Michael
- and -
Lilya

About Us

Our story began while working together at a local fast-food restaurant in high school.

We formed a friendship over the next several years and bonded over our shared faith in Christ, love of health and fitness, tendency towards hard work, and love for deep conversation. We dated for nine months and were married in 2014. Michael now works as a firefighter/paramedic and an elementary school P.E. teacher for a local Christian school. Lilya works part time for a real estate company but most of her week is spent at home caring for our son Luke. We are members together at a local Church and have a very tight-knit and loving community. At our church, Michael is on the leadership team, leads one of our church small groups, and serves as a Sunday School attendant. Lilya is a leader on the Women's ministry team. We have a deep love for our families and friends. We live within a few miles of nearly all our close family and friends and regularly get together with them. Holidays and Sundays are particularly special times for our family. In our free time, we love lifting weights, being outdoors, hiking, playing games, and hanging out with our friends. We were both raised in consistent and loving families who have instilled in us traditional family values. Since starting the adoption process, we've welcomed a son, Luke, into our family. Children have always been a central part of the vision we have for our marriage, and we are more than excited to bring more children into our lives and into our family!

More About Michael

There are so many things that can be said about Mike. He is uncomplicated but has many interests, talents, and good qualities. He is honest, kind, and determined. Mike works hard to accomplish his goals and also encourages others in the pursuit of theirs. I was able to pursue and complete a degree in Theology after we were married, and I am confident that I couldn't have done it without Mike's encouragement. One of Mike's interests in life is music. He loves The Beatles, The Beach Boys, and Nirvana. He can be found singing from the moment he wakes up until he goes to bed. Most of all, he values loyalty and that is evident in his love and commitment to his family, friends, and church community. We recently welcomed a son to our family and seeing Michael step into fatherhood has been incredible. He is an involved and loving father. He has loved our son well as he has spent time teaching him, playing with him, and caring for him. Mike consistently puts aside his own desires to make sure Luke and I are taken care of and happy.

More About Lilya

I do not think I am being biased when I say that Lilya is the best woman I have ever met! I love this girl. At first glance she can be quiet and unassuming, but she is actually strong-willed, resolute, and assertive while remaining a kind and gentle woman. She thinks deeply, is rationally minded, and chooses her words and actions carefully. She is one of the hardest workers that I know coming from a strong, hard-working Eastern European family. She is intelligent and ambitious. She loves her big family and has always desired to be the mother of a large family herself. At the beginning of this year and after many years of hardship, she gave birth to our firstborn son. She has been a wonderful wife to me these past 9 years, and now, I have had the pleasure to witness her become the loving and caring mother I always knew she would be. She is excited to add more children to our young family! Together Lilya and I hold firmly to the same worldview, values, and convictions which has invariably drawn us closer together and provides the grounds for our love and the foundation for the family we hope to build together!

Our Home

In 2016 we bought (and still live in) our first home,

a two story brick bungalow. It has 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms with a full, finished basement. We prioritize hospitality and love hosting small groups, youth group, hang-outs with friends, and our combined family's annual Thanksgiving dinner. We live in a large suburb of a major metropolitan city in the heart of our county, so we are a short drive away from anything we could ever need. Our neighborhood is residential and is within walking distance of the local high school, parks, golf course, shopping mall, and hospital. We are also within walking distance of Lilya's parents and within a 10 minute drive to Michael's parents and grandparents. We love our little home very much.

Lilya with son Luke

Michael and Lilya

Michael with son Luke

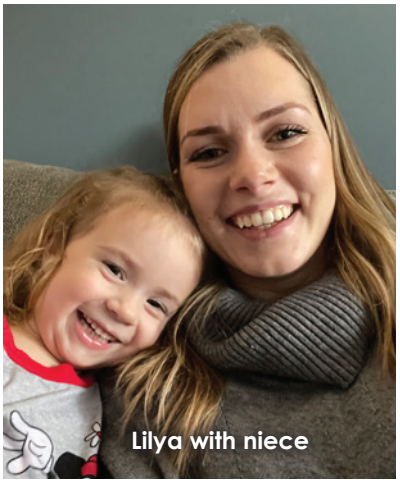
Our Family, Friends, and Church Family

Family and friendship are two of our dearest values. We live within a few miles of most of our closest family and friends and get together regularly with both sets of parents. We were both raised, not just by loving parents, but by, "a village," as it were, and we are excited for our children to be raised by our families as well. Both of us retain strong friendships from childhood and regularly get together with friends of 25+ years to have tea or even to play video games like we did when we were 10 years old! Not only are we blessed with old friendships but, through our awesome church community, we have gained many new friendships with which we spend many of our weekends now. Our church is full of young couples and full of children. Being members of a small church has reinforced to us the value of community, and we are excited to bring our children up with all the other kids in our church community.

With some of Lilya's cousins

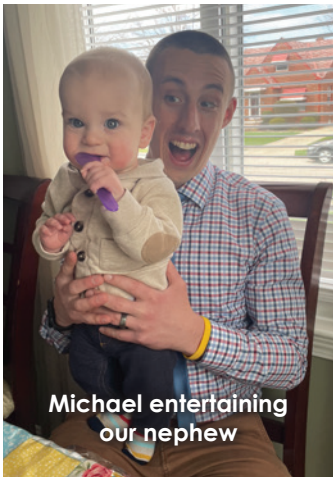
New Year's Eve with friends

Summer party With Lilya's parents



Lilya with niece

Lilya and her siblings

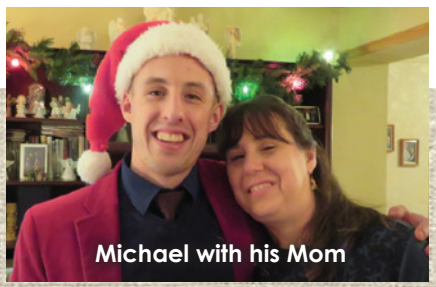


Michael entertaining our nephew

Michael and his best friends

Lilya and her best friends

With Michael's Parents



Michael with his Mom

Dear Birth Parents

We are so very thankful

that you have taken the time to learn a little about us and our lives, and would be happy to answer any other questions that you may have!

If you choose us as adoptive parents, please know that your child will grow and flourish in the care of a loving and committed couple. We have a strong commitment to each other and to all the children that the Lord may put into our care. As a birth mother, you would be honored in our home. Your child would be raised in an environment where family is cherished and where their place in our family will be likewise cherished. Expect that they will grow up secure (in love, finances, home), encouraged (in their strengths and weaknesses), and with a sense of belonging to a family that will love them!

Sincerely,

Michael and Lilya

Why Adoption

Children have always been a part of the vision for our family, but adoption holds a special place in our lives for two reasons. The first: Lilya has always had a passion for adoption since attending missions trips to orphanages in her early adulthood which she brought into our marriage. This passion combined with God's own love of adoption and our desire to give a home to a child that needs one is our first reason to adopt. The second: like so many others, infertility played a role in the timing of our adoption. We have always hoped to adopt a child, but after several years had gone by, we became more and more excited about adoption. Then, in the midst of our adoption process, we found out that we were pregnant! This was a huge surprise and blessing and has only increased our desire to adopt. We are excited to raise all of our children together in the same loving home and will be happy to receive a child of any ethnic background into our family. Through adoption, we hope to encourage others around us to engage in this pursuit and to instill a love of children and of adoption into our own children.

Michael Fun Facts:

Occupation: Firefighter/Paramedic & Elementary School P.E. Teacher
Education: Associate of Fire-Emergency Medical Services
TV Show: Seinfeld, The Office (in that order)
Holiday: Christmas
Childhood Memory: Friday night high school football games, Christmas day with the family at Grandma's house
Background: German and Irish
Hobbies: Weight lifting, working out, Ohio State football, playing board games, collecting retro video games, yard work, garage saling
Vacation: Any vacation is a good vacation

Lilya Fun Facts:

Occupation: Office Manager
Education: Associates of Science and Bachelors of Bible and Theology
TV Show: The Office, Great British Baking Show
Holiday: Christmas
Childhood Memory: Going to the local market on Saturday morning with my cousins and our dads for crepes and coffee
Background: Ukrainian
Hobbies: Weight lifting, getting coffee with friends, baking
Vacation: Hiking in Colorado

Building Blocks Adoption Service Inc.