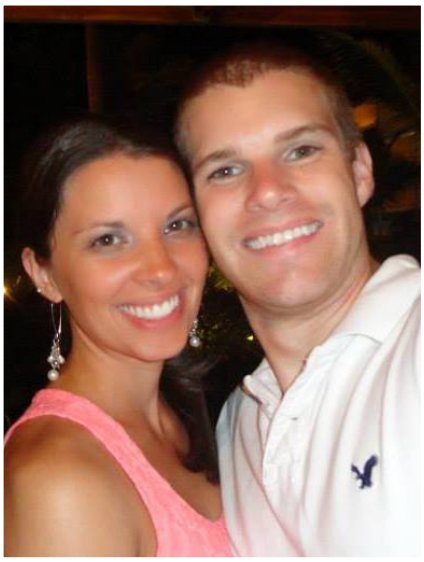
Justin and Emily

Dear Birthparent



Spending time together on vacation.

Enjoying the beach in Punta Cana.

Thank you for taking the time to read our profile and learn more about us! We want you to know that you have been in our prayers since we began the process of adoption and that we will continue to pray for you. We hope the following pages will give you a glimpse into what life in our family is like!

We've been married for 3 years, and feel blessed to be going through life together. Our faith in God and relationship with Him is the center of our marriage and home. We believe God brought us together, and it is our desire to use our gifts and talents to serve Him and others around us. We look forward to the day when we will welcome a child into our home.

Justin is a youth pastor at a church near our home. His passion is to help teens develop their relationship with Jesus and to be a friend and mentor to them as they enter adulthood. Emily works part-time at a local preschool as the lead pre-kindergarten teacher. Working with young children, especially those with special learning needs, is what she feels God has gifted and called her to do. We're thankful to have been blessed with stable jobs that will allow us to provide for a child.

Our families are extremely important to us, and we love to spend time with them. We have 2 nephews and 1 niece who are so much fun! We love being "Uncle Justin" and "Aunt Emmy." Taking family vacations to a cabin in Michigan, enjoying days at the park or exploring new trails, biking and evening campfires with family are some of our favorite times.

We both have had a deep interest in adoption since before we were married. Spending time overseas on ministry trips, as well as working with children as part of our careers have given us the desire to provide children with a safe, loving and secure home environment where they can thrive and grow into the person God has called them to be. We believe that all children are unique and special because they are created by God, so we are open to adopting a child of any race. We look forward to teaching our children about their personal history and culture.

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us. We will continue to pray for peace as you make decisions.

Love,
Justin and Emily

About Us

Fun in the snow!

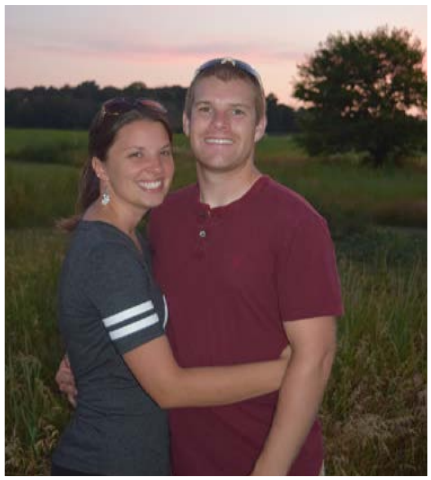
Justin has a bachelor's degree in youth ministry and a master's degree in ministry. He is passionate about helping teenagers reach their full potential and loves to get involved in their lives. You'll often find us taking in a high school football game or attending a band concert so that we can see the teens in action!

Emily has bachelor's degrees in early childhood education and as an intervention specialist. We are thankful that she is able to work part-time, so that she can be home as well and can volunteer in our children's programs at church. She thinks it is so rewarding to see children succeed and realize that they can do it!

We believe that God can use us to reach out to others. We feel called to serve on international missions trips, as well as connect with people in our own community through ministries at our church. Teaching our own children to love and serve others in a hands-on way is something we are excited to do as a family.

Our Story

We met in college in 2005 and were friends throughout our college careers. We began dating in 2011 and have been together ever since! We feel blessed to be best friends and enjoy going through life together. When we first got married and began talking about children, we originally thought that we would have biological children as well as adopted children in our family; however, Emily's first 2 pregnancies ended in late-term pregnancy loss. The loss of both a son and a daughter before birth were the hardest times of our lives as a couple. Going through such difficult times has strengthened our relationship with each other, and we are so thankful that God gave us a desire to adopt children into our home. We know that He is leading us to continue to grow our family through adoption, and we are excited to embrace His plans.



Our backyard is a great spot to watch the sunset.

Our Favorites

Emily		Justin
Sour Patch Kids	Candy	Take 5
The Lion King	Disney Movie	The Lion King
John 16:33	Bible Verse	Proverbs 3:5-6
Siesta Key, Florida	Vacation Spot	Onekama, Michigan
Christmas	Holiday	Christmas
Spring	Season	Summer
lemon meringue pie	Dessert	tres leche cake
volleyball	Sport to Play	soccer
basketball	Sport to Watch	football
Minnie Mouse	Disney Character	Goofy

Having fun at a friend's wedding!

Horseback riding!

About Emily

by Justin

Emily is the most amazing person I know. She is selfless, compassionate, intelligent, and a very fun-loving person. Emily is the love of my life, my best friend, and a person I always want to be around. She can always put a smile on my face and she balances me out very well. She has a very tender heart toward family and kids-there is not a doubt in my mind that she will be an amazing mother. Being a teacher allows her to use her gifts to care for children. I love to see her interact and prepare preschoolers at the beginning of their school journey. Emily always makes sure the tasks and projects that are before her are done to an exemplary level. This trait helps me know she will care for, raise, and train our children in the way they should go. She loves God with all of her heart -which is the driving force behind all that she does. Her love for God is one of the main reasons I knew that I loved her. Emily will be an amazing mom who cares for, loves, and nurtures our children in a way that is pleasing to God.

We enjoy spending time together.
We laugh and have fun each day!

About Justin

by Emily

Justin is one of the most caring and compassionate people I know. He is my best friend and is such a strong leader in our home. I know that he will always be there for me: to support, love and encourage. I can't wait to watch him with our children some day. Justin has a way of making other people feel special, and I know that he will do the same with our children. He is a great listener and takes time to hear how others feel. He likes to help others in any way that he can. I think that his job as a youth pastor is a perfect fit for him because he is able to help others as a full time career! He loves to spend time with the teenagers in his youth group, and I often notice that they light up when he takes the time to attend one of their sporting events or concerts. I know that he will make a wonderful role model for our future son or daughter. One of the things that drew me to him was the way I always felt cared for and protected. I'm looking forward to the day when God blesses our family with a child because I know that Justin will always love, protect and guide our children in a way that honors God.

Our Home

Our home is a spacious, 2 bedroom duplex, located in the country. There are several homes located near ours, but we love the fact that we are mostly surrounded by farms and fields. Our backyard provides a great spot for summer campfires and catching fireflies. Emily's parents live just across the field behind our house, so we enjoy evening walks to their place, or we meet up halfway! A 10-minute drive takes us to the nearest town where there are wonderful parks, walking trails, restaurants and shopping centers. We enjoy being outdoors and exploring local trails, as well as trying out new places to eat.

Backyard campfire with smores!

Our home.

Our Family and Friends

Our families give us an amazing support system, and we love to spend time with them. Some of our favorite family outings include trips to the ballpark, family vacations to the cabin or beach, holiday meals together, birthday celebrations, walks, and bike rides. We love being together and enjoying time outdoors! Our niece and 2 nephews are such a joy. We feel so blessed to be a part of their lives and to watch them grow up. One of our favorite things to do is take them out on niece or nephew "date days" where we plan special activities just for them. Both of our families are so excited about our adoption journey and are looking forward to welcoming a new family member!

We also have a very close group of friends who we enjoy just going through life with. Most of our friends have young children, and it has been so much fun to watch them grow and to add children to our get-togethers! We enjoy yearly camping trips, boating, bonfires, movie nights and dinners with our friends on a regular basis.

Emily with 2 of her preschool students.

Annual 5K with Emily's family.

Our niece is so much fun!

Celebrating Justin's birthday with our niece.

Justin's family.

A day on the lake with our nephew.

4th of July celebration with our friends.

Paddle-boating with friends.

Justin with some of the guys from his youth group.

Emily and her friends.