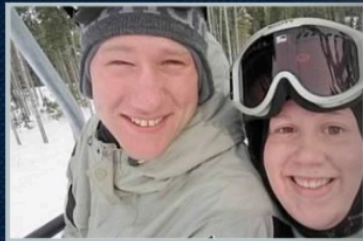
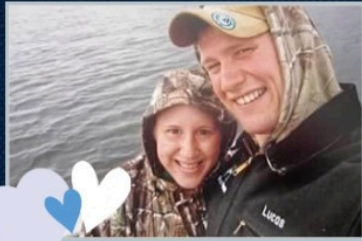




LUCAS AND MELINDA



We were blessed to be friends first for years. Our friendship and dates included many adventures such as snow skiing, fishing, hiking, and even a Polar Plunge one New Year's day where we jumped into the freezing cold ocean. We spent many years attending church together too.



OUR WEDDING DAY
NOVEMBER 16, 2012



Highlights included:
-Wearing cowboy boots
-Lucas's grandfathers as groomsmen
-Melinda's sisters as bridesmaids.
-The cake--it was so delicious!

LITTLE ABOUT LUCAS



WORKS WITH FARMERS AND GETS TO COME HOME FOR LUNCH ALMOST EVERY DAY

HOBBIES: FISHING, HUNTING, CAMPING, HIKING

FAVORITE MOVIE: STAR WARS

A GREAT PARENT BECAUSE:
-ALWAYS WANTS TO BE MOVING, DOING, EXPLORING.
-HE IS VERY PATIENT
-QUICK TO LISTEN.
-HAPPY TO SHARE HIS OUTDOOR FUN AND KNOWLEDGE.



FUN FACT: HE HAS 11 SIBLINGS!



MELINDA



WORKS AS A NURSE CARING FOR ADOPTED TWIN GIRLS!

HOBBIES: READING, ORGANIZING, GARDENING

FAVORITE BOOK: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE BY C.S. LEWIS

A GREAT PARENT BECAUSE: SHE LOVES TO STOP AND READ A BOOK ANYTIME A KID ASKS. PATIENTLY LOVES EXPLORING ALL NEW EXPERIENCES. POOP AND PUKE DON'T PHASE HER. GREAT AT CLEANING UP THE MUD AND MESSSES FROM OUR MANY ADVENTURES.

FUN FACT: SHE HAS CUT HER HAIR AND DONATED IT FOR KIDS WITH MEDICAL NEEDS MORE THAN 5 TIMES NOW



LIFE WITH LEWIS



LEWIS JOINED OUR FAMILY BY ADOPTION AND BRINGS SO MUCH JOY TO FAMILY AND THE MANY FRIENDS WHO LOVE HIM AS FAMILY.

HE IS BLESSED WITH A CURIOUS AND OBSERVANT PERSONALITY, BUT HE HAS A CHEERFUL AND TEASING SIDE

HE LOVES TO BE OUTDOORS

HE LIKES BOOKS AND HAS THEM IN SPANISH AND ENGLISH

HE HAS 2 COUSINS YOUNGER THAN HIM (AND A BUNCH OLDER) BUT THE YOUNGER ONES HE LOVES TO GENTLY HUG AND KISS. HE IS GOING TO BE A GREAT BIG BROTHER



SOME THINGS WE LOVE TO DO AS A FAMILY (IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)

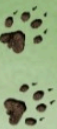
1: GO HIKING AND EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS



2) CAMPING AND SWIMMING



3) HUNTING





4) BOATING



5) FISHING AND CRABBING



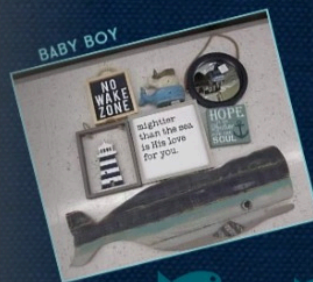
6) PLAYING TOGETHER AS A FAMILY



HOME

WE LIVE ON SOME ACRES IN THE COUNTRY WITH AN OLD BARN AND A CREEK ON OUR PROPERTY. NEXT DOOR IS A DAIRY FARM OWNED BY COUSINS, AND WE ARE JUST DOWN THE ROAD FROM LOTS MORE FAMILY. WE LOVE WATCHING FOR THE MANY BIRDS, RABBITS OR OTHER CREATURES IN THE AREA AND ENJOY THE OUTDOORS NEAR OUR HOME MUD OR SHINE.

THE BABY'S ROOM



LUCAS'S FAMILY



11 Siblings
13 Nieces and Nephews
2 Grandparents
4 Great Grandparents



MELINDA'S FAMILY

3 Siblings
11 Nieces and Nephews
2 Grandparents
2 Great Grandparents



LUCAS AND MELINDA FAMILY PROFILE



Lucas:
Is a peace-maker and patient listener. He is intelligent and quick to grasp concepts and ideas. He is a hard-worker and takes seriously his responsibility to provide for his family's physical and spiritual needs. He is a very capable individual with strengths including math, doing anything with his hands, fixing about everything. He is a go-getter adventurer with can-do attitude.

Hobbies: Fishing, Hiking, Hunting, Farming
Education: Associate degree (2-year college)
Career: Sales Consultant Advising Farmers
Religion: Christian
Ethnicity: Caucasian

Melinda:
Is a selfless, hard-working natural-born caregiver who is always looking out for those who are struggling. She is intelligent with special strength and interest in medical science. She has a gift of gab, but actually prefers to be home especially with a good book.

Hobbies: Reading, Gardening, Crocheting
Education: Bachelors Degree (4 Year College)
Career: Nurse
Religion: Christian
Ethnicity: Caucasian

Lewis:
Is a sweet little one-year old with a tender heart and an occasional fiery spice temper. He is smart and curious and quickly catches on to new things. He was baptized as a Christian child.
Hobbies: Getting books read to him, dirt quality testing, going outside, teasing people
Education: Every day he learns more and more
Career: Being a growing boy
Ethnicity: Hispanic

WHERE WE LIVE

We live in the country with acres to roam and near dairy and berry farms. Family members are nearby, some literally next door or just a mile down the road. We enjoy the nearby mountains and ocean. While we are outside city limits, we don't have far to go to reach all we need or could want.



LIFE WITH US

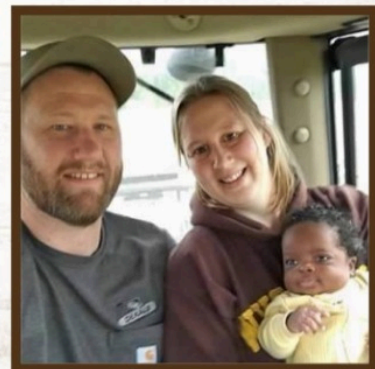
We do lots of fun exploration and always in our adventures we are learning about the great world God created. We learn more about each other, and how we get to enjoy this beautiful life. Weather and mud aren't a reason to stay indoors and so we often have plenty of mess. We love spontaneous outings and have many options for day trip experiences. We also enjoy longer camping and hunting trips. When home we love visiting family, going to the family farms, taking care of our property and being together doing nothing special just enjoying each other's company.

We certainly aren't a perfect family or textbook parents, but we believe in the importance of forgiveness and humbly learning from mistakes. We work hard. We love each other fervently. We value the blessings God has given us and treasure the fact that He has chosen us as His adopted children. We have been loved so much! We believe we have lots of love (and maybe some mud) to share.

WHY ADOPT?

Love is the simple answer. God loved us so much that He chose to call us His children, by adoption. His love is the reason why we get to be part of His family. When we think of the family of God we are owed at its all-inclusive and diverse beauty. How amazing to see adoption and be reminded of God's family! God's family is not made based on genetics or DNA. It is bound together by love alone.

We always looked forward to having children to love, to raise, to train up, but we knew that becoming pregnant would be difficult or impossible for us. Melinda had a medical issue that increased likelihood of infertility. Despite trying for pregnancy, even with medical assistance, we didn't have any positive results and so we knew then with certainty we could pursue adoption with our whole hearts and no regrets. We knew we had many blessings and a lot of love to share, plus we had a desire to provide a secure place for children to grow up. We recognize that there are those out there seeking a loving home for their babies, and we wanted to support and encourage them by providing that safe place. We believe life, even that of the unborn, is precious and everyone, no matter their age should be treated with respect and love as one made in the image of God.



— OUR PROMISES —



We want to share some promises we will make with you. We promise to share with you on this journey and are open to discussing how that can best be done. We recognize that sometimes you may need more support and sometimes you may need more space, and we promise to be considerate. We promise to honor you and your story and will share with your child about you.

For your child, we promise to be a family and provide a loving, supportive, encouraging, and safe home. We promise to share adventures with your child, laughs, tears, and definitely some muddy play times. Most importantly we will share with your child our unconditional love and teach about the unfailing love of Jesus.

With Love and Prayers,

Lucas and Melinda



FAMILY ISN'T JUST THE PEOPLE WHO
SHARE YOUR DNA; FAMILY IS THE
PEOPLE WHO LOVE YOU.



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