GREGand ERIKA



## Hi There!

Thank you for taking the time to look through our profile. While everything about us can't be contained in these pages, we hope that you will feel like you know us and see that we are a loving, fun, and supportive family. And we can't wait to add a child to our family. The most important part of our lives is our faith and we are praying that you will find clarity and peace as you continue through these pages. While we don't know all that you are feeling in this moment, we thank you for being here.

OUR DESIRE IS TO PROVIDE THE LOVE AND SUPPORT YOU AND YOUR BABY NEED, NO MATTER WHAT DECISION YOU MAKE.

Greg and Erika

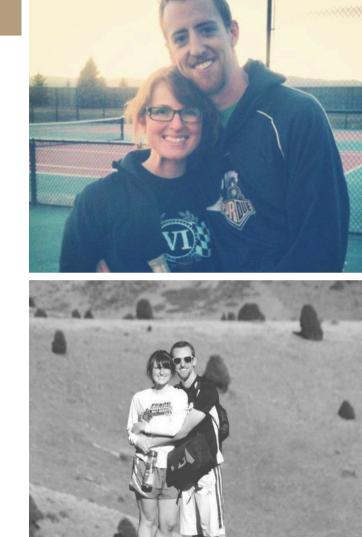
The story of us

We met "officially" during our time at Purdue University through our churches college ministry.

Erika vividly remembers meeting Greg prior to college, but Greg didn't recall that until after their first date. Erika keenly remembers that first meeting because afterward, she asked her brother (friends with Greg) whether or not he had a girlfriend (spoiler alert: he did at the time). Greg's lively and fun loving personality made him easy to be around and his dedication to serving others and involvement in church is what initially attracted her to him. It didn't take too long into dating before we knew that marriage wasn't an "if" but a "when". On a Thanksgiving trip back to his home state of Colorado, Greg proposed. He asked the question after a run at Red Rocks Amphitheater.

THE FOLLOWING SUMMER, SURROUNDED BY OUR CLOSEST FAMILY AND FRIENDS, IN ERIKA'S PARENTS' BACKYARD, WE COMMITTED TO SPENDING FOREVER TOGETHER. WE'VE BEEN MARRIED FOR 11 YEARS AND PRAY FOR MANY MORE SHARING ALL THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF LIFE TOGETHER.

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Since we were dating, we've talked about our desire to adopt.

What led us to adoption?

Erika's family adopted her youngest sister internationally when Erika was 13 years old and that began a decades-long tie to adoption. Since then, Erika & Greg have walked alongside one of Erika's sisters as she & her family have adopted four times. Our heart for adoption ultimately comes from our relationship with Christ and our love for others. We believe that adoption is God's idea and the opportunity to adopt provides us with additional avenues to love.

WHILE UP TO THIS TIME, WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO BIOLOGICALLY HAVE CHILDREN, ADOPTION WAS NEVER A SECONDARY WAY TO LOVE AND GROW OUR FAMILY.

Meet Erika

WRITTEN BY GREG

Erika is a rare combination of determined entrepreneur, who bears the sole responsibility for her wedding photography business, and joyful, child-like playfulness. Everyone notices immediately that she is a great conversationalist who knows how to get to know someone new whether they are old or young. But at any gathering where adults and kids are present it won't be long before her imagination and energy is running wild with the kids, and so she is often the most envied attendee at a child's birthday party! No question about it, she is extremely gifted with children, but that's not because she is irresponsible or can't hang with the adults! It will be a lot of fun to see her as mom. Her creative juices haven't been dormant without children. As a full-time wedding photographer, she knows how to capture the beauty of relationships as well as the beauty of the location. She also loves to curate the perfect look inside the home. She has made a beautiful home even while being frugal and relying on an impressive knack of resourcefulness, which Greg really appreciates!

By far Erika's best quality is her loyalty and love which makes her committed to solving problems and continuing to grow the relationship with friends, family and me.



Always the first to make anyone he is around laugh, Greg is quick-witted and iconic for his catchphrases and humor. People are his favorite hobby and whenever someone is in need, he is never too busy to stop and make time to help, talk, and serve. He is also one of the most patient and longsuffering people who wants to see everyone around him doing well. From his undergrad in engineering to seminary and his role now as a pastor and counselor, his ability to think critically to solve problems and be compassionate makes him someone others trust. All of these qualities that make him an exceptional husband and friend I believe will also make him an incredible dad. At family gatherings, whenever nieces or nephews ask adults to join in their play, he is quick to get up from what he is doing and spend time with them.

Since our first date, he has spoken about a family and I can't wait for him to fearlessly step into a new role like he has done so faithfully in the past.

## SAY HELLO TO OUR CAT, Lestiel

She is the first to greet us at the door when we come home and loves to take part in Sunday afternoon naps. She adds so much joy to our lives and her cuddles while we talk on the couch or watch a movie are the best. Whenever friends' kids come over she is kind and warms up to them. We can't wait for her to continue being a part of our growing family.





Home Sweet Home

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SHARE A PLACE WE LOVE SO MUCH WITH A CHILD - AS THEY GROW UP EXPLORING THE PROPERTY AND BEAUTY OF NATURE WITH THEM AND BEING A PART OF OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY.

Built in 1949, we love our stone ranch. Our home sits on lots of acreage with woods and a pond. With 4 bedrooms and 3 baths, we love to have friends and family stay with us and we're excited to expand our family in this home. While being on acreage doesn't put us in a neighborhood, our area is very safe and welcoming and the neighbors on our road love to be active walking and biking. We're a short drive from our city's downtown and Purdue University where we love to try different cuisines, attend festivals, and shop locally.

We Cove to...

- be outdoors
- spend time with family
- serve at church
- have friends over
- play pickle ball
- study the Bible

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• try new food & cuisines

r Friends





Many of our friends have also gone through the adoption process or are adult adoptees themselves. So, our group is diverse from different backgrounds, races, and nationalities. We love to have friends over for dinner or bbq, play pickleball, travel together, go to the farmer's market, and serve at church together.

OUR FRIENDS HAVE BEEN SO SUPPORTIVE OF THE ADOPTION PROCESS - BEING QUICK TO PRAY AND ASK QUESTIONS TO KNOW HOW BEST TO HELP.

Our Community

WE LOVE THE COMMUNITY WE LIVE IN - LAFAYETTE IS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE WITH A LARGE WORLD-RENOWNED UNIVERSITY THAT BRINGS PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TO US. PURDUE GAVE US NOT ONLY OUR DEGREES, BUT BRINGS ENERGY, DINING AND EVENTS THAT A TOWN LIKE LAFAYETTE WOULD RARELY SEE OTHERWISE.

We have lots of local parks (our favorite is with pickleball courts and a big playground) and trails to walk and bike ride. Erika is also engaged in the local business community as a small business owner and loves to invest in other aspiring business owners through mentorship. The church where Greg is a pastor is a huge part of our community. We often hang out with church friends over dinner, but also serve alongside them in the community. Greg loves to counsel folks in the community who need help through our church's counseling ministry while Erika sings on the worship team.









Our Family

Erika's family is large with the majority living nearby. She has 4 siblings and 9 nieces and nephews. Her parents live 10 minutes away and love to make opportunities for the whole family to spend time together – the week between Christmas and New Year's we spend all together at a cabin and the kids love building forts, riding horses, working on art projects, etc.. Many Sunday afternoon lunches are shared at her parent's home with her grandmother joining in the fun too. Her family loves big and is very affectionate and welcoming.





Greg's family is not nearly the size of Erika's! Greg has one brother - his best friend growing up and all through college. While they no longer live in the same house, or state, they are still close. Greg's parents along with his brother, sister-in-law, and 3 kids live in Littleton, CO. It's nice that they live in the same city so that when we visit we can see them all. Growing up, board games and card games of all sorts would keep us laughing and competitive, and now years later, they are still a part of enjoying time together. And of course, in the wintertime in Colorado, we have to make it to the ski slopes! Greg and his brother started to learn skiing at 3 years old with their parents, so perhaps that's in our children's future as well.

## WE LOVE ADVENTURE



Erika LOVES to travel. She gets to travel with her photography business and loves getting to photograph new places. Greg loves to join when his schedule allows! Puerto Rico is probably one of the most amazing trips we've had together. We got to go to a beach in Culebra as well as the rainforest - we loved swimming in the waterfalls! We also got to take a recent trip to South Carolina and loved our time in Charleston and on Fripp Island. Being outdoors and active on trips is our favorite. A lot of our travel is to see family. So, we love going to Colorado and up to the mountains. We can't wait to share special places with our family as it grows!

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13











Facts about us!

- Erika is a very good and creative cook and in the first 2-3 years of marriage never repeated a dinner!
- Both Erika and Greg graduated from Purdue with Engineering degrees, but neither of us are in the engineering field today.
- Erika worked at a radio station in high school and was "on air" multiple times.
- Greg went to Purdue on a bowling scholarship.
- Erika loves to garden and landscape.
- With cucumbers from the garden, we love to make spicy pickles.
- On the subject of pickles...we recently have become amateur pickleballers.
- We are very adventurous eaters and love different ethnic food.
- Greg's favorite hobby is people.
- Erika's love of hiking, camping and the outdoors has taken her to 17 National Parks.
- Erika puts on average 25,000 miles per year on her Toyota RAV4.
- Until 2024 we were sad Purdue Basketball fans.

Aur Promises

TO YOU AND YOUR CHILD

We promise to unconditionally love your child as God has loved us.

We promise to provide a home that encourages, supports, and nurtures your child to grow up into the person that the Lord created them to be and seek to help them learn healthy lifelong habits and not shy away from challenges or new experiences.

We promise to parent your child out of love and truth. We will foster honest and uplifting thoughts and conversations about you.

We promise to cultivate a relationship with you.

If you are open to it, we would love to have 2-4 visits with you per year and are open to traveling to the city where you live as well as inviting you to come to us. Our hope would be to be able to text you updates, and photos and include you on shared albums (Erika is a photographer so there will be lots of photos!).

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us. We hope this has given you a glimpse into who we are and our heart for adoption.

With love,

Greg & Erika

