

Hello I am...

Lisa



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Our Hopes and Dreams...

Many events in our lives shape us, and help us grow. I have been blessed to have great friends and family to go through the journey of life with me. I love learning new things, helping others, and try not to sweat the small stuff. I trust that everything happens for a reason.

From a very young age, I have always wanted to be a mom and have been surrounded by children. I remember always helping the adults with the not-so-much younger kids. Even serving in the church nursery at the young age of seven. Then as an adult, for almost two years I enjoyed every Sunday as the caregiver in the infant nursery.

When I dream of having children, I look to my parents, who have been married for more than 38 years, as inspiration of what parenting should look like. I don't take for granted what a blessing that is, knowing most people have not had this same experience. My parents modeled acceptance, support, and love by having many "bonus" children through the years as they opened our home to several of my cousins and other children who needed a loving home in which they could thrive. My grandparents, aunts, uncles, and family friends have been foster and adoptive parents of many children.

I always considered adoption as a possible option. After experiencing infertility, my heart truly grew to desire adoption as the only wonderful option for me. Sharing the blessings of my life with a child whose birth parent also desires the best for them, is where my heart lies.

From my experience, family has been a collection of people, and sometimes pets too, that love and support each other regardless of biology or legal relation. I am so blessed to have so many people in my life that I consider family. I know my child will experience this same blessing through the many family members and friends in our life.

I pray for nothing less than a happy, God-centered life for this child, and that they will always feel unconditional love. For the parents of the child who I adopt, I pray you have peace about your adoption plan, and comfort that your child will be well loved and cared for.

Blessings,
Lisa

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Our values and beliefs as parents...

God - Having God and my relationship with Him at the center allows me to trust and rely on Him and not myself. I am not perfect, nobody is, and that's the amazing gift of grace. Knowing this truth allows me to share that grace with others and frees me to know I cannot do everything on my own. God has given us people in our lives for a reason which is why being engaged with our family, church, and community is one way I hope to live this out and teach my child how to know God and share His love.

Family - Spending quality time with my family has always been important. As I get older, I see how it has shaped me and allowed our family to lean on each other when needed. We might disagree for a moment, but at the end of the day we love each other too much to let anything break that bond. Prioritizing time with family and friends, committing to being present at important events, and participating in life moments will be key to strengthening the relationship with those we love and is how we create memories. Spending time with people we love is always time well spent.

Serving Others - I know helping others is one of my purposes in life. Volunteering has always been a passion and allows me to be part of something bigger than myself. I am so encouraged when I attend volunteer events and see children of all ages helping alongside the adults. It makes me excited to think one day my child will participate with me - to greet clients at the free medical clinic, help plant flowers at the community garden, or when they get older, swinging a hammer as we repair a building in a low income neighborhood. I hope one day my child will introduce me to a new volunteer opportunity they have a passion for where we can serve together.

Kindness - Being tolerant, kind, and loving of others is so important in a world that is quick to judge. While it is easy to misjudge those who don't look, act, talk, or think like ourselves, it is even more important to simply be kind and accepting. To see a person as a human being with feelings and not a label of something they may not have chosen for themselves. Acknowledging the child in a wheelchair by flashing a smile, holding a door for an elder person, or saying a friendly 'hello' to the homeless person, are all ways to show kindness to one another.

Education - I always want to learn from others and share what I have learned. I will always encourage being curious and finding answers. My child will go to the best schools, yet I realize I still have a responsibility to supplement that by teaching him or her at home. My hope is for my child to be "book smart" but also to have emotional intelligence, and continually build new skills such as taking classes and showing interests in other activities, such as painting.

Enjoying Life - Exploring and enjoying the world around us provides an amazing opportunity to learn and grow. I believe enjoyment is found in small or big things alike. Taking a walk without the distraction of technology in order to appreciate your neighborhood, seeing your favorite band in concert for the pure joy of it, taking a vacation, playing in the sand, and exploring the swings and slide at a nearby park. I will encourage my child to try to find joy in everyday life, as well as participate in different sports or hobbies to find what energizes and excites them.



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• Non-smoker

Hobbies:

Creating things with my hands, such as crocheting and knitting, home renovations and remodeling. Problems solving. Watching college and professional sports, particularly football, basketball, and baseball. Reading, traveling in the US and overseas, volunteering, running, and spending time with family and friends.

Profession:

Business Intelligence Engineer

Education Level:

Some College

Our home...

I believe home is where the heart is. It's a safe place to grow, learn, discover, love and be loved. I have two wonderful homes in two very different environments, each with its unique benefits.

My home in Chicago is where I spend most of my time. I live in a family friendly neighborhood on a quiet tree-lined street full of diverse lifestyles and cultures. There is a playground across the street where a lot of the neighborhood children play, there is a jungle gym, slides, and my favorite - swings! Also across the street is a great elementary and middle school where my child may attend.

I enjoy being outside as much as possible, particularly in the summer and fall. I love to meet people at all the neighborhood and local events. There's plenty to explore from food to art to museums to outdoor activities - like dinner on the beach, movies in the park, rides at Navy Pier, watching baseball games at Wrigley Field. The lakefront - about a 5 minute walk from my home - is a great place to get together, play games, or just visit. I imagine my child building sand castles and motes, and running and splashing along the shoreline.

My second home is in a small southern city close to my family, this is where I stay when I "go home" to visit family. There is a fairly large fenced in yard where I will add a swing set. The house sits on a family friendly court, so there is no "thru traffic."

Both homes have light colored walls with natural sunlight pouring in all the windows. The spaces are meant to be lived-in, but are clean with an eclectic collection of furniture. The wall decor is mostly family photos of our many trips and celebrations, and sports memorabilia.

When I think back on my childhood, I have such fond memories of spending time together at home with my family. I remember building forts with my sisters, "camping out" in the living room on a random Friday night with my mom and sisters, watching my dad work on cars in the garage, and watching our favorite movies or TV shows together as a family. It's these simple moments I treasure the most and that I want to create with my child.

I imagine toys strewn all about the house. I look forward to the laughter, the tears, watching them explore, learn, and figure out things around them. I look forward to milestones and everyday pleasures whether that's crawling, learning to walk, playing dress up, turning the pots and pans into a drum set, doing a science experiment, or being the house where all the kids like to hang out.

The child's room will have very neutral and relaxing colors with shelves of books, puzzles, toys, and a dress-up area when they get a little older. There are several items that have sentimental value I'm excited to share with my child. One is a solid wood rocking chair that my mom used to rock me and my sisters to sleep. My sisters used it to rock her sons to sleep, and now I will use it. Of course, when the child gets older, they can design their bedroom to fit their personality and favorites!



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Our family...

I am the oldest of three daughters to Italian/West European parents that takes “family” bond and our food very serious. Our parents have been married for more than 38 years and are incredible role models to all of us regarding what it means to be family - prioritize quality time, love each other unconditionally, and have fun together.

When I say our family is close, I mean all of us, including friends, those who we have adopted over the years, and generations of aunts, uncles, and cousins. Everyone rallies together for holidays, birthdays, Mother’s and Father’s Day, good times, and those not so good. No one holds grudges or hangs on to anger - ever.

We often vacation together and have been to multiple locations in Alaska, Hawaii, California, the Gulf coast, South Carolina, Disney World, a cabin in Gatlinburg, and Italy to name a few. My favorite is the cabin in Gatlinburg because of there is less technology available with no signal in the mountains. These trips include me, my sisters and their families, my mom and dad, my bonus brother (has always been in our life), cousins, and basically anyone else that wants to go. My dad has always been very generous allowing for everyone to join. Vacations are for fun, groups often going their separate ways, but we always come back together for dinner.



Some of our favorite holidays together are Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Of course, as good and typical Italians everything revolves around food. Christmas we celebrate on Christmas Eve with an Italian dinner of lasagna, a pasta dish, and Italian cookies; then we open presents focusing on gifts for the kids. The adults usually make something for each other or give gag gifts. Christmas day is pretty laid back with brunch together including eggs, French toast, bacon, and pancakes. Thanksgiving is a more traditional meal of turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, and broccoli casserole.

I believe it’s this deep sense of security I get from my family that allows me to stay calm in times of stress. I know this will come in handy as there will inevitably be some challenging moments as a parent. As I have become older, I have learned to see the positive and look for the blessing in the less desirable situations.

My own traditions for myself include a local architecture “open house” here in the city every fall because I love learning the history about the buildings and neighborhoods. Every year, I volunteer at a local non-profit group to organize and set up the “Christmas store” for the neighborhood families to purchase low-cost gifts for their loved ones.

I am constantly planning and preparing for the way life will look with a child included. My family has been sharing clothes, books, and toys for my child, as well as giving advice and praying. We will continue all of the traditions that I have grown up with and will start new ones. My family is incredibly excited to add another member. My older nephews often talk about all the things they look forward to “when Auntie Lisa adopts” or when they “get to meet their new cousin.”



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