



Michael & Laura

OUR STORY



HELLO!

We're Michael, Laura & Ethan

We have learned over the years that the journey of life is not for the faint of heart and seems to take us to places we never thought we would go. It has its ups and downs, happy moments and sad moments, as well as all the emotions in between. We will never be able to understand the emotions you must be feeling at this moment, but we truly admire your strength and true love you have for your child to consider a plan of adoption for them. If you choose us to raise your baby, we promise you your child will be beyond loved and supported in their lifetime, no matter the situation.

We knew from the beginning we would grow our family in a unique way. Michael was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer at age 18 and had to undergo significant chemo and radiation. Thankfully he was cured, but the treatments left him unable to have biological children. Laura has had a long history of infertility issues within her family and has always known it could be a difficult journey to have biological children of her own. In January of 2018 we made the decision to start our journey of expanding our family by adopting our son Ethan.

Adoption has brought so much joy to our family of three, and we all feel it is the right time to expand again!



OUR *Love Story*

WE MET ONLINE!

Our story began in early 2016 when we met online! Neither of us really expected to find someone but thought it couldn't hurt to try.

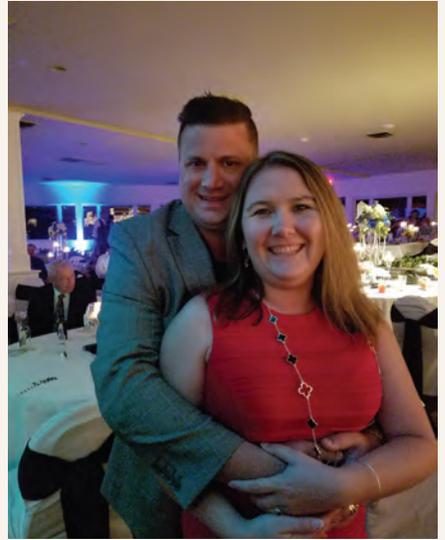
WE WERE ENGAGED IN THE PARK

On a walk with our dogs to the park, Charley came running over to me with one of Michael's socks. I picked it up and pulled a ring box out. When Laura turned around Michael was on one knee and proposed. Of course she said "yes," and as they say, the rest is history.

WE WERE MARRIED IN A BARN

We had a rustic wedding at an upscale large ranch. Our two dogs were also there and they walked down the aisle with Sapphire blue bow ties on that matched the groomsmen. At our reception we were able to spend a wonderful time with our friends and family.

WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR SIX YEARS!



MEET

Michael



MICHAEL'S PERSONALITY

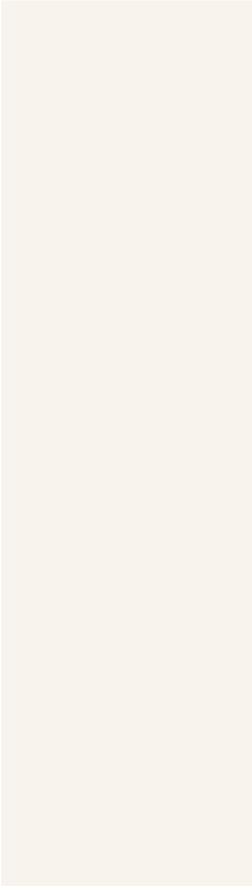
My husband is an amazingly motivated and compassionate man. He's always taking care of our family with his joy of cooking. His love for cooking has made its way to the garden by planting things he will enjoy cooking for the family. Most recently he has taken up making hot sauce with the peppers and marinara sauce with the tomatoes. Almost every weeknight or weekend you can find him outside with the dogs working on a project for the garden or house. He is always working hard to provide for us and ensures everyone is happy and healthy.



MICHAEL AS A FATHER

Michael beyond loves being a father to Ethan. One of the first things he did when Ethan moved in was teach him how to cook. I would always find them in the kitchen trying new ideas or ways to improve the old ones. He is always enthusiastic when asking about Ethan's day or giving him advice on a situation. Michael is always supporting Ethan in his football by providing support with things to improve and letting him know when he is doing things well.

We unfortunately missed out on Ethan's younger years since we adopted him when he was 11 years old. I know Michael is excited to expand the family and to be able to provide guidance for another child during their earlier years and also to teach Ethan the joys of being a big brother.



LAURA AS A MOM

My wife Laura's interactions with children are always a joy to see. When we first adopted Ethan, he was only 11 and was still a little guy who needed a mom. Laura was able to step in and provide him with nurturing comfort to make his transition easy and made him feel comfortable coming into a new family and home. She is great at playing with kids. Her favorite hobbies specifically include building LEGO's and playing Nintendo video games. She is looking forward to providing a warm and nurturing environment that a child feels comfortable in. Laura is a levelheaded, pragmatic, nurturing mother, who will provide love and comfort when it's needed and tell you how it is so that you have the best chance in life. She is well capable of helping explain things when everything seems confusing. She will listen when everyone else wants to talk, and she will understand no matter what the situation may be.

MEET

Laura



LAURA'S HEART

Laura is a very independent, strong woman who can take charge. But she is also a servant leader with a kind soul who is empathetic and caring. Her gifts include being an active listener, and she has the ability to problem solve situations with critical thinking skills. She is outgoing and empathetic, easy to talk to, and always chooses to do the right thing, even if it's hard. She does a great job at not letting things bother her or get under her skin. I love my wife because she makes me want to be a good man, husband, and father.

MORE ABOUT

Michael



My greatest wish for my children is that they always allow themselves to be vulnerable and open to change and willingness to grow both emotionally and intellectually.

I work as an exploration petroleum geologist and I have worked in this industry for 10 years. I love the challenge of finding new things and the ability to think outside the box. My occupation allows me to have a flexible, family-friendly schedule.



My favorite hobby I have grown to love over the last few years has been gardening. I have enjoyed the challenges that it brings as well as the rewards for the work you put into it. I also very much enjoy going to the lake on our boat with Ethan. Recently we've been wakeboarding and water skiing. This goes hand in hand with my love to be outdoors. I love to work out on the property in the evenings and on the weekends (building trails, fixing fences, cutting tree limbs). I am always tinkering in my workshop trying to be creative or come up with new inventions to make a job easier. I also enjoy cooking. I am no chef, but I love to experiment with different recipes.



I look forward to expanding our family by helping a child grow into their fullest potential. I am excited to watch our son Ethan become a big brother and pass along the values that we have taught him over the years.

MORE ABOUT

Laura

My greatest wish for my children is to have a happy and fulfilling life. I will support them on whatever path they choose to take in life.

I work as a Corporate Controller of Accounting for several manufacturing companies. I love supporting my team and many people that I work with, I consider friends. I am very lucky as my company is very family friendly and allows us extended time for adoption. We also have a hybrid work policy that lets me work a few days a week from home. When we welcome a baby into our family, I plan to take maternity leave and then my mom will help until we find the perfect child care setting.

I love to spend time with my family and animals. I enjoy working in the garden and watching the plants grow. If I am not doing these things, I am also building LEGO sets, doing puzzles, or playing video games.

I love our family of three, but I am very much looking forward to adding a little one to expand our family. We missed out on teaching our child to talk, walk, and come to us when they are scared. I am also excited to watch my husband be a father to a little one and watch my son teach his little brother or sister to enjoy life.



MEET

Ethan



OUR SON, ETHAN

Ethan is sixteen and very laid back, responsible and respectful kid. He is an amazingly helpful individual and is very caring for his family and friends. He loves playing football at his high school.

Ethan has always been wonderful with little children, and it is always fun to watch him play with his cousins or interact with younger children while volunteering at a little lions football camp. When we first brought up the thought of adoption with Ethan, he was so excited he couldn't stop talking about it. Ethan is thrilled to become a big brother!



ETHAN'S ADOPTION

Ethan was adopted into our home when he was eleven years old through foster care. Although he doesn't have a current relationship with his birth family, he knows we are supportive if he wants to pursue connecting with them when the time is right. We have always told him that we will support him in his decision of what type of relationships he wants to have going forward and want to help him have healthy relationships with no regrets in his life. Some families feel talking openly about adoption is taboo. Our family feels this should never be the case as it is a part of life that has made us who we are today. We celebrate the fact that Ethan is loved twice as much by his birth family and by us!

A photograph of a couple holding hands in a grassy yard in front of a brick house. A tire swing hangs in the foreground. The house has a grey roof and a brick facade. The scene is set in a wooded area with trees in the background.

OUR HOME & *Community*

We live in a five bedroom, five bathroom home on five acres in Oklahoma. We are about 20 minutes from several large cities but are still able to enjoy the quiet country living with just a short drive home. After work and school events we love spending time at the house by four wheeling on the trails, cooking large family meals, and gardening together. Of course during the holidays we love decorating our home and like to go bigger than the year before by having "More Christmas Lights" or "Bigger and Better Halloween Decorations."



OUR GARDENS

We love spring through fall, as we can spend time outside working on our vegetable gardens. We have our small garden where we have six large, raised beds that we grow everything from tomatoes, to peppers, to onions, to garlic. Over the years we have learned that most people consider our "small garden" as a very large garden for anyone that doesn't live on land. We also have our large garden which is about a half-acre where we grow potatoes and a significant amount of pumpkins. Pumpkins are our favorite thing to grow because at the end of the season when they are ready to harvest, we have our family, friends, and coworkers with children all come out and pick their own pumpkins to take home. It is so much fun to watch all the kids go find their pumpkins because it is a little like an easter egg hunt, because they are hiding in the vines.

EXTENDED *Family*



Laura's Family

Laura is an only child who grew up with her mother Susan, grandfather Walter, and grandmother Jo. Her mother has an older sister, Barbara and her husband Jim, who have 3 boys who are married and who also have children and grandchildren. Her mother also has an older brother John who is married to Theresa and has a daughter Alexis. The majority of Laura's family lives nearby in Oklahoma or Texas. We love to have large family gatherings at our house for holidays and special events. Laura's family has been overjoyed with the plans to expand our family once again. With adoption is very near and dear to their hearts (both her aunt and uncle were adopted).



*"Family doesn't always have to be blood,
but who you choose to have in your life."*

Michael's Family

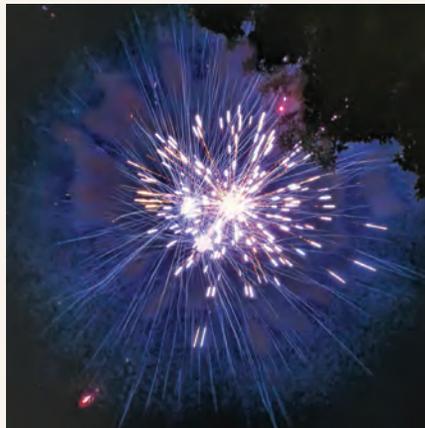
Michael's parents are Connie and Jim and he's the youngest of three children. His oldest brother Dan is married to Kim. The middle child is Joe who is not married. Michael has numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Several of his cousins also have children ranging from infants to teenagers. Michael's family all live in NY and we get to see them at least three times a year. They are a very large and tight family who are always there to take care of each other. When we are in NY we are always surrounded by family and friends. They have been over the moon at the addition of another family member and are already working out the details to meet them when the time comes.



FAMILY

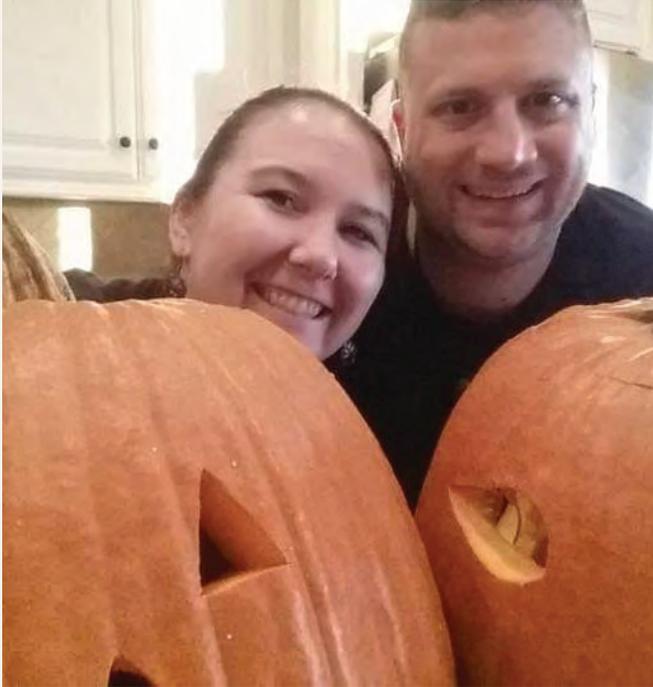
Holidays & Traditions

We love spending the holidays with our family and friends. We are fortunate to have a large house where everyone can come and spend time together during the holidays. We, of course, spend time together at the major holidays such as Christmas and Thanksgiving, but we also love spending time together on 4th of July and Halloween.



4th of July

On 4th of July we have all of our family and friends come out to the house. Everyone brings food and we have a large firework show put on by the dad's when it gets dark. Over the years the 4th of July celebration has grown bigger and bigger with more friends joining and of course more fireworks. It is always so much fun to watch the kids and adults join together and make a great show every year.



Halloween

We also have a large get together with everyone for Halloween. Everyone comes over and we have a bonfire with cookouts. We love going all out with decorations and smoke machines for our get together. When it gets dark the kids love running around outside when it gets dark playing glow in the dark capture the flag. Ethan's friends stay the night and watch scary movies and as they have gotten older the adults enjoy scaring the older boys when they are running around in the dark.

Hopes & Dreams

FOR THE FUTURE



01 Togetherness

Our family's goal is to continue to grow our family over the years in our home. We purchased our home and land with dreams to fill it to the brim with kids, family, and animals to help support each other in the journey of life. We love to travel in the summer with extended family and friends to see and experience new things.

02 Faith

We plan to bring our children up in the Christian faith by teaching them to care for others, support individuals in need, and live with strong ethical values. We will raise them to know Christ and walk in his footsteps in life by being a servant to others and being a strong Christian example to others by their actions. Our family values trust, motivation, and compassion.



03 Education

We plan to send our child to public school, so they can enjoy the experience of a large group of friends. This will provide many different opportunities to expand their interests and to reach their dreams. When it comes to our child's future, we will support them in their dreams from becoming an Electrician to a Doctor to the President of the United States. Each child is different in their interests and can excel in different things. We want to support them in becoming whatever they want to be in life, as long as they are happy.





THANK YOU!

We want to express our thanks to you, for taking time to learn about our family and considering our home and family to raise your child.

We would love to discuss the options of future contact and how you would like to be known to your child. We promise you will always be talked about with respect, honor, and love in our home. We will make sure your child knows your choice of adoption was because you loved them so much and wanted the best for them in life.

You are amazing, strong, and loving, and we hope you can find as much peace as possible during your current journey. We want to help support you during this difficult time with our thoughts and prayers.

YOU ARE LOVED

*Michael, Laura
& Ethan*



*"It doesn't have to be
perfect to be beautiful."*

MICHAEL + LAURA