

LORENZO & EMILY



Hi there!

We are Lorenzo & Emily. We are so grateful to have the opportunity to introduce ourselves to you!

First off, we want you to know that we are praying for you. The decision you are making is profoundly admirable, and we cannot express how brave we think you are. We are praying for God's direction in your decision and for overwhelming peace in your heart. Whatever your decision is, know that God is with you, and although you may feel alone at times, He is right there next to you.

We are beyond humbled that you are considering us as adoptive parents to your child. Being a parent has always been the greatest desire of our hearts. We knew from the start of our relationship that we wanted a lot of kids and said that however many children God gives us, and however He gives them to us, we will be thankful. Adoption has always been a part of our plan; we were just waiting on when God would tell us to pursue it.

Our parenting journey started with becoming foster parents. We had the absolute honor and privilege of parenting three children over the course of more than two years. We went into foster care wanting to be a safe place for kids who needed it, and for however long they needed. For 15 months, we had a perfect little girl who we brought home from the NICU and raised. We were set to adopt her until, unexpectedly, her biological family came forward at the last moment.

We were devastated to say goodbye but can celebrate that she is happy, healthy, and loved. We truly have lived and experienced the saying, "Love makes a family."

We have also struggled to have biological children. We have had tests done, with no answers given. About two years ago, we suffered a devastating miscarriage after praying for years to get pregnant. While we hold onto God's promise for our family, we know starting our family through adoption is our next step.

Should you choose to make an adoption plan with us, we promise to always respect you. We promise that your child will always know how much you love them, and we will honor you in the highest regard. We promise that we will love your child like crazy, and not a day—even an hour—will go by that we don't tell them just how much we love them. We promise to keep you a part of the family with photos, meetings, letters, phone calls, whatever you are comfortable with. We promise we will raise them to love God and love others. We promise they will travel the world with us. We promise that our extended family will love them beyond measure, and probably spoil them, too!

Warmly,
Lorenzo & Emily



WHY WE ARE ADOPTING

We have always had a heart for children and knew we wanted many kids! It has never mattered to us whether our child was biological, adopted, or fostered—our love is the same. God has made it clear to us that we will have multiple children in multiple ways, and we believe that He is telling us now to adopt our first child. While we have not had luck in biologically having a child, we are confident his is the path we are meant to be on. We firmly believe that adoption is the Gospel in action. As Christians, we are called to love our neighbors. There is no better way to love your neighbor than to welcome them into your family with an open heart and open arms (that includes you!) Our families have been an instrumental piece in our decision to adopt. They have diligently prayed for us and have each been given peace that adoption is

the next step in our journey. We have had nothing but pure joy and excitement when sharing the news we are pursuing adoption.

Having been foster parents, we have seen the importance of having a relationship with biological family, and it is not something we take lightly. We know how impactful it will be for you to be involved in your child's life. We have a unique understanding of how much it means to receive photos and updates. Receiving updates on our previous foster children means absolutely everything to us. While not the same, we have a small taste of how much it would mean to you. It will be a priority for us to always make sure you feel involved and included.



OUR STORY

Going back many years, we met at just seven years old! We both are from Pennsylvania but attended the same annual summer church camp in Ohio. Lorenzo had a major crush on me, and I had one on him, too, but I was too shy to admit it. We stayed somewhat connected over the years, but it became challenging when Lorenzo's family moved overseas to Qatar.

During college, we both transferred to the same university and had a class together. That's when we reconnected! I was adamant that we would just be friends, but Lorenzo continued to pursue me, and eventually, I let him take me out on a date. We fell in love rather quickly with each other. It was easy and natural; we became best friends. We spent a lot of dates going to Pittsburgh Pirates games, trying new restaurants, and just spending time talking. We dated for a year before Lorenzo proposed. He took me back to where we first had a class together our junior year. It was January, and it was snowing outside. It was so beautiful! He blindfolded me, and I was convinced he was just playing a joke on me. But he wasn't joking, and I was elated to say yes! We then celebrated at a local restaurant we had gone to on our first date.





OUR WEDDING

JANUARY 2, 2016

“We love because He first Loved us.”



Our wedding was the best day! We were married in Pennsylvania, and it was a crisp 19 degrees that day. Lorenzo comes from a large Italian family, and Emily's family is a small Irish family. It made for a fun wedding! We were surrounded by those we love most, and eight years later, people still say our wedding was one of the best they have ever been to! A fun detail about our wedding is that neither of us likes traditional wedding cake, so we decided to have Dairy Queen ice cream cake for all our guests instead. We still have a DQ ice cream cake each year to celebrate our anniversary. After our wedding reception, we went straight to one of our favorite pizza places to eat and talk about our favorite parts of the day!

We then spent two weeks in Hawaii for our honeymoon, which was magical! And right after our honeymoon, we packed up a U-Haul and drove across the country to Arizona, where we currently live.





OUR LIFE TOGETHER

We have been together for over 10 years and have truly grown up together. Our relationship is a partnership, and we love each other unconditionally. The thing that keeps us grounded is our faith and our relationship with God. We are very active in our church and have an incredible community of friends through that.

Without God, we would not be where we are or have been able to overcome hardships in our lives. We love hosting and live by the saying, "All are welcome." No matter who you are, the door is always open in our home.

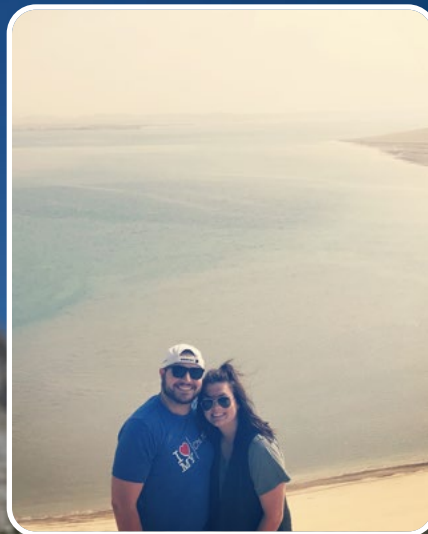
As a couple, this verse has helped guide us and comfort us in our hardest days. We hope that it can give you the same comfort throughout your journey and decision process.

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“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

PSALM 23:1-6





Some things that we love to do together...

- **Travel**
We love to experience new cultures, countries, and states we haven't been to.
Fun fact: Lorenzo has been to over 20 countries!
- **Cook**
- **Explore national parks**
- **Hike**
- **Watch a good movie**
- **Game nights with friends**
- **Celebrate Christmas**
We go all out on decorations!

3 fun facts about our relationship...

- **We are the same age & are only 14 days apart.**
- **We love to prank each other.**
- **We build forts in our living room, just for fun from time to time.**



MY HUSBAND

Emily here! I am going to share with you my absolute favorite things about my husband. It is very hard to narrow it down because he is the greatest man I know. Lorenzo is incredibly loyal and protects the ones he loves with everything in him. He is my home, my person, my biggest cheerleader, and my best friend. I admire his strength to always stand up for what is right. He will fight for what he believes in, and his moral compass always points due north. Lorenzo is also generous; he would give the shirt off his back to a complete stranger in need. Lorenzo's heart is made of pure gold, and I feel privileged to be one of the lucky people on this earth who gets to be loved by him.

I've had the honor of watching him become a father through foster care, and I can confidently say he is the best of the best. He has an incredible role model in his father, and he continued that on with the way he fathers. He loves so tenderly and so compassionately. His greatest joy in this world is being a father and a husband. I also must mention he is FUN! He is not afraid to get messy with kids and play. He will be the first one to have a tea party or build an epic fort. Our nephews and niece have dubbed him a "funcler" (fun uncle), and they light up when he is around.

I know he wants nothing more in this world than to be a dad. In fact, on our first date, he said that it was what he looked forward to most about marriage. He is a provider and will always ensure our family has what it needs and more. He serves God with his whole heart and will always be faithful and dependable.

—Emily

ABOUT LORENZO

I am, what some people say, a unique but very distinct personality. I love to laugh, have fun, go on adventures, and, most importantly, be surrounded by family and the people I care about most, all while doing those things. This can all be equated to the unique way I was raised. I'm originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but when I was young, my family moved overseas to the small country of Qatar in the Middle East for my dad's job. I always felt like I had two homes as we consistently came back to America for summer vacation and Christmas break. Growing up overseas shaped me into the person I am today. My graduating class in high school had only 120 students but was represented by almost 30 different nationalities. This diversity helped to cultivate my love of celebrating other cultures and meeting new people. Being fortunate enough to grow up overseas has blessed me with the incredible opportunity to travel the world (over 20 countries and counting). From backpacking for two weeks through the Himalayan mountains to going through numerous museums and being part of history tours throughout Europe, in my short life span, I have done more than I could've ever imagined, and I can't wait to continue to go on more adventures!

I come from a big Italian family. Whatever movie reference or stereotype you can think of is most likely accurate. Family is extremely important to me, and my views on the word family have changed over the years. Family doesn't necessarily mean just your blood relatives. It means anyone you are open to caring for on a deeper level of love. Our family gatherings are always a riot with lots of love, even if that love is being expressed at a loud decibel. My parents, and their marriage, have been a tested and tried example for Emily and me. They truly are my role models, not only as parents but also as Christians in how we are called to follow Jesus and love others. I have two younger siblings, Giovanna and Luciano (did I mention we are Italian?! haha). Our sibling relationship is growing more and more every day, and as we are all adults now, it is turning into something completely different from our relationship as young kids—a more mature sibling relationship as adults... I love where it is heading.

A few things about me are that I was a collegiate athlete (swimming), and while I dread jumping into a freezing cold pool first thing in the morning and try my best not to do it, I do try to keep myself in good shape. I'm anxiously excited to run my first half marathon this year! Despite being Italian, I LOVE Asian food and could eat sushi every day for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. I enjoy cooking and smoking different meats. Apart from filling their stomachs with good food, my friends would describe me as loyal, full of laughter, and loving. A random fact: I dress up as Santa Claus every year for our church; it's one of my favorite things to do for Christmas!

I work in operations and logistics and have a great work schedule. I work 12-hour shifts Wednesday through Saturday and have a hybrid schedule, which allows me to work from home on certain days. I always have a three-day weekend! Going into parenthood, I can't wait to have "dad days" with our child every Monday and Tuesday while Em works. Sundays will be our family day!

Ever since I was little, when most kids dream of being an astronaut or a professional athlete, when I was asked what I wanted to be when I grew up, my answer was always, "A Dad." I think being a dad is the greatest calling. To love, protect, nurture, and provide for another human. No job will ever be able to compare to that. I grew up doing all the sports and being in all the plays, so whatever your child wants to do, I will be there coaching the team or helping direct the play. Fun fact: In high school, our JV girls' softball team lost their coach, so I stepped in and led them to the conference championship game, which we won! I have the greatest role model in fathering from my dad, and if I'm even a tenth of the dad he is, your child will be the most loved, secure, safe, and spoiled child in the world.

LORENZO'S LOVES

Traveling, Trying New Foods,
Purple, The Beach, The Mountains,
Sushi, Sour Patch Kids



MY WIFE

To know my wife is to know “the light” that shines in this dark and scary world. Emily is the type of person who, when she asks you, “how you are doing,” genuinely means it and wants to know. Her level of empathy, care, and love far exceeds any normal human (including my own), and as her husband, I committed to her to protect that at all costs. I would sacrifice my life to protect her for many reasons, but at the end of the day, it boils down to the fact that the world is a much better place with Emily in it.

The moment I knew that I was going to marry this woman was one afternoon in college. She was driving back to campus from work and we were talking on the phone. All of a sudden, she sounded very panicked and her voice became raised. Not knowing what was happening, I became very worried. She described to me that there was a mother duck and her babies who were trying to cross the road. Emily stopped her car, jumped out, and proceeded to stop traffic in both directions on a very busy two-lane highway so that this mother and her children could safely cross to the other side. At that moment, on the phone, I knew she was the one for me and would be an amazing mother as she was willing to risk her own life to protect the goodness in the world.

In our time as foster parents, I witnessed that firsthand. People often associate the word “meek” with “weak,” but the actual definition is far from it. Emily is the meekest person I know because she holds such unspoken strength and resilience. The way she loved (and still loves) our foster kids and nurtured them through some incredibly tough times is truly incredible. The way she tenaciously advocated for each child and their unique set of circumstances showed me that there is nothing that she can’t do.

Em is truly my best friend and I don’t just say that to say it. On the rare occasion that she has to travel for work, I don’t sleep. While most people would enjoy the extra space in the bed all alone, I miss my other half and can’t sleep knowing she isn’t there next to me at night. She is a fantastic wife, friend, and mother, and it would be my privilege to invite you on the journey to witness how great she is.

— *Lorenzo*

ABOUT EMILY

Hi! I wanted to share a little bit about myself. I am so blessed that I have a job I love. I work for a non-profit in fundraising, specifically grant writing. I work remotely full-time from home and have a lot of flexibility with my schedule. My organization is very supportive of adoption and offers a great deal of time off for adoption. Because of my flexibility and Lorenzo's, we will be able to have our child at home full-time with us! We plan to hire a trusted nanny part-time to help us in our home. It is my number one priority to ensure my job never inhibits my ability to be a present mom, as being a mother is the highest calling I have. I grew up with a stay-at-home mom and she was always there for me, never missing a game, recital, or school play. I want to be that same type of mom for my children.

I cannot wait to be a mom. It is the thing I have wanted most my entire life. As early as elementary school, I always said I wanted to be a mom and wife when I grew up. It is my greatest desire to nurture and care for another human. I have experience being a mom through foster care and it was my greatest joy.

I grew up with two siblings and loved it, and I am still close with them today. I hope to have multiple children with Lorenzo and siblings for our kids. Having siblings for me was like having built-in friends who genuinely understood you. My greatest wish for my

family and children is that they grow up feeling unconditionally loved and supported. I also want to raise kind children who love others well and give more than they take.

A few things about me: One of my favorite things to do is interior decorations. I love creating a space that feels warm and homey. I also love animals; Lorenzo always says I would have a full farm of animals if I could! A funny fact about me is I used to bring home stray cats when I was younger and try to hide them from my parents. They always found the cats and made me find them a home that wasn't ours! Cooking is something that I enjoy and relaxes me. I love finding a new recipe and trying it out, especially when friends or family are over to share it with us. I believe my friends would describe me as empathetic, a good listener, and dependable.

We would love to know more about you and your favorite things!

EMILY'S LOVES

Coffee, Sunflowers, Tacos, Blue, Popcorn, The Mountains, Christmas, Springtime



OUR FAMILY



LOLA

This is our 10-year-old cat, who is most likely the sweetest cat you will ever meet! She loves to be around people and will be the first one to greet someone at our door. She is always purring and absolutely loves kids! She is used to being picked up, pulled around, and played with. Lola was Emily's 22nd birthday present from Lorenzo!

PHOEBE

She is our 8-year-old labradoodle who we joke is 90% human and only 10% dog. She instantly becomes your best friend and loves all people. She is incredibly gentle and well-tempered, especially with kids. She has been known for giving toddlers rides on her back! We named her after Phoebe from the TV show Friends!



SCHMIDT

He is our 1-year-old German Shepherd. He may look intimidating, but he is the most loving dog. He is a certified therapy dog and thrives when he is doing it. He is protective of anyone who comes into our home and will immediately bring you a ball to play. He loves kids and is incredibly watchful over them. He is named after Schmidt from the TV show New Girl!

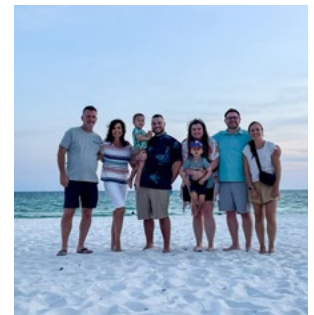
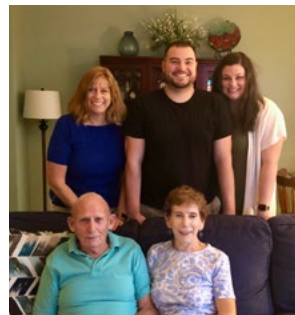


We both come from very loving families who we are very close with. Our families are absolutely thrilled to welcome a child through adoption. They cannot wait and are extremely supportive. We see our families frequently and spend many holidays with them and go on family vacations together.

Lorenzo's family is big! They have a lot of fun together and it is never quiet. Lorenzo is the oldest. He has one younger sister, Giovanna (Gia), and one younger brother, Luciano (Lucci). Lorenzo's parents have been married for over 34 years and are an incredible inspiration in our marriage. Their grandparent names are Pap and Babs, and this will be their very first grandchild!

Emily also has two siblings, but she is the youngest. Her oldest sibling is her sister, Erin, and her brother, Kevin, is the middle child. Dave and Jenn are Emily's brother-in-law and sister-in-law, but they are her siblings as well. Through them, we have four nephews and one niece: Dallas (8), Clive (6), Carson (5), Blake (3), Avi (3). They are so excited to gain another cousin! Emily's parents are divorced but they both have remarried to wonderful people. Emily's mom goes by Nana and her dad goes by Geez. Emily's stepparents, Nikki and Rick, also view all the kids and grandkids as their own!

We both also have grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins who we are close with. We are so blessed to have a big, supportive, and fun family! Our dear family friends, Chris and Joan, whom we refer to as our Arizona parents, are also a big part of our lives. Chris is adopted himself and is more than happy to be a mentor and guide for our child.



OUR HOME



We live in a ranch-style 3-bedroom and 2-bathroom home in a neighborhood outside the city. Our street is very quiet and safe. The surrounding neighbors are very friendly, and they are a mix of retired couples and young couples with families. Everyone knows each other and looks out for one another. We love our home! We have made a lot of updates to it ourselves and put a lot of love into it. We enjoy having friends over for dinner, movies, games, or just to talk. We host many church connect groups and have an open-door policy for anyone who needs to stop by. We spend a lot of time around the firepit having good conversations. Our backyard is great as it has a lot of room to run and play. Our kitchen is well-loved as we spend a lot of time cooking and baking, and it is the heart of our home.

Arizona is a beautiful and diverse state, and we feel very fortunate we get to live here. We live in the top school district in the state, and the schools are within walking distance of our house. Our community has a pool, and we go on many walks around the neighborhood with our dogs. Parks, restaurants, and shops are all very close by. We love going to different food and art festivals on the weekends. Our local community center has tennis courts, playgrounds, baseball fields, and a weekly farmers market that we walk to! We live at the base of a mountain range and have endless hiking trails we love to explore.



OUR VALUES & FUTURE

A philosophy we live by is that laughter is the best medicine. We are also not afraid to laugh at ourselves. Life is meant to be enjoyed and it's a lot more fun to spend it laughing! We have always wanted a large family and are excited to start our family through adoption. We hope to have multiple children and have our home filled with laughter, people, a lot of love, and probably some chaos. We love where we live and plan to stay in this area long term.

Our faith is the foundation of our lives, and we will raise our children with God at the center. We believe there is nothing more important than having Jesus as your Lord and Savior and living your life to honor and serve Him. With that, we will instill in our children the importance of giving back and having a servant's heart. Having a solid moral center is important for us to show them. We want them to grow up to be kind, happy, strong, and successful. We will be there with them every step of the way, providing, encouraging, and being a safe place for them to land. We are open to adopting a child who comes from a different racial background than us. We understand that means we will always need to be open to learning. We have a very diverse group of friends, and many people close to us come from different backgrounds than we do. Our child's culture and race will not be forgotten. We will encourage them to explore it, and we will explore it with them. We will always be supportive of it. It would mean so much to us to learn about your background and what is important to you.

We plan to send our child to public school but are also open to sending them to private school. We will assess each child's needs and make sure we do what is best for them. Not every child is the same, and we will not treat every child's needs as the same. We take a very gentle approach to parenting and want to ensure we adjust how we parent for what is best for the child. We will send any of our children who choose to go to college, to college. But, if they choose a different path, we will be completely supportive of that. Ensuring they are happy and doing what fulfills them is incredibly important to us. We, along with our extended family, will financially support our child in that decision and ensure they have every resource they need.

We hope to incorporate our child's biological extended family into our lives as well. Are there any traditions your family has that we can do?



We cannot thank you enough for taking the time to learn about us and our family.

We want you to know that we believe what you are doing is the most sacrificial act of love you can express. It is incredibly admirable. Should you choose to move forward with us, we will keep every promise we stated throughout this book.

YOU are a critical piece to this story, and we want you to be a part of our lives, forever, if you choose to create an adoption plan with us.

This decision is heavy, and you may feel overwhelmed. We want to encourage you to look to God to guide you, even if you do not have a relationship with Him, because He will answer you.

We pray for a smooth and peaceful pregnancy for you and your baby. May God bless you, your baby, and all that is to come in your life. Always remember, God is your shepherd. He will lead you and guide you, and He will restore your soul.

A full-page photograph of a man and a woman standing on a dirt path in a desert landscape. The man is on the left, wearing a plaid shirt and dark pants. The woman is on the right, wearing a grey and black cardigan. They are both smiling. In front of them are two dogs: a white dog on the left and a German Shepherd on the right. The background features several saguaro cacti, some with arms, and rolling hills under a bright sky. The text 'LORENZO & EMILY' is overlaid in the center in a white, serif font.

LORENZO & EMILY