

Adam, Cara, and Elijah



Hello!

We are honored to share our family of three with you. As you turn the next few pages, we hope you feel the unconditional love we share. Our desire is to create a connection with you rooted in respect, authenticity, and admiration.

Cara

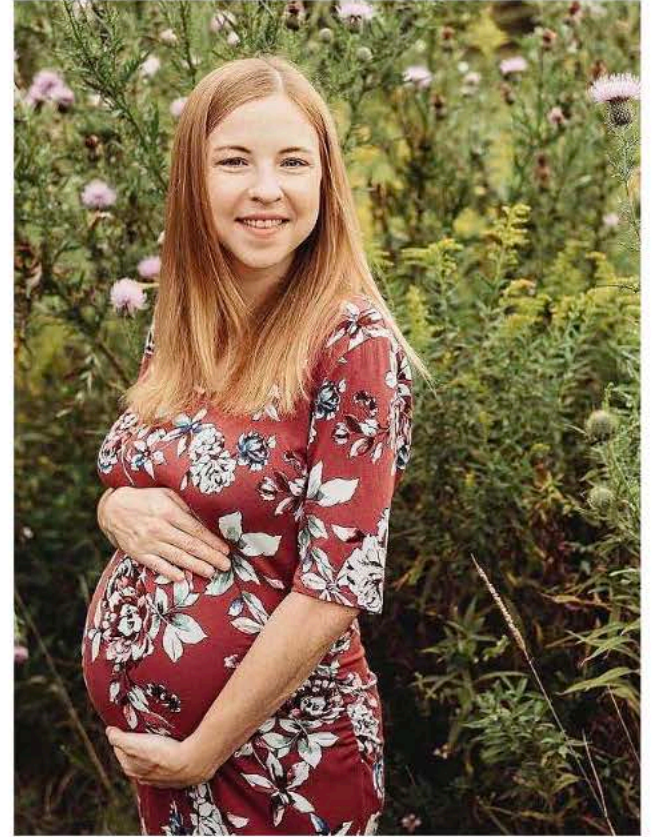
Cara is fully devoted to everyone in her life and everything she does. Her role as a mother is no exception. She is empathetic, perhaps to a fault, caring deeply for others. Her love language is acts of service, and she loves with her whole being.

Cara could sing before she could talk, owns all of the power tools in our home, and is a talented cook who finds food to be a great source of joy and connection with others.

A natural teacher, Cara earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education before earning her master's degree in business and pivoting her career to administration at a local university.

Cara is thoughtful, determined, and amazing at orchestrating any task or event. She's always working on projects around the house and grows a backyard garden each summer. She prefers spending her free time with others, whether hosting a backyard BBQ, meeting a friend for coffee, playing Bunco with friends, or visiting the neighborhood park with her boys and family dog.





Adam

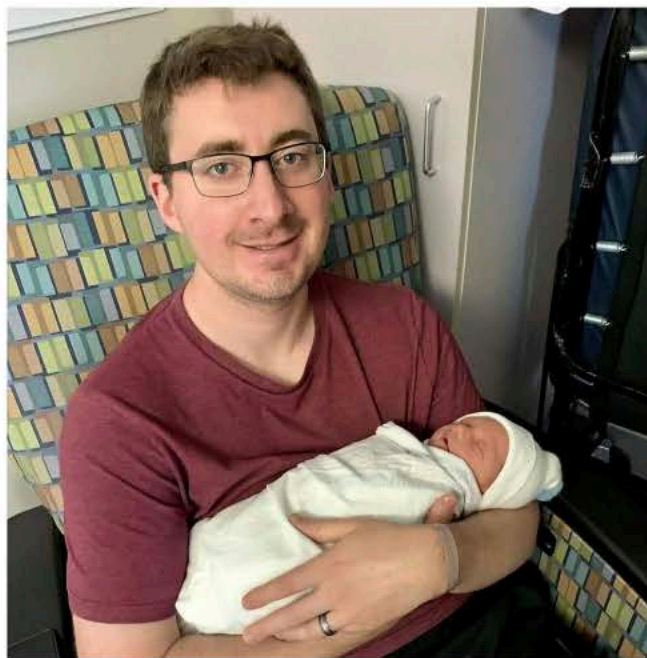
Adam is a genuine father with a steadfast and calming presence. A true introvert at heart, he focuses his energy making meaningful connections with others.

From an early age, Adam had interest in computers and technology. If he's not researching future tech, upgrading the hardware in his computer, or 3D printing a smart home component, you might find him watching a TV show or movie and planning his dream home theater.

Adam has been fortunate enough to turn his interest in technology into a career at a local Fortune 500 company. In fact, employment at this company dates back three generations.

Adam is hard working, reliable, and uncomplicated. He enjoys apple cider, a home cooked meal, and a quiet house at the end of a busy day. An ice cream enthusiast, it's hard to find anyone who loves the frozen treat more.





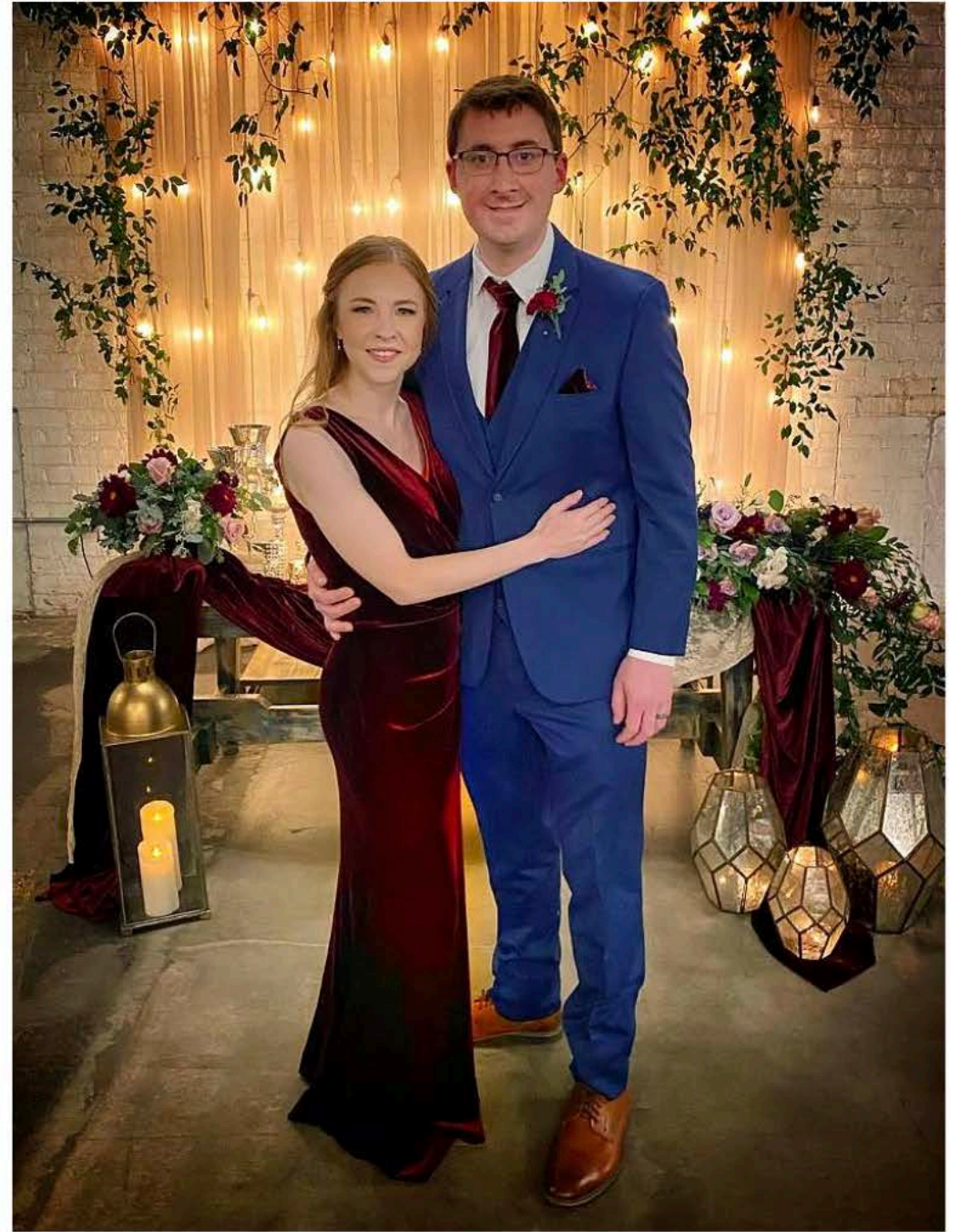
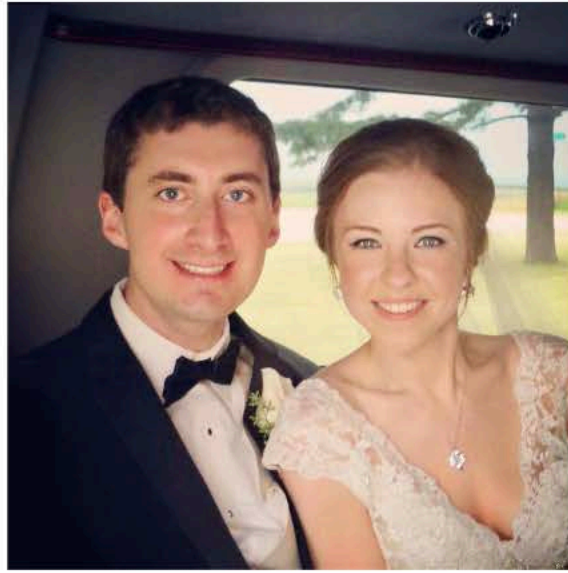


Together

We crossed paths in 2009 thanks to Adam's cousin who was assigned as Cara's roommate in college. When the only available seat during a movie turned out to be right next to Adam, Cara decided to take it. From that moment on, she never left his side.

We married in the summer of 2014 and welcomed our son six years later. We've experienced our fair share of highs and lows through life together, but we're forever grateful for the trust, support, and deep friendship we've found in each other.

We view our marriage as a lifetime commitment built on a firm foundation of shared values. We approach life as a team, and we have to say, it's a pretty good one!



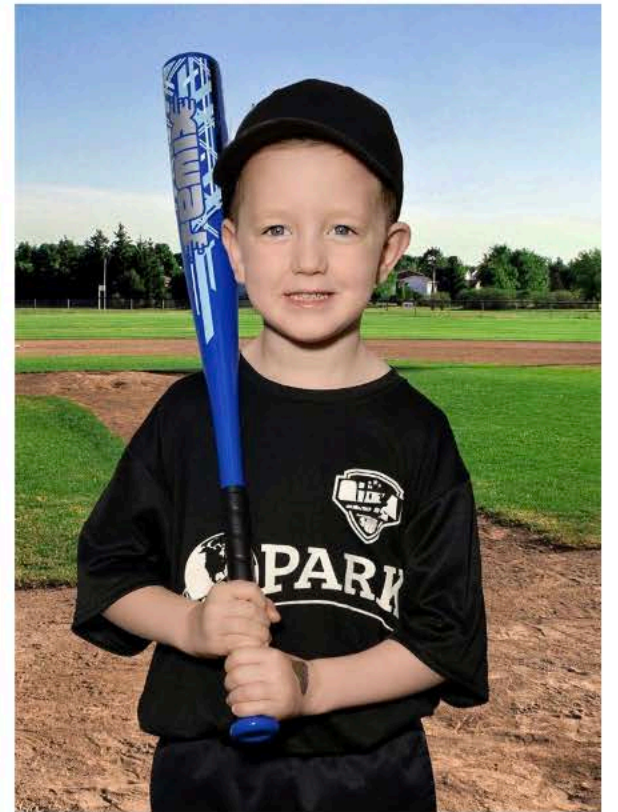
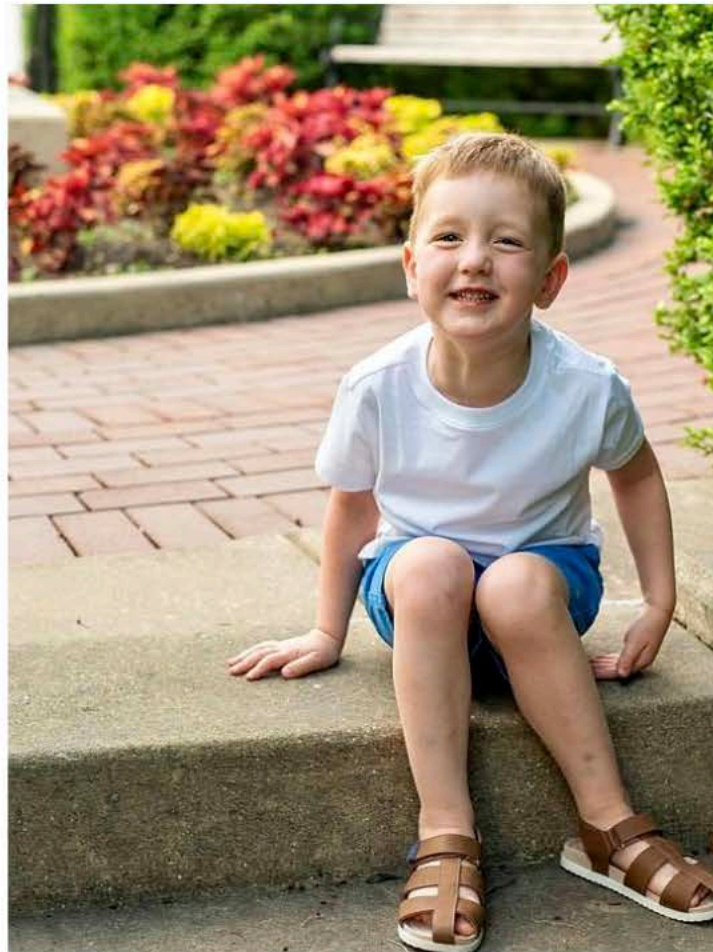
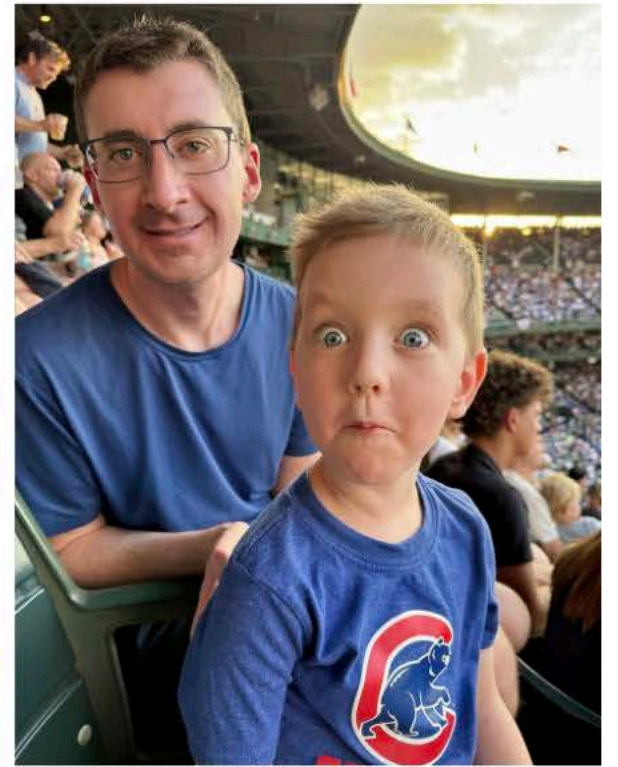
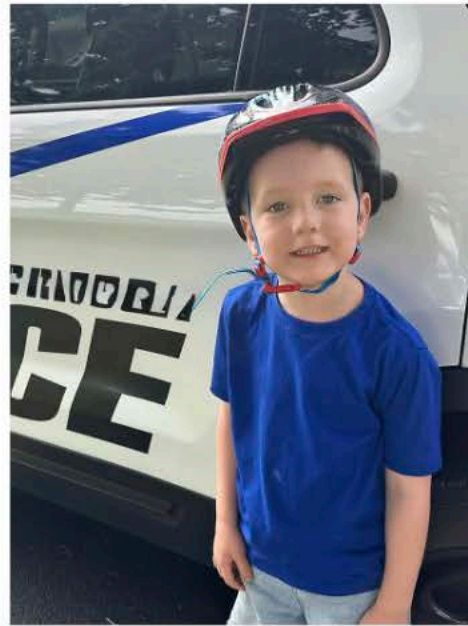
Elijah



Eli is our loud, enthusiastic, and tender-hearted boy. He loves all things dinosaurs, vehicles, and action figures. Eli is happiest when he's outdoors where he can run, ride his bike, visit the playground, shoot basketball hoops, and drive his yellow tractor. He has lots of fun playing on his local baseball team, and he has a pretty great pitcher's arm.

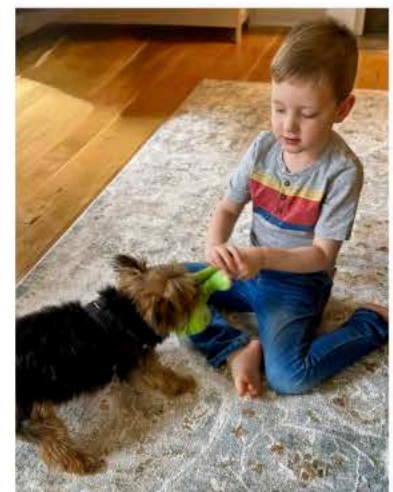
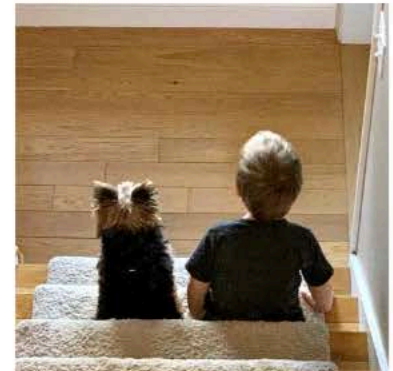
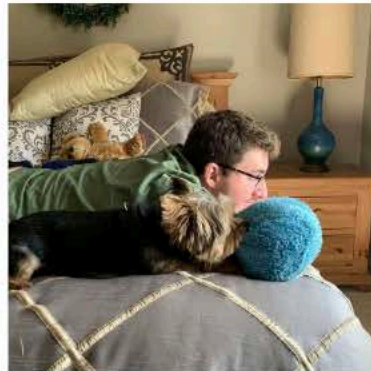
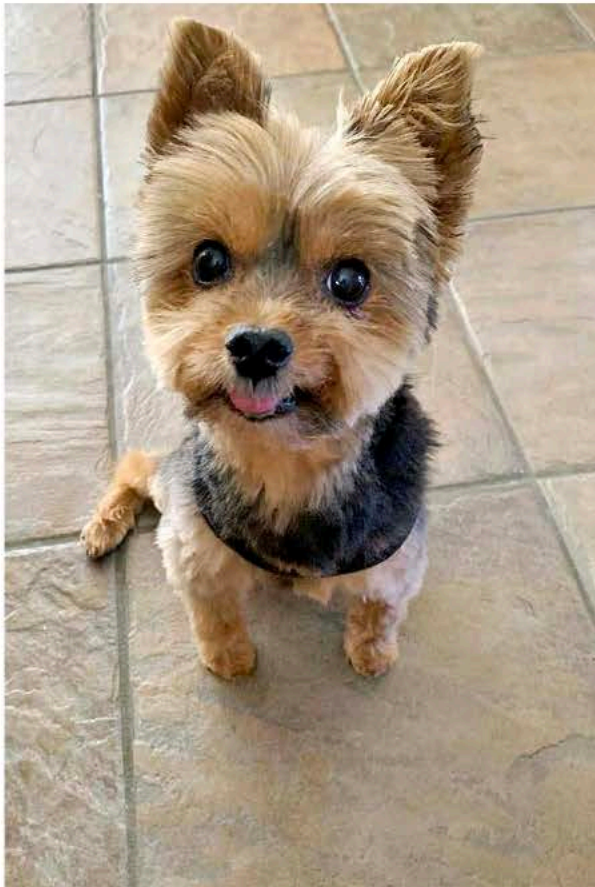
Eli is smart, silly, helpful, and a good friend who cares about others. He would be the best brother. How God saw fit to entrust us with the sweetest, most fun-loving boy, we'll be forever grateful.





Daphne

Daphne (who we affectionately call Chewy) is our spunky little Yorkshire Terrier, full of personality in a tiny package! She joined our family before Eli was born, and the two have become the best of friends. With her playful and loving spirit, Daphne is the perfect companion to all of us. Whether she's chasing her favorite ball, going on a family walk, or curling up on our laps for a nap, Daphne's loyalty and infectious joy (her middle name) make her a treasured member of our family.



Home & Community



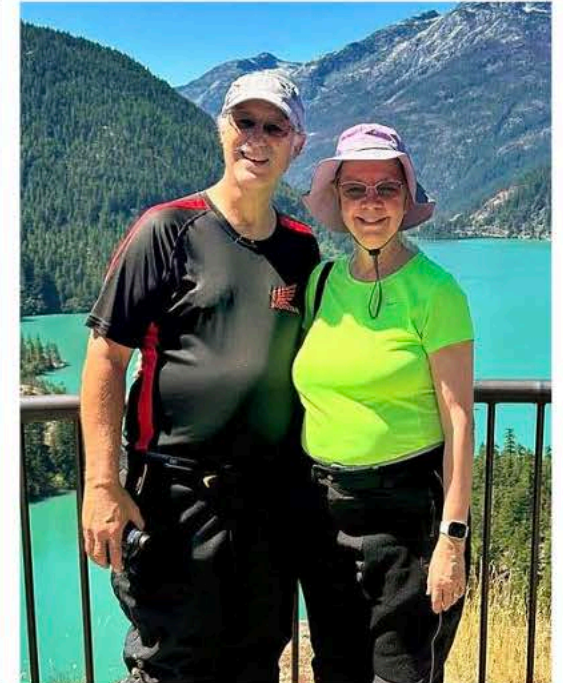
We have been in our home since 2015, a half-acre lot on a quiet cul-de-sac. It has 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, and a large backyard with a covered pavilion, play set, and garden boxes. We love our small Midwest town where Eli has a safe neighborhood to play, and we enjoy great schools, local businesses, and nearby parks. We're also close to a larger city where we work and have access to other amenities. To us, this isn't just a house. Our home is our special place to relax, be together, and share our life with family and friends.



Maternal Family

We're grateful to be close to our families both in distance and our relationship. Cara's parents, now retired, live in the same town we do so we see them often. Cara is the middle of three sisters. Her younger sister lives about 45 minutes away, and her older sister and her family are 2.5 hours south of us.

Even with busy schedules, we make family time a priority. Living near aunts, uncles, and cousins has fostered strong bonds, and we regularly come together for milestones, celebrations, and everyday moments. A favorite tradition is the weekly dinner at Cara's parents' house often with her grandparents, sister, and niece who are nearby. We also take a family trip each year to connect and make new memories. We're deeply grateful for the love and support of our family.



Paternal Family



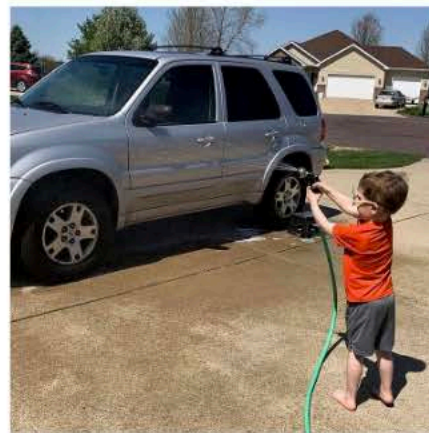
Adam is the oldest of three siblings. His parents live close by and are an important part of our lives. His sister lives near us too in his dad's childhood home, while his brother and family have settled a few states out west. Eli has a special relationship with his Papa, and we see so much of them in each other.

Even with all of us juggling busy lives and raising our own kids, we make it a point to stay connected. We rotate homes for monthly family dinners and keep in touch via family group chat. Our favorite summer activity is visiting Adam's family lake house, boating and swimming just as Adam did growing up.

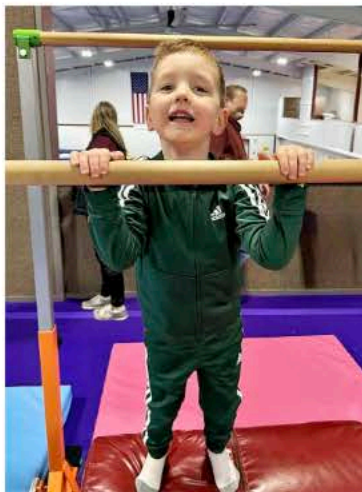
Adam also has a large extended family who remain close. We usually see everyone around the holidays where Eli gets to run around with a bunch of cousins. Our family is a fun, supportive group, and we feel lucky to be part of it.

Work & Play

We believe both hard work and play are an essential part of building happy memories and maintaining a healthy family life. We provide opportunities for Eli to be helpful and independent through shared tasks, but we also leave room for plenty of fun. Some of our favorite family activities include going on family walks, visiting local parks, boating and swimming at the family lake house, attending community events, hosting play dates with friends, and eating out at our favorite restaurants. We also enjoy simple activities at home like baking cookies, playing games, and enjoying a meal outside on the patio, especially if it ends with our favorite treat of ice cream!



More Play



Education & Childcare

Education is something we deeply value both formal schooling and the broader idea of learning as a lifelong pursuit. Cara holds a degree in elementary education and teaching license. She works at a university, and we both hold bachelor's and master's degrees. We come from families where education has always been encouraged and supported.

While we believe in the benefits of a college education and are strong advocates for that path, we also recognize that learning can take many forms. Cara's grandfather, for example, was a skilled electrician who built a meaningful career in the trades something that required intelligence, dedication, and continuous learning.

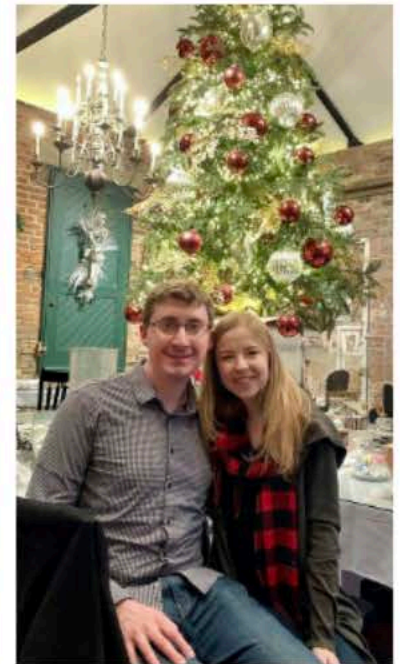
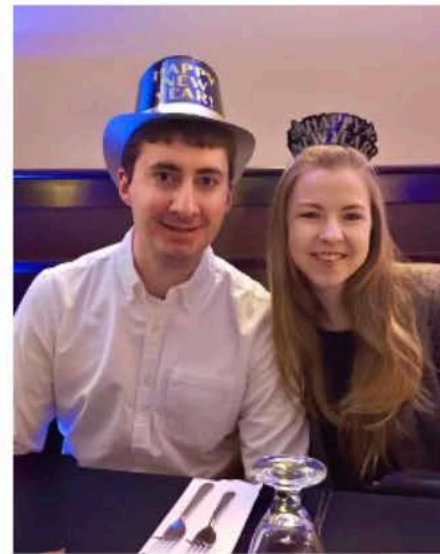
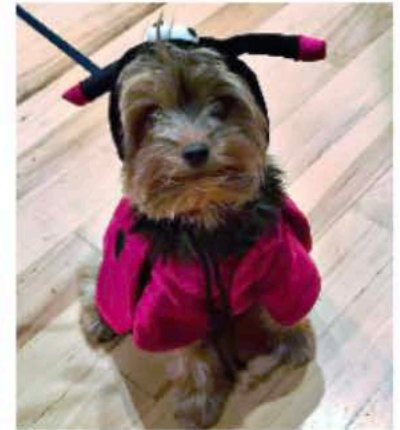
At its core, we see education as a way to expand the mind, open doors, and develop the ability to think critically and independently. We raise Eli to feel confident asking questions, exploring new ideas, and working hard toward his goals whatever those may be. We will always support and nurture education in our home.

Eli loves school! He attends a local faith-based daycare center where he is enrolled in a preschool classroom that is preparing him for kindergarten in our local public school district. We are fortunate to live in a highly rated school district that is both valued and supported by our community.



Celebrations & Traditions

Life is meant to be celebrated including birthdays, holidays, milestones, and all in between. Our traditions such as wearing matching pajamas on Christmas Eve, choosing a new costume each year, hunting for Easter eggs, enjoying family dinners, singing "Happy Birthday" not just once but twice, and recreating our engagement lunch each year remind us of how much joy there is in each day.



Values & Parenting

Our approach to parenting is guided by love, empathy, responsibility, trust, and togetherness, virtues deeply rooted in our Christian faith.

We believe in the healthy expression of emotions and strive to create an open, supportive environment where Eli feels safe to express his feelings while teaching him healthy ways to cope and communicate as he navigates the ups and downs of life.

We also know clear, consistent boundaries help our son understand expectations. It gives him confidence to explore his independence while knowing there are limits that protect his well-being. Boundaries value our relationship and create a strong, trusting connection where our son feels fully loved and supported.



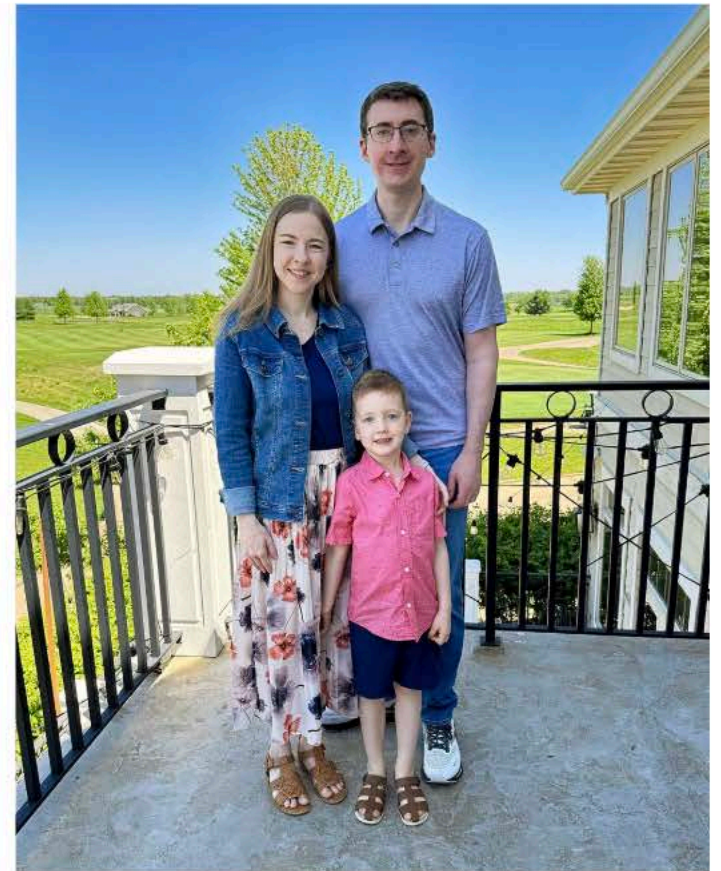
We approach discipline by linking actions with outcomes encouraging Eli to make thoughtful decisions. He learns his choices have consequences, both positive and negative, and that he has the power to shape his experiences through his actions.

Our family values togetherness at the heart of everything we do. We make it a priority to spend quality time together, whether through shared meals, family activities, or simply being there for one another. By prioritizing togetherness, we nurture a deepened sense of belonging.

Lastly, we value forgiveness. We rely on grace and forgiveness every day. Parenting is a journey, and we aim to grow and learn right alongside our son.

Adoption

Adoption is already a beautiful part of our family's story. Several of our loved ones on both sides of our family, including two nieces and three first cousins, joined us through adoption. It is Cara's unanticipated health journey that has also led us to adopt. We've always desired to have two children, and our hearts are waiting to embrace a second child. We look forward to the meaningful connections and joy that growth in our family through adoption will bring while maintaining a deep respect for the love that brings a child to us.



This Is Us



We know that it is impossible to capture the weight of the decision you are considering. In the midst of the unknown, what remains true is the deep respect we hold for you as you walk through this process.

If you choose adoption, and if you choose us, we commit to honoring you with gratitude and respect by ensuring your story becomes a part of our story, one that began with your love and strength.

We wish you peace, love, and support in the days ahead.

Cara Adam

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