

# Matt & Chelsea







# HELLO & WELCOME



MATT, CHELSEA & LUKE

*“If you choose us to be your child’s adoptive parents, we can assure you that we would love and care for your child just as much as we love our own.”*





# Our Letter to You,

We are honored that you are viewing our profile and are beyond grateful that you have taken an interest in our family. We are Matt, Chelsea, and Luke (our son). We live in the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois, where we serve our community as a physician assistant in addiction medicine and as a clinical social worker.

We can only imagine what you are going through and the emotions you must be facing. We understand how big of a decision it must be for you to place your child for adoption. We admire your strength in making that decision.

If you choose us to be your child's adoptive parents, we can assure you that we would love and care for your child just as much as we love our own. **We would raise them with strong values rooted in compassion, community, authenticity, and immense hope for a promising future filled with immeasurable experiences, commitment to celebrating individuality, and providing a soft landing when life gets challenging.**

We deeply care about you, and it would be an honor to walk with you on this journey together.

From our hearts,

*Matt & Chelsea*

# Our Hearts For Adoption

**We tried to have another child naturally over the past year, but we were unsuccessful.** We have grieved this loss together and after some reflection, we mutually agreed to not pursue fertility treatment. **We have always desired to adopt a child.** When we met and discussed our goals for growing a family, adoption was a part of our plan, and we knew it would only enrich our family. Our love is not reserved for a child we create biologically.

**We have educated ourselves on issues related to adoption, such as grief, loss, and joys,** from the perspective of the adoptive parents, adoptee, and birth parents. If chosen, we will introduce adoption to your child at an early age and in a manner that children can understand. We want your child to be comfortable with their adoption story. We understand that the conversation will continue to evolve as he or she ages. We will talk to our children and handle adoption issues as they arise, being willing to answer their questions to the best of our ability. **We are prepared to address adoption with honesty, compassion, and transparency.** We are also open to seeking professional help if necessary.

We have empathy toward you (birth parent(s)) and know how important it is to help your child remain connected to you. **We hope to have an open adoption and share a relationship with you and your family so your child from an early age will understand their adoption story.**





*“Our love is not reserved  
for a child we create  
biologically.”*







# OUR LOVE STORY





*“When we first met, we felt an instant connection. We both knew that the bond we had was special.”*



## HOW WE MET

When we met in 2015, we were both looking for THE one, not just someone. We met online in 2015, dated for 2.5 years, and were married in May 2018. **Matt was attracted to Chelsea's compassion, kindness, and ambition, and Chelsea was attracted to Matt's sweetness, sensitivity, and humor.** When we first met, we felt an instant connection. We both knew that the bond we had was special. We'd talk for hours on the phone and often got too little sleep to function properly at work the next day. The first night we met, we talked for so long at the restaurant that the waitress was upset because we had not looked at our menus after 45 minutes! We spent many months connecting over dinners, ice skating in downtown Chicago (or at least attempting to), spending time with our dogs, and intimate time with family. **We became best friends and still are to this day.**

## THE PROPOSAL

I chose to take Chelsea to a fancy restaurant on a mountain overlooking the gorgeous Phoenix area. After dinner, I took Chelsea outside to the patio overlooking the mountain range. I distracted her by telling her to look off into the distance, then went down on one knee behind her. When Chelsea turned around, I proposed, and she was so shocked that she just said, "Oh my," and took the ring out of my hand, put it on her finger, and forgot to say "Yes." We embraced, tears flowed, and we celebrated with champagne.

## OUR WEDDING

We had a storybook wedding at a beautiful private estate outside of Chicago. We married below a gorgeous sunset, surrounded by over 200 friends and family members. Earlier that day, we exchanged gifts. I (Chelsea) received a garbage disposal as my gift. A note was attached saying, "Sometimes you have to dig through the trash before you find the real treasure." Naturally, I was very confused. When I opened the appliance, and a beautiful silver necklace was inside. I laughed and remembered I was marrying a goofball.

# MEET MATT



*My greatest wish for my children is that they will know that I love them irrationally and unconditionally and that they will have a loving relationship with God.*

*Written by Chelsea*

Matt has many gifts, and I admire so many things about him. He's kind, sweet, gentle, patient, consistent, reliable, committed, hard-working, supportive, solutions-focused, and emotionally in tune. He is an excellent provider. His relaxing and calm state of being helps me to be more present and focused. He brings out the best in me. He's also a very humorous and fun-loving person. He makes me laugh, and I just genuinely like being around him. I love that Matt is always seeking to better himself and, in turn, our relationship. Like most marriages, some problem-solving attempts work better than others, but my gratitude for any struggle or conflict mostly comes from his efforts. Matt wants to feel heard and understood and is a solid, assertive communicator. I also love that he is not afraid to be vulnerable. Trust in our relationship is at the core of our ability to not go straight to our defenses. Matt is an amazing father. Watching him and Luke interact

is pure joy. Matt leads by example - what the children see him do is more powerful than what he says he will do. That's why it's important to him to express kindness, compassion, and patience to everyone. Matt spends quality time with Luke whether it is mowing the lawn together, taking trips to Home Depot, going for walks around the neighborhood, and taking him to the park to play. When they play together, it is beautiful to witness - Matt will get on the floor and fully embrace and immerse himself in imaginative activities, games, and sports. When Matt puts Luke to bed, I can sometimes hear them laughing together and talking, and I love how Matt listens and empathizes with him. I am confident in Matt's parenting abilities and excited to see how he will grow even more through adoption. He will be even more present and intentional with his time and actions. He is a sweet guy with a big heart - another child will be well-loved by him.







## My Career

**I work as a physician assistant specializing in addiction medicine.** It is very family-friendly, and my employer wants us to have a healthy work-life balance. I work from 9 AM to 5:30 PM Mon-Fri. I rarely stay at work a little late, usually once every two weeks. I never bring work home with me. I can take at least two weeks off for the adoption and am prepared to take more time off if needed.



committed/loyal

caring

playful

Luke says I'm goofy!

## What I'm Looking Forward to...

Being a parent is the greatest joy in my life. With a new child added to our family, I look forward to seeing our children interact together. I'm excited to have more conversations, adventures, and teaching moments with them. If the child is a girl, then that will definitely be a new and exciting experience for me.

# MEET CHELSEA

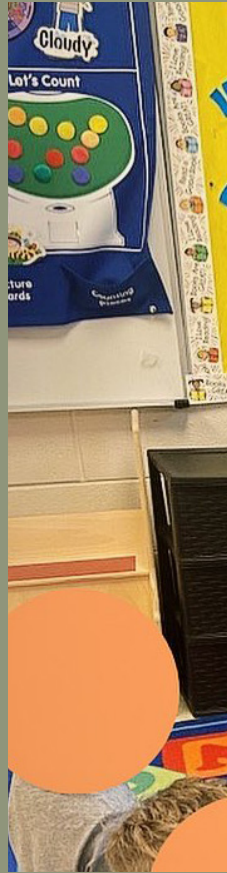


*Written by Matt*

Chelsea is such a great wife and mother. She is a fantastic planner and takes charge in many family situations. She loves our family in both word and deed. She does most of the cooking for the family, plans our vacations, manages school and extracurricular activities for our son, and coordinates child-care coverage. Her capacity to simply get things done is unreal! I really love Chelsea's ambition and motivation. She started her own business and even ran for political office. I always joke around that she has enough ambition for the both of us! I love our discussions during dinner about our day-to-day occurrences, and seeing how passionate she gets when talking about new bills or laws being implemented in our state. I love it when she shares her excitement with me, whether it be over home improvement

ideas, a new rug we should buy, or deciding on which school pictures to get printed of our son. We may not always agree on those, but I still love being part of her enthusiasm. I love the little surprises and thoughtful acts she does, like packing me a lunch for work when I didn't expect her to, or calling me at work just to see if I'm available to talk about our days. She is such a friendly person too. So many times, I have seen her strike up lengthy, meaningful conversations with complete strangers. What makes Chelsea very special is that even when we have a disagreement, she still understands my side of the argument and validates how I feel. She accepts my limitations and does not hold grudges against me when I make mistakes in our relationship.

*I pray that my children will know who they are, love who they are, know that they are loved by us and God, and pursue their interests and dreams. I also pray they are healthy and live full lives reflecting their character, values, joys, and identity.*







## My Career

**I am a clinical and community social worker** and am grateful to serve as the Chief Operating Officer of a small behavioral healthcare company. After my brother died from an accidental overdose, I co-founded and operated a non-profit organization devoted to substance use recovery, overdose prevention, and family education. I currently work about 30 hours/week and will continue at this rate after my leave for bonding, depending upon the needs of our child. I can also reduce those hours as needed. I work from home 3 days per week and, being in a leadership role, I have flexible hours.



Dedicated to my family

Compassionate

Outgoing

Social justice warrior



## What I'm Looking Forward to...

I am a true Mama Bear! Having another child means extra love, safety, and security to give. I look forward to enjoying the person our new child is and will become, listening to them, engaging in fun activities, and exploring/introducing them to the world and all it has to offer. As we grow and life throws what it will at us, I am sure my role as a parent might change, which is a part of life. We will adapt to the changes as we always have done. I can't wait to expand our family!



# MEET LUKE



**Silly . Friendly . Curious**



*Luke is beyond excited to be a big brother some day! He is going to be the most loving, protective, gentle-hearted, and fun older sibling.*

Luke is 5 years old. He loves coloring, drawing, and building with Legos and MagnaTiles. He loves cleaning and mimicking anything we do. He loves helping Daddy with lawn work and helping Mommy cook, organize, and engage in daily activities together. He loves going to the park, riding his bike and scooter, and doing anything outside. He said he is excited to have a baby brother or sister, and asks us about what this will be like for him often.







## Our Parenting Philosophy

We want our children to be comfortable and confident in who they are. **We set limits, safety, structure, and clear rules/expectations.** We have open communication with our child. As parents, we try to be proactive to meet any need in advance to avoid unnecessary behavior issues if our child is hungry, thirsty, or tired, for example. We believe discipline should not be punitive and should have a purpose, to teach or to guide, so the child learns to make good choices. **We hope to model appropriate alternatives to misbehavior, so our child has options in the future to make a wise choice.** Showing up is essential, but so is being engaged and advocating for our child to pursue their interests and passions, ensuring our children have structure and limits, and feel safe. We understand that every child is different and that effective discipline techniques may change due to the specific situation or the child's emotional and developmental age. **We feel it is important for Matt and I to stand together as parents and present a united front.**

We love being parents because we have so much love to give, and our son happily receives it. Little moments often make a big impact but can be easily missed. **So, we love basking in all moments with our son and are excited to extend that with our future child.**







# Family Time

On a typical day, you'll probably find us snuggling, playing at the park, swimming at the pool, trying out restaurants, going to museums and cultural fairs/festivals, seeing movies, going on family bike rides, making breakfast, playing soccer in the backyard, building Legos, or doing art projects. We love spending time with family and friends. We also enjoy participating in community activities—so many great organizations host themed events for families all over the area. We recently went as a family to see Bluey Live at the Auditorium Theater in Chicago and it was a blast! Afterward, we walked down a few streets to witness the Polish Day of Celebration parade - totally unexpected and welcomed. We love traveling and try to go on long weekend trips each year. This year, we went to Connecticut and New Orleans and will travel to Toronto at the end of the summer! We also enjoy having meaningful conversations with Luke. Sometimes we learn more from him than most others in our lives.





## *Honesty*

Regardless of the severity of the issue, we would rather have those we love to disclose the truth rather than be caught in a lie. We choose curiosity over judgment. Lack of honesty creates distrust issues in relationships, which is the foundation of a strong bond.



## *Respect*

Always show respect no matter how upset we may be. We can disagree respectfully. We can be polite, kind, and courteous. We can avoid interrupting someone, think before we speak, and lend a helping hand. No personal attacks.



## *Humor*

We aim to not take life too seriously by enjoying ALL the moments, not just the fun ones. We try to find fun ways to do the boring or hard tasks. It's not about overlooking the hard things, it's about always finding reasons to be happy.

# WELCOME TO OUR HOME!



**Our home is filled with lots and lots of love**, and it's easy to see that a child lives here. Love is shared mostly through playing, creating, food, family, laughter, and games. **We spend a lot of time in our living room watching movies, chatting or dancing, in the kitchen cooking together, and in Luke's playroom building legos or Magna Tiles.** Luke's favorite room is his playroom, but he would rather be outside in the backyard swinging, kicking the soccer ball around, or his favorite activity - riding his bike around the neighborhood. **We created our space here to be safe but also a place for individuality and self-expression.**

**We live in an upper-middle-class suburb of Chicago, Illinois, in a well-maintained, quiet, serene subdivision parallel to a forest preserve.** It's a beautiful community growing in the number of younger families from varying demographics. We live close to one of the largest Sikh temples frequented by people nationwide. The village is home to a growing population of Latin and Hispanic families and one of the fastest-growing populations of South Asian and East Asian families in the country. **We plan to expose our children to diversity by continuing to develop relationships with people from varying backgrounds and attending cultural festivals in and around the community.**







We take advantage of our bustling library and park district quite often, including the **local pools and parks and numerous community events in and outside our town.** The school district that Luke is about to enter was awarded a Blue Ribbon School District recently. He will enter Kindergarten and participate in the **dual language program to become bilingual in Spanish and English by the 3rd grade.**

# Life at Home



# OUR FAMILIES



## Matt's Family

Matt's mom, Carol, lives an hour from us. His father, Ross, unfortunately died in 2020. Matt's brother is Justin, and his wife is Amy. They have three boys: Jackson, 9, Aidan, 6, and Ethan, 4. Luke loves to play with his cousins! We are closer with Chelsea's side of the family, but as Matt's mother ages and Luke gets to know his cousins better, we have been spending much more time with them. Our entire family is curious about our adoption journey. There has not been one time where we have felt unsupported, but we plan to educate our family on the unique challenges and needs as we proceed and set expectations around how we want them to embrace and love a child we are adopting as they did with Luke.



## Chelsea's Family

Chelsea's family is much larger. Her father, Gary, lives in Arizona. Her brother, Alex, died in 2008, but we honor him often, and Luke is named after him (Luke Alex). Chelsea's sisters, Haley (half-sister) and Danielle (step-sister) live nearby, along with their significant others. Chelsea's paternal family is extremely close, and they live in Connecticut. This includes Chelsea's grandmother, great-aunt, three aunts and uncles, and six cousins. Chelsea's mother is Jody, and she lives 15 minutes away. Chelsea has always been very close with her maternal family, all who reside in Chicago. Her uncle, Rick, cousin Brooke, her husband, Jacob, and their son, Beckett, 2, live in Chicago. We see Chelsea's mom almost daily and our siblings a couple of times a month. When our family gets together, it is typically a light-hearted, fun-filled experience.





*We are supported in our decision by our closest friends and family. We also know others who have adopted, and we have a good support base for this endeavor. Everyone will welcome our new child enthusiastically!*









# Our Future



**We are focused on creating stability and meaningful experiences for our family and, thus, are pretty content in our community.** We hope to grow in our professional roles, church, and social circle, and with our broad network, it makes the most sense to stay in Illinois for the time being (the next 3-7 years). We love our neighborhood and community, but we are relatively open to considering relocating if the right opportunity arises.

**We love to travel and will continue to explore new regions of the world.** Over the next decade, we hope to visit Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, and Scandinavia and continue our exploration of North America as well.

**We are open to continuing to grow our family, but we want to take our time** and ensure that we are physically, emotionally, mentally, socially, and spiritually healthy to do that.

**We plan to raise our children in our Christian faith.** Some of the characteristics we want to ensure our children focus on include **loving themselves and one another, pursuing joy, forgiveness, kindness, gentleness, and gratitude.** We want them to know that they are not alone in the world and that a God loves them. We plan to pass these values and beliefs onto our children by including them in each activity. We also want to make sure that they ask questions and feel free to express their curiosity or concerns with us.

Luke comes to church with us, and we pray with him. Luke also attended a Christian preschool, where they prayed daily, went to Liturgy, and learned about God. We have also developed a community of Christians that we “do life with.” We love these people and feel that our days have improved infinitely because of the bonds and love we are developing.

We know you are faced with a challenging decision in selecting the best family for your child and are praying for you to experience peace in your decision. We want to encourage you to hold strong to your values and desires for your child and to **live out your days together with your child inside of you on your terms.** Please know that if we are not the family for you, we completely understand and appreciate that you even considered us.

While being parents for five years now doesn't make us experts, it has sharpened, educated, humbled, and changed us for the better. As the saying goes, "When we know better, we do better." **We promise to use what we have learned thus far and to keep growing together.**

As a community social worker and a medical provider for individuals with substance use and mental health challenges, our hearts are big. We are surrounded by a community with individuals from all backgrounds, cultures, and ethnicities. We've spent thousands of hours studying human development and how people view/see/exist in the world. Here's what we've learned: humans want to be seen, heard, valued, and loved - and we must be responsive to that. **We promise to be compassionate, caring, supportive, and present parents. We'll be encouraging, patient, and kind. We'll make it our mission to figure out who your child is and help them hone their strengths, skills, and desires.**

We also promise to always remind them they have a history, an identity, and a mother who loves them unconditionally. **We will never shy away from their origin story and seize opportunities to discuss you and your deep love for them.** We want you to be a part of our lives at your own pace and in the way that makes you most comfortable. You are to be celebrated - in all ways!

We hope to meet you soon!

*Matt & Chelsea*



# Before you go

*"We also promise to always remind them they have a history, an identity, and a mother who loves them unconditionally."*





YOU ARE LOVED.









