



Hello I am...



Liz

Graceful  
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## My Hopes & Dreams

Initially I thought I would get married first and have both biological and adopted children. I spent my 20s in graduate school, building a career and a solid group of friends, and eventually bought a house. I had achieved my goals and longed to be a mom but my Mr. Right was nowhere to be found. In my early 30s after much prayer and seeking advice from trusted friends and family, I began the adoption process for the first time. I realized that marriage could occur at any point in life but there was a shorter window of time to become a mom.

Adoption is the best "yes" I have ever given. I have two children, both adopted internationally. My daughter, Ellia, is 8 and was adopted when she was 2.5 years old. My son, Ian, is 6 and was adopted at 25 months. My daughter is especially proud that we are an "adoption family" and that she and her brother have that in common. I hope that will be a blessing to all of them as they grow older.

In our family we talk about the two moms being a team: one mom who grew the baby in her belly and found the home that the baby needed, and one mom who adopted the child and helped them learn and grow up. Neither of us can know the other's experience but neither could have given the child the life they have on their own. I know you are a good mother because you are taking the time and energy to think about different options for yourself and your child. I know that you will make the best decision you can.

Being entrusted to raise children born to other women has been the most humbling thing that I have experienced, and I will hold myself to a higher standard of not just doing my best, but also what I hope you would feel is the best, for your child. My hope is to make sure your child knows they are wanted, loved, valuable, and safe in our home each and every day. I will apologize to your child when I mess up, teach him or her that nobody is perfect, and that we can do hard things. I want to raise this little one in a church community and teach them that they are known and deeply loved by God, who has a plan and purpose for their life.

It is an honor to be considered to be a part of your child's life. I want to include your family in our lives by talking warmly and respectfully about you, noticing traits he or she may get from you, and by staying in touch through photos, updates, calls, or visits. We would be thrilled to welcome your child, you, and your family to ours.

Warmly,  
*Liz*

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# My Values & Beliefs as a Parent

**CHRISTIAN FAITH** - Being loved by God allows me to overflow, serve, and love others in greater ways than I could on my own. My greatest prayer is for my children to know this peace and joy through their own Christian faith. We incorporate our faith into daily life by praying, thanking God for all that He's done for us, participating in a church community and Bible studies, and doing mini devotions lessons at supper time. We talk about how God has a special plan for each person's life and uses both the good and hard parts of life for our betterment.



**TRAVEL AND ADVENTURE** - Taking time to see new places and things is important because it instills a sense of curiosity and wonder in us. Seeing people and places different than ourselves helps us to remember we are part of a bigger story, to be less self-centered, and to be more humble and aware. We make time for adventures, from an overseas trip to a local park or museum in a neighboring state, whenever we are off school. We often meet relatives somewhere to travel together. An unwritten rule in our family is to always keep our passports valid.



**BELONGING** - I want each of my children to feel completely loved and accepted for exactly who they are, that they are enough, and that there is specific purpose for their lives. I believe that everyone has something special to offer and so I work to encourage my kids in their areas of interest or natural giftedness. We emphasize doing the best you can rather than always aiming for the "best" outcome. I praise hard work or creative ideas more than the finished product. I convey my love and how valuable my children are through my daily words and actions, and intentionally create feelings of safety and stability in our family life.

**LOVE AND RESPECT FOR ALL** - Simply stated, this is treating everyone with respect and kindness, even people we do not know well. In this polarized culture we can make someone's day a little easier by treating them well. This means manners, kind tone of voice, patience in difficult situations, and remembering that just because someone is different than we are doesn't mean they have any less value. We talk about this. I model it for the kids in public and prompt them with manners when they forget. When we see people being unkind, we quietly talk about how we would feel if we were treated that way.



**EDUCATION** - What matters to me is that my kids have a plan to support themselves and contribute to society and that they are willing to learn what they need to in order to work towards their goals. I will support my kids in developing their natural gifts and talents through as much education as they are interested in, whether that's college, apprenticeships, trade classes, or lessons. Right now, this looks like buying art supplies for my little artist and finding summer camps focusing on areas they are interested in learning more about. When the kids ask a question I don't know the answer to, we look it up together or call a friend that has knowledge in the area.

**CELEBRATION** - I believe it's important to celebrate and mark milestones in our lives. We love to celebrate with a special dessert and the kids love to blow out candles no matter the occasion! In addition to birthdays and the usual holidays, we celebrate when we finish a big project or something hard, when something especially exciting happens, and even the dog's birthday. My hope is that our family will be in the habit of gratitude for things we have or accomplish.

*A Beautiful Experience*







### MY HOBBIES:

Reading, being outdoors, going for walks, spending quality time with family and friends, travel (domestic and international), always up for a fancy dessert.

### MY PROFESSION:

Stay at home Mom

### MY EDUCATION LEVEL:

Masters Degree

### PLUS:

- Family dog
- Non-smoker

# Home & Neighborhood

Our neighborhood is full of kids playing! They often end up playing in someone's yard, riding bikes along the sidewalks, or filling driveways with chalk art towns or long and elaborate hopscotch squares. A few neighbors have basketball hoops which get good use as well. Our neighborhood also has a park area with a playground and a swimming pool where we often meet friends to play or swim. There are excellent schools and lots of sports and activities for kids to choose from.

Home is our safe place. We try not to get too busy so we can have time at home in the afternoons together, but one or two days a week we go to a sports class or a swim lesson. Coming home to our house feels like instant comfort. We try to keep things simple and consistent, so home is a predictable safe place for all of us.

We also frequently welcome friends to our yard to jump on the trampoline or swing. Kids run in and out of houses for snacks or to get some toys. Our house has a front porch and a back deck which leads out to the back yard. The front porch mainly is used for waiting for the school bus, and the neighbor cats also really like to lie there in the sun. I spend more time on the back deck, which has a table, chairs, and an umbrella to read or talk on the phone. I can easily watch the kids do tricks on the trampoline or ride around the alley while I'm enjoying the deck. Taking a walk as a family is one of the best ways to get our day back on track if anyone is feeling grumpy.

We have lots of windows- we get morning light in the front of the house where the kids have bedrooms and evening sun in the back right into the kitchen for supper time. Our home feels warm and inviting, but also not too fancy. People are free to take their shoes off, get comfortable, and not worry about making a mess. Kids are free to play with any toys they find. I want people to feel like they can be themselves in our home. It's a beautiful cozy place but its main purpose is to be lived in.

Our favorite meal is supper because we are not in a hurry, can sit and talk, and just be together. The kid's favorite dish is definitely turkey-rice meatballs and they ask me to make it about once a week! We have several silly songs that we sing as we go through the days. One about our "endless laundry" and one about going potty, one for brushing teeth, and another about our morning hugs that we do before school.

Getting the kids ready for bed is my favorite time of the day, because we are all together and doing things we love. Both my kids really love water, so bath time is a fun time to watch them play or practice letter sounds with the foam bath letters or have a conversation about their day. Once teeth are brushed, I spend special time with each kid. They get to choose stories and we snuggle up and read together. Then we say our bedtime prayers and I tuck them in. I always tell them "You are wanted, you are loved, you are valuable, you are safe here with mama" as I tuck them in. It's so sweet to finish the day all together and to see my kids loving bedtime stories just like I did when I was small. As I tuck them in, I am often struck with gratitude for the miracle of us. Three people who share no DNA have grown into family.



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# Family

I am a single mother who is blessed to be able to stay home and parent full time. Becoming a mother has completely molded and shaped me for the better, making me kinder, more gracious, and less judgmental to others, and more flexible than I ever was in the past.

I have really enjoyed having two kids, their sibling relationship, and the cozy family feeling when we are all together. I expect that to continue as our family grows. My daughter, Ellia, is so excited to have another little sibling. She is constantly asking me if she can teach the new baby to walk, or color, or whistle. She is already a great big sister and I know that will continue. My son, Ian, really has no idea what a little sibling would entail, but he loves his sister and asks about her all the time when they are apart. I think he will love the feeling of having another person in our crew.

I am committed and determined to meet each kid right where they are and to give them the space to be themselves. If my daughter wants her bangs cut in a way that's not my favorite, I let her do it. Outfit doesn't match? That is okay, as long as they like it. I focus on the major things like values, building safe and secure relationships, and strong healthy kids. I let the kids decide on the smaller things most of the time. I feel that letting them have choices as much as I can helps them to accept the times that they need to do what I say and helps them get comfortable speaking up for what they want.

We love to have fun! Finding the humor or imagining silly things connects us, and so do tickle fights! We like to take adventures to the zoo or botanical gardens, but we also love to be at home building Legos, visiting the pool, and going to the pond to look for turtles. We celebrate birthdays with a small family party and then a larger party to invite some friends. At Christmas we decorate together as a family. We put up lights outside, and a tree and garlands inside. Most of our ornaments are personal, made by the kids, passed down, or from a trip we took. We love to talk about all the stories when we are setting up the tree. Each night during December we read from a book that tells a little about the Christmas story from the Bible. We open presents Christmas morning and have a special breakfast with a birthday treat and candles for Jesus. We even sing happy birthday to Him!

We love to travel and take annual trips to the beach and to visit family at their lake house. The kids love to play with their cousins and keep busy picking wild blueberries, going kayaking, swimming in the lake, going boating and tubing, and playing basketball. We love this time together. Having this routine gives us a great rhythm to the year and gives us a visit to look forward to when we haven't seen each other in a while.

We can't wait to get to know another little person. He or she will immediately feel like a member of the family, having adoption in common with the other kids, and arriving in a similar way. We also have several older adoptees (teens to twenty somethings) in our family. It's really sweet to see how their adoption connection fosters relationships between the siblings and cousins.



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