

# Daniel & Jenna



**Bruce and Luna**



**Daniel Speaks English,  
Spanish, and Korean**



**Jenna Plays Piano, Violin,  
and Mandolin**



# Hello

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Thank you for taking the time to get to know us. We hope this gives you a good feel for who we are and how much we look forward to becoming parents someday. We are humbled to be a part of this careful and loving decision you are considering. We feel that to even think about this path of adoption says a lot about your bravery and love for your child. If you choose us, we are committed to raising your child with the utmost care, providing them with a loving home, and ensuring that they know their story. We are praying that this journey brings you peace and hope.





# About us

**We are creative.** One summer, instead of paying for a paint night at a venue, we decided to organize our own paint night with friends and asked Daniel's super artistic sister, Joy, to be the instructor. Everyone got to take home their very own masterpiece by the end of the night. Daniel went rogue and painted *Iron Man* instead of a "woman with an umbrella", but his canvas was the group favorite.



Our goddaughter

**Jenna looks forward to being a stay-at-home mom.** As a child, Jenna remembers having quality time with her mom as she drove her to music lessons, dance practices, and softball games. Riding in the backseat of the van, she had emotional conversations with her mom about almost any topic with Kleenex boxes and snacks on standby. Ever since then, Jenna knew she wanted to be available for these precious moments when she became a parent. Your child will have a mom who will be there in all the small and big moments of their life.

**We embrace the winter with broomball.** How intense is this photo? It's below-zero degrees and Jenna is diving for a broomball on ice with a broomstick and special boots with soft rubber soles. It was one of her first games and she was not going to let the other team win. We didn't expect the moment to be caught and featured in a local newspaper! We have been playing broomball for 6 years now and love making the most of Minnesota winters.





# Meet JENNA (FROM DANIEL)

Jenna is often nicknamed “sunshine” for her **bubbly nature and contagious joy**. She’s the type of person who will strike up a conversation in the elevator or help a stranger out because that’s just her! To cheer up the kids in the hospital on Halloween, Jenna and her fellow nurses dressed up as *Care Bears*! When asking which one she should dress as, her coworkers knew right away! She had to be *Cheer Bear*, as it was a perfect fit! The kids loved the surprise of seeing their night nurse in full character cheering them up! Your child will have a mom who is always ready to encourage them.



**Jenna speaks in music.** When Jenna isn’t lighting up a room with her bubbly charm, she’s serenading it with classical music. She has been playing piano since she was 5 years old and the violin since she was 9. Since then, she still enjoys making music and even taught lessons as a summer job. For our friend’s wedding, Jenna played *Allegro* by Fiocco on the violin for the prelude. As the bride walked down the aisle, Jenna seamlessly switched over to the piano and played Pachelbel’s *Canon*. She memorized both songs so she could watch and not miss a thing. Guests were stunned to see her bounce between the instruments!

**Jenna loves cooking and is always trying new recipes!** She knows how to make healthy food taste good and adds in extra spice and salt for me. For our first Christmas as a family, my *Umma* (mom in Korean) gave Jenna a Korean cooking lesson. Jenna learned how to marinate salmon the Korean way and cook *bulgogi* for the family. Balancing the sweet and spicy is the trick and Jenna was a natural with Umma’s help! There were no leftovers that evening, and Umma was very proud of Jenna’s cooking skills.





## DANIEL (FROM JENNA)

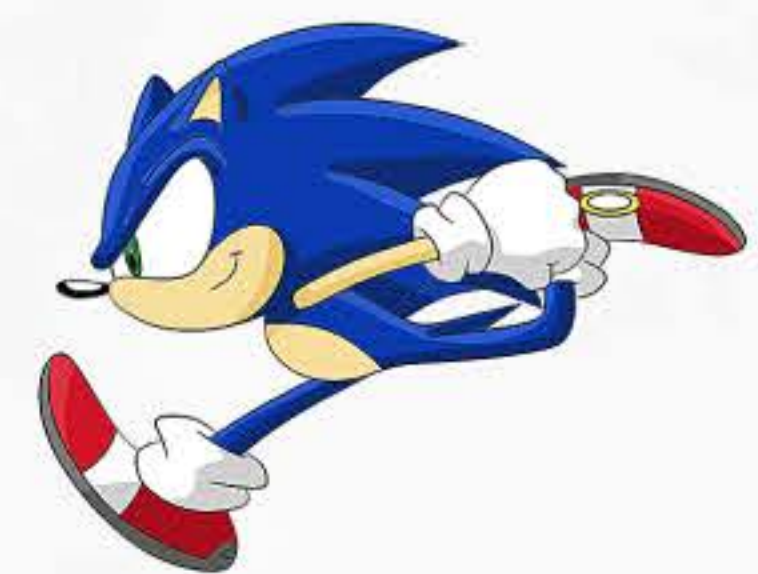


**Daniel has stories to tell.** Daniel lived in South Korea for a few years when he was 10 years old and remembers swimming at an outdoor pool one hot summer day. The locals confused him for being Filipino because his skin was so dark. Years later, his best friend Alberto is Filipino and they are commonly mistaken for being brothers! Though Daniel was born in Hawaii, he had a “melting pot” upbringing, growing up in two countries, (U.S. and South Korea), and speaking 3 languages fluently (English, Spanish, and Korean). I love hearing his stories of growing up with immigrant parents, biracial cousins, and best friends who looked different than him. Your child will be welcomed to grow up in a community where each person’s story is appreciated.

**Daniel does small things with great love.** Daniel poured his heart into sculpting miniature heads when he didn’t make the high school basketball team... *5 times!* Daniel shared his artwork online and within a few months, toy collectors started paying him for private commissions. One project was to sculpt Bruce Willis from *Die Hard* (1988) and he had never seen the movie because it was older than him! Daniel quickly became acquainted with the classic in order to sculpt his face. This head sculpture was one of his most popular pieces!



**Daniel is naturally athletic.** Daniel grew up playing team sports but after moving to Minnesota, he began training for triathlons with his buddies. At the finish line of his first race, Daniel saw me cheering and started to smile with his tongue out. He sped up near the end and passed several other racers. I couldn’t help but think of *Sonic the Hedgehog* as his legs whipped around in a blur!





# Our story



**We met at our church** basilica through a mutual friend from bible study. We were both on a “dating fast” (i.e. no dates) but we were interested in each other right away. Daniel made a mental note until his dating fast was over, then spent months looking for the “pretty blonde girl” at church. It wasn’t until 5 months later at a Christmas party where he met her again and this time, asked her out. Jenna was hoping for this moment!



After 9 months of dating, Jenna and her best friend Kyra embarked on a 500-mile pilgrimage across Spain. When she got back ... **she broke up with Daniel to become a religious sister** and live in a convent (think: *Sound of Music*). Plot twist! 6 months later, Jenna discerned that marriage was her calling, we reunited, and 4 months later... Daniel proposed at the same basilica where we first met!

We desire a large family and though we tried to conceive as soon as we got married, we were unable to have children due to medical reasons. In the third year of our marriage, we decided to rent a movie in a cozy cabin up north. We watched *Instant Family* and it brought us to tears. The main characters unexpectedly adopt a sibling group and though challenging at first, they grow together and find joy as a family. It was a hopeful sign for us to begin the process of adoption. We also have close friends who adopted their child and have mentored us along the way. Spending time with their family brings us much hope and joy. **We would love to welcome you and your child into our family!**





# Woof!

B R U C E



L U N A

**We grew up with pets.** By the time we met, Daniel had 8 dogs growing up while Jenna had grown up with 11 bunnies and a yellow lab named Bob. Daniel got Luna when he first moved to Minnesota and Jenna and Luna bonded instantly over their shared interest in constant cuddling. A year into our marriage, we felt that Luna needed a playmate, so we drove 7 hours to Kansas to pick up Bruce.



Bruce is a trooper with endless energy. The first summer we took him camping, he did soooo well! He slept like a rock in our tent after hiking with us for 6 miles in northern Minnesota. **Bruce carried his food, sleeping mat, and toys (of course) in his own pack** because everyone has to carry their own weight! Other hikers on the trail were so impressed with how attentive Bruce was, staying close by and showing his toothy smile.

Luna is insta-famous. Daniel created an Instagram profile for Luna because he was posting too many pictures of her on his own profile. **Overnight, Luna became Instagram famous with 2,000+ followers** because of this photo of her as Princess Leia. These days, Luna lives a quieter life away from the limelight but will occasionally post a photo update for her Instagram followers.



**Our dogs are great with kids.** Luna is a sturdy playmate and Bruce is eager to please. Last Christmas, we caught our nephew Elijah having an adorable chat with Luna. He kept saying, “*Luna go down*” because dogs were not allowed on the bench. After a few pleas, Luna finally listened to her little human and they both ran off playing again. Bruce was not too far off carrying his ball, hoping Elijah would eventually throw it for him.





# Favorite

## THINGS TO DO

When we first met, Jenna hyped up her **horseback riding** skills because she had taken lessons as a child. Daniel decided to surprise her with a horseback riding excursion and marked Jenna as an “intermediate” rider and she got a tough horse. It had been a long time since her last ride and Jenna didn’t realize how fast horses were when they galloped... She kept yelling “**woah woah WOAH!!!!**” to slow the horse down while Daniel raced on by. She ate some humble pie that day. Your child will see nature on horseback.



**We embrace the winters.** When we were visiting friends in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, we took Bruce **skijoring** (dog pulling a person on skis) for the first time. At the start, Bruce looked back hesitantly because he knows he’s not allowed to pull on the leash. When he realized this was what we *wanted* him to do, his eyes lit up and he started sprinting with all his might to pull Jenna on her cross country skis. What a fun sight to see all of Bruce’s energy (and flapping ears) channeled into this winter sport! Your child will have many activities to choose from, even in the colder seasons!



We both grew up playing tennis and so it gets competitive when there is a back rub on the line. On Jenna’s birthday, **we biked to the nearby tennis court to play a few rounds.** Daniel started out by coaching Jenna with a few drills and he must have been such an excellent coach that Jenna ended up winning the match! And yes, she won a back rub, hence the big smile on Jenna’s face!



We love connecting our friends through hosting parties. A few summers back, we held a barbecue for our bible study group, a few work friends, and then invited some players from our soccer team to join us. The party instantly became even livelier when we realized some of our friends already knew each other! What a small world!



We have our game faces on. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Daniel's brother and sister lived with us for 3 months and we played games almost every night. **We are super competitive because 5-minute back rubs are always at stake.** One late night, Daniel and his siblings busted out the cards to play *Nertz* (think: *Spoons* meets *Solitaire*) and Jenna (not a night owl) sprang up and got ready to play with coffee in hand. Jenna was the reigning *Nertz* champ with more wins than all of us combined! She defended her title that night and went to bed with a relaxed back and smile on her face.

We feel called to discipleship. **We teach Sunday school to high schoolers and middle schoolers** throughout the year and love that these experiences help draw us outside of our comfort zones and connect with other people's stories around us.

In 2019 (pre-pandemic), Daniel was invited to share his testimony to a group of 300+ middle school students. He talked about growing up as a rebellious teen and the importance of having healthy friendships. The kids were so immersed in his talk that at one point, they all clapped and cheered when his story turned around for the better.





# Meet THE FAMILY

If you choose us, your child would have 5 great-grandparents, 4 grandparents (2 live a few blocks away!), 25 uncles and aunts, and **53 cousins**.



Our siblings are a hoot when we're all together. 3 years ago, we visited our sister in New York for a family reunion and **took "family-bonding" to another level** by lounging all-day **at a Korean spa house**. We caught up on life and debated about relationships while we scrubbed each other's backs, sweated in saunas, relaxed in jetpools, moisturized with face masks, and munched on ramen noodles. It was a time filled with laughter and unforgettable memories. Your child will grow up in a home where family time is cherished and family members are encouraged to bring their authentic selves to every occasion.



Our family is always **dreaming up creative ways to have fun**, even on cold Minnesota nights! We often brainstorm so many ideas that it's hard to decide what to do first. On the coldest day of the year, we dressed up one night with our parents like it was the *Roaring Twenties*! As soon as we walked in the door, they had swing music playing and our dad was waving his derby hat. Witnessing their enthusiasm was contagious and soon enough we were dancing around, playing card games, and tickling the piano keys.



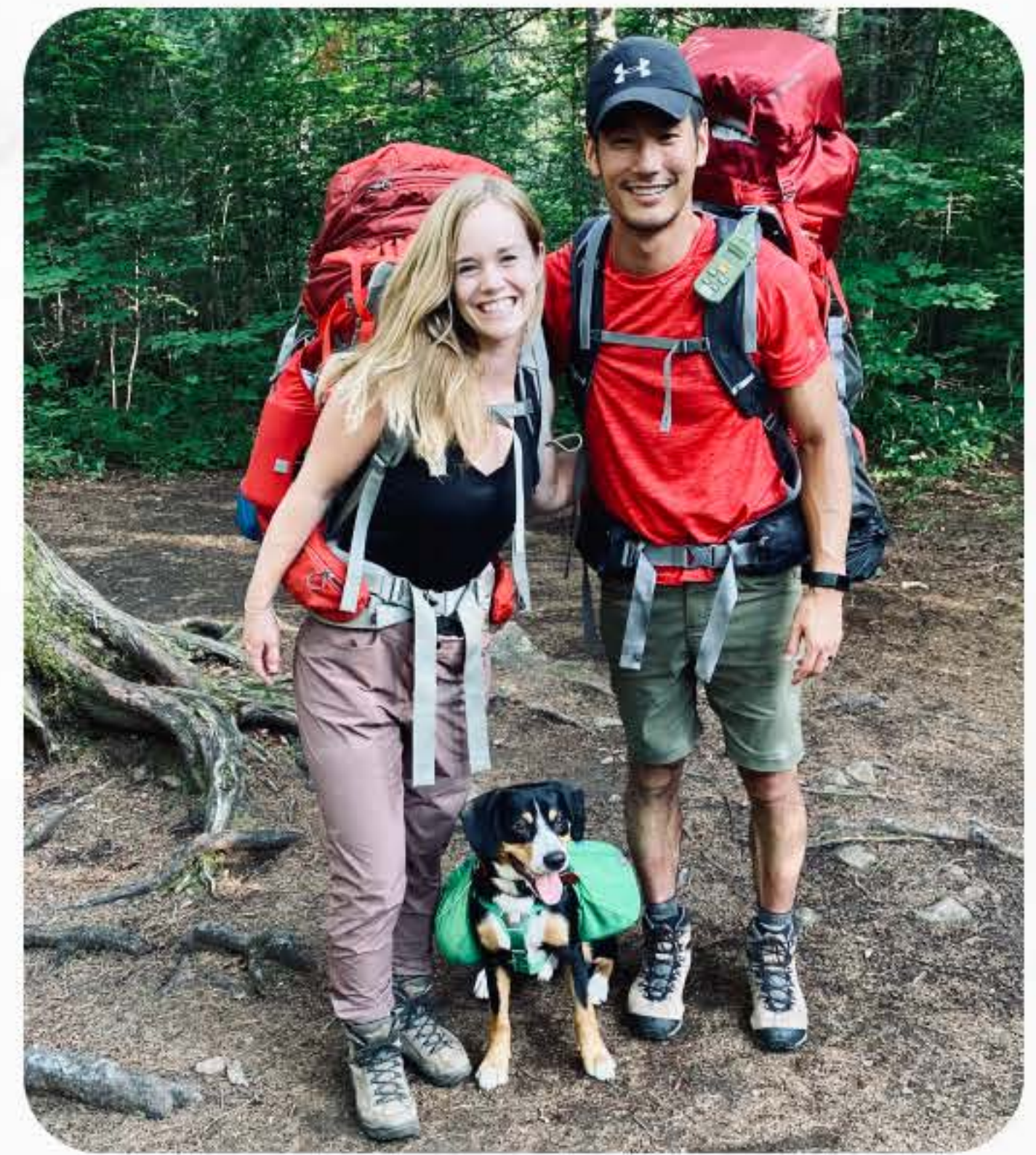
We love having such a **large and connected family that stays in touch, whether near or far**. This past December, we were able to visit both sides of the family. Even though it had been a couple months since we had seen our nephew, he recognized us immediately from our Facetime calls. He starts out shy but we know we can get him talking if we ask him to show us his favorite toy cars. It's fun to travel to different destinations and it's always like no time has passed when we see each other.



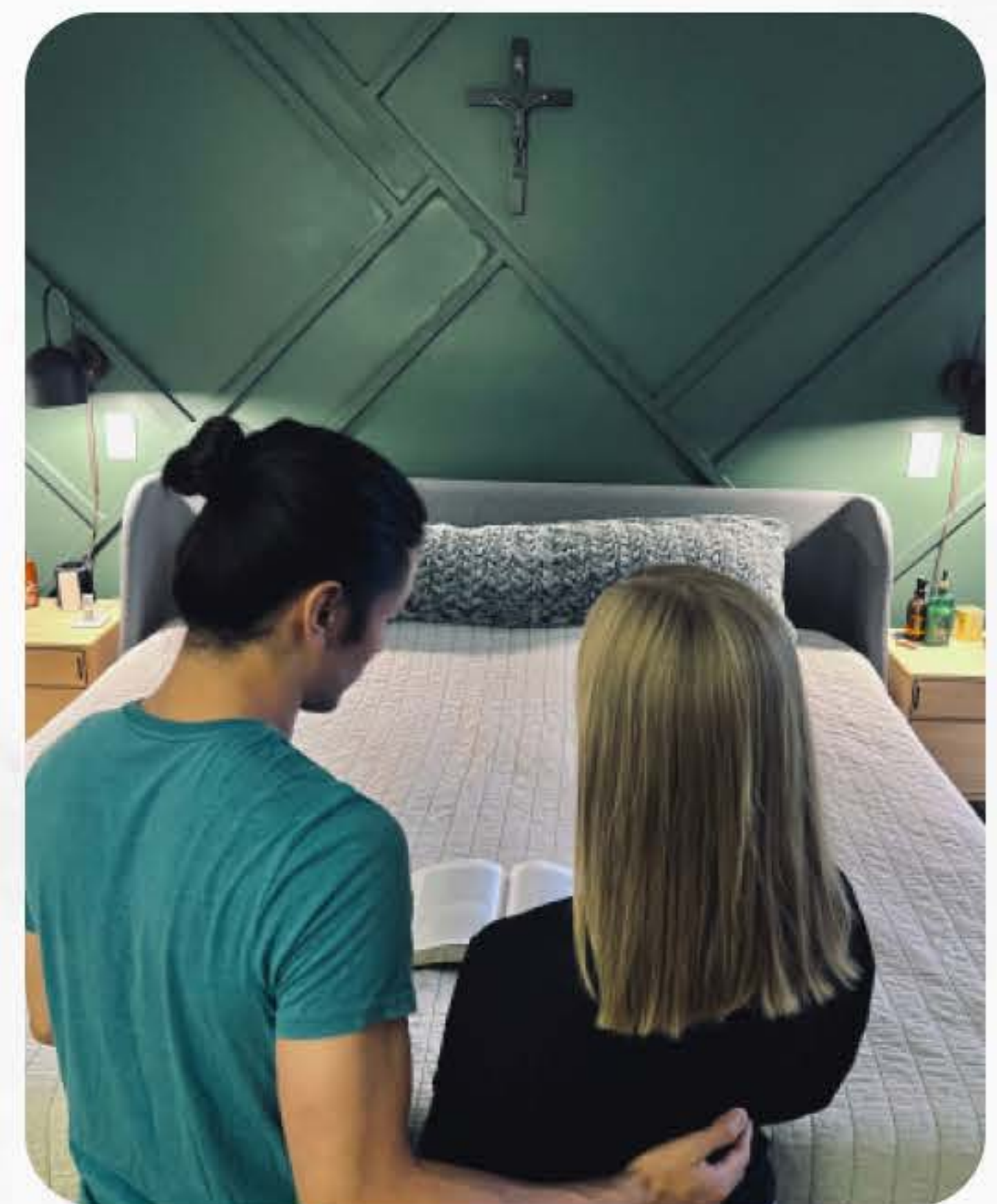


## O U R T R A D I T I O N S

**Backpacking in the fall** has been a tradition but one year we decided to go in the middle of the summer. Bad idea. We got ambushed by so many mosquitos, it was difficult to set up the tent because they were flying in our faces. When we finally made it inside our tent, Daniel's back was covered in dozens of mosquito bites. They had been biting through his shirt! The next day we visited the site where the Mississippi River begins (yes, in Minnesota!) and learned that early explorers were also plagued by the "*voracious and long-billed musketoes.*" 200 years later, not much has changed!



**Our days always end with prayer and reflection.** This helps us wind down, notice the moments God was present to us, and then think of others in our lives who need our prayers. One of our favorite bedtime prayers is the *St. Michael the Archangel* prayer because we ask for safety and protection, both physically and spiritually, and then doze off to bed. This past summer, Daniel woke up in the middle of the night after having a concerning dream about our friend. Though the details were hazy, we both prayed for our friend that night and later found out that she was having a hard time that very night we had prayed for her. Thankfully, she was alright. Your child will be wrapped in our prayers every night so that they have peaceful dreams and God's providence.



Every Christmas morning growing up, we would wear our new pajamas and wait until everyone was ready before leaving our bedrooms. **Singing "Silent Night", we would walk with only candlelight to the manger scene in the living room.** This was a cherished memory growing up and now it's a part of our own family tradition. The sense of quiet and wonder was and is still a good reminder of the reason we celebrate Christmas. This past year, with all of our family gathered, we shared this tradition. Our usual rambunctious nephew was in quiet awe of only the candles lighting up the manger scene. We look forward to learning about your favorite traditions to include in our gatherings for your child.





# Our HOME

Our Minnesota suburb home is just 2 blocks away from the lake, shaded by tall ash and maple trees. It is in a quiet cul-de-sac with next door neighbors who each have outdoor pools and young kids (pool partayyy), two firefighters, and fellow dog-owners.



**Our kitchen** is our favorite spot in the house because food **brings people together**. For New Years, we hosted both sides of our family and somehow fit all 14 of us around two tables and an island. The seafood boil was steaming from the pan and made us think we were at the ocean....not Minnesota. Right after we cleared the dishes, we quickly transitioned to playing *Tortuga* on the dining table, conveniently close to all the snacks and sparkling water. Your child will have plenty of snacks and spaces to play in our favorite gathering space.



We love being “uncle and auntie” to the little friends in our life, and the sunroom/playroom is a space where they can play while the adults visit. This winter, it was the first time our friend’s daughter Abby was at our home. She was shy, but curious. Right away, she warmed up when she came across all of the toys in our sunroom, which we had turned into a kid’s playroom for all of our friends who come over. Our game nights are now **“bring yo kids” nights** and these moments move us from the game table to the floor playing next to them. Your child will have a safe and fun environment to play with their future playmates!

We are low-key undercover bikers. Right after putting an offer on our house, we wanted to get a better feel of the neighborhood so we biked around until it got dark. We fell in love with the lake view only 2 blocks away. Funny enough, as we were biking by the house, the seller had noticed us through the kitchen window! **We freaked out and sped back to our car.** We’re not sure if they recognized us but they must’ve found it endearing because we got the house after all! Minneapolis is one of the most bike friendly cities and there are always fun paths to take! Your child will have many paths to explore with us!





## A N D C O M M U N I T Y



We are Ironman...fans. When our friend Terrence ran his first Ironman, we drove 4 hours to Madison, Wisconsin to cheer him on and we weren't the only ones—several other close friends joined us.

**Being a fan** for a 12-hour *Ironman* race (2.5 mile swim, 112 mile bike ride, 26.2 mile run) **is hard work.** We got so exhausted following him around during his race that we had to sneak a nap in at the hotel just so that we had enough energy to continue cheering him on until the end of the race.

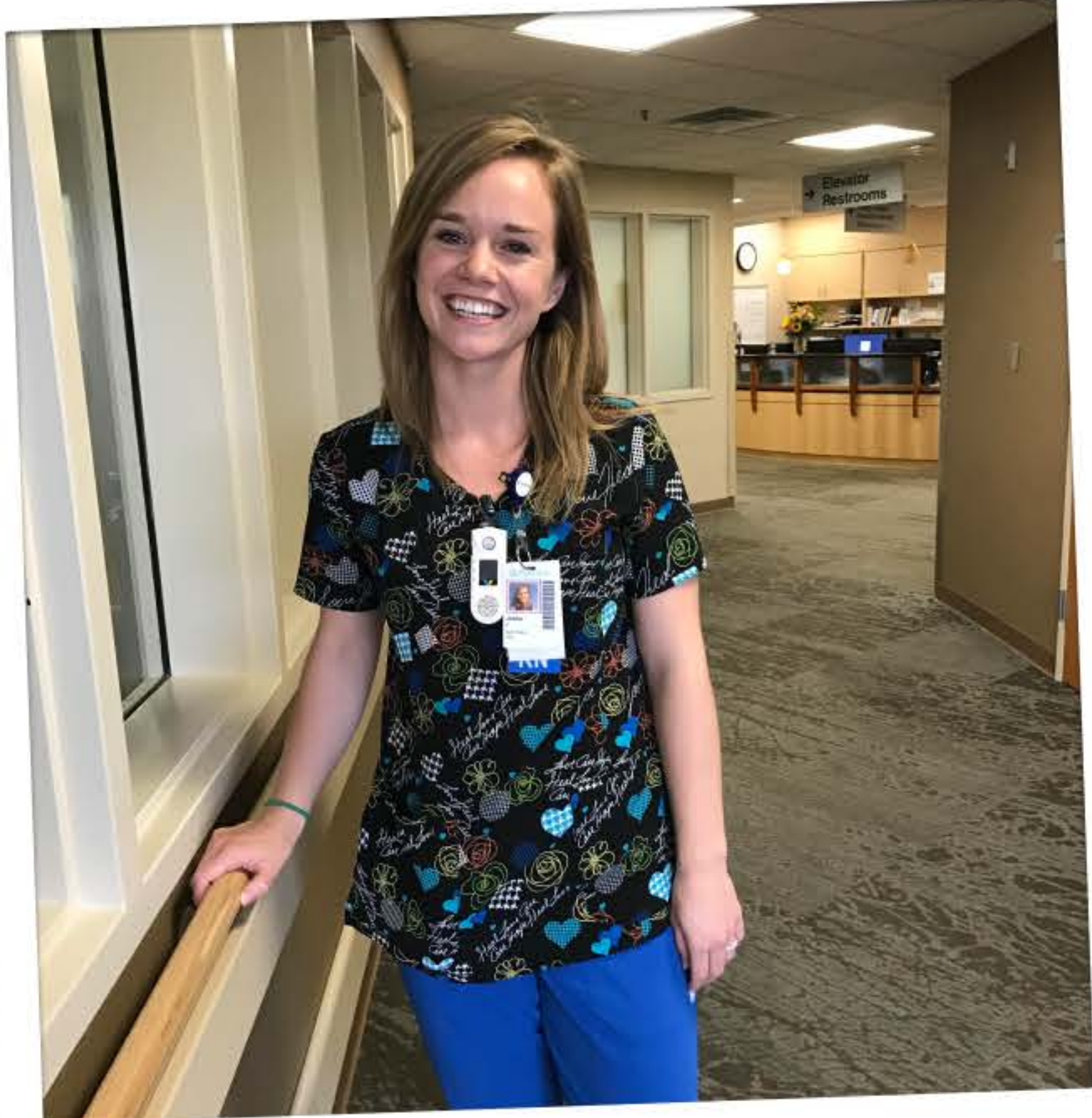
The men and women in our small group encourage us to grow in our faith and values. One year, our women's group and men's group had an **intense Christmas Cookie Bake-off.** The men were bragging about their baking skills, while the ladies had already started mixing their dough. Let's be honest, the guys didn't have a chance. Daniel whipped out his "famous" ginger snaps (which he had never made before) and the ladies stuck to the classics. The judges ultimately gave the win to Jenna's gals for delivering a timeless chocolate chip cookie baked to perfection.



We are blessed with unexpected friendships that have blossomed into long-lasting support systems. Paul and Daniel go way back to when they were both single dudes attending bible study. They weren't best buddies until Paul's basement apartment was flooded and **Daniel offered his couch to crash on for 2 months.** This began the start of their friendship, bonding over faith, workin out, and business ideas! 5 years later, we are the godparents for their first born son, Marco, and recently were honored to attend the baptism. Your child will grow up surrounded by these meaningful friendships and a strong support system, founded in faith.



# Weekdays



Jenna will be a **stay-at-home mom** for your child but currently works for a healthcare company as a registered nurse. The position is 100% remote. Throughout the day, she calls patients to provide personalized education on how to reach their health goals. Prior to this job, Jenna worked in the hospital for 5 years as a **pediatric nurse** and loved giving newborn babies their first bath in the nursery. She is looking forward to being a full-time stay-at-home mom for your child and providing them with daily care and attention!

Daniel is a software designer for a large tech company. He **works from** his **home** office that he remodeled to look like an industrial modern building with dark paint and concrete floors. He even put in a glass door so that he can easily wink at Jenna as she walks by during his meetings. Daniel will have extra time at home with your child.



**Dogs. Blanket. Showtime.** Cuddling with the dogs and watching a show is something we enjoy most evenings. On the season finale of our favorite TV show, *This Is Us*, we kicked our legs up, draped a wool blanket over our laps, and started watching. We noticed a little paw extending into our laps and realized Bruce was trying to (not-so-discreetly) slide his way into cuddling with us while we watched our show. Anytime we get this blanket out, Bruce and Luna both get ready to jump into our laps for cuddle time. Your child will have quality family time every day.



# Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us. We have both desired to be parents for a long time and have stayed hopeful, awaiting God's plan for our family. We would be so honored to be entrusted with the gift of your child and would love them unconditionally. **We are committed to maintaining ongoing contact with you** including in-person visits, video calls, letters, and phone calls, at your comfort level so that you always have the option of being in your child's life and staying in touch. Sending our thoughts and prayers to you, and that you are filled with deep peace and comfort.





