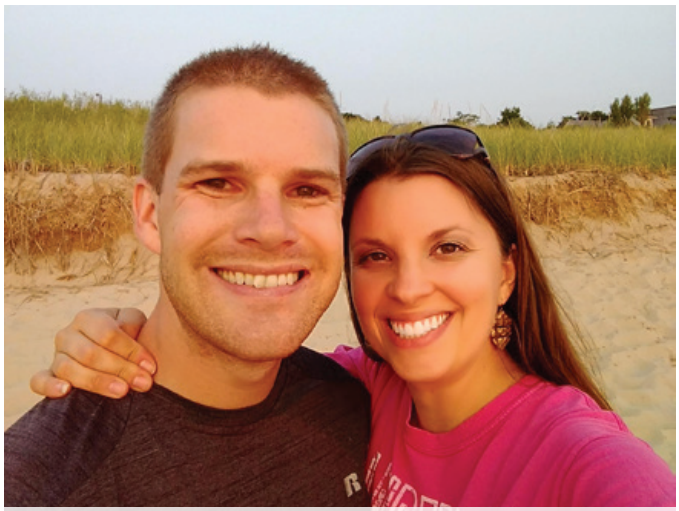
♥ emily + justin



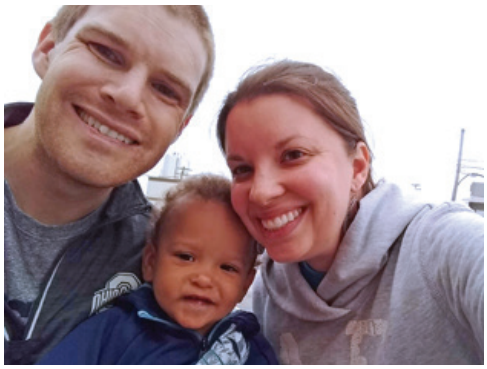
about us

We met in college and have been married for 6 years. We feel so blessed to be going through life together. Our faith in God and relationship with Him is the center of our marriage and home. We look forward to welcoming a second child into our family through adoption.

Justin is a youth pastor at a local church. His passion is to help teens develop their relationship with Jesus and to be a friend and mentor to them as they enter adulthood. 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. Her passion is teaching preschoolers, and we are thankful that she is able to work part-time, so that she can be home with our son as well. She loves teaching and finds it is so rewarding to help children succeed! We're thankful to have been blessed with jobs that allow us to provide for a child.

Emily's Favorites		Justin's Favorites
Lasagna	**Food**	Steak Salad
The Lion King	**Disney Movie**	The Lion King
Siesta Key, Florida	**Vacation Spot**	Onekama, Michigan
Christmas	**Holiday**	Christmas
Spring	**Season**	Summer
Volleyball	**Sport**	Soccer
Minnie Mouse	**Disney Character**	Goofy
Pink	**Color**	Blue
Yearly family trips to the cabin in Michigan	**Childhood Memory**	Sunday spaghetti lunches at my Grandma's house with family



who is Emily

Written by Justin: Emily is my best friend and love of my life. She is selfless, compassionate, intelligent, and a very fun-loving person who can always put a smile on my face. Being a teacher allows her to use her gifts to care for children as a career. 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 has a tender heart toward family and children and is an amazing mom to our son. Emily and Zayne love to dance, read books, snuggle, and go for walks in the morning. Emily cares for, loves, and nurtures our son in a way that is pleasing to God.

who is Justin

Written by Emily: Justin is one of the most caring and compassionate people I know. He is my best friend and is always there for me: to support, love and encourage. Justin has a way of making other people feel special because 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! One of the things that drew me to him was the way I always felt cared for and protected. Justin is a very hands-on dad who loves to have fun. Watching him as a father is such a wonderful blessing. He is loving, nurturing, and caring. He is always up for a wrestling match in the living room, playing trucks on the floor, or pulling Zayne around the yard in the wagon. Justin loves his family very much, and I am so thankful for him.

Zayne

In early 2018, we received the most wonderful blessing – the gift of our son! Adopting Zayne was such an exciting day, and he brings us so much joy! We enjoy spending time together playing outside, going for walks, spending the day at the zoo, or staying in for pizza night. He is excited to become a big brother, and we know he will absolutely love his new brother or sister. We can't wait to watch their relationship grow.

We believe that all children are unique and special because they are created by God, and we are open to adopting a child of any race. Teaching our children about their personal history and culture, as well as their unique adoption story is extremely important to us. We are committed to teaching our children to love God, love others, value family, and serve those around them.

OUR family + friends

Our families give us a strong support system, and we love to spend time with them. Some of our favorite extended family outings include trips to the ballpark, vacations to the cabin or beach, holiday meals, birthday celebrations, walks, bike rides, and evening campfires. We love being together and enjoying time outdoors! Our son absolutely loves his cousins and grandparents. 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 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 group! We enjoy yearly camping trips, boating, bonfires, movie nights and dinners with friends on a regular basis.

Summer cookout with friends

Justin with some teens from youth group

Family 5K

Justin's family at their home by the lake

Emily's family vacationing near Lake Michigan

our HOME

Our home is spacious and located in the country. Our backyard provides a great spot for summer campfires and catching fireflies. We have wonderful neighbors, and Emily's parents live nearby so we often enjoy evening walks to their house. A 10-minute drive takes us to the nearest town where there are many parks, walking trails, restaurants and shopping centers. As our family grows, we anticipate buying a larger home nearby.

dear birth parent,

Thank you for taking the time to read our profile and learn more about us. We hope these pages have given you a glimpse into what life in our family is like! We are so excited to welcome a new little one into our home, and 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 peace as you make decisions.

LOVE,

justin + emily

why ADOPTION?

We believe God has called us to grow our family through adoption. Early in our marriage, we envisioned our family including both biological and adopted children; 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. The adoption of our son continues to be the most joyous and beautiful blessing. We pray that all of our children will grow up to love their adoption stories and to know just how much they are loved.