



**LIZ & JEREL**







THEY MAY NOT  
HAVE OUR EYES,  
*but they all  
have our heart.*









# HELLO!

*We hope this letter finds you well.*

**We're Liz and Jerel—thank you for taking the time to get to know us.**

We can only imagine the strength it takes to consider adoption, and we have deep respect for the path you're on. We hope that by sharing our story, you'll get a sense of who we are, the love we have to give, and the life we hope to offer a child.

We've been married since 2022 and are proud parents to five wonderful kids, ages 11 to 25. Our home is full of laughter, love, and the joyful chaos that comes with a big family. Family is everything to us. Our blended family—shaped in ways only God could design—is filled with music, beach days, game nights, and big hugs. Each of our children brings something unique to our lives, and they're excited about the possibility of welcoming a new sibling.

**Adoption has always been close to our hearts. We've seen the beauty that comes from growing through love, and we're committed to honoring every child's story, identity, and roots. For us, adoption is one way we live out our faith and extend the love we have to give.**

If we're the right fit, your child would grow up surrounded by a big, loving family who would cherish them unconditionally.

**With warmth and gratitude,**

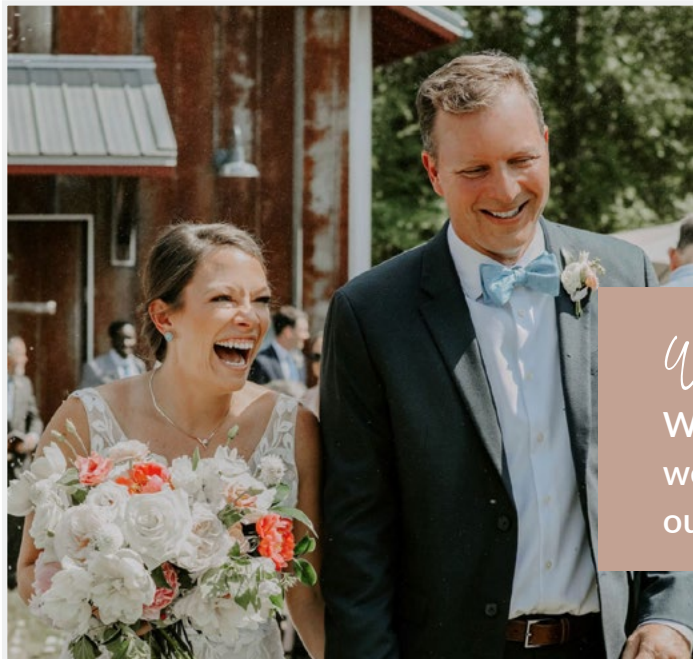
*Liz and Jerel*



# OUR STORY

*our life together*

*Dating* We met in 2019 and got married in 2022, a little later in life than the average couple. We met at a mutual friend's church, were friends for two years, and then began dating. Once we knew, we knew.



## *Wedding*

We went from engaged to married in six weeks and have been blending and growing our family ever since.

## *Life together*

Jerel brought three older children and Liz brought two goddaughters, whom we co-parent with their mom, into our marriage.

The word we talked most about when we were dating and getting married is how much doing life *with* people matters. *With* prioritizes what we want for our family. We are one big crazy blended family that God has pieced together to do life *with*.







**We feel a deep calling to provide a loving,  
stable home to another child.**

# WHY ADOPTION?

Our blended family has been one of our greatest gifts. It's taught us the beauty of patience, the strength that comes from unity, and the power of unconditional love. We've also learned that being a family isn't about sharing the same DNA—it's about showing up for each other with open hearts, every single day.

We feel deeply that we have both the emotional and financial stability to welcome another child into our lives. For us, adoption is a natural extension of our love for family—it's not only about growing our family, but also about living out our faith and honoring the calling we feel God has placed on our hearts.



# MEET JEREL *as told by Liz*

Jerel is one of the most steady, thoughtful people I've ever known. As a husband and father, he leads with faith, patience, and love. He's the kind of dad who listens well, plays hard, and always makes time for connection. Whether it's late-night talks with our older kids or gentle encouragement with our little ones, he's fully present—and they thrive under his care.

He grew up in Raleigh, NC, the youngest of three, and has served as a pastor for over 25 years. He's also an author and has a creative, thoughtful mind that balances beautifully with his strong, calming presence.

***Jerel's deep relationships—with his family, our kids, and our church—show how intentional and caring he truly is. Jerel constantly reminds our big kids about their mom, keeping her memory alive, and encourages us to spend time with our girls' mom and family. He has a quiet strength that makes our children feel safe and deeply loved, and I feel so grateful to raise a family with him.***





## MEET LIZ *as told by Jerel*

I still find myself shaking my head in awe that God brought Liz into our lives. From the beginning, she's been a gift—not just to me, but to our entire family. Though she didn't give birth to our kids, she loves them with a mother's heart, showing up every day with patience, warmth, and unwavering support. She's a nurturing and intuitive mom who knows how to make each child feel deeply loved.

Liz grew up in Charlotte, NC, as the oldest of three, and her natural leadership and sense of responsibility shine in the way she parents. She's lived all over the world—Mexico, Africa, London—and has visited nearly 50 countries. That love for people and adventure has made our home richer and more open-minded. She works in public health and is deeply committed to caring for others, especially those living with HIV.

***Her compassion, strength, and joyful spirit make her the kind of mom every child deserves.***

# Meet our kids!

**We encourage our kids to do the things they love and what God is calling them to in their lives. We have a unique relationship with each of them because each of them is different. We love all of them so much!**



## **BAILEY (25)**

Bailey married Matt this year, and together they serve others through ministry and soccer. Bailey works for the Charlotte Eagles, and Matt works with newcomers to the U.S. through Project 658. They love people deeply and live out their faith in everything they do.

## **CHRISTOPHER (23)**

Christopher is a jazz musician currently in grad school in Baltimore, after studying at UNC Chapel Hill. He plays upright bass and piano, and loves performing both at local gigs and in church. Music is truly his passion.





## LUKE (20)

Luke is studying engineering at NC State and plays golf whenever he can. He's worked in several golf-related jobs and loves movies, concerts, and being around people. He's a loyal friend with a kind, easygoing spirit.



## JA'MYA (13)

Ja'Mya is in a middle school magnet program and loves crafts, musicals, and teaching herself piano—starting formal lessons this summer! She's creative, thoughtful, and full of determination. After receiving a heart transplant in 2022, she continues to amaze us with her strength and joy.



## JAH'LORIA (11)

Jah'Loria (Lora) is in her last year of elementary school and shines as a helper and encourager. She loves to sing, act, and remembers every lyric and line with ease. She had heart valve replacement surgery in 2022 and lives each day with resilience and so much love!







# *Our beautiful* **BLENDED FAMILY**

**Our family wouldn't exist without the loss that Jerel's first family experienced when his wife, Susan, passed away.** Jerel and Susan met at UNC Chapel Hill, married soon after graduation, and had our three older kids before Susan died of breast cancer in 2011. Though Liz and Susan never met, they once lived in the same house in Chapel Hill—just years apart. We keep Susan's memory alive in our home, with photos in our upstairs hallway and the "Family Laws" she wrote still displayed and lived out today. She and Jerel laid a beautiful foundation for the family we've become.



Liz met our younger daughters and their mom, Shareeta, in 2017 while volunteering in their neighborhood. Over time, friendship grew into family. Both girls were born with congenital heart disease—Mya needed a heart transplant, and Lora a heart valve replacement. They now split time between our home and Shareeta's. We co-parent with care, always focusing on what's best for the girls. Trust built this bond, and it's made all of us better.



**We honor Susan. We honor Shareeta.**  
**And if you choose us, we will**  
**honor you as a mother, too! We**  
**know blended families often begin**  
**through hard things—but we've also**  
**seen how beautifully God can weave**  
**them together.**













# OUR HOME *sweet home*

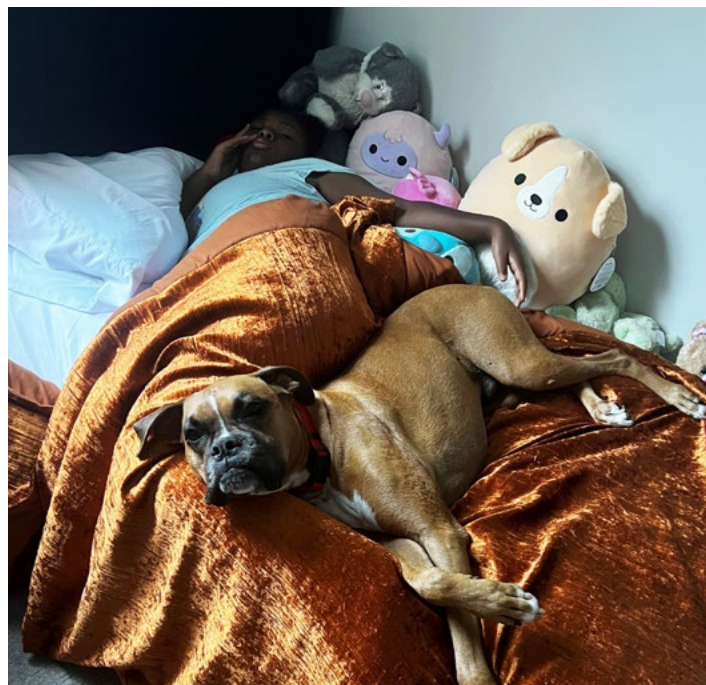
Our home in Huntersville, North Carolina—just north of Charlotte—has been lovingly cared for by Jerel for over 20 years. He first shared it with his late wife, Susan, and later raised their three children here as a devoted single dad until we were married in 2022. **Liz and the girls moved in three years ago, and together we've updated the space, adding warmth, color, and new life.**





**We live in a suburban neighborhood with wonderful public schools, where our older kids made lasting memories and lifelong friends.**

Our backyard is one of our favorite gathering spots. We have a big deck where we're currently growing peppers, watermelons, and cantaloupes, and a patio with a large table perfect for outdoor meals. On cooler evenings, we light the firepit while the younger kids bounce on the trampoline—and we always keep a s'mores kit on hand for nights like those.





# OUR COMMUNITY

*Our home is often filled with the joy of shared meals, celebrations, and simply doing life together.*

We're surrounded by close-knit family who live nearby—Liz's parents, Pat and Chuck, along with aunts, uncles, and cousins who are already eager to welcome a new child with love, laughter, and support. We spend every Easter with Liz's family in NC, every Thanksgiving with Jerel's family in Virginia and make sure to see everyone over the Christmas break. We also remain very close with Jerel's first wife's family and see them often, sharing a bond rooted in deep respect and shared history.



Beyond family, we're part of a strong, loving church community. It's more than a church—it's like extended family. These are the kind of people who show up with meals, encouragement, and helping hands when they're needed most. **Your child will grow up surrounded not just by our love, but by a whole village committed to helping them feel known, supported, and truly cherished.**

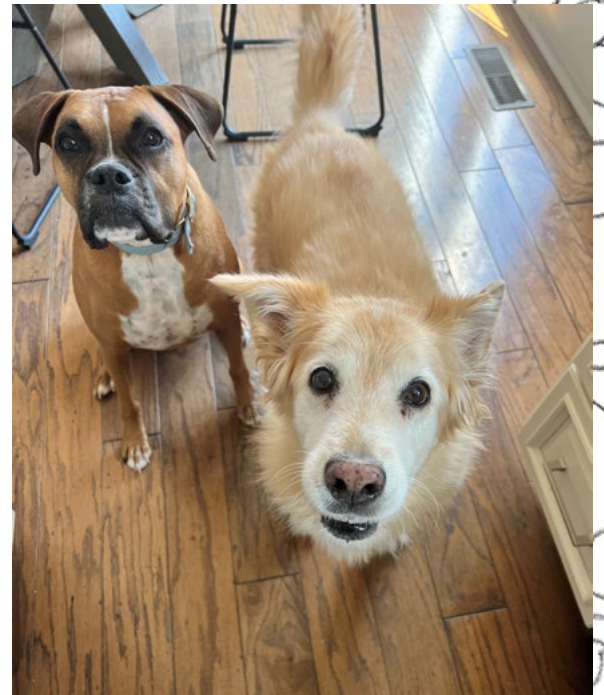




# OUR PUPS

## We LOVE dogs!

Our golden retriever mix, Molly, passed away in 2024 and our home hasn't been the same since. She was almost 16 years old, which means she was with Jerel and the big kids through so many seasons of life. Liz brought our 7-year old Boxer dog, Brisket, with her to our family. He is the most beloved family member.



*Brisket & Molly*



Things we love



We love Jesus first and foremost in our home.



Jerel spends his time writing, golfing, fly fishing and working out.

Liz spends her time writing, indoor cycling, walking our dog Brisket, and recently started making sourdough bread!







We grow vegetables in our yard in the summertime, have friends over to our house to hang out, and grill out all the time!

We love the beach and we enjoy spending time at the beach with our friends!



We spend as much time as we can with our kids. We attend Bailey and Matt's soccer events, watch Christopher perform jazz, cheer Luke on when he's playing basketball, and encourage our girls when they perform in musicals.



*Things we love*





# PROMISES

**We are already praying for you and your baby. If you choose us to be part of your story, we want you to know just how seriously we take that honor. Here are our promises to you and your child:**

*Unconditional love* We promise to love your baby unconditionally—in every season, through every joy and challenge, with our whole hearts, always.

*Bright future* We promise to support them as they grow into exactly who God created them to be, nurturing their gifts, guiding them with grace, and cheering them on every step of the way.

*Jesus first* We promise to point them to Jesus, anchoring their life in faith, hope, and love.

*Respect* We promise to speak of you with honor, respect, and love, sharing their story in age-appropriate ways and including you however you desire to be known.

*Support and guidance* We promise to surround your child with a community of people who will love, encourage, and uplift them, a village of support they can always count on.

*Honor* And most of all, we promise to hold this sacred responsibility with deep gratitude, never forgetting the strength, love, and courage it took to consider this path.

