

MATT & CARISSA



THANK YOU

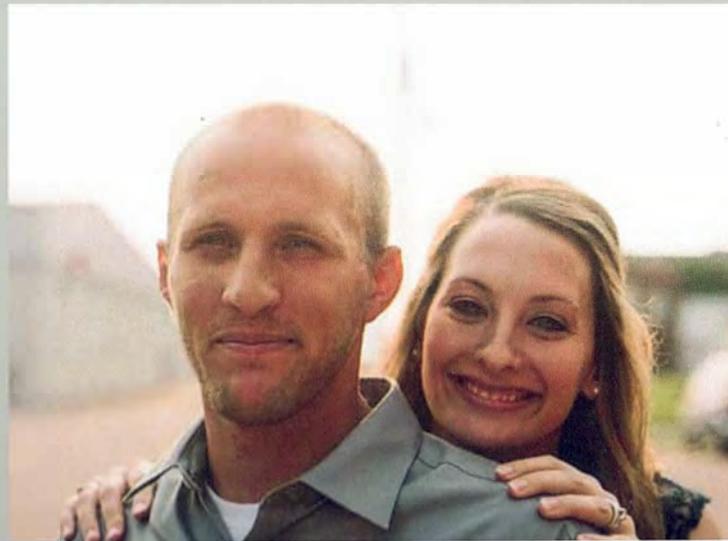
THANK YOU for taking the time to get to know us. We realize that we could never understand what you are feeling, but we are actively praying for you and your child. We thank you for considering the blessing of adoption.

We hope that this book can be a glimpse into who we are, what we care about and just how excited we are to continue to grow our family in a Christian home full of love, support and daily adventures.

We will continue to pray for you and your child and look forward to meeting you.

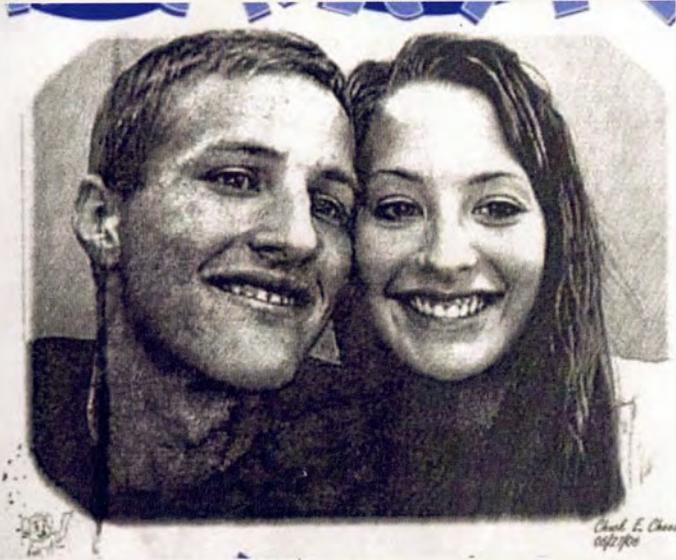
So much love,

Matt & Carissa

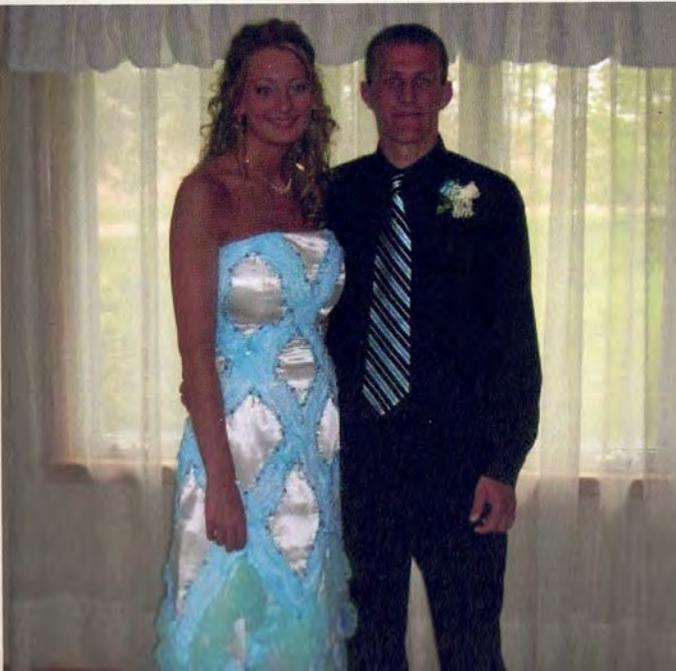


OUR STORY

We met when we were in high school and continued to date throughout college. As two young people growing up, we ultimately figured out who we each were as individuals and as a couple earlier than some.



We both had great childhoods and grew up in homes full of love, support and a deep understanding of the Lord. These deep-rooted values have carried on in our relationship, and now as we parent together, we continue to exemplify these same values for our children.



When the idea of starting a family entered our discussions, we had each already desired a big family whether biological or through adoption. After biologically beginning our family, the desire to adopt has constantly remained. We have so much love to offer, and each of our children are so excited to continue to grow our family.

It is important to each of us that we attend church together each week with the kids attending a weekly CCD class. In our home, we understand the most important relationship is with God, and we want the kids to know that relationship and continue to build it from a young age.

We do enjoy an occasional date night to the grocery store or out to eat with friends, or even a vacation from time to time to keep us on the same page and to continue to grow our relationship together as a couple.

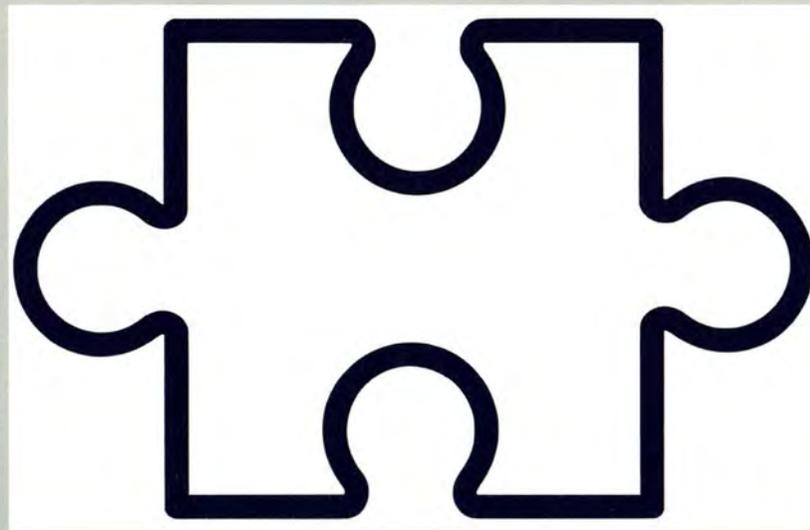


OUR FAMILY

Like a jigsaw puzzle, every member of our family is unique and brings something different and wonderful to our mix.

Faith, extended families, home, pets, jobs and life experiences and opportunities add even more color and flair to the family we have created. We laugh, play hard, pray even harder, and LOVE each other and God--this is the glue. But, we know that our puzzle isn't complete yet.

Through continued prayer, we hope to fill our missing piece.





MEET CARISSA...as told by Matt

Carissa is the glue that holds the family puzzle together. She puts her heart and soul into everything, especially the family.

She loves helping the kids with sports and activities and is the chauffeur most days of the week. She's always cold so loves to snuggle with a warm blanket and a kid or two. She also really enjoys the chance for a date night out.

She works as a realtor helping people achieve their goals of home ownership.

Her passions are God, family, friends, baking sourdough, gardening, exercising, and providing her family with farm-fresh meals. Her biggest passion is proving me wrong. ;)

Even after being together for over twenty years and being proven wrong many times, I still look forward to coming home to my rock each and every day.



MEET MATT...as told by Carissa



Matt is a go-getter. He gives his all in everything he does. He has owned and operated his own business since we were first married and also farms. Our businesses overlap at times so we work together often, and that is a highlight.

He puts his faith first by serving as a eucharistic minister in our parish, attending mass each week as a family and living life how God would want.

He pours energy into our marriage and our children every single day.

He coaches multiple teams for the kids, dresses up for Halloween in whatever costume the kids choose and is steadfast in his commitment to our family.



P & J

P & J are our oldest children. They are the leaders of our pack and are extremely helpful in various aspects. P is a huge help in our home. She loves to cook and experiment with new recipes. She is in 4-H, various sports, dance, and excels at school. She is so excited at the opportunity to add a new family member.

J is also a large help. He cares for our calves, chickens and other animals on our hobby farm. He helps Matt on the farm and is also active in 4-H and various sports. He has a tender heart and a love for the Green Bay Packers.



T & A

T & A are our middle children. They are each kind and caring but have extremely different personalities. T is all sports and being active at all times. She started volleyball and basketball this year and loves the intensity and competition. She loves helping J with animal chores and takes piano lessons from her grandma.

A loves school and arts and crafts. She is always coloring or painting and has the neatest handwriting of anyone in our house. She also has a huge love for babies, her little brother and her younger cousins.



C & R

C & R are our youngest children. C is a girly-girl through and through. She hasn't met a fur coat or vest she doesn't love, and sparkle is her favorite color. C loves to take ballet, tap and pom classes and started school this fall.



R loves his big siblings. They take great care of him. He loves farming with dad, playing with his various farm equipment at home and talking about farming. He does not miss a chance to ride in any farm equipment, especially the tractor and combine. He started preschool this year and enjoys attending with his buddies and cousin.

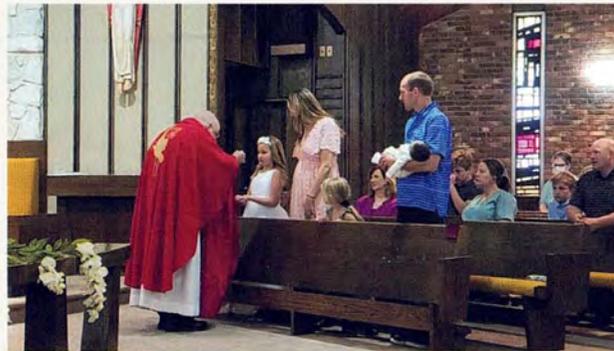


OUR CHURCH

Our faith and relationship with God are extremely important to us. We attend weekly mass and weekly CCD classes, and we serve in various capacities.

Our kids love being part of our yearly Christmas program and singing in the children's choir. We have a very tight-knit church family built up of our own family members and other wonderful community members who feel like family.

Our goal is to live out our faith every day and be an example for our children.



We live on an acreage outside of a small town with a tight-knit community. We both grew up in this community and attended school there as well.

We have a workshop on our property where Matt works building cabinets.

We have a barn for our animals which consist of calves, chickens and a large rooster named Patrick.

Matt built the kids a large play set in the backyard, and there's an in-ground trampoline. Some of our favorite activities are riding bikes up and down the driveway, playing baseball in the yard and sledding during the winter.



OUR HOME



OUR PETS

Our pets mean a lot to us. Cooper is our dog. He's four and so good with the kids.

We always have a few kitties around the farm, and the youngest two kids really seem to love playing with them.

All four of our older kids have shown bucket calves at the fair and J showed our rooster last year for the first time.

We like to collect fresh eggs from the hens as well.





MEET MATT'S FAMILY

Matt grew up in a very close family with great parents. He is one of four boys and has a younger sister.

All siblings and parents live within a five-mile radius of each other.

Faith was a fundamental part of Matt's childhood, and that has carried through his entire family as they've become adults.



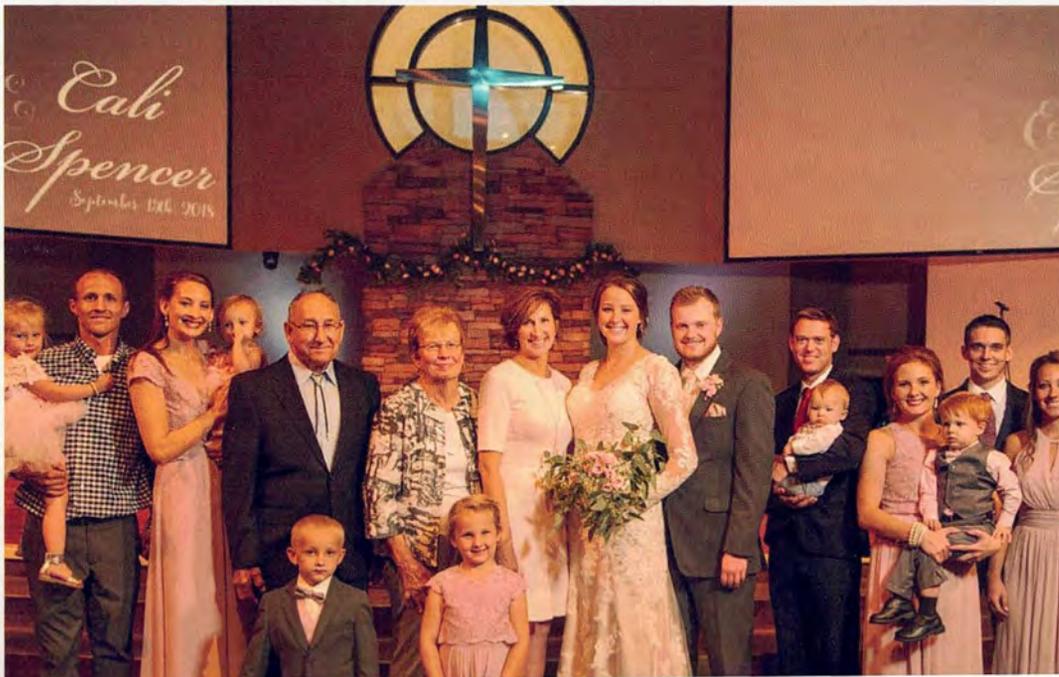
MEET CARISSA'S FAMILY

Carissa is the second of four girls. She grew up with very loving parents.

Her childhood was centered around family. Birthday parties, Christmas, Thanksgiving, and just hanging out together are special times Carissa enjoys with them today.

She and her sisters have always been close and are continuing that relationship with their children--the kids love cousin time!

Grandma teaches at the school where the kids attend, and she gives them piano lessons as well.



OUR FAMILY TRADITIONS

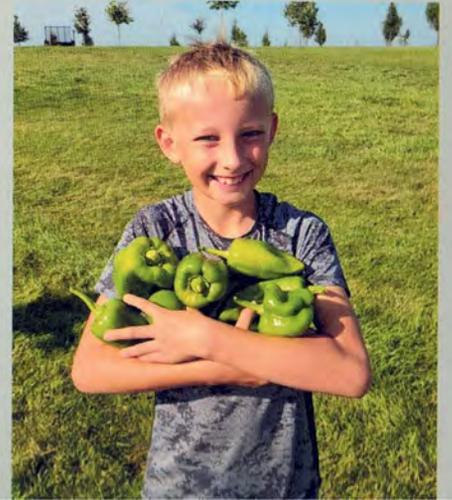
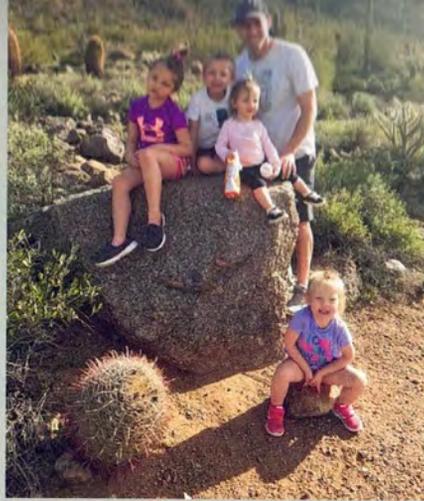
We love to be active and do things together as a family.

Each spring we plant a large garden at our house. We can the produce and that feeds us until the next summer. Spring always brings baby kitties and those are a favorite! We love to ride 4-wheelers, bikes, hike local trails, and walk on our new school track.

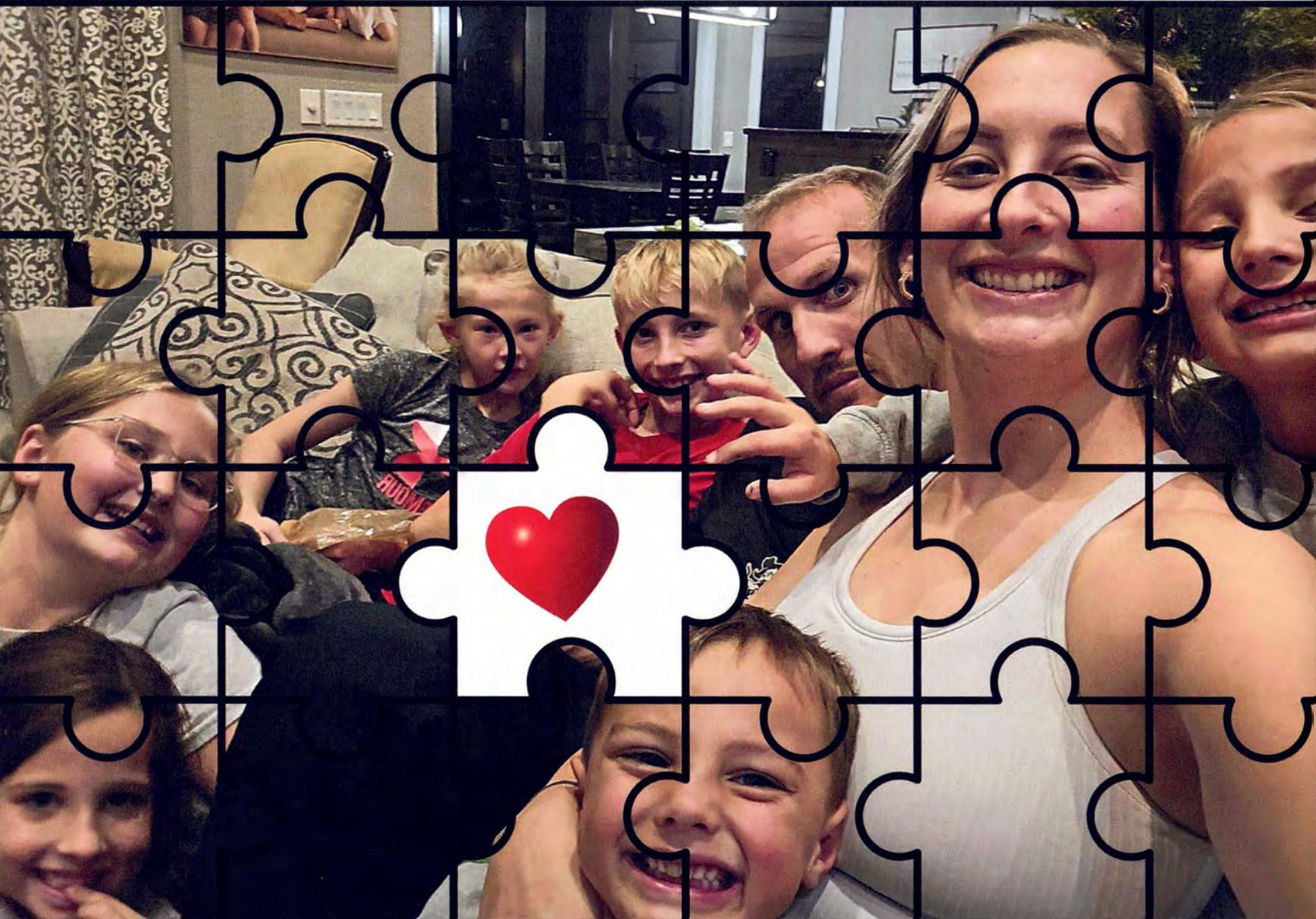
We spend time at various sporting events, and our local county fair-that is a favorite! We try to take a vacation every summer with the whole family to wrap up the end of summer before school starts.

Our favorite winter activity is picking out and cutting down our Christmas tree.





OUR MISSING PIECE



OUR PROMISE TO YOU

We both want to thank you again for taking the time to get to know us. This book is only a glimpse into who we are. We hope we get the privilege to meet you.

We promise to love and support your child no matter what.

We promise to raise your child to know the Lord. We will continue to be active members in our parish and fill our home with God's love.

We promise to continue to pray for you and your child.

We promise to love your child unconditionally with our whole hearts and to welcome them with open arms.

Thank you so much.

With love,

Matt & Carissa



"We love because he first loved us." - 1 John 4:19





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