

Erica & John

2107722





Hello!

Dear Friend, thank you for taking time to consider us as the family for your sweet baby. We want you to know you are loved. You are seen. Even though we haven't met you yet, God has already placed you in our hearts. We want you to know that we are praying that you would feel blessed, at peace and feel comforted as you make plans for your baby. We hope as you go through this book you will see love on its pages, and that our lives come alive filled with family, joy, closeness and community that we would love to share with a child.

Adoption is very important to our family as our daughter, Grace, and son, Henry, are adopted. We have seen what an amazing plan God had for Grace and Henry, come alive in our lives daily. We thank God daily for the gift they are to our family. We love watching them learn and explore. We love hearing their giggles and excitement as they play and make memories. Our home is filled with snuggles, pretend play, bedtime stories, dance parties in the kitchen. We find great joy in giving them opportunities to experience life. We hope to provide support and reassurance to you as you walk down this road.

We know you care deeply about your baby and we promise to provide the very best life for them. Our home has plenty of space and is a safe, fun, loving place to grow up. We can't wait to shower another child with unconditional love and nurture them as they learn, grow and discover their God-given talents. May you feel His perfect love and peace as you make this very important decision.

With love, respect, and gratitude.

JOHN + ERICA



Our Story

Erica and I had known of each other for quite a while having attended the same high school and college at the same time, although we are two years apart. However our paths didn't cross until 2013, when I had Erica's younger sister Brenna in class. I was teaching at the high school we attended and was colleagues with Erica's dad. Erica's sister started nudging me about her older sister. I started to notice Erica at school events. Then Brenna dropped the BIG hint, "you know she's single??!!" Through continued matchmaking, I met Erica at an open house volleyball game. We had a great connection. Eventually we had our first date. It was the day after Christmas in 2013, an ice hockey game and dinner. It was soon evident I was falling in love! The time we spent together always went by so quickly.

It was our values of family, faith and goals that aligned us. We would spend dates going to movies, comedy shows, concerts, dinner with friends, going out for ice cream, sporting events & summer festivals. After dating for about a year, a proposal was in order. I knew I wanted to spend the rest of my life with Erica. I created a scrapbook for Erica with artifacts from many of the things we had done together over our relationship - pictures, ticket stubs, and memories. I wrote a story which told "Our Story". The day before Valentine's Day, I recreated our first date. After enjoying dinner at the same restaurant, we went back to my house where I gave her the scrapbook. As I got down on one knee inside the home that would soon be ours, and asked her to marry me, I barely got a head nod out of her as tears welled in her eyes. She said YES!

When we started planning our wedding we really wanted just a few simple things: Our faith to be the center of it and everyone we loved to be there. We were married at our home church on August 7, 2015. Our wedding party was filled with siblings, best friends and family. Our reception was filled with joy, laughter, and fun celebrating the most important day of our lives. That started our journey to where we are today. We honeymooned in Punta Cana, in the Dominican Republic. It was an amazing traveling experience, spending most of our time relaxing on the beach or poolside.



HELLO

Meet Erica





I grew up in the suburbs of a larger city in Wisconsin with my parents, 2 younger brothers and 2 younger sisters. Both of my parents are also from big families. We regularly saw our grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins for birthday parties, holidays and get togethers. My family would regularly go on outings to the zoo, parks, and get ice cream. I attended high school with many cousins and my grandparents and parents were always at sporting events. My childhood memories are filled with hugs, good food and laughter. This is something John and I try to continue today. I love getting together with my siblings who all live locally and getting the cousins to play together. I enjoy baking, reading and going for walks. I exercise regularly and love to move and be active. I find peace and joy in painting, crocheting and crafting. I work 3 days a week in the NICU of a hospital. I find joy in using my hands to help the babies heal, grow and thrive, and support their families during their hospital stay. I have always wanted to be a mom - to love and nurture my children and help them find their passions and joys in life. My favorite thing is to play as a family, letting our silly side show! I want my children to know they are precious, chosen, and dearly loved.

I love to bake.

I have a big sweet tooth and love chocolate.

I love getting together with family.

I played volleyball and ran track in high school and continue to love running.

I love going for walks, looking at wildlife and listening to the birds sing.

Words I would use to describe Erica are: caring, thoughtful, intentional, creative, sacrificial, loving, playful, full of joy. Erica is an incredibly caring mom. She can make our kids laugh hysterically with one little word, sound or action. She has this unbelievable ability to captivate Grace and Henry with everything from goofiness to creative play. The kids love when she reads to them - she does all the voices. Erica has such skill in guiding their development, always full of love and joy. Everything Erica does is pointed toward helping our family be the best they can be, and giving all she has to love our family. Erica models Christ's love to our family every day. No matter how tired she is at the end of the work day or a long, sleepless night, the joy in her eyes and the smile on her face when she sees Grace and Henry is captivating. Erica has a connection with Grace and Henry that is so strong.

IN JOHN'S WORDS



HELLO

Meet John





Meet John, middle school science teacher and school leader. I grew up in a big city in Wisconsin with my parents and younger sister. My parents both worked full time and still managed to find time to come to all of my school events. While my parents were working, my sister and I would spend time with our grandparents who lived nearby. My parents taught me the value of hard work and taking care of others. We saw my cousins and extended family regularly. My mom has the gift of hospitality, which she passed on to me. I love hosting family get togethers and taking care to make sure everyone has enough to eat and enjoy themselves. I grew up playing sports. I work at a K-8 school as a middle school science teacher. I love working with kids and helping them reach their potential. I coached high school baseball for a long time, but took a break after Grace was born. I wanted to make sure that I was home to experience our kids' milestones. My job as a teacher is family friendly and flexible. I always have time off around the holidays and the entire summer. My favorite things often revolve around sports. I play baseball, basketball and golf. I'm also a passionate fan of our local football and baseball teams! I love to cook and am learning about smoking meats. I learned woodworking from my grandfather and enjoy fixing things around the house using those skills. I take pride in caring for our home including yard work or landscaping. I love being a dad! I am blown away that I get to be Grace and Henry's dad! I love doing everything I can to provide for and care for them. I love seeing them smile and run up to give me a hug when I get home from work. I love the charge of protecting and leading our family. Erica and my children are my world and number one priority! I would do anything for them.

John is kind, compassionate, servant-minded, loving and hard working. He always gives his best and pours into those around him. He is a great listener and I just love talking with him. He makes me laugh and is very witty. John is an incredibly tender father. He is so patient, calm, intentional, loving and fun! Whenever our kids ask him to play, his response is always the same, "I would love to play with you!" He is always playing on the floor with them - playing kitchen, make-believe, a game of catch or wrestling! If our kids are having a hard time with big emotions, he will sit close to them, talk quietly with them until they have settled. I love watching him be silly - turn on music and dance with them. It's amazing to see the love and happiness in their faces.

IN ERICA'S WORDS



MEET

Our Little Ones

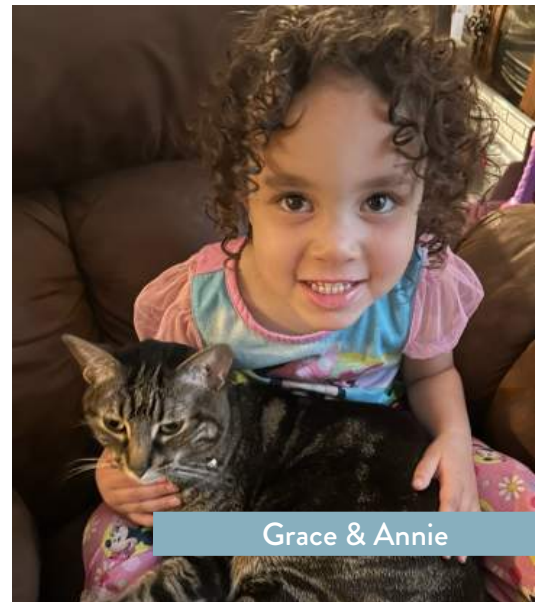




Grace playing football



Henry in his baseball outfit



Grace & Annie



Playing in the rain



Helping bake



Playing outside

Grace (2022) is our spitfire! She is full of energy, loves being silly and helping mommy and daddy in the kitchen. She is very observant and inquisitive. She asks a lot of questions and loves guiding Henry in play. She loves to run, play baseball, and play pretend. She has a great imagination and loves music. She loves Charlie Brown and Snoopy. She is great at cuddling and listening to books or watching the local sports teams with dad.

Henry (2024) is Mr. Smiley! He is thoughtful, silly and loves to do things to make people laugh. He loves to help mom clean. He likes to play in the pretend kitchen, play with trucks, look at books, dance and sing. He loves to give hugs and loves Daniel Tiger. He looks up to his big sister, Grace and tries to copy everything she does.

Jordy (2017) is our beagle mix. He loves to go on walks and lay in the sunshine. He is very gentle with the kids and spends most of his days sleeping in his bed while they play nearby.

Annie (2019) is our cat. She loves attention and getting petted. The kids love petting her and trying to get her to sit on their laps. She is very tolerant of little hands learning to be gentle.



Jordy in his bed



Zoo trip



Erica's Family

Family + Faith

We share a very close relationship with our extended family and are blessed they all live locally! We see them all the time and are gathering monthly, if not weekly, to celebrate a birthday, holiday or special occasion. There have been many impromptu trips to Mimi and Bapa's or Nana and Papa's house, meeting at the zoo or parks. There are currently 7 cousins with one on the way on Erica's side of the family. All of the cousins are close in age and enjoy playing together. We go to local professional baseball games with John's parents (Nana and Papa) regularly. We also have a very close knit church and group of friends including those who themselves were adopted or adopted themselves. We enjoy getting together regularly with our friends.

Our faith has been the foundation of our lives. It has carried us throughout the highs and lows of our lives. We have seen the Lord's faithfulness, love and mercy in our long journey of infertility and the blessing of our children. We want our kids to know how much they are loved by God and how special, precious and fearfully and wonderfully made they all are!



Family Christmas



Fourth of July at the lake



High school friends



Christmas lights with Nana & Papa



Friends at the pool



Henry & Papa



Fun with Bapa



Family birthday with cousins



Trick or Treat with cousins



New Year's Eve with friends

Traditions

Every year we get together with John's parents and Erica's family for a big Fourth of July party at a lake front property owned by John's family.

Every year we get together to go trick or treating in our neighborhood with all the cousins and then return to our house for pizza.

We make Christmas cookies and homemade pizza during John's Christmas break. Erica's mom (MiMi) makes all the grandkids a stocking that's hung up at her house. We go to the annual zoo lights with Erica's family and drive through another local Christmas light show with John's parents.

Home Sweet Home

We live in a suburb just outside of a major city in Wisconsin. Our neighborhood has a good mixture from young families with children to retirees. We are close to zoos, parks with pools, hiking trails and other amenities. There is plenty to do in our city as well as the major metropolitan city we are close to including cultural and ethnic festivals in the summertime, professional sports, lots of lakefronts, and many awesome state parks. We are about 20 minutes from a local lake where John's family has lakefront property. Our town is very lively with lots of restaurants, theaters, and other recreational fun. Grace attends the school where John teaches, which is a high performing Christian school with a diverse student population. We both lived in and grew up in this area our entire lives. We love being so close to our family members so we can see each other often.

We love to go to parks in the summer time, and follow it with a trip to get ice cream (custard) at a local shop. Every summer we try to make at least one trip up to Door County, Wisconsin, where John's parents have a small cottage. We spend a week going for walks, swimming, riding bikes and spending time reading and moving at a slower pace. We love going to the Farm there where the kids can feed baby sheep and goats and hold kittens. We look forward to the trip every year and the memories on the lake. We love to listen to music as a family, especially as we cook. It often ends with dance parties in the kitchen.



Our home



Kitchen



Backyard fun



Dining Room



Family zoo lights



Lake time!`



Swinging at the park



Cheering on the Brewers



Trick or Treat



Zoo Carousel



parenting + *Adoption*

We promise to provide a loving, supportive, safe and faith-filled life for your baby. We strive to remind our children every chance we can how much they are loved by God, their birth families and by us. We wanted to pursue another adoption because we've always dreamed of having a larger family. Erica had such a great experience growing up in a large family. We see the close bond Grace and Henry have and want them to share that closeness with another sibling. We enjoy watching our children grow and seeing the gifts, talents and interests God has placed in them. We will provide opportunities for our children and future child to develop and use the gifts God gives them in service to God, their community and for their own enjoyment. We look forward to celebrating with them, supporting them through life's challenges and loving them in all circumstances. An open adoption is important to us. We know that every adoption journey is unique and we want this child to know they are loved and value their unique story. We value and promise to provide regular updates with you through pictures, messages, emails or letters depending on your comfort level. We are open to visiting in person, but really want the relationship to grow naturally over the years.



Family Information

Date of marriage: 2015

Children: Grace joined our family through adoption in 2022. She is full of energy, spunk, and joy. She fills our lives with laughter, creativity and imagination. She is compassionate and is aware of other people's feelings. She is curious and loves being active and moving. She loves playing outside, listening to music, playing pretend and looking at books. She loves to include others in her play. Henry joined our family through adoption in 2024. He is quick to laugh and like Grace, has a smile that lights up the room. He is a big cuddler, loves to help and play with trucks. He loves music, dancing and singing. He loves being outside. He loves to give big hugs and tackle.

Interest and hobbies: John enjoys cheering on the local sports teams, reading, golfing and woodworking. Erica enjoys staying active and baking. She also enjoys being able to relax and read a good book, paint or crochet. Together as a family we love to take walks, play outside and visit parks and the zoo. We love to listen to music and get together with friends and extended family who all live close. We live close to a family lake property which allows us freedom to enjoy spending time at the lake swimming, fishing and boating during the summer.

Home: We live in a peaceful neighborhood on a quiet cul-de-sac, in a beautiful three-bedroom, two and a half-bathroom, 2 story home we've enjoyed for nearly ten years. It's a warm and welcoming space with a large yard and patio to be active as a family enjoying one another. Our two main floor living rooms make it a perfect layout for a growing family with lots of space to play. Our neighborhood is diverse and has a nice mixture of young families and retirees. Everyone is friendly and it is common to kids out playing, families riding bikes or taking walks.

Pets: We adore our sweet dog, Jordy. He's a beagle mix who is loyal, stubborn and incredibly affectionate. He is content to sit right next to you and snuggle all day. He's gentle around children and our kids love helping to feed him. One of his favorite parts of the day is going on walks, where he gets to explore the neighborhood. When not sniffing things out with his nose, he is laying in the sun or his dog bed while the kids play nearby. Our cat, Annie, is independent, but affectionate. She likes to sit on our laps. She is very tolerant of the kids and loves being petted.

Why are you interested in building your family through adoption: We have unexplained infertility. We were blessed with our daughter Grace and son Henry through adoption. We feel that we have a lot of love to share and that our family isn't complete yet. We believe God has placed on our hearts the desire to adopt again.

Openness to birthparent(s): We desire to have an open relationship. We know it is what's in the best interest for all of us. We want our children to be able to know where they come from and know they are surrounded by love of their birth family and us. We hope to share regular updates—through photos, letters, or emails—as the child grows. We're also open to in-person visits. We desire to build a relationship that feels natural and is meaningful and respectful for everyone involved.

Childcare plans: Erica works part time. On the days she works, John's parents and occasionally Erica's parents will watch the child as they have with Grace and Henry. Grace and Henry love being able to see their grandparents regularly. During the summer when John is off of school he is home full time with the kids.



Mother's Name: Erica

Occupation: Pediatric Occupational Therapist

Education: Bachelor's of Science in Rehabilitative Science, Major in Occupational Therapy

Religion: Christian | Date of birth: 1986

Hair Color: Blonde | Eye Color: Blue | Height: 5' 7"



Father's Name: John

Occupation: Middle School Science Teacher and School Leader

Education: Bachelor's of Science - Secondary education, Major broadfield physical science, Minor in Math and chemistry, Master's in Education Administration

Religion: Christian | Date of birth: 1984

Hair Color: Blonde | Eye Color: Blue | Height: 5' 11"



Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our family. If you choose us as parents, know that we will be forever bonded to you through this child. We promise to provide a loving, supportive, safe and faith filled life for your baby. We want them to know every day how loved and cherished they are. We hope for them to grow to be people who love God and love others. We will continue to pray for you and will make sure that this child knows every day how much you love them and what you've done for them. We pray that our relationship with you would grow and that this child would be able to know you and how much you love them.

We continue to pray for you and your baby, whether you choose us for the honor of raising this child or not. May God bless and keep you, guard and watch over you. May He bring you to the family He planned for you and this baby. May you feel His perfect love and peace as you make this very important decision.

With love, respect and gratitude,

Erica + John

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