

# Steph & Luke



# hello,

NICE TO MEET YOU!

We would like to express our admiration and appreciation for the courageous choice you have made to place your child. Although we can't begin to understand what you are personally going through, we do understand what it feels like to go through a struggle. We were both raised as part of close-knit and large extended families. We grew up surrounded by the love of siblings and cousins. This influenced our excitement to start a family once we were married. Our struggle with infertility brought us closer as a couple and strengthened our already present faith. Our longing to bring a child into our home led us to pursue adoption and we were blessed by the birth and adoption of

our son, Luke Jr. We cherished the opportunity to be present for his birth and bring him home from the hospital. We are overjoyed to be parents, have loved every stage of watching our son grow, and we could not imagine our life without him. We have wonderful memories of our own childhoods growing up alongside siblings and wish to provide our son with the same experience. As he has grown, he too has expressed the desire for a baby brother or sister. We want you to know that first and foremost your child will be loved immensely, not only by us but by our families and friends. We can't express our gratitude for the gift you are giving and we realize the blessing it would be to be chosen.



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about us &



our

story



## OUR STORY BY LUKE

We met in college through my roommate, her cousin. I was immediately attracted to her – she has the greatest smile, she is very funny and she is just a joy to be around. We dated for about 6 years prior to getting married. Since we started dating at college, we loved to cheer on our favorite team, go out to dinner and spend time with our family and friends. After college, Steph went to graduate school and I started a job in another city. We knew we loved each other and a long-distance relationship would work. I would travel to see her every other weekend to spend time together and if she had time, she would visit me. We were able to make this work by making time for each other and always communicating.

As our relationship grew and we got to know each other and our families more, we began to discuss marriage. Without Steph's knowledge, I had her sister help me pick out a ring and asked her parents for permission to marry their daughter. In July of 2008, when Steph was coming home for the 4th of July holiday, I waited at her parents' house with flowers to surprise her and propose. She said yes and we celebrated with our families that weekend.

We were married in May of 2009 in our hometown and at the church we belonged too. We were both the first of our parent's children

to be married so there was a lot of excitement surrounding the planning and wedding itself and we invited all our extended family and friends. The day went by so fast, as weddings do, but it was a beautiful day and we enjoyed every part of it, especially sharing it with all the people who had supported us throughout our lives and relationship. After the wedding, we took a honeymoon beach vacation and began our journey as a married couple. We have been married for 12 years and our love for each other continues to grow.

As a married couple, we love to support our favorite teams, attending games or watching intently with family and friends. We also enjoy the outdoors, and cherish spending time at our family cottage. There we can spend time on the lake – fishing, swimming, and kayaking. We make time to travel together; and love when we can take a day trip to a nearby city or a long weekend out of state.

Together we value our faith and family. Growing up our Catholic faith has always been part of our daily lives. We attend church weekly as a family, support our church financially and through service. We both have many members of our immediate and extended families that live in our city and we love how much quality time we have with them. Both of us grew up spending lots of time with our cousins and we continue these close relationships to this day.

# fun facts

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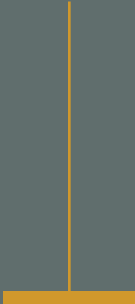
We grew up about seven miles from each other but never met or knew each other until we went to the same college two hours away from our home town.

2

We grew up vacationing at family cottages north of our hometown that were only thirty minutes apart.

3

We enjoy attempting and completing DIY projects together.









# my husband

WRITTEN BY STEPH

Luke is hardworking, calm under pressure, kind and has a great sense of humor. He is outgoing and easy to talk to. He is athletic and enjoys exercise as well as watching and following sports. I love that faith and family are so important to him and he is an amazing father. He makes me laugh when I am sad or taking things too seriously and he helps me calm my worries and stress.

Luke has always been great with children. His first niece was born when he was in high school and he shared a special bond with her as she grew up. From the time we were dating and to this day our friends', cousins' and neighbors' children were always drawn to him because he enjoys playing and having fun with them. Because of this I've always known he was going to be a great dad, and he is. He has been a hands-on dad from day one and has been a true partner in parenting, but he especially enjoys playing with our son, whether it be animals, army, sports, or just acting silly.

Luke is an account manager for a building supplies company. He works full time weekday hours but has some flexibility to be able to take our son to school one day a week and pick him up two days a week. He will have six weeks off for an adoption. He is highly regarded by his employer and coworkers for his work ethic and ability to learn and implement new protocols quickly.





# about me

BY LUKE

My friends would describe me as kind, loyal and fun. I treat people the way I want to be treated and this has led to some lasting strong friendships. I will be there for them in good times and bad and always make time for them when they are in need. They enjoy being around me because I like to try new things and have a laid back attitude. I don't let

things get me down and I always try to cheer people up. My son is only six, but he would describe me as his "best buddy." We love to spend time outdoors going on hikes, looking for bugs or local wildlife. I nurture his interests and try to spend as much time with him as possible. I intend to help coach as he gets involved with sports.







# my wife

WRITTEN BY LUKE



**Steph is the most caring, loving and selfless person I know. She is always putting the needs of myself and our son first. This is what makes her an amazing mother and wife.** She is always there for us in the good times and bad with a loving touch or kind words. Steph grew up caring for children, being the oldest of four kids, and her passion for being a mother shines through every

day. She would take exceptional care of your child and shower them with love.

Steph is a Physical Therapist at a clinic in town. She works three days a week, which allows her to have more time with our son, Luke. She will be able to take 12 weeks off for an adoption. She is well thought of at work for her leadership, kindness and compassion with patients.



# about me

BY STEPH

My friends would describe me as caring, compassionate and a good listener. Growing up as the oldest in my family I have always been a nurturer and I enjoy doing things for others and helping them. For a Mother's Day card from school my son described me as "nice" and said he loves me because I play with him, fish and catch frogs with him at our cottage.



# our family





Our son Luke Junior (Lukey) is 6 years old. He is smart and funny. He usually likes to observe first before jumping into new situations. He loves animals and especially finding out where they live and categorizing them by their location and habitat. He enjoys building and creating. He loves any outdoor activities such as walking on the trail by our house, riding his bike or scooter, swimming, fishing, or just playing in the yard with the neighbor kids. He is very excited to have a new sibling. He asks regularly and prays nightly for a baby sister or brother.



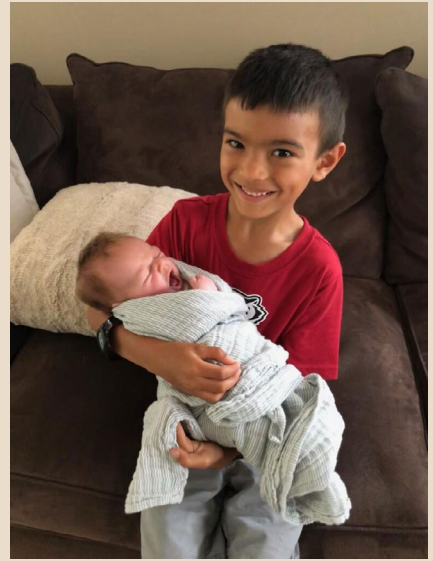
# luke jr.



Luke's adoption was such a blessing for us. We were able to meet his birth parents prior to his birth. We spent several visits with his birth mother, including some doctor's appointments prior to his birth. We were present at the hospital and in the room for his birth and hospital stay. We maintain an open relationship with his biological mother. We had several in-person visits the first year and about once a year since then. We also post picture updates to a share site quarterly.



# steph's family



Steph's parents are Patrick and Mary, they live in our same city. We see them at least once a week. Steph's mom has helped with childcare regularly since Luke was born. Steph is the oldest of 4 and all of her siblings are married. Her brother Drew and his wife Katie live out of state. Unfortunately we only get to see them once or twice a year because they live so far away, but we FaceTime regularly. Her brother Tom and his wife Crystal live in our same city. They have three kids - Christian, (5) who is in Luke's class at school, Jonah (3) and Olivia (infant). We see them almost weekly and the little boy cousins have so much fun

together. Steph's sister Kathleen and her husband Ryan live in a bordering state with their son George (3). We see them once every couple months. Steph and Kathleen talk on the phone almost daily and FaceTime with the boys several times per week. Steph is from a large extended family on her mom's side. Steph's mom is one of 12 and Steph has 38 cousins on her mom's side. Steph has four first cousins who are adopted. Steph grew up very close to her cousins and we continue to spend time with many of them on a regular basis. Steph has four cousins who joined our family through adoption

# luke's family

Luke's parents are Tom and Sue, they live in our same city and we see them at least once a week. They also have helped with Luke's childcare for the past several years. Luke is the youngest of three. His oldest sister Angie lives in our same city and we see her about once a month. She has a daughter Taylor (24) who is two years post college and living and working out of state. We see her about four times a year. Luke's other sister Sara lives with her husband Vito and their sons Nico

(9) and Gio (7) in a bordering state. We see them about four to five times per year and talk through phone or text once a week. Lukey looks up to and enjoys playing with his older cousins. Luke also has a large extended family on his dad's side. He grew up alongside many cousins like Steph did and continues to spend time with many of them.

All of our immediate and extended families have been praying for and are anxiously awaiting the arrival of another child in our family.













# holiday traditions



**SUPER BOWL** – our neighbors have a superbowl party every year. We eat lots of chicken wings and everyone brings sides.

**VALENTINE'S DAY** – heart shaped pancakes for breakfast and heart shaped pizza for dinner, making cards for cousins and classmates.

**EASTER** – coloring Easter eggs, Steph's brother Tom has an annual Easter egg hunt for the kids at his house. The Easter Bunny hides Lukey's basket.

**MEMORIAL DAY** – we dress in red white and blue and go to the Memorial Day parade in town with friends and family.

**4TH OF JULY** – a special holiday for our family because we got engaged on July 3rd and Luke was born on July 2nd – Our neighbor does small fireworks for the kids.

**HALLOWEEN** – Lukey's favorite holiday. We like to decorate the house inside and out with spooky decorations and we have a Halloween playlist we listen to. If it were up to Lukey we would keep the decorations up and the songs going year round. We trick-or-treat in our neighborhood and the neighbor kids and parents love walking around together.

**THANKSGIVING** – Thanksgiving morning we have an annual get together with our neighbors. Then most years we celebrate two Thanksgivings in one day – one with each side of the family. On Steph's side we get together with all her aunts, uncles and cousins – usually around 100 people. Steph and her sister make 5 pies, not even half of the total pies for the group.

**CHRISTMAS** – we celebrate starting after Thanksgiving with going to get a real tree with Steph's family, lots of Christmas music and decorations. St. Nicholas fills Lukey's stocking on Dec 6th and brings Christmas jammies. We have an annual tradition of going to a light show with both families. We adopt a family in need to buy gifts for.

**BIRTHDAYS** – we typically celebrate with both sides of the family and our neighbors. Lukey's parties have had a theme every year that he helps pick. Steph makes a homemade cake to go with the theme.





# home & community

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We live in a two story, three bedroom home that is about twenty years old. We have three and a half baths and a finished basement. We get lots of sun in our backyard and enjoy sitting on the back patio with family and neighbors. Lukey has a sandbox that he and the neighbor kids love to play in. We plant flowers and vegetables in the spring/summer.

We have a nearby trail and park that we can walk to and live less than two miles from Lukey's school and Luke's parents. Our city has many family friendly places including a zoo, museums, amusement park, wildlife preserve, many pools, parks and trails.

As a family we love spending time outside and with our families and neighbors. We especially enjoy trips to a family cottage once every few months. This year we took a spring trip to a beach out of state and we are hoping to make this an annual family vacation. We look forward to our weekend trips to other parts of our state. In the summer we soak up as much time as we can at Steph's aunt and uncle's pool. We have a friend that has a pontoon boat we take out on a river near our home for a cruise with a lot of sunshine and even more laughter. We love day trips to the beach with family and neighbors a few times throughout the summer and following or going to the games of our local sports teams.





# our future

We plan to stay in our current home for the foreseeable future. We love our location, neighborhood and especially our neighbors. We hope to take an annual beach vacation for spring break. We plan to raise our children in our Catholic faith, attending weekly mass and sending them to catholic school. We will raise our children with the values of love, kindness and forgiveness as well as

the importance of faith and family, gratitude, and compassion for those less fortunate. Our goal is for our children to attend college and have a college savings account started for Lukey and will do the same for this child. We will love and support our children in their pursuit of their dreams even if this does not include college.



**We again can't express  
our gratitude for the  
amazing gift you are  
giving our family.**

YOU ARE THE ANSWER TO OUR AND OUR  
LITTLE BOY'S PRAYERS TO GROW OUR  
FAMILY. WE PROMISE TO LOVE YOUR CHILD  
UNCONDITIONALLY AND HONOR OPENNESS  
WITH PICTURES AND UPDATES.

