



**DEAR EXPECTANT PARENT,**

We are Matthew, Lauren, and Christian.  
Thank you for taking the time to read our letter.



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**ABOUT US:** We both grew up in Flagstaff and met in high school choir. We started dating while attending the University of Arizona and got married after Matthew's graduation in 2012. Matthew is a social worker and Lauren is a civil engineer. We adopted our son Christian in 2017. We love traveling, hanging out with friends and family, playing sports, and spending time outdoors. God has a plan to build our family through adoption and we are very excited!

## ABOUT LAUREN (FROM MATTHEW)

Lauren is a very loving person and maintains excellent relationships with her family and friends. She is a hard worker and is gifted at her job. She somehow manages the challenges of working and being a wonderful mother to our son. Lauren dreams big and has great follow through on her commitments and ambitions. I love her humor, her thoughtfulness, and her generosity. I am so proud to call her my best friend and spouse.

## ABOUT MATTHEW (FROM LAUREN)

Matthew is a loving, loyal, and adventurous partner. He is consistent and provides a foundation of love, fun, and security for our family. I am so grateful that I get to live life with him and he continually teaches me to slow down and enjoy life. He has brought so much joy to my life – our two dogs, an ATV, fun trips to the Grand Canyon, and lots of laughter. It is amazing to see him excel in his career as a social worker and counselor. He is able to relate to people and speak truth into their lives with honesty, gentleness, and compassion. Matthew is a wonderful dad to Christian and I know he will be to another child.





Christian's adoption 2017

### ABOUT CHRISTIAN

Christian is a loving, fun, creative, and energetic boy. He is 14 years old and in the 8th grade. Christian joined our family from the foster care system when he was 10 years old. Being in foster care was difficult, but he has healed so much knowing that he now has a permanent home. He loves being in our family and has embraced us as mom and dad. Christian has a biological brother that he keeps in touch with and we took his brother on our vacation this past summer. Christian is great with younger kids and loves playing with his cousins who range in age from 0-10 years old.



### OUR HOME AND PETS

We live in a great neighborhood with lots of families, both older and younger. Our house is two story and has a huge backyard that our son loves to play in. We have two medium sized dogs named Nico and Lucy. Lauren loves to do house projects, so we are often working on a project.





## OUR EXTENDED FAMILY

Our extended family lives in Arizona and we get to see them often, especially on holidays. They have welcomed Christian into their lives with open arms and hearts. He often spends time with his grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. We have lots of family in town and they have been a huge support in our adoption of Christian. Every summer we go to Montana with Matt's family. We are blessed to have so many people that love us and support us.

## CHURCH FAMILY

We attend church regularly and find lots of support in the relationships we make there. We support each other through life's ups and downs. We watch each other's kids, help each other move, read books together, celebrate life's accomplishments together, and play board games together.

## AS PARENTS

We both grew up in safe and loving homes and we strive to make our home that way now. We parent with patience and equal amounts of structure and nurture. Fun is an important part of our home as well!