



ERIC
&
JENN



We are better together



- Hello There -

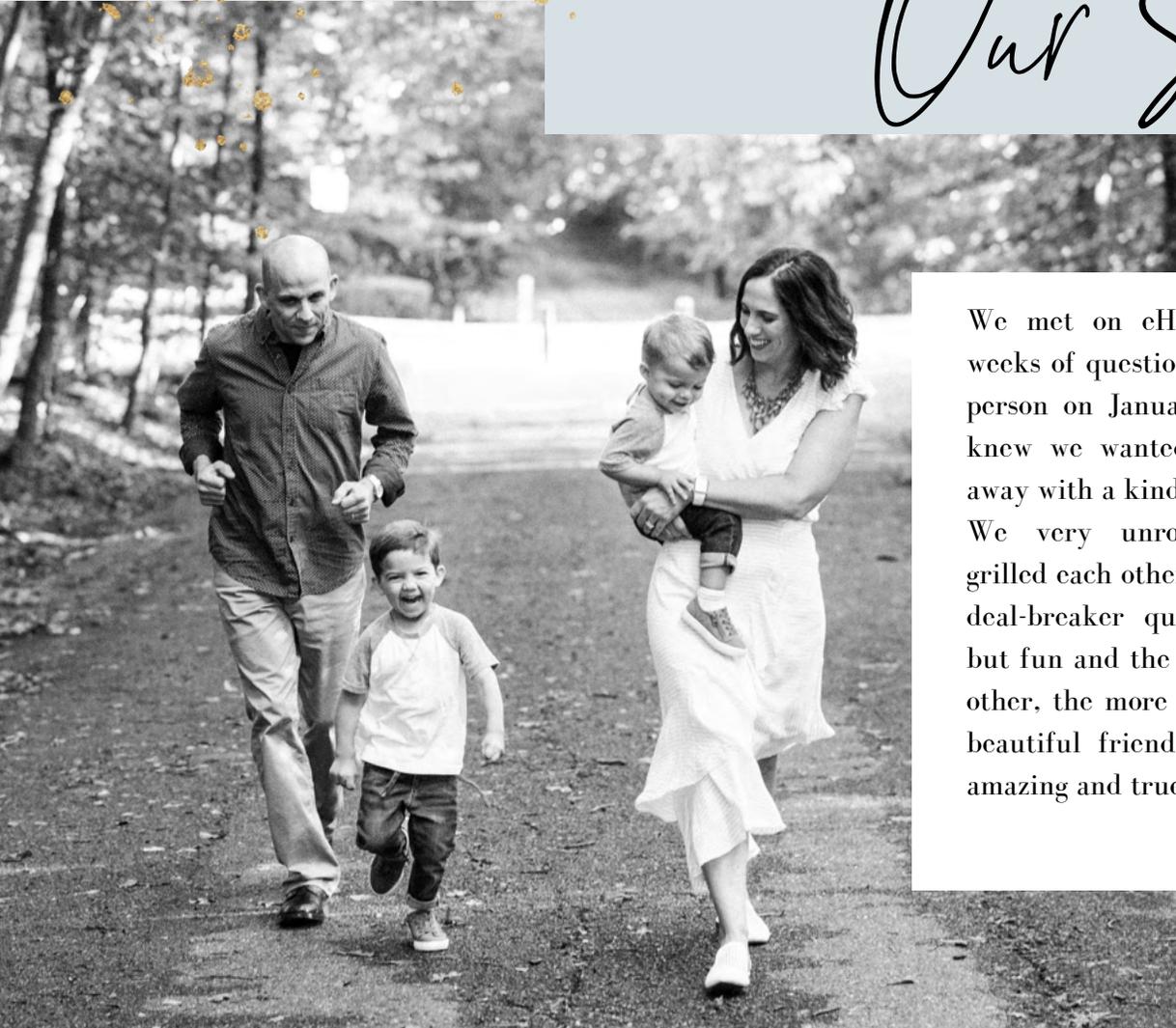
Thank you so much for taking the time to read our hearts on the pages of this book. We've been continually praying for you. We pray that you have been surrounded by love, support, and care in this season. Our hope for your baby is that they will be able to grow up in an environment that will allow their God-given talents and abilities to flourish. We also recognize this is not an easy decision for you and hope to get to know you so that you can have assurances, if you choose us, that your child will grow up in a home full of opportunity, laughter, and love. We are a total open book and if there is anything you would like to know we are always happy to share. You are the roots to your child and we would honor that throughout their entire lives. We hope we get to meet you and hear your heart as well and listen to all the dreams you have for your life and your baby.

WITH LOVE,

Eric & Jenn



Our Story

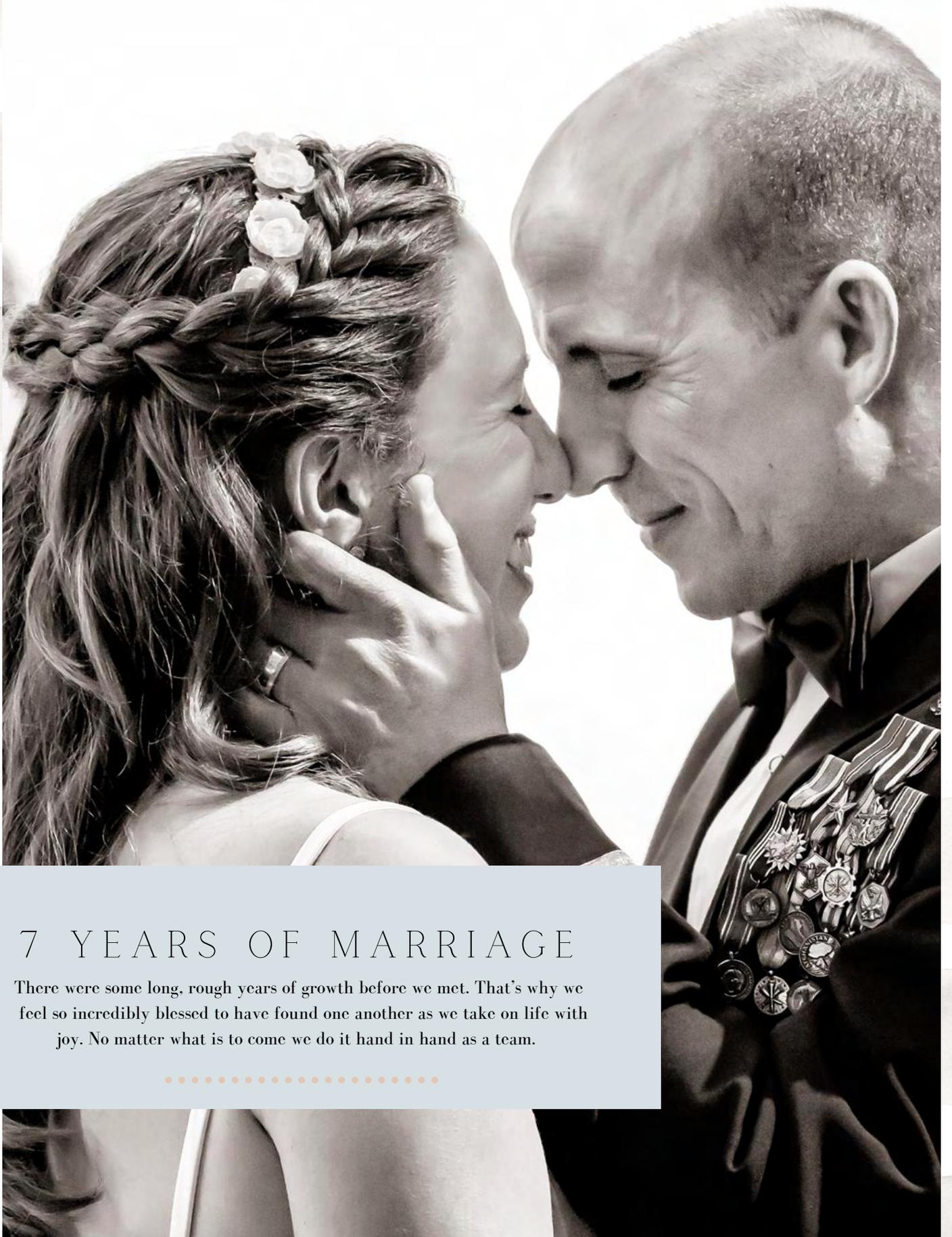


We met on eHarmony and after a few weeks of questions and phone calls, met in person on January 31, 2015. We both knew we wanted to start a family right away with a kind, trustworthy partner. We very unromantically (but gently), grilled each other for 2 weeks with intense, deal-breaker questions. It was relentless but fun and the more we knew about each other, the more the attraction grew into a beautiful friendship that turned into an amazing and true love.

WE SUPPORT EACH OTHER IN ALL WE DO

Our engagement evolved out of a talk in a park one sunny cool June afternoon. Our relationship had grown to a point where we knew we were going to get married, but just didn't know when. But, Eric popped the question, I said yes and we immediately called our families to give them the great news and went straight into wedding planning mode that night. We whipped together a wedding in 3 weeks and were married on the 4th of July.

We held the ceremony at our church and Eric's former pastor and his wife officiated the ceremony together. Jenn's black lab Mica was the ring bearer and stole the show and everyone's hearts as he ran down the center aisle. The reception was a quaint gathering of 50 of our closest friends and family at a local restaurant that has since become our favorite.



7 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

There were some long, rough years of growth before we met. That's why we feel so incredibly blessed to have found one another as we take on life with joy. No matter what is to come we do it hand in hand as a team.



Our Hearts For Adoption



WE LOVE BEING PARENTS AND TREASURE EVERY MOMENT

God put adoption on our hearts since before we met each other and ever since our first date. It was always our hope that to have two kids biologically and have the honor of adopting our third. We have been drawn to friendships with people who have adopted and have quite a few adoption stories in our families. To us adoption is two families coming together. We love being parents, and cannot wait to love another child and treasure them with our whole lives. As we cheer cheer them on throughout life.

We love big families. Jenn is used to the bustle of 17-23 elementary school kids in a classroom as a teacher. Eric grew up doing all the holidays with his large Italian, extended family. His Italian grandmother had 11 siblings! We have so enjoyed being a part of a large and loving family. We would love to hear your hopes and dreams for your baby and do all that we can to make sure they are supported and loved in that way. Our family has so much love to give and we would be so honored to come alongside you in this journey.



Because Eric will be transitioning from the military to a civilian job in the next two years, we plan on moving one more time to find a town to settle down in and establish roots. Our hope is to do this so our children will have long-time childhood friends like we did, some of whom we still keep in touch with today.

As a child of airline employees, Jenn has always had an enthusiasm for travel. As a world-traveled military man, Eric loves the perspective-broadening experiences he's had too. So we plan to travel with our kids as much as possible. Most of all, we want to enrich whatever the kids are learning in school. Local and regional field trips have been our mainstay while our children are little. As they grow and learn, we expect to branch out further and further to see the places they read about. Hopefully that culminates in high school or college with an overseas trip. We also hope to deep dive into our adopted child's culture and history, including travel to their ancestor's place in the world, if possible.

WE WANT OUR
CHILDREN TO NOT
ONLY HEAR OF THE
WORLD BUT TO SEE IT
AND EXPERIENCE IT

Because our kids will be in high school and college at about the same time as we will probably retire, we think that baby three will be our last child. We want to be parents who are present and make time with each of our children.

Meet

J
E
N
N



Funny - Kind - Smart - Nurturing

Before kids, I did a lot more reading for fun and meeting girlfriends for tea. Now that we have little ones, I do some gardening, puzzles, plan homeschool lessons/field trips, do a Bible study and a book club. We rarely watch TV these days and mostly stay in touch with friends and keep the grandparents up to date on the kids via social media.

MY WIFE JENN

SHE IS THE MOST INTENTIONAL AND PRESENT PERSON I KNOW



Jenn is the love of my life and my best friend. When we first met, I knew she was unlike anyone else I'd ever known. First and foremost, she's a godly woman who continually seeks to grow in the Lord. Second, she's a seasoned teacher which means she is very vested in childrens' futures. Third, she's a dog-lover which is huge in my book. Her dog Mica was a gentle animal who was about as perfect as a dog gets. I'm glad I was able to have a few years with him before he passed in 2019. I attribute Mica's temperament to how Jenn both trained and loved him. It's been said that if you want to know about a person quickly, look at their dog.

Jenn is a gentle woman, but is no wilting lily and will speak up if she feels she's being bulldozed. This makes her a great teammate because she desires harmony and is willing to talk it out to ensure everything is understood. Most importantly, she laughs at my dumb jokes and corny sense of humor. We have fun teasing each other, but never at the expense of the other person; rather, we laugh with one another. Humor is the oil in our engine; it keeps the friction down and makes things run very smoothly, even in tough times.

Jenn carries this gentleness over to our boys, but she's also able to provide direction and a little tough love when necessary. As a result, our boys are over-the-moon about their mommy. She spends a ton of time reading to them and teaching them all the basics, but allows a lot of free-play time as well. People continually compliment us on how well-behaved they are, which I give Jenn credit for because she's almost always with them.

Jenn was a public elementary school teacher for 18 years. She taught 1st-3rd grade. But when she had our boys, she became a full-time stay-at-home mother. She is present, patient, full of love, and active in each of our lives which makes our house a home.



Meet

E
R
I
C



Ambitious - Kind - Hardworking - Fun

Most of my free time is spent with my family. I have a personal philosophy that a father's place is with his family, so my hobbies revolve around being in the home such as playing the drums (sometimes with my boys) or doing self-study in the Bible. I love doing home improvement projects and fixing things around the house.



MY HUBBY ERIC

ERIC IS DRIVEN, KIND, AND IS THE BEST FATHER IN THE WORLD

Eric is very protective when it comes to our family. He's emotionally intelligent, and is a gifted creative. He can draw and draft beautifully. He loves the art of storytelling through film and he writes in many ways professionally, and hopes to write for TV or films someday.

His spiritual gift and love language is service. He looks ahead and gets all the big and little jobs done to smooth the path ahead. He is always serving our family with love and humility. He's a planner and teammate, he oils the machine of our daily lives. He is truly optimistic and kind. He keeps me encouraged, laughing, and moving forward on a daily basis. Even though he is driven and has high standards for himself, he is gracious with others.

Eric is an inspirational leader. His hard work, encouragement, and graciousness make him easy to work with. Our old church recognized this and asked him to be an elder. The military has also recognized him for leadership and being particularly devoted and hardworking. Eric's been regularly promoted and awarded medal upon medal for 32 years. When he's in formal uniform, I'm a little taken aback by his chest full of awards and that I'm the girl who gets to stand next to him.

As a daddy, Eric enjoys lots of engagement with the boys. There's wrestling, chess playing, snuggling, drumming, and legos which our boys absolutely love. When we're outside, they ride bikes on the driveway while Eric tinkers in the garage. At night, Eric snuggles with our boys to help them get to sleep and throughout the night whenever one of the boys is scared, Eric immediately jumps out of bed to reassure them and cuddles them back to sleep.

Eric has had the privilege of a long and successful military career in the Air Force that now allows him to work in positions that don't require him to deploy overseas away from the family. Thankfully, the Air Force now grants several weeks of paternity leave for airmen who adopt, and he can't wait to be home and bond when we welcome home a child.



Our Sweet Boys



Charlie

Wyatt is friendly, adventurous, curious, and his love language is time. Everyone he meets is his friend. Wyatt loves to build or act-out or draw stories he's read. Wyatt asks us questions about so many aspects of life, but most of all, he likes to put down his legos at the end of the day and read and snuggle.

Charlie is content and mellow, but also a giggley echo to Wyatt's every move. His love language is touch. He loves legos, dinosaurs, and is fascinated by babies. He is more likely to stop for a snuggle, and then go back to play time with brother. And every day he goes off by himself to do a puzzle or look at books.



Wyatt

WE LOVE HAVING FUN

LIVING EACH DAY WITH JOY



IN OUR FAMILY WE

01 Spend Time Together

Time together is what we loves most. Reading to the boys and traveling whenever possible brings us life.

02 Do Community

We love the community we have with our homeschool families, our connection at church, and enjoying time with our friends in our Bible study.

03 Passing On Our Faith

As a family we pray together, have daily Bible time, and believe in living with joy.

04 Go Outside

We love fresh air, hiking, and gardening. The boys love their jungle gym and sandbox in the backyard.

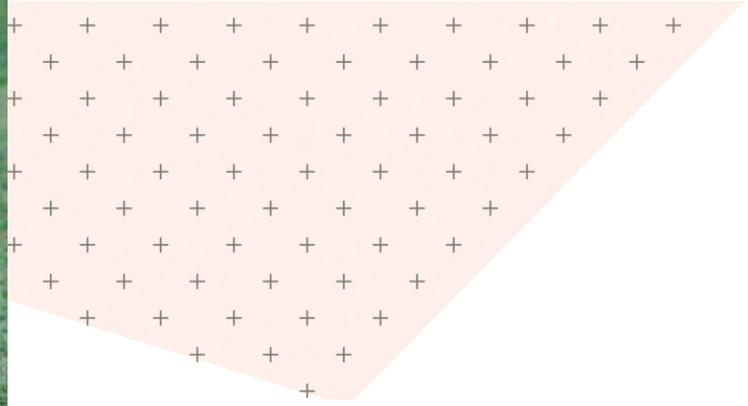


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Let's Go On An Adventure!
While we lived in Maryland our favorite adventures were with a homeschool hiking group and visiting the National Mall in DC. Now that we are in Georgia, we have enjoyed two trips to Disney World, a trip to Charlotte, SC, and a fishing field trip. We plan to do the Kennedy Space Center and Colorado soon.

— ” —

We Value Experiences Over Things





Home Sweet Home

Our home is a two-story 5-bed, 3-bathroom home in Georgia. It was built in 2016 as part of a 100-home neighborhood. Most of our day is spent on the first floor where we have a great room that combines the kitchen and living room. The boys have a separate playroom and Eric has converted one of the rooms into a home office when he works from home on occasion. A very large fenced off backyard hosts a large playset with a small fort, slide, monkeybars, climbing wall and of course - swings! There's also a sandbox as well as a garden that Jenn maintains. As a family, we try to spend as much time in the backyard as we can.

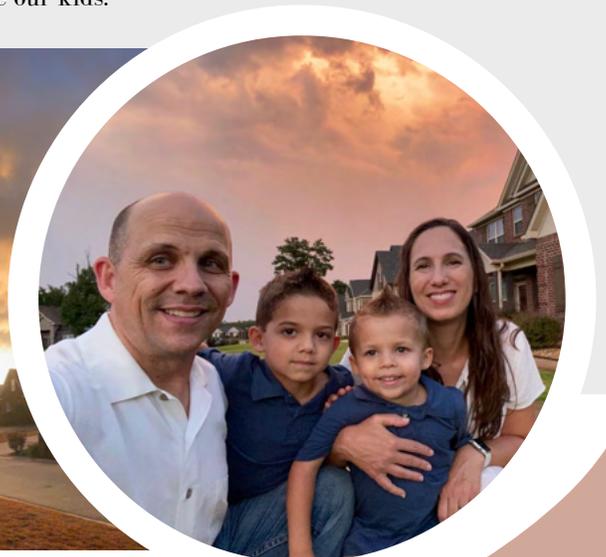
The boys get a lot of free-play time and we've designed our home to be very safe and secure. Grandma Laura says our house looks like a preschool. And it does. There are loads of books, open-ended toys, a train table, and homeschool art projects posted in the dining room and playroom. You can tell our kids are our priority. The boys love to help and we try to let them do as much as they feel brave enough to take on, especially cooking, cleaning, gardening. If they want to dig in, we let them (in a safe, kid-friendly way). We want them to feel confident and capable through real tasks, real challenges, and real successes.



Home is wherever we
are together



The neighborhood we live in is a quiet little suburb with a great mix of ethnicities where we enjoy taking walks with the boys. When we first arrived, almost every neighbor in the adjoining lots came to introduce themselves. The neighborhood has a homeowners association that is very low key and everyone looks out for each other. We feel like this is a perfect and safe place to raise our kids.



Our Loving Family

Eric grew up with a large extended family who were all very close and came together several times a year. The gatherings were lively, loud and exciting to be around, and he carries fond memories of those days. He also has several adoptions in his immediate and extended family and has had extensive conversations with his step-mom and cousin about what made their relationship with their adoptive parents so strong, as well as with his sister about being an adoptive parent. They are all very supportive of us adopting and I know when we welcome home a child they will be involved in their lives in an incredible way.

On Jenn's side, the family gatherings at her mom's often include an enthusiastic group of cousins (9, 5, 3, and 4 years old). A big bonus is Eric and Jenn's extended family get along so well, so we can have both sides of the family together for the holidays and birthdays. We love getting together with our siblings too and are very grateful that both our extended families have blended well together; large family gatherings are fun and memorable!





Our family is built on a foundation of faith. We welcome people as they are and have learned to throw aside expectations/stereotypes and enjoy getting to know people from a genuine perspective. Our hope is to raise our children to be loving people who can always make someone feel welcome and understood through thick and thin. We do church, we get involved, but also have both been hurt by churches. So, we tie our faith and trust more closely to God than people. We love people... but we keep God first!

Our Faith



Jenn has a passion for homeschooling with Classical Christian education, and plans to continue it either at home or in private school TK-12. The logic, organization, and depth of the Classical Conversations is so far beyond what we've seen in public schools. It's just so exciting to see children develop skills that we only ever saw in college (logic and latin). And done in a really kid-friendly way.

We have 529 College Savings Plans for each of our children which are good not only for traditional college, or graduate school, but also for trade schools and other non-collegiate training and education. Our desire is to support each of our children in discovering God's calling for their life and pursue it with a passion.

Education



Traditions

We cherish every
moment as a family

WE LOVE MAKING MEMORIES AND CREATING FUN
TRADITIONS WE ALL LOOK FORWARD TOO!

Birthdays- October for both the boys: often pumpkin themed, celebrated together with the neighbors and school friends. Little separate dinners out for their individual birthdays. November for Eric and Jenn: often on or around Thanksgiving. Besides a dinner or date out, Jenn's treat is often to not cook for the day; Eric's treat is often to not do any dishes. (This tradition started on Mother's and Father's Days over the last year or two).

Halloween- The kids dress up and trick-or-treat. A week or two before we go to a harvest or pumpkin event/farm.

Thanksgiving- We write down our gratitudes from A-Z during that Wednesday and Thursday. We have holiday and history books for their ages and from Jenn's old classroom for all the holidays.

Christmas- We do advent stories and pin a picture on an advent string for the month. The boys love the Storybook Bible chapter, but mostly they love it when Eric lifts them up to put the picture for the story on its clip. Besides a regular live tree, we have a small artificial tree for the playroom and soft ornaments. The boys spend the month redecorating this "yes-yes tree" almost daily. And then there is the Little People Nativity Set. That is out and well loved for the whole month also. For the last four years, since we are far from family, we spend both Christmas Eve and Christmas day with our close friends.

Sick Day Menu- Matzo ball chicken noodle soup, lemon-honey-ginger tea, and peanut butter toast!





Thank You

With all our heart, we hope the best for you, whatever that may be. If you decide to parent, with everything in us, we pray God's blessings on that. If you choose us to raise your sweet baby, we commit to walking with your child, and you, through all the blessings and struggles to heal and become a patch-work family that God has brought together for the good. We aren't perfect. We don't have all the answers to heal everything. But we will be a presence. We will love and learn and go through it with you and your precious one. We will always speak about you in a positive light, as a woman who chose life and picked us carefully to care for them. We pray and trust that God will give you peace and wisdom throughout your situation, and that you will find support and love.

WITH LOVE,

Eric & Jenn



