is spent with Kate's parents, grandparents, siblings and extended family who bring their children and babies. It's really special to spend the week puzzling, going to the cafes that are open year round, checking out the arcade, and riding bikes and surreys on the boardwalk with the four generations of Kate's family.



My Husband

LUKE

Luke is the most patient, grounded, and humble person I have ever met; one of the first things that attracted me to him was how humble he was. He was part of a very competitive academic program in college, was one of the best soccer players on the field, and had quite a large social circle he was central to, yet I would have never known any of that from my conversations with him. He did then and still does prioritize asking about me: how my day was, what I'm working on and interested in, how he can make my load lighter and my day better. He has always put me and our family first and is the rock and safe place for both Shay and I. He has the kind of steady and calm confidence that helps to quiet the outside noise. He is the first to crack a joke or make a silly face that can change tears to laughs and turn a tense moment into a beautiful memory.

Luke is the kind of dad who gets down on the floor to play princesses, even if he's played out the story line 100 times before because he knows it will bring a smile to Shay's face. In the eyes of our daughter he is the world's best "pusher" on the swings and the fastest chaser to play tag with. He responds in hard parenting moments with a calm and firm redirection that somehow stops a tantrum in its tracks while strengthening his example of a strong and loving father. He works tirelessly and often thanklessly at his job on the many things he's responsible for, yet will sooner wake up early or work after bedtime before prioritizing work over evening family and meal times. I thank God everyday that he will set the highest bar for what a husband and father should be to our children.

Dependable, Funny, Humble



My hope as a father is that my children view me as a supportive role model who is always available to provide help and fun throughout their lives. I love providing for my family through being the working parent. When I'm not working, I enjoy playing games with Shay and finding ways to make her laugh. We love playing soccer, dodgeball, and having a fun game of chase. Having grown up playing sports with seven siblings in my parents' front yard, I envision a future of our growing family doing similarly with backyard soccer, catch, and chase. Being the second oldest of my siblings, I remember being a source of help for my younger siblings. As my children get older, I look forward to helping them grow to be caring and supportive of each other in all that they do.

I strive to live a selfless life, always putting Kate, Shay, and my future children's interests, happiness, and safety at the forefront of my mind. I regularly push myself to be the best version of myself in all aspects of my life for the betterment of my family. In my capacity as a husband, I listen, encourage, and support Kate through the ups and the downs. I let Shay know through words and actions each day of my love and care for her. Each morning, I step away from work to wish my daughter a good morning and eat breakfast as a family. After work, we have our special play time filled with making her laugh as we run around the house. Through any of her hard times, I let her know I'm present and listening, even if my love requires a firm stance. I care for her through providing for her daily needs and special occasions as well. I have so much more of this same love to give a future child that joins our family!

Occupation - I work as a software engineer for a technology company. My favorite aspect of my job is when I can mentor interns and junior employees, guiding them towards building brand new systems. I work remotely full time with occasional short trips. Working remotely has been a blessing as it has allowed me and my family to eat almost every meal together, grants me the flexibility to assist with and attend any life events, appointments, and milestones, and we have even been able to extend family vacations in fun places, where I can simply take my work laptop with me. My work offers excellent benefits for growing families, and I will be able to go on paternity leave for sixteen weeks for our adoption.

Hobbies + Favorites - I like staying active through running and exercising. I enjoy listening to music, audiobooks (fantasy and sci-fi), or watching educational videos to improve my technical skills. My favorite sport to play is soccer, and my favorite sport to watch is football. Go Ravens! I find fulfillment in building or accomplishing things, both physical and digital, with home improvement projects or building apps. I enjoy getting together with family, regardless of whether it is to get work done at my parents' house, sit back and relax while watching sports, or meet up for a birthday, holiday, or any other celebration.



My Wife

KATELIN

I fell in love with Kate back in college after seeing her kindness, selflessness, determination, and humor. As we got to know each other, she exemplified values I could see in a life partner by being fun and easy to be around, effortless to talk to, and even in the early stages, her maternal gifts were very apparent. She would go out of her way to make sure others were happy and felt loved, whether it was through making meals, planning activities for special occasions, or handwriting letters to make me and others know that we were on her mind. I remember after first introducing her to my mother, my mom described her as “a ray of sunshine” because of how happy she was and made all of those around her.

When we welcomed our daughter, Shay, into our lives, my love for Kate grew even stronger. **Kate will be the first to say that her calling in life is to be a mother, and she has become the best mother our daughter could ask for.** She selflessly gives herself to this role through jumping out of bed at the first sounds; leaving her career to assume the responsibility of full-time parenting; preparing numerous meals, putting together outfits, and so much more! Kate makes it obvious to our daughter and to me that she always has undying love for us through both the ups and the downs, and I cannot imagine our lives without her. I feel so blessed and fortunate to have Kate as my wife and mother of our children.

Loyal, Kind, Warm



I have always dreamed of being a mom and raising kids. It is one of my greatest wishes to welcome another child to love and raise alongside our daughter. If I had to guess how Shay would describe me, I think she'd say I'm loving, silly, and hardworking. I stay at home with her everyday and our days are filled with lots of pretend play, painting and crafts, reading books together, games of chase, baking, and more. I love getting to see the joy on her face when we can really dive into a pretend story and act out the characters in a way that feels creative to her. I am so excited for the ways another child will add to our lives. The added interests, additional set of hands in the paint containers and cookie dough bowls, and for the ways a sibling relationship will grow as both children age. As a mom, my greatest hope for my daughter and our future child is that they will always know how unconditionally loved they are, how proud of them we are, and that our door will always be wide open to them.



My husband and daughter are the two most important people in my life. I do my best to show up everyday for both of them. I show them my love by not only saying I love you but through the acts of service I do everyday for them. Their favorite foods are top of mind when I am preparing meals for them, Shay's excitement to come downstairs to a new day of creative play is what I think of when I'm cleaning play spaces at bedtime, and realizing Luke is likely feeling sick when he's slept in longer than usual and bringing him food and medicine in bed are just a few of the ways I show up for my family. Any child that joins our family will be put first in the same ways. I am so excited to learn and develop shared interests in what they are passionate about, find fun ways to include their favorite foods at meal times, and spend as much quality time with them as possible.

Occupation - I stay home with Shay. I was previously a preschool and then 5th grade teacher and knew that after having our daughter I wanted to be home to raise her and any future children. I spend my days playing with her, teaching her, preparing food together, keeping up with the house and wouldn't want it any other way!



Hobbies + Favorites - I love to read, especially thrillers, fantasy, romance, mysteries. My favorite book is "Listen for the Lie" by Amy Tintera; I'm a part of a virtual book club with three of my best friends from high school! I also love good coffee and baked goods from local cafes. Running is one of my favorite outlets and helps me recenter and recharge! I also really enjoy planning parties and events for the people I love! My favorite foods are chocolate desserts of any kind and Chick-fil-A!

OUR *Sweet* SHAY



Shay is four years old. She is sweet, kind, observant, very funny, and has a belly laugh that is infectious. She loves to sing, dance, play tag and 'floor is lava', make up and play out pretend stories, and spend time with family at home. She is in dance and gymnastics and loves to be on a stage or doing a performance for the people she loves! She will make the most incredible big sister. **She will take pride in helping a younger sibling learn new things and will be a patient sharer. Her friends' younger siblings often gravitate towards her because of how gentle and kind she is to them!**



OUR PLANS FOR SCHOOL

We plan to send our children to public school for their education. We feel confident that the public school in our area will provide our children with a well rounded education that focuses on both academics and social emotional learning. We plan to support our children in whatever field they feel passionate about as they grow. We will support their goals for college by helping them with tuition or support their plans for trade school if they decide college is not for them. We want to support our children becoming contributing members of society whether that be through studying a specific field and earning a degree in college or pursuing a trade after high school.

OUR HOME

We live in a single family home that we worked with a contractor seven years ago to build. Our house has four bedrooms and three and a half bathrooms. We have a deck, patio, and pergola covered fire pit in the backyard where we love to roast marshmallows and make s'mores in the summer and early fall. We also have a playset in the backyard where we enjoy spending time swinging, sliding, and playing on warm days! One of our favorite parts of our home is an upstairs section of wall that is filled with nine large frames. We rotate what's inside each frame with Shay's artwork or recent pictures and look forward to the added crafts and portraits our future child creates! We love spending time in our recently finished basement playing chase in the wide open space or pushing couch cushions together to make a giant cozy bed for movie nights!



Sonny + Phoebe

We have a boy and girl sibling set of cats that we rescued; Sonny and Phoebe. Sonny is snuggly and playful and loves belly rubs. Phoebe is cuddly and curious and loves to jump and climb onto the highest surface she can find. Both cats love children and are so gentle and patient with them. They both love to find a lap to sit in while we play on the floor with toys or when we all snuggle up on the couch for a tv show or movie!



Our community is a great blend of country and suburb with a lot of small town charm. We live walking distance from where our local fair is held each summer and from a main street with a local cafe, flower shop, and retail shops. We are less than ten minutes away from four fun playgrounds that we frequent, our local library, YMCA, sports club arena, farmers markets, and more! Our public school district is competitively ranked and Kate has an added insight into the care and education that goes on in our local elementary school because she worked there just a few years ago. Our church is also less than ten minutes away and is where we've met many of our closest friends! We also live only fifteen minutes from a bigger city, where Shay attends dance and gymnastics!

WE LOVE OUR FAMILY



Kate's Family

I have a pretty tight knit family and talk to my mom and sister multiple times each week on the phone. My parents live just over an hour from us, but plan to move much closer in the next few years once they've retired. Their grandparent names are Grammy and Poppy and it's been a gift to see them become such active and present grandparents! I have two siblings, Kristin and Kevin. My brother, Kevin is married to Brittany, and they have two kids; Clark who is six and Evie who is four. They live about twenty minutes away and the kids adore getting to see and spend time with each other at playgrounds, birthday parties, and playdates! My sister, Kristin, has a long-term partner, Jack, and they are the most fun loving aunt and uncle. They live in Michigan, but we see them at least every other month and cherish our quality time when we go out to see them or when they are visiting us at our home.

Luke's Family

I have a large family with seven siblings, with most of them fairly local to us. My parents also live just twenty minutes away. Shay was my parents' first grandchild, and their grandparent names are Lola (which is Filipino for grandmother) and Granddad. My older sister, Jessica, is the one sibling who moved far away, living in Florida, but she finds a way to come back to stay with my parents every few months to be present for family events. I'm the second oldest, and the rest of my younger siblings all live close enough to come over every week for football parties during the football season. Next in the list is Emily, who is married to Kevin, and they live around forty minutes away. Ben is currently in the seminary, around an hour away but still finds ways to come home to the area frequently. David is in a band and loves playing music with Shay when we see him at all family gatherings. Paul is married to Melissa and they just had a baby boy named Noah - the second grandchild in the family! They live just ten minutes down the road, and we see them at least once a week when we all sit together at church. Mark is also in the seminary, only forty minutes away, and is one of the regulars at any family events. Anna recently married Justin and lives with my parents. Anna and Justin are the go-to babysitters for Shay and the aunt and uncle ready to show up and play non-stop!



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Our extended family is such a blessing to us and makes our lives so much more fun! They have been so incredibly supportive of our plans to adopt and cannot wait to welcome another little one into the family. They've even taken the initiative to read books about the adoption process and offer help with our daughter as we balance the time and commitment to our future child after matching with an expectant mother. We have asked all of them to pray for the health and wellness of expectant moms considering adoption plans for their babies.



OUR HOLIDAYS



Holidays are a very celebratory time in our home! We love to decorate our house to make it feel like whatever season or holiday we are in. Christmas is our absolute favorite. We put a tree in almost every room in the house and love to hang both keepsake ornaments and homemade crafts on our trees. We bake Christmas cookies and they become a staple in our diet for the whole month of December! We host a holiday party with all of Kate's high school friends and their children, wear matching pajamas on Christmas Eve night and FaceTime Kate's out of town sister to read "The Night before Christmas" to the whole family (as has been happening for the last 26 years). We also do a yearly Secret Santa with Luke's siblings and parents where the most important requirement for the gift is the thought and homemade element behind it. Shay looks forward to this "guessing game" part of Christmas night so much! We can't wait for the way Shay and our future child will become a part of this special tradition with their cousins as they get older.

Around Halloween each year we host Shay's Godparents who live down the street to carve pumpkins and have a yearly carving and decorating night! **We look forward to the way a future child will add to the creativity around the table and the added special people we will invite to join in the fun!** On holidays like Valentines Day and St Patrick's Day, we love doing crafts both leading up to and on the day! On birthdays we have two special outdoor garden flags that we put out for the whole birthday week and we like to decorate and set out presents in the living room to surprise each other when we wake up!

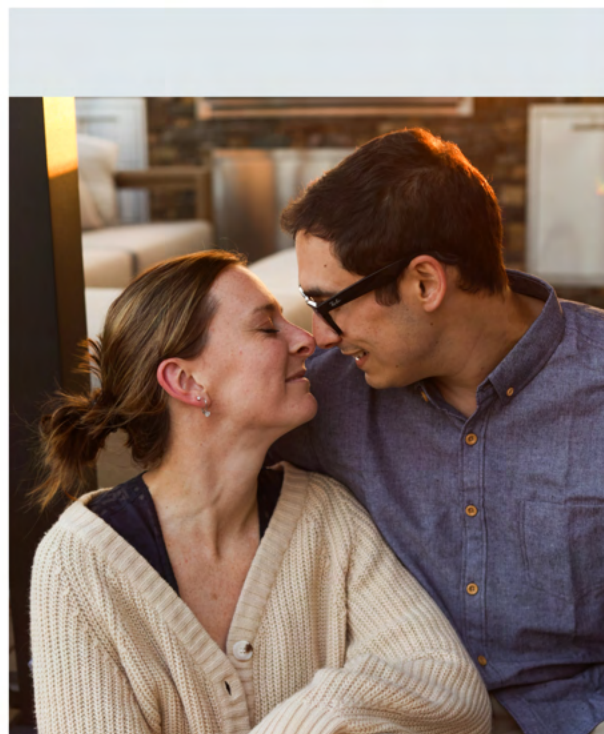
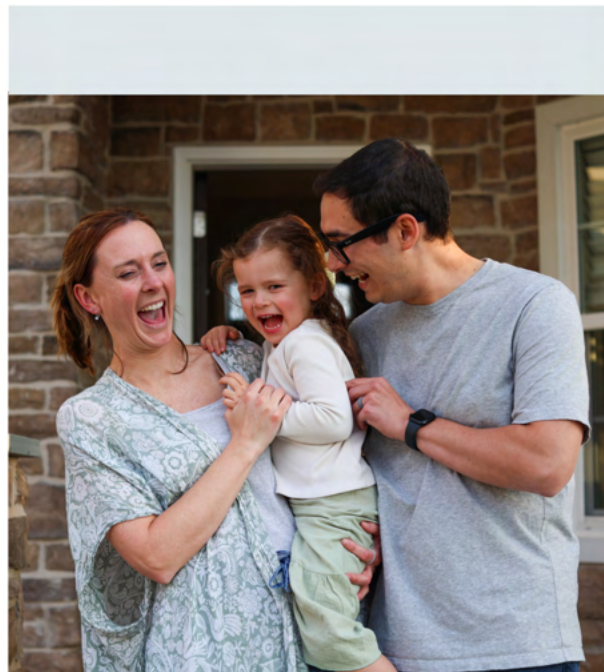


We see both sides of the family for every holiday and birthday and are so grateful for the relationships we have with them and the relationships they've built with our daughter and will build with a future child, too. We can't wait for all the ways our traditions will feel fuller with another child. We plan to incorporate new traditions that honor our future child's cultural background and are looking forward to the ways our most special yearly seasons will evolve!



OUR FUTURE PLANS

We feel very settled in our current home and community and have no plans to move in the near future. We feel blessed to have landed in a place with caring neighbors, a strong church community, and close to all the amenities we feel are important for raising a young family. We love to travel and plan to incorporate that into our lives when we're able, taking into consideration changing schedules and needs as children grow and begin school. We have always dreamt of having a larger family and will keep our hearts open to God's plan for our growing family in the future.



OUR FAITH AS WE PARENT

Faith is an integral part of our lives and is very important to us to instill in our children. We plan to raise all of our kids to know God's love and the importance of a relationship with Him. We plan to put Shay and future children through Catholic preschool at our local church and continue with Faith Formation during all school age years. We plan to baptize all of our children and walk with them in their faith journeys. We both attended Catholic youth groups, conferences, and retreats and plan to support and encourage experiences like that for our children as well.



THANK YOU



We are so grateful to you for including us in this beautiful and difficult part of your journey; we have been praying for you for so long and will continue to pray for your peace in the decisions you're making. We pray for your strength and resilience to get through the hard days and that the happy memories to come with whatever family you consider will make this extremely hard chapter all worth it. We value you and your brave choice to bring your baby into this world, even when circumstances feel uncertain.

We want to assure you that our hearts are as open as possible to you and your baby. We view you and your baby as an extension of each other and will keep an open heart and mind for what the future has in store. No matter what decision you make for your family - we are honored that we could be a part of your journey. We look forward to getting to know you more!

Katelin + Luke

OUR COMMITMENTS TO YOU

We will protect and honor you and your child's history and privacy by creating a life book for them and sharing our love and respect for you daily.



We will pray for you and your family for peace and assurance in your decision.



We will advocate for positive adoption language in conversations with our families, friends, and church community.



We will incorporate cultural music or favorite songs in our daily dance parties or nighttime lullabies and add children's books to our home library that highlight our child's cultural background and traditions.



We will seek out local adoption related support groups and peers for our child so they have peers around them whose families have been built through adoption.



We vow to honor and protect your story and make sure that your child always knows their history and the love that has been poured into them. We commit to showing up for your child on their best and worst days; to play day in and day out with their favorite characters, to let them lead the way in their interests and then to become their biggest cheerleaders, and to always approach life in our family as an adventure, meant to be enjoyed together.

