



JOEL & ALEX





THANK YOU

FOR TAKING THE TIME

to learn about our family and to consider us as the forever family for your little girl. We know this is a hard decision, but regardless of your circumstances, you want what's best for your child and her future. That's the mark of a good mother and we applaud you.

We hope to give you a little peek into our lives and the life that your daughter will have if you choose us, and we are praying for peace and joy as we both navigate this journey.



SCAN TO WATCH
OUR VIDEO!





OUR STORY

Our names are Joel and Alex, we have been married for 7+ years, and have a 3-year-old son named Aquilla. We brought him home from the NICU through foster care and were able to adopt him a year later in 2021. Now he's ready to be a big brother! We would like to add a girl to our family, and Quill is very excited for a little sister!

We are not big travelers (although we enjoy it) or fancy spenders, but we live a happy life full of family time, creativity and small adventures. We believe in kids spending time outdoors, flexing their creative and imaginative muscles and learning in wholesome, fun ways. We love reading books, playing with lego, drawing, painting, watching a good cooking competition or old tv show, listening to music, dance parties in the living room, home cooked meals together at the table, and trips to the park and library.

WHY WE CHOOSE ADOPTION

Although we've always dreamed of having a family and raising children, we have been unable to do that biologically. It's a hard reality at times, but we believe it has always been God's plan for us - that rather than bringing biological children into the world, we open our hearts to those who are in need of families. We started this journey by becoming foster parents, but after Quill's adoption, we felt led to adopt privately the next time. We think this will create the most stability for Quill, as well as our future children. Alex's greatest dream in life has always been to be a mother, and Joel is a wonderful father. We love children and love being parents, even in the difficult times. We believe adoption is just one of the many ways that God can take broken things and make them beautiful.



As for God, His way is perfect

PSALM 18:30



MEET ALEX

Alex is the oldest of 4 girls, and grew up in a very close-knit family. She and her sisters were all homeschooled, and spent tons of time together - creating a bond of friendship that has lasted into adulthood. She and her mom are also very close and share a lot of the same interests, such as homemaking, health, and sewing. They even started a sewing business together when Alex graduated high school!

Alex is creative, outgoing and passionate. She is a perfectionist and puts her all into everything she does. Her goal in life is to glorify God and be the best wife and mommy she can be!

TOP 3 ABOUT ALEX



STAY-AT-HOME MAMA

Alex is a stay-at-home mom and loves it! During the day she and Quill read books, play with play dough, cook together, watch tv, play outside, go for walks, and use their imaginations as they play car and build forts. They look forward to sharing these times!

Alex enjoys anything creative, from knitting, to sewing, to painting her home and making decor for her walls. She looks forward to planning elaborate birthdays for Quill each year, and enjoys crocheting toys for him and making him cute, unique clothes. If she can dream it, Alex will try to make it!

MAKING



CHILDHOOD

Growing up, Alex spent a lot of time playing “house”. She and her sisters were always the mamas and they had a very large collection of dolls, doll clothes and accessories and a kitchen set with play food. They spent hours every day dreaming up stories for their pretend families and acting them out. Alex loves being a boy mom, but has always wanted a daughter to share those things with.



MEET JOEL

Joel is the middle child and has 4 brothers, 3 of whom are married with children. He and his siblings were homeschooled and involved in sports, but Joel's passion is making things. He has an art degree and currently works as an engineer. He is a hard worker and loves what he does, but his goal is to work for himself, creating his own products from home, and having a more flexible schedule for his family. Joel is quiet, thoughtful and intelligent - but he has a really fun and silly side and he's always interested in learning and trying new things.

TOP 3 ABOUT JOEL



MAKING

Joel is an overall creative person. He enjoys working with many materials, such as wood, metal and leather, and is in the middle of a large workshop renovation on their property. He envisions many cozy nights in the workshop as a family, working on projects together.

Joel really enjoys learning new processes and getting ideas from other makers, and YouTube is an easy and inspiring way for him to do that. Often, Quill asks to sit on Joel's lap and watch with him, and it gives them a shared interest to bond over, as well as a great foundation for future creativity.

LEARNING



FOOD

Joel makes a simple breakfast for our family every morning before he goes to work, but on Saturdays it's a tradition for him to make a big brunch with fluffy pancakes or waffles, eggs and bacon. He loves experimenting with different flavors and techniques and often comes up with yummy ideas like miniature pancakes with a fried apple on top. His newest pumpkin spice pancakes are the current favorite!



MEET QUILL

Aquilla (Quill for short) is a typical 3-year-old boy who loves cars and trucks, jumping, climbing and being active - which keeps us on our toes! But he has a very sweet, soft heart, cares for his little cousins and gives the best hugs and kisses and pats on the back.

TOP 3 ABOUT QUILL



BABY COUSINS

Quill has 6 new cousins and from day one he has been obsessed with them. We often catch him giving them kisses or hugs, and he doesn't seem to mind when they crawl all over him or grab at his hair or face! Quill enjoys talking about the things he will do with his sister when she arrives, and we know that he will be a devoted big brother.

Quill loves swimming and going to the pool in the summer. Some days he and Alex meet up with her sisters and their kids and enjoy a few hours together. Quill looks forward to sharing those special times with a sister, and is excited to help her jump into the deep end or push her around on a floaty. We know there are many golden memories to be made.

SWIMMING



SNUGGLES

Quill loves to snuggle! He always wants to be close to those he loves, giving and receiving affection and being cozy. Cuddling under a blanket and reading a book or watching something together makes him happy!

WE VALUE...

FAITH • FAMILY • CREATIVITY • LEARNING • A WHOLESOME LIFE



WE VALUE FAITH

Our Christian faith is very important to us, and we believe a large part of our role as parents is to pass on that faith to our children. We both grew up in Christian families, where going to church, reading the Bible and prayer were central, and we want to continue that with our family. We have been involved in teaching our youth on Wednesday nights in the past, and look forward to doing that again once Quill is old enough to attend. We consider a firm foundation in what we believe and why we believe it, to be the most important thing we can give to our children.



We attend church every Sunday as a family and have served in many ways off and on through the years. We've worked with the youth, been part of and led small groups, served as greeters and in the nursery, and Alex currently sings on rotation with the worship team. Every Easter, our church puts on a special Good Friday service and Joel plays the voice of several different characters in the production.



Alex tries to include Quill in her Bible times by making an event out of it. She pulls a comfy chair up next to hers, supplies both of them with a hot cup of tea and a cozy blanket, and then they pray a short prayer together before Alex reads her Bible and Quill looks at his picture Bible, pretending to read. Their time is usually VERY short in duration, but right now the goal is for him to see the importance of spending time with God.

WE VALUE FAMILY

Family is very important to us and we are blessed to have both sides close by so that we can get together often. We see Alex's family on Sundays at church and eat out together for Sunday dinner once a month. We have big birthday parties for all of the kids on both sides and celebrate the major holidays. We love being together and watching the kids run around and play. Our families are on the younger side and still growing, so your daughter will have lots of little cousins her age!



When we get together with Joel's family for Christmas, the first thing we do in the morning is gather in the living room and dump out the denim Christmas stockings that Aunt Ruth made. Joel's parents commissioned her to make each family member a stocking with a different western motif on it. They have become keepsakes for Joel and his brothers and whenever a new baby arrives, they call on Aunt Ruth to whip up another one!



We always celebrate the 4th of July with Alex's family at her parents' house in the country. We swim in their pool, play games like giant Yahtzee, her dad grills hot dogs and we all bring a dish to share. Then, in the evening, we pile into the vehicles and drive a few miles to watch fireworks in a ditch outside of town. We normally get a spot right next to the corn field, and directly under where the fireworks explode. It's the best seat in the house and we always enjoy "ooing" and "awwing" together!

WE VALUE CREATIVITY

As a couple, we initially bonded over shared creative interests. We both enjoy collaborating on a project by pooling our creative skills and making something together. We did this with a coffee table while we were dating and it has been one of the focal pieces of our home ever since. We often see something that we want and say, "I could make that!". It definitely keeps life fun and interesting, but it's also frustrating that we will never have enough time to do it all! Being creative is something that we hope to pass on to our children so that they, too, can have the joy of using their hands and minds to make things. Plus, it's a great way to spend time together!



We have a set of colorful acrylic paints that Alex bought one year for Christmas, and when it's globbed on the paper, it dries with amazing texture. One of Quill's favorite things to do is to pull his paint shirt over his good clothes and sit while Alex gathers the supplies and lays out the newspaper to cover the table. Quill loves opening and closing the paint tubes, squeezing large blobs onto the paper and then brushing it around, making a huge mess and lots of masterpieces that we display or give as gifts.



Joel has long been a lover of lego (we even went to Legoland on our honeymoon!), and Quill is fascinated by his mini figures and car sets. He will often ask Joel to take down one or two of his lego cars when he gets home from work and play together on the kitchen floor. We love the creativity, problem solving and instruction following skills that come through building lego, and look forward to purchasing many more sets in the future that Joel and the kids can build together.

WE VALUE LEARNING

We love to learn new things, whether it's creative or simply informational, and we enjoy watching Quill learn new things, too! We want to teach our children important life skills such as cooking, home repairs, laundry, regulating their emotions, following instructions, gardening, being wise with their money, and anything else that will set them up for success in the real world. While learning about God and the Bible will help them live with meaning and for a purpose. Alex is blessed to be a stay-at-home mom, which gives her lots of time for teaching through instruction and example. And Joel takes every opportunity to teach when he's home, but he always turns it into something fun.



Alex is excited to be a homeschool mom someday. Being homeschooled herself - and Joel too - we both have a passion for it! We already have so much fun seeing Quill introduced to new things, and watching the light bulb moments when ideas click for him. Alex is looking forward to teaching our children important skills like spelling and reading, incorporating fun games like her mom did with her when she was little.



Whenever Joel goes out to his workshop, Quill begs to go with him. One day Alex walked in, and Quill was sitting up to the workbench, with random bits and pieces of tools and wood, pretending to make things like Daddy. It can keep him busy for a long time and he loves to explain everything he is doing in great detail. Having a daddy who makes an effort to include the children in every day tasks is such a blessing and helps them to learn responsibility without even realizing it!

WE VALUE A WHOLESOME LIFE

We value a wholesome life and simple childhood for our kids. While we do watch tv and movies, we are careful about the content and try to limit screen time. We want our kids to learn to create fun when they are bored, use their imaginations and enjoy the little things. A slow life allows us to enjoy each moment rather than running from one thing to the next and forgetting about what's right in front of us. It's a lifestyle that we have worked to create and want to maintain.



We have a big backyard that's surrounded on one side by pine trees, on another by our large shed, while the entire lot behind us is wildflowers and grasses. Every year our backyard looks like a wonderland with the sun shining across the tall grasses and bright pops of yellow, white and purple flowers. Alex and Quill take walks along the field, admiring and picking as they go. They take some back to his play house to tear apart and add to pretend soups. Others they put in water or pretty old vases to brighten up the house.



Alex has fond childhood memories of playing with home made play dough at her friend Ramie's house. So some days, she and Quill make a batch and take it outside, along with a container of extra flour and spend the morning kneading the dough and adding crushed plants or sand from the sandbox. They scavenge around the yard or take the wagon to the community burn pile to find treasures that the neighbors have thrown away. We hope our kids will have golden memories of these times, just like Alex does.

FROM OUR FRIENDS & FAMILY

AMANDA

Alex's sister

I've always known Alex and Joel would be good parents. Their individual character, convictions and morals, told me that long before they adopted for the first time. They show kindness, consideration, and love in their everyday interactions with those around them. I've witnessed this on a regular basis. It's very apparent the value they place on family, friends, coworkers, and relationships in their life. And it's with that same dedication and care that they are raising their son, Aquilla.



JONATHAN

Joel's brother

Their creative spirit is the perfect attitude to have when it comes to raising well-rounded kids. A lot of people think creativity is something you're born with and that might be true to some extent, but it can definitely also be taught as well, and you can already see that in Quill. He's not biologically related to Joel & Alex, but you can already see him picking up hints of his parents, and I can't wait to see how their creativity manifests in him, and any other kids they adopt in the future.



JENNIFER

Alex's mom

Alex and Joel are very reliable people, they have a great sense of humor and they're super fun and easy to be around. They have all of the qualities you would hope for in good parents, but I think the most important thing is that they have a strong commitment to each other and to family. Everything else just flows from that, so they're able to provide a stable and loving home for any child. That's exactly what they've given to their son, Quill.



FROM OUR FRIENDS & FAMILY

ALAYNA

Alex's sister

Alex is one of the most creative people I've ever known. She is a very determined, passionate person and also incredibly smart and understanding. She is comforting and easy to talk to. We've always been close and she's always been a good listening ear and a shoulder to cry on. Joel is also extremely creative. He is kind hearted. He has a gentle demeanor but also has a super silly side. My sisters and I have been friends with Joel for a while, even before he and Alex were married. I have lots of fond memories of all of us hanging out with Joel, just being silly together.



DAVE & GRACE

Friends from church

Joel is hard-working, steady, and kind. He is always willing to serve and has a fun-loving, goofy side that may surprise some. Alex's sweet spirit and relatability is refreshing. She is wise and unselfish, caring for the needs of her family and others over her own. Joel & Alex would be wonderful parents because they are both wonderful people. They have so much love to give and will provide a stable, joy-filled home.

Scan to see a video from our friends & family - as well as the full written segment from each of them!





WE WANT YOU TO KNOW

If you choose us, your child will always know her story. We want her to feel confident in who she is, in the love of her first family and the love of her adoptive family. We want her to be able to know you if that's something you want as well. Regardless, we will always foster feelings of confidence, love and security in her, and help her discover who she is and how to fulfill not only her dreams and desires, but most importantly, God's plans and desires for her. She will be loved and supported unconditionally as long she lives.



Joel & Alex