

thank you

FOR TAKING THE TIME TO
LEARN A LITTLE BIT ABOUT OUR
FAMILY AND TO CONSIDER US
AS AN ADOPTIVE FAMILY FOR
YOUR CHILD.

As we begin the process to adopt again, we want you to know that we have been praying for you and your child, because we understand the weight of this incredibly selfless decision. You will always be a part of your child's story, and it is our hope that you will feel encouraged and have peace as you learn more about us, and the love that will be poured into your child's life.

We are excited to begin this next chapter of our lives. The following pages are a small glimpse into the journey that has led us to you. We look forward to a time when we can meet you and hopefully become a part of your journey, too.

zach, julie,
& lydia



our wedding day

our first time
meeting
Lydia



our first
family picture



OUR story

...BEGAN OVER CHRISTMAS BREAK IN 1999.

From the beginning our faith in God, and our love to laugh, drew us together and have kept us together through 2 years of dating, and 17 years of marriage. Our journey is filled with love, laughter, amazing friends & supportive family, who have all been faithfully by our side through the wonderful joys and unexpected challenges along the way. Even though our journey has been filled with great blessing, it also had the challenge of infertility for almost 10 years. Then our life was met with beautiful blessing when we had the privilege of adopting our daughter, Lydia. Hopefully the pictures you see here tell the story of how blessed we are to be Lydia's mommy and daddy!

**FROM THE HOSPITAL...
TO MEETING FRIENDS...
TO OUR FIRST FAMILY PICTURES...
EVERY STEP OF THIS JOURNEY HAS BEEN
A TREMENDOUS BLESSING!**





ABOUT ZACH by Julie

The first thing that drew me to Zach was his humor. And he wasn't bad to look at either :-). He has always made me laugh... and others as well. Zach is my best friend, and after almost 2 decades together, I can't imagine life without him. He is a loyal friend and cares deeply about the needs of others. Zach has a true calling to lead people and has an amazing gift with music. Zach is a fantastic Daddy to Lydia and I love to watch them talk and play together.



About Julie by Zach

The first thing that drew me to Julie was her beautiful smile. She has always had the ability to light up a room. But more than that, I quickly learned that her heart was bigger than her smile. She carries a heart of compassion and what I would call Godly insight into people and situations that has allowed her to connect with people from all walks of life. Julie is a faithful friend, tremendous teacher, and the best mother for which any kid could ask. And I couldn't have possibly chosen a better partner in life!



About Lydia by mommy & daddy

From the day she was born (2012), Lydia has been a girl with countless expressions. And those come out in her many loves. She loves to laugh, sing, pose for pictures, dance, do cartwheels, and spend time with her family. She is very aware of her adoption and is proud of her story. Lydia has a growing faith in God and has been praying for a baby brother or baby sister for many years. She is so excited about becoming a big sister! It was obvious from early on that she is tender hearted and has a sweet spirit.



Julie's FAVORITES

FOOD: Bread & Mexican
DESSERT: Ice cream & fruit desserts
MOVIE: Romantic comedies
HOLIDAY: Christmas & summer break :-)
VACATION: camping in the mountains, the beach & Disney

ABOUT us



EDUCATION & CAREERS

Julie is currently teaching 5th grade science and social studies. She has a masters degree in curriculum and instruction. Julie loves being a part of the "aha" moments as she watches her stu-

dents learn. She loves using silly yet educational songs in her lessons, learning about her students' lives, and incorporating humor whenever possible. Julie plans on taking at least 6 months off after placement.

Zach has been a music pastor for 17 years. He has a bachelor's degree in music and religion, and is an ordained minister. Zach loves singing, playing piano, and encouraging people to live out their faith. After placement he is planning on taking a few weeks off to spend as much time with the baby as possible.

Lydia is 6 ½ years old and in the first grade. She has participated in gymnastics, basketball, and has become a great reader this year.



ZACH'S favorites

FOOD: Spicy-creamy pasta with bacon
DESSERT: Chocolate Peanut Butter anything
MOVIE: Superhero movies
HOLIDAY: Easter
VACATION: Disney, the beach, & the mountains in the summer



FAMILY & friends



Julie and Zach both come from close families that love to talk, laugh and spend time together. Julie has an older brother, Shawn, and Zach has a younger sister, Valarie. Now that they're retired, Julie's parents, Grandma & Grandpa, come for extended visits every year and are thrilled about the arrival of a new grandbaby! Zach's parents, Grammy & Babu (Swahili for Grandpa) are also excited about a new baby joining our family! Grammy & Babu visit as often as they can around their jobs.

Because we don't live in the same town as our parents, we have been blessed with many friends who have become family.

WE ENJOY

**bonfires
corn mazes
movie nights
church events
trips
play dates
game night
pool parties
OSU/Michigan game
+ EVERYTHING ELSE
THAT LIFE THROWS
OUR WAY**

we love doing life together



We want you to know that we have been praying for you since we made the decision to walk the adoption journey.

And It is our prayer...
that you will have peace and clarity
as you make your adoption plan.



NOTE