

# Tyler and Carrie



# Welcome!



December 2023

We are a quiet and slightly nerdy family of three. Our home is full of love, laughter, and play and we are looking forward to increasing in that as our family grows.

# About Tyler (from Carrie)

Howdy!

I am so happy to introduce you to my husband, Tyler!

One of the first things that attracted me to him, and that I want to make sure you know, is that he is a patient man. He is a man of love and kindness and of course he has passions, quite a few even, such as golf. But it is his patience that always astounds me and he shows this same quiet, peaceful and gentle attitude towards others and life.

Tyler is a wonderful father, quick to laugh, always ready to make time for our son and a source of calm strength in what can be crazy days with a toddler. He shares his passions with Caleb by playing sports with him, reading books (they both love to learn) and cooking and eating together (both of them also love to eat).

Tyler is the rock in our family, a man we can look to for wisdom, dependability and help.



Tyler readying to tee up in Wisconsin  
2019

# About Carrie (from Tyler)



I wake up every morning knowing that Carrie has my back. She rejoices when I am happy, comforts me when I am stressed, builds me up when I am sad, and laughs as we share a special inside joke. That is the woman I fell in love with and married - fiercely loyal yet kindhearted, with a mischievous streak and a spunkiness that is beyond compare, and full of faith.

Carrie is an amazing mother to Caleb! She continually emphasizes learning through reading and playtime, and one favorite activity is coloring with chalk on the sidewalk. Carrie also takes Caleb to story time at our local library and swim classes at the local pool. Food is a shared passion in our family, and Carrie whips up healthy and delicious meals that we enjoy together.

Carrie is the biggest advocate for our family and always fights for what is right. She teaches and corrects Caleb with gentleness and positive reinforcement. Her steadfastness and love hold our family together.

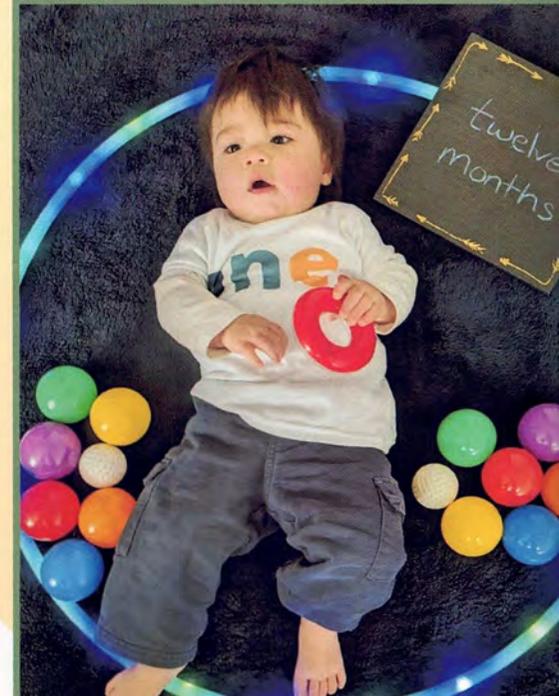
Carrie relaying the recipe to Tyler in our kitchen.

# About Caleb

Caleb was born in early November 2022. We got the call that we had been chosen by his birth mother 5 days after he was born. About 3 hours after that call, we held our son for the first time.

Caleb is a very curious little boy who studies everything before diving into the fun. He loves reading, trains, cars (or anything with wheels), running and eating.

Caleb was born in Iowa. He was born about two months early, so we were in the hospital for a couple weeks.



# Us and Our Marriage



We met in 2010, while we were both graduate students in Chemistry. Tyler was shy at first - he had never dated and didn't know how to talk to girls! He eventually asked Carrie out in October 2011, and after a brief courtship, we married in 2013. Since then, we have lived in Texas, Indiana, and Illinois. While we have traveled for work and for pleasure, we love being together at home as a family best of all.

Carrie was born and raised in Texas.  
Tyler was born in Pennsylvania, but grew up in Iowa.

Faith is the cornerstone of our relationship. We attend church, read family devotions, and pray together regularly. From this flows service to each other and building each other up in love. We love simply spending time together. We laugh often and share many inside jokes, usually from our favorite TV shows. Carrie has taught Tyler how to be more observant and emotionally intelligent. She fights for him and always pushes him to be his best. Tyler has taught Carrie patience and how to not get as worked up over things out of her control. We communicate well and resolve differences through compromise and conversation. We make decisions as a team and respect each others' intelligence and opinions. When we disagree, we are quick to seek forgiveness and to provide that forgiveness.



February 2021

# Our Family Life

Our typical week together includes meals together, church, programs at the library for Caleb, walks, and lots of playing and laughing.

We believe that a home is a space to be lived in and enjoyed and that is often filled with laughter. Often this means there are toys and books filling our living room space!

Tyler and Carrie both started swimming at a young age and have continued that tradition with Caleb.



March 2024



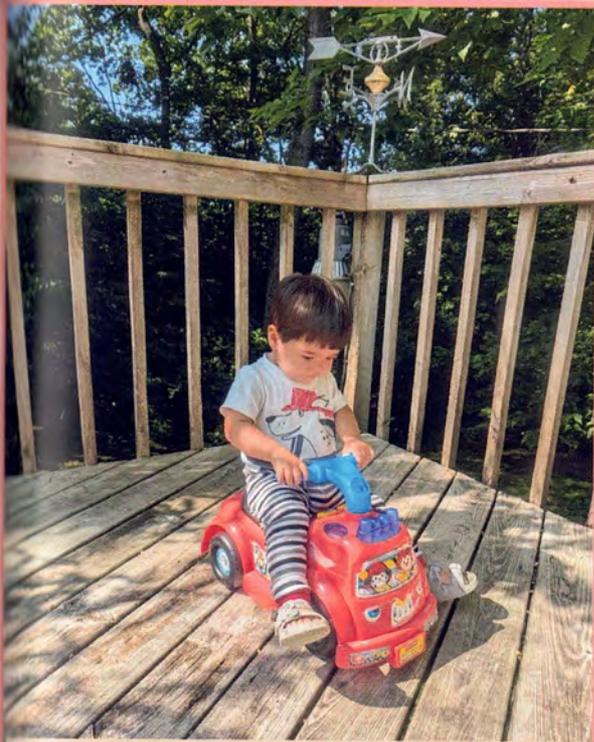
Caleb in Parent-Tot class with Carrie at 7 months old



Caleb's first trip to the Zoo!



Caleb playing outside of our house



Caleb playing on our back deck



Playtime with friends



Easter 2024



Carrie's family at an engagement party for Carrie's brother and his fiancée



Tyler's family celebrating with us

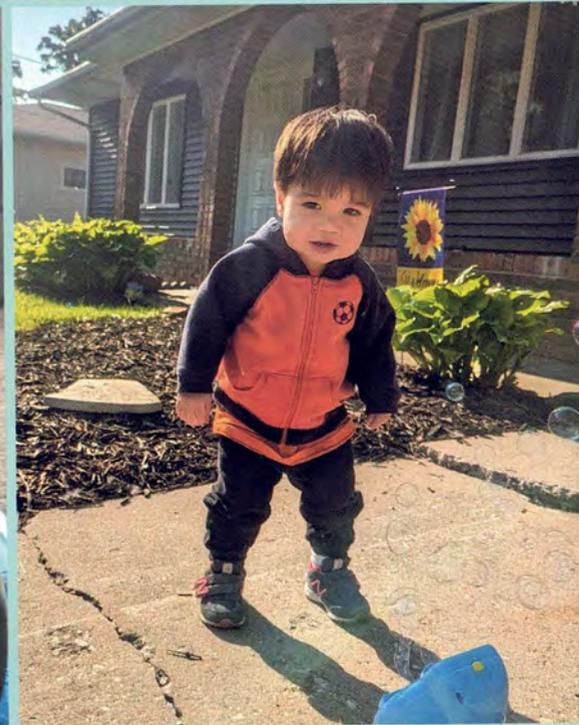
# Parenting

As parents, we want to keep our children safe while nurturing their body, mind and soul.

Honesty is how we approach situations with each other and raising our children, while being aware of age appropriate communication. To build and maintain trust, it means being willing to say when you don't know and when a child is not old enough to know everything.

Education is really important to us and we want to share that love of learning with our kids, which means making it fun. From experiments to projects, surrounding them with books and experiences, we plan to encourage their own curiosity. Books are a big part of our days!

We encourage exploring our surroundings!

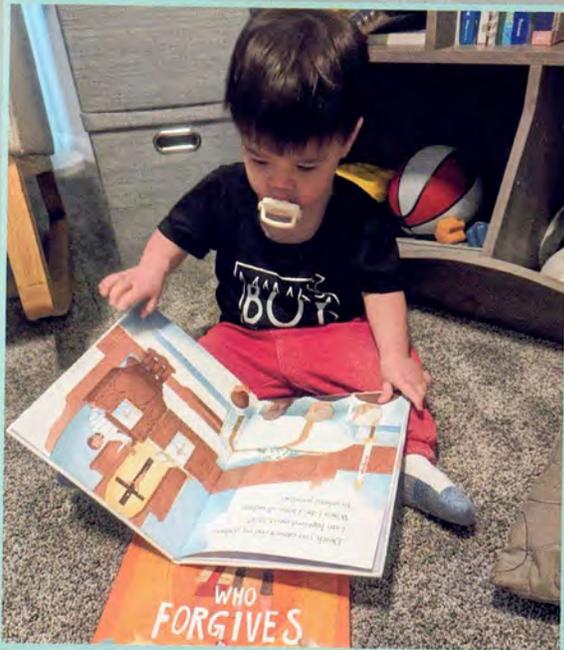


Pictures in and outside our home

Routines are important and provide structure and comfort to a child's life. As part of our daily routines, we: have family meal times, pray together, read together, as well as having a bed time routine.

No child is perfect and shouldn't be expected to be so! We believe punishment should fit and reflect the "crime". One example is removing a toy that our son is using to hit others with. As a child and teen, Carrie's mom gave her 'do overs', usually in the case of arguing instead of obeying, and that is something we would also implement for older kids so they can learn to correct their own behavior as they grow in responsibility for their actions.

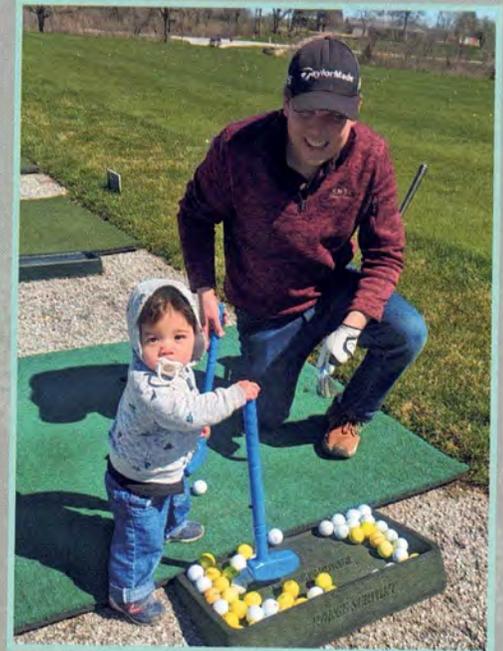
We both grew up involved in sports, although Carrie was never athletic, and think that the social and physical interactions from that are very important to a child's total development.



Caleb often picks out his own books for us to read together

Carrie couldn't read until 2nd grade and knows what a struggle learning can be. She also learned how important parents are in encouraging their children and meeting them where they are.

Faith, science, and the arts are core components of our child's education. We believe that the school and the church are both supports in educating our children, but that learning begins at home. As a child, Tyler enjoyed getting help from his father on homework, and looks forward to doing the



We believe in getting on a child's level, not

# Our Home and Work Life

We have a three bedroom house. One room for Caleb, one for us, a guest room, and there is also an office that we can convert to another bedroom when the kids are older.



Caleb's room—pictures painted by family members



Strolling around our neighborhood



Outside our home after the snow

Tyler works typical business hours as a Health Physicist. He travels on occasion, a couple times a year. His favorite part of work is being hands-on in the laboratory and teaching others. He has a Bachelors of Science in Chemistry and a Ph.D. in Chemistry. Carrie has a Bachelors of Science in Chemistry and a Masters in Chemistry, and she has taught collegiate chemistry labs and classes. Currently she is happily at home with Caleb.



Caleb at a local museum



Chemist

# Faith and Church Life

Our faith is very important to both of us and an integral part of our lives. We cling to the grace that is the gift of forgiveness through faith alone, not through our own actions, but through Jesus' death and resurrection.

When we moved here in 2018, we carefully chose our church, one that we found to be a very welcoming small-to-medium-sized congregation belonging to the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. We attend church regularly as a family on Sundays and other special services.

Tyler is a talented flutist who plays in special services a couple times a year. Tyler is also an Elder in the congregation. Carrie and Tyler are involved in helping with the youth group.

We believe in infant baptism and that one baptism is valid for the forgiveness of sins. As our children grow, we plan that they will attend Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and other activities that help them grow in their own faith.



Christ-Centered Marriage



Caleb's baptism in 2022

Caleb pictured with our Pastor and his Godmother.



Tyler playing flute during an Easter service.

# Tyler's Favorites

I enjoy playing all types of games - cards, board games, and video games. I started playing cards with my grandpa when I was 2 years old, and we play cards with my family whenever we get together.

My favorite vacation spots are all near water, and I especially enjoyed the recent anniversary trip we took to Lake Superior.

I will happily devour Mexican food (especially carnitas - a spiced pork dish) or barbecue every day of the week! However, my current favorite restaurant is a local Thai food place. I especially enjoy cashew chicken and their curry!

I played baseball, golf, and swimming through high school. I root for the Iowa Hawkeyes (college sports) and Atlanta Braves (professional baseball).



Playing cards by candlelight after the power went out.



Lake Superior trip 2020



I golfed competitively in college and still enjoy hitting the links

## Other Favorites:

Color - Purple

Snack Food - Chex Mix

Dessert - Anything with chocolate and peanut butter!

Movie - The Two Towers (Lord of the Rings Trilogy)

TV Show - Parks and Recreation

Song - Sound of Silence (Simon and Garfunkel)

Game - 500 (the card game pictured above)

Musical Instrument - Flute

# Carrie's Favorites

Visiting Friends and Family- I have several very close friends I am in regular contact with around the country.

Baking and Cooking- I have lab notebooks where I record recipes I try with notes on how we liked them and what to try next.

Crocheting- I enjoy working with yarn making things like house slippers to baby gifts.

Reading- I love a good mystery! From the classics of Agatha Christie to cozy Emily Brightwell. I also enjoy fantasy books, where I tend to pick books with strong female characters and heroines.

Writing letters and cards- I am regularly sending mail, it feels like such a personal way to connect with loved ones.



Us with Carrie's family on Caleb's first trip to the zoo in Texas 2024



Carrie with our God-Daughter in Virginia 2022



Visiting a friend in Pennsylvania 2022



Crocheted baby gift Carrie did for a friend

## Other Favorites:

Color - Blue

Childhood Movie - Beauty and the Beast

TV Show - Psych

Hot tea - Cinnamon or Peach Tea with Honey

Cold tea - Green Tea with Peppermint

Sport to watch - College Basketball

Ice cream - Dark Chocolate with Pecans

# Caleb's Favorites

Playing with Duplos

Reading Books

Trains

Cars, Trucks, things with wheels

Playing the Piano

Playing with Sticks

Bath Time

Eating



Caleb playing his xylophone



Caleb loves all wheels and enjoys studying how things work!



Caleb playing Duplos with Tyler



Caleb enjoying his food!



Caleb and Carrie celebrating Easter

# Celebrations and Traditions

We typically celebrate Christmas with Tyler's parents, and sausage with fried potatoes is the traditional Christmas Eve feast. We always have a lively White Elephant gift exchange with extended family!

For Birthdays, the Birthday Boy or Girl gets to choose their own dinner and dessert! Carrie usually requests spaghetti carbonara and chocolate cake. Tyler likes to vary his up each year, although chocolate is a must! Caleb enjoyed a cupcake on his 1st birthday!



Caleb's 1st Birthday

We take a vacation around our anniversary, and we use this time as an opportunity to explore new places! We take turns picking destinations.



Carrie makes marshmallows at the 1st snow

We pick College Bowl Games and March Madness Brackets with Tyler's parents. The winner gets to have a trophy!



Tyler won the Bowl game picks 2018



Our 2019 anniversary trip to Wisconsin

# Extended Family

Tyler is an only child, and his parents (and many aunts, uncles and cousins) live in Minnesota. His parents are both retired and are always up for coming to see us, especially since they became Grandparents!

We Skype every week, and visit in person 4-5 times during the year. Fishing, card games, bean bag toss, Duplos and family meals are all staples of our visits.

Our family extends mostly North (MN) and South (TX and Mexico)

Caleb is the only grandchild, nephew, and great-grandchild for both sides of our family; to say that they would be very excited for another would be an understatement!!

Tyler learned from his parents how to face his fears and do the right thing. Each action has consequences and life won't be easy, but a parent's love will get you through the tough times.



Tyler, his mom, and Caleb at the park



Tyler's parents and us at Caleb's first baseball game July 2023



Tyler's dad reading to Caleb



Carrie's Grandmother  
with Caleb March 2024

Carrie has two adult younger brothers. Her family lives in different parts of Texas and one brother in Mexico.

We don't go down to Texas as often as we would like, but we make at least one road trip of it every year and stay a while (plus get some Texas BBQ). Since Caleb arrived, there have been many more visits of all the different family members coming up to see us.

We have a family message group that we communicate on almost everyday, often sharing jokes, photos, or news.

Carrie learned from her parents how important it is to be an advocate for your child and that each child is unique in their strengths and their needs.



Exciting  
news-  
Carrie's  
youngest  
brother is  
getting  
married in  
June 2025!

They have  
asked Caleb  
to be their  
ring bearer.

# Our Adoption Journey

From a young age, Carrie was interested in adoption. Her mom talks of her plans at six years old to open an orphanage overseas and how she was going to use the space and staff it. Tyler didn't have that level of planning, but one of his older first cousins placed a child for adoption and has been able to develop a meaningful relationship as the child has grown. We believe that adoption is a wonderful, life-affirming way to grow our family!

After being married a couple of years we tried to get pregnant. We were not successful, and medical testing could not tell us why. We found it natural to explore adoption as a primary pathway, not as a substitute, to be the parents we feel that we are called to be. Being chosen to be Caleb's adoptive parents was a blessing and an act of love by his birth mother.

Children are a gift from God. A parent's job is to protect and nurture them, teach and care for them, and raise them in the faith, but they are always His. To this end, we would love to have an open adoption that is beneficial to everyone. The more people that can care for and love the child, the better!



# Parting Words

Jesus spoke to the disciples about little children, saying, "For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven." (Matthew 18:10)

May you find comfort in this verse - God is watching over your child. We pray that as you are navigating a very difficult time, that God's peace is with you, for He gives a peace that is beyond human understanding.

As parents we do not guarantee that we will be perfect; we know that no one is. Our promise is that we will provide a loving home to raise, teach, and play with our children. We will bring laughter to the learning process, and will be the biggest advocates for each child. We will raise our children in God's church; knowing that they are loved; nurturing them that they may grow confidently into their own personalities and abilities; and giving thanks for all God's blessings.

We appreciate you considering us as you make plans for your child. While you travel down along this challenging decision, we pray that you are comforted and guided by God in whatever you decide.

We leave you with our favorite blessing (one that is used most Sundays at our church), which comes from Numbers 6:24-26, "May the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his face toward you and give you peace."

With Prayers and Blessings,  
Tyler and Carrie



To be matched with a waiting family,  
text **"match"** to 844-764-2029

For unplanned pregnancy support,  
text **"love"** to 844-764-2029

**Many-Hearts.com**



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ADOPTION SERVICES