

A man with glasses and a woman are embracing each other. The man is wearing a dark blue button-down shirt and the woman is wearing a white lace top and a pink skirt. They are standing in front of a body of water with mountains in the background.

JUDD &
BETHANY

WE ARE HONORED TO "MEET" YOU.



dear

FRIEND

YOU ARE SEEN,
YOU ARE KNOWN,
YOU ARE LOVED.

We are so humbled to "meet" you and are honored that you have picked up our book as you explore your options for your child's future.

We cannot begin to understand all the emotions you may be feeling right now, but we admire your courage as you plan your next steps. We want you to know that we are praying for you, your child, and your future. Most

importantly, we want you to know that God sees you, He knows you, and He loves you so deeply.

We have seen adoption as a part of our story from the beginning. We even talked about it on one of our first dates! But that's not to say we enter this space lightly. We understand that there is grief and loss in adoption - both for the child and his/her first mama. This is something we will never ignore but vow to sit in with our child, making sure they have whatever resources he/she may need. We are looking forward to providing a child with a home that is safe, loving, filled with things from their birth culture, laughter, adventures, good food, and an open relationship with his/her birth family if that is something they are comfortable with.

Thank you again for taking the time to take a little peek into our lives. We pray you feel empowered, have the support you need, and that God would give you peace with whatever decision you make. Friend, you matter, you are valued, and you are so incredibly loved.

Judd and Bethany

A BIT ABOUT US



WE ARE NOT
PERFECT PEOPLE,
BUT WE ARE LOVING,
FAITH-FILLED, AND
LOYAL. WE LIVE AN
ADVENTUROUS LIFE
AND CAN THINK OF
NOTHING BETTER
THAN TO SHARE IT
WITH A CHILD.

Some of the most important things to know about us:

- We love Jesus, and we try our best to model our lives after the example that Jesus left for us during His time on earth.
- We stay active. Running, lifting weights, playing sports, and going on long walks or bike rides are a few of our favorite things.
- We enjoy traveling. We have found that experiencing new places and cultures helps us understand and better relate to our fellow humans.
- We love coffee and trying new coffee shops.
- We fill our home with music. And all kinds! This is something that helps us connect and unwind at the end of the day.



- We are big sports fans. With Judd growing up in Minnesota and Bethany in Kansas, we are enthusiastic about our respective sports teams - the Vikings, Chiefs, Gophers, and Jayhawks just to name a few! We love watching them on TV and catching a game in person whenever we can.
- We brunch together on Saturday mornings. Whether we are staying in and making breakfast at home or going out to one of our favorite local restaurants, we love to share this time.
- We have a strong community of friends and family. We spend time with them weekly and often look to them for advice or support.

For us, family has always been bigger than DNA and we're committed to a lifetime of learning what it looks like to love each other well.



meet BETHANY

THE BASICS.

I am the firstborn in my family and fiercely loyal. I'm also an introvert and careful, but I love a good adventure!

WHAT I DO.

I have a bachelor's degree in elementary education and teach at a local elementary school.

WHAT I LOVE.

Being outside in nature (sitting, hiking, reading, cycling, running) // Watching football and basketball games // Traveling // Taking care of my house plants // Reading books // Watching movies // Learning from podcasts

FIVE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ME:

1. The most important things to me is my faith. Jesus has given me a love for people, and I try to see the beauty in everyone I meet.
2. I am a curious learner. I like to hear others' perspectives on their life experiences and different topics.
3. One of my greatest strengths is the care I have for others. I notice needs and pick up on details.
4. I lived for a season in the Netherlands and fell in love with their high value for making a space cozy. I've carried this into our home and have filled our space with lots of plants, soft lighting, candles, and blankets. I also think that having something warm to drink brings any environment to the next level.
5. I enjoy noticing the beauty woven throughout creation around our world. The moss growing on the side of a tree, the brilliant colors of a sunset, shimmering reflections on a lake...the list could go on!



“BETHANY IS EXTRAORDINARILY TRUSTWORTHY AND HONEST.”

MY WIFE *(in Judd's Words)*. “Bethany is a force of nature who truly sees people and makes them feel known. She cares deeply and strives to love others with the heart of Jesus, whether that’s making connections with her students, showing up for her family, or volunteering with refugee ministries or the food shelf at our church. She’s also one of the best gift-givers! She sees things that friends and family will enjoy and is always investing in those gift-giving opportunities. Another thing I love about her is how active and adventurous she is. She is regularly running, lifting weights, and going for walks, and she is always looking for new things to experience around our city, and in nature. All of these things make me so excited to watch her be a mom. Whether she’s planning activities for our kids, finding a gift that makes them feel loved, or just noticing what they need, Bethany is going to be an incredible mother.”

A FEW THINGS I LOOK FORWARD TO MOST ABOUT BEING A MOM...

- I look forward to caring for and nurturing my child.
- I look forward to reading books and sharing my love of literature.
- I look forward to learning about my child's birth culture and incorporating these traditions into our family.





MEET JUDD

THE BASICS.

My friends would tell you I'm consistent, funny, and adventurous. I'm also introverted but enjoy good company.

WHAT I DO.

I have a bachelor's degree in music and work with a few of my close friends in IT Equipment Sales.

WHAT I LOVE.

Being outdoors // Running by water // Good food // Helping others // Watching sports // Hanging with Bethany // Spending time reading my Bible // Helping out at church

FIVE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ME:

1. I have many different interests: music, sports, food, computers, and church, to name a few.
2. I really like my job, and I work hard. There is always something new to learn in IT, and I like the challenge!
3. My parents taught me the impact of showing up. One thing my parents did when I was growing up that I always appreciated was support me in my activities. Even if I was interested in something that they didn't understand, I was encouraged to participate and cheered on. I can't wait to do the same.
4. I love to make people laugh. I love having inside jokes with people close to me and being able to show that I know and listen to them.
5. I enjoy trying new things. I love the thrill of navigating new places, learning basic words in the local language, and figuring out the transportation...all while growing closer with my wife in the process.



“JUDD LOVES FIERCELY AND HAS THE BIGGEST HEART.”

MY HUSBAND (in *Bethany's Words*). "Judd's big heart was one of the first things that drew me to him. I love that he cares about people and enjoys serving with our local refugee ministry and our church youth group. He also champions me in every aspect of my life. If I have an idea, he tells me he believes in me and thinks I can do it, even when I don't believe in myself. He is realistic, however, and will always gently point out potential roadblocks but then take the time to talk them through together. He is a very positive person and sees life as "glass half full." Even when situations or conditions aren't perfect, he will smile and look for the positive. More than anything, I love how Judd makes people feel seen and understood. It's going to be one of his best characteristics as a dad. All the children in our life love Judd and are excited to spend time with him because he gets down on their level, and I can't wait to see the ways he'll nurture and care for our child."

A FEW THINGS I LOOK FORWARD TO MOST ABOUT BEING A DAD...

- I'm very much looking forward to the opportunity to be there for my kids, like my parents always were for me.
- I'm excited to do my best to give my child a safe home and pass on the things I've learned about leading a peaceful and successful life.





our
LOVE STORY



SPRING 2009

We first met on the basketball court during our senior year of college.



DECEMBER 2010

Judd read Bethany a poem and got down on one knee in a neighborhood called Christmas Card Lane.



JULY 2011

We said "I Do" surrounded by family and friends on a hot day in July.



AUGUST 2016

We moved to The Netherlands for our jobs. We were so excited to experience life in a new culture together.



AUGUST 2020

We found a cozy house in Minnesota with a big yard where we envisioned starting and raising our family.



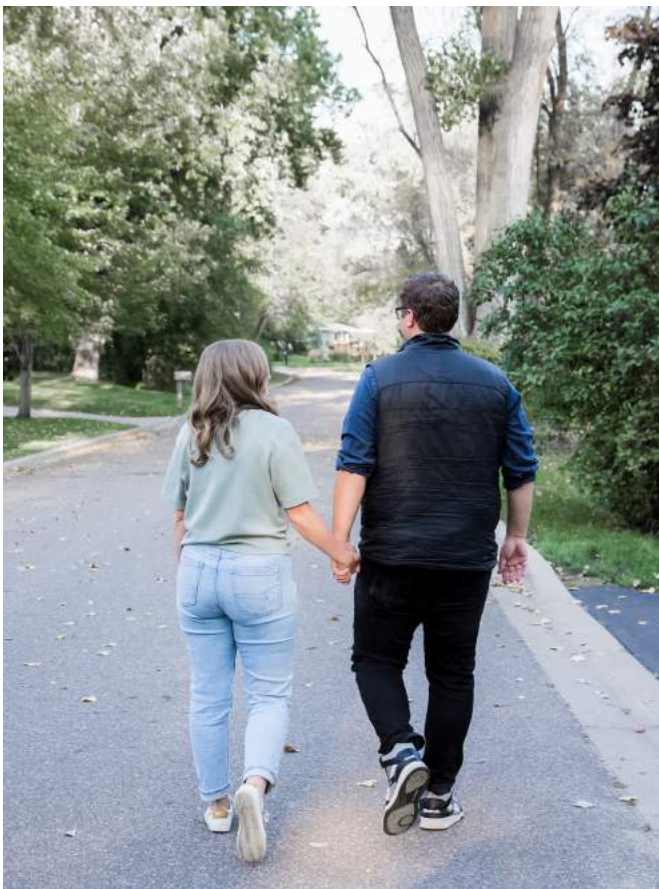
OCTOBER 2020

After months of exploration, we decided to embark on the journey of adoption to expand our family circle.

IT WAS ALWAYS SUPPOSED TO BE YOU.

(Told by Judd) We were 21 and 22 when we first met on our college campus in the Kansas City suburbs. Bethany was a star on the university basketball team. I didn't play for the school, but I loved the game and volunteered to play regularly against the women's basketball team so they could get practice against a quality opponent. By chance, Bethany and I were also placed in on-campus housing that was right next to each other. The stars aligned! I slid a note under her door, asking her out on our first date, and she said yes. I knew that Bethany was "the one" when she beat me in a game of H-O-R-S-E a short while later, and we've been together ever since!

In our 12+ years of marriage, we have learned to prioritize connection, build each other up, and run to each other when things are hard. It has not always been easy, but we are truly happy and love each other deeply. On one of our first dates, we talked for hours about our dreams, ambitions, and passions. We had so much in common and it's been proven to be true to date.



In 2021, we celebrated our 10 year anniversary with a vow renewal! Looking back and looking ahead was a gift, and we can't wait to see the future unfold.



OUR LIFE TOGETHER



WHETHER WE'RE
GETTING READY
FOR WORK OR
EXPLORING
SOMEWHERE
NEW, THERE IS
NOTHING BETTER
THAN DOING IT
TOGETHER.

A typical weekday for us looks like...

- Getting up a bit early to work out (okay, not every day but some days!) Judd plays basketball and Bethany runs, cycles, or lifts weights. Bethany also uses this time to do her Bible Study.
- We make breakfast before heading off to work.
- We come home at the end of our workday and Judd does his Bible Study or we work out (if we haven't already).
- We make dinner, eat together, and let our night unfold. Sometimes we have activities at church or with friends and other times we have slower evenings where we can get some chores done around the house and relax by watching a TV show.



Weekends are even sweeter...

- We love slow Saturday mornings where we start with coffee and either breakfast at home or at one of our favorite brunch spots. In the afternoon, we will either do something active (go for a hike, play disc golf, or go for a bike ride) or we will settle in to watch our football games.
- By Saturday evening, we may be hanging out with friends or family, grilling out, or enjoying a bonfire in our backyard. These are just a few of our favorite things!
- Sunday morning starts with church before we rest or prep for the week ahead.

As we've mentioned, we also both love to travel and will take any chance we're given to go on an adventure - whether that's close to home or overseas. From walks around the neighborhood to hikes on a new mountain, we cannot wait to share the joy of it all with a child.



coming to ADOPTION

We were young when we first met, but there were certain hopes that were already cemented in our hearts. It was on one of our earliest dates, when we stayed up late into the night talking about our dreams and ambitions, that we discovered one of these was a desire we both had to adopt.

We have always been open to having children biologically but decided early on in our relationship that if this did not happen naturally, we would not take extra measures towards pregnancy. Instead, we would use any extra resources we had towards adopting children. After more than a decade together, this is the place we have found ourselves in.

We feel honored to be in this place and humbled by the thought that we might have the opportunity to join our lives with another in love for a child.

We have learned that adoption is not "saving a child" but expanding our collective family stories and combining journeys. We also know that adoption does not come except through loss, and it is our desire to maintain whatever openness with a biological family that we can as well as be a safe place for our child to process whatever they may be walking through.

OUR FAMILY VALUES

1. We value time together. Quality family time is a top priority for us and we enjoy doing different things together to ensure we stay connected.
2. We value our marriage and believe that maintaining a strong bond not only helps us serve others better but will also help us be the best parents possible.
3. We value our faith and a life lived generously. We want to always be giving as we feel it's one of the strongest ways to share the love of Christ.
4. We value culture and having a strong sense of identity. We believe in "dropping pebbles", or rather consistently and naturally surrounding our child with their birth story and culture. We plan to have artwork, music, and food from their culture incorporated into our family as well as relationships with doctors, hair stylists, coaches, and other key figures who share a culture that is similar to their own.



We have already begun to pull together a small nursery, and we look forward to the moment we will meet our child and continue to make this space their own.



OUR HOME & COMMUNITY



HOME IS THE PLACE WHERE WE FEEL SAFE. WHERE WE CAN RELAX, BE REAL, AND SIMPLY SHARE A LAUGH.

We live in a cozy, 4-bedroom home in the suburbs of Minnesota. It is full of plants, soft lighting, and blankets. It's warm, cozy, and one of our favorite places to be. We have always wanted our home to be a space where others feel loved and welcomed the second they walk through the door. Many times, this looks like a cup of something warm to drink and a blanket to snuggle on the couch when someone visits on a cold, winter night. Other times, it looks like an invitation to come hang out under the twinkle lights for those who stop by in the spring or fall. Our backyard has quickly become a favorite space, not only for us but for our friends and family, as well. We have a patio where we grill, eat, and talk late into the night as well as an open area where our nephews and friends' kids like to run and play games.



The other thing we really love about our home is its location. Our town has a small-town feel but is also very vibrant with life. We love cycling to Main Street to eat at one of the many restaurants or find what we need at one of the shops. There are also numerous hiking and biking trails, lakes, parks, playgrounds, and other family-friendly places to get out and have fun.

The *very best* thing about our home, though, is our community. Our friends are a big part of our support system and some of our favorite people to share life with. We live close to many of our friends and see each other on a regular basis for meals, bonfires, and Bible studies. We even go on a mini-vacation together once a year and spend the long weekend deepening our relationships.

Our home holds so many memories of deep conversation and laughter, and we cannot wait to add moments with our child to these treasures.

A FEW THINGS ABOUT OUR FAMILY

1. Bethany's family loves to play sports, share meals, and be active together. She has one sister who has been married for 12 years and who has 3 boys whom we adore.
2. Judd's family likes big gatherings with lots of food and games. He has 3 siblings - one who is married with a young child and two who are both newly married!
3. Both of our parents have modeled love and dedication in their marriages. Bethany's parents have been married for 37 years and Judd's parents for 41 years.
4. All of our family members are very supportive of our plans to adopt. Our parents, in particular, are active, nurturing grandparents who cannot wait to invest in another child.



Growing up, our parents taught us how to love Jesus, love each other, and serve others well. We're grateful for the value of faith and family they instilled in us, and we're excited to share this with our child, as well.



FAMILY TRADITIONS WE CANNOT WAIT TO SHARE.

Thanksgiving. Judd's family is VERY into Thanksgiving! We all gather for the day (or even the full weekend) and share some of the best and biggest meals. This is usually followed with some time talking about what we're thankful for, football watching, a walk or two, and of course hours and hours of games.

Christmas. Bethany's family loves celebrating Christmas together. For years, we have gone to the candlelight service on Christmas Eve and eaten Chinese food afterward. On Christmas morning, we enjoy a full breakfast of french toast souffle, eggs, and bacon, read the story of Jesus' birth, and exchange the gifts we've been thoughtfully planning for months!

Another one of our favorite holiday traditions is picking out a real tree, bringing it home, and spending the rest of the evening decorating our home while drinking hot chocolate before ending the night with a Christmas movie.

Birthdays. One other thing we're always sure to celebrate is birthdays! We love to give each other a gift or plan an experience we know the birthday person will love! We also enjoy a meal and dessert - there is *always* dessert!

We cannot wait to share these traditions with a child, form new traditions as a family, and make these moments as magical as we know they can be.





before we say
GOODBYE

WE WANTED TO
SHARE HOW OFTEN
WE'VE BEEN THINKING
OF THESE WORDS:
"I'LL WALK WITH YOU"

This is the deepest and most authentic promise we can make to you - that no matter what comes, should our lives ever be joined together through love for this child, we will always walk with you. Of course, we don't know entirely what that might look like and we realize it might change from one year to the next, but we want you to know that we will always be on your team.

We will pray for you continually and always want what is best. We will speak of you with love and respect in our home. We will make space for you in our lives and the life of your child. We will respect your wishes and honor our commitment. We will care for you and invest in our relationship - following your lead as we learn what that might look like.

Friend, you will always be this child's mother. Always hold a unique and special place in their heart, in their story, and in ours. We will hold that truth humbly and honor it always.

Thank you again for sharing this space with us and letting us show you a bit of our heart. If we should start this journey together, we want you to know that we have been praying for you, your child, our preparedness, and this moment. We look forward to whatever comes next and are praying you find all the strength you need to take one step, one day, one choice at a time.

LASTLY, IF GIVEN THE CHANCE TO JOIN YOU
IN LOVING THIS CHILD, WE PROMISE TO...

01 Surround your child with love.
We will love your child wholeheartedly, unconditionally, at all times, and without reservation.

05 Encourage your child to follow passions, making sure they know we will support them in whatever direction their life takes.

02 Provide them with a safe and nurturing home that is filled with compassion, honesty, forgiveness, and grace!

06 Provide them with resources to follow those passions and do whatever we can to help them make those dreams come true.

03 Introduce your child to the love of Jesus and share how we can look and love like Him while also giving them the freedom to choose.

07 Share early and often their family story. We will surround them with pictures of you, music and foods you love, and whatever else you share.

04 Make sure their value is known. Your child will be loved by us and also by God. We will make sure that they know they have value!

08 Honor and celebrate their birth culture, making it a part of our every day life so that their culture is always a part of our family culture.

WITH DEEP LOVE - *Judd and Bethany*



For this child
ADOPTION PROFILE BOOKS

