

It's not – WHAT –
we have in life, but – WHO –
we have in our life that
MATTERS.

– J.M. Laurence

-MEET-



Lauren, Paul & Isaac



About Paul -By Lauren-

I knew early on that Paul and I would be a good couple when we could continually laugh at each other's corny jokes. Paul is the kind of guy that loves life and easily finds joy in the little things.

As a high school band director, Paul's biggest passion is music and sharing that enthusiasm with his students. In addition to teaching he also plays with the St. Louis Brass Band and the St. Louis Philharmonic. While his main instrument is the Bass Trombone, he is also very accomplished on all the low brass instruments, and will even goof around with a woodwind on occasion.

I love watching Paul share his love of music with Isaac. He had his first piano lesson the first night he was home with us! He also loves sharing sports and getting outside with Isaac to have fun.

Paul is also incredibly caring and selfless, trying to spread the happiness in his own life to the people around him.





About Lauren -By Paul-

It may be a cheesy line, but Lauren truly completes me. Through our early online correspondence I knew what kind of wonderful person Lauren was and continues to be. The first striking feature that got my attention is Lauren's beautiful curly red hair. Shortly after catching my breath I found out how intelligent she is. There is no surprise she uses her intelligence as a veterinarian.

We made early connections on our shared love of music and animals. It is a blessing she was very involved in her high school band program to understand my career and what I do day to day. On our first date we walked and talked for hours. To meet someone for the first time and not have a dull moment for hours meant a lot for both of us.

Lauren works hard in her career as a veterinarian. She goes to work day after day to continually help numerous animals heal, recover, and stay healthy.

Watching Lauren be a mother has been amazing. Her true care, love, and support has been evident in every

second spent with our son. Isaac is blessed to have such a great mom.

Through our time together I have grown to love her more and more. I am living my life with a very special woman. Lauren is smart, kind, caring, selfless, serving, and generous. I also knew very quickly Lauren would be a great mother and has proven to be. The first time I saw her interacting with young children I was amazed. Lauren played with the children with such love and care.

Lauren lives everyday to help all those around her. humans and animals.



About Us



Like most couples these days we met online. We emailed back and forth daily for a few weeks before having our first date on a beautiful fall day in downtown St. Louis. For our second date Paul had to pass the test of meeting Lauren's dog, who fell in love with Paul as fast as Lauren did. A little over a year later, surrounded by friends and family, we were married.



One of Lauren's favorite sayings has always been, "The surest way to make God laugh, is to show him your itinerary." When we wanted to start a family, infertility changed the plan we had envisioned. We went through numerous tests and treatments, but God's plan was for us to build a family in a different way. The challenges we've been through have only served to make us stronger and to be even more appreciative of all the blessings we have in our lives.



In January, 2019 we brought home our son Isaac as a four month old baby, and were able to finalize his adoption later that year. He's been the most wonderful addition to our family and will make the perfect big brother!

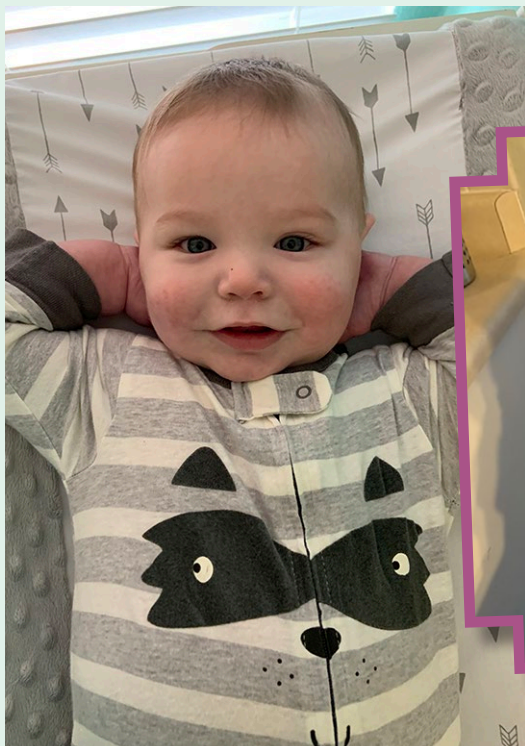




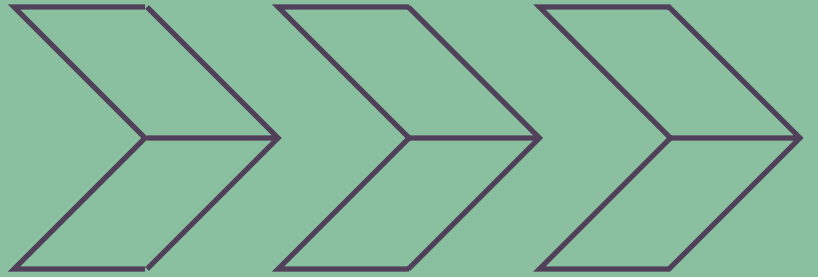
Meet Isaac

Isaac became our son in January, 2019 when he was 4 months old. From the first time we held him it just felt right. He immediately smiled at us, and hasn't stopped smiling! Even as a toddler he has maintained his sweet, loving temperament. Isaac loves to be active and go on walks and hikes. If weather doesn't allow, then he settles for doing laps around the house. When he's not

running around he likes to cuddle up on the couch to read a book or play with his stuffed animals. Our pets are also favorite play buddies and have accepted him as part of the pack. His first word was actually kitty! When we're at work he enjoys spending time at daycare or with friends. He's always been very social and loves "talking" with new people we meet while out on walks. He's going to be so excited to have a little brother or sister to have adventures with!



Our Pets

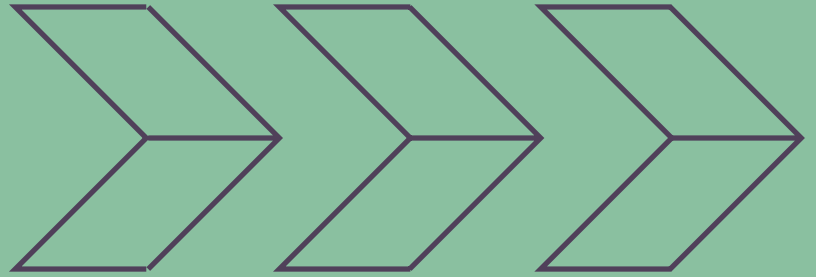


When Paul married Lauren, part of the package was her three pets: her cats, Edmund and Cheri; and her dog, Cora. The cats came to Lauren as three week old orphan kittens that she bottle fed and raised. A few years later Cora was found by a classmate abandoned in a parking lot and came to Lauren to be fostered. She fit in so well and was so happy that the foster soon became a permanent addition.

The animals have all accepted the addition of Isaac, and all the noise, hugs, and toys that come with him. Cora especially loves all the snacks that get dropped for her!



Our Home



Soon after being married we purchased our house and started the work of making it a home. It's a lovely four bedroom, three bathroom home, so there's plenty of space for kids to grow up, and to host family when they visit. The location is very quiet, but is still near food, shopping, and various attractions in Saint Charles County. We love that our backyard is big enough for lots of games and has a lovely fence around the entire perimeter.



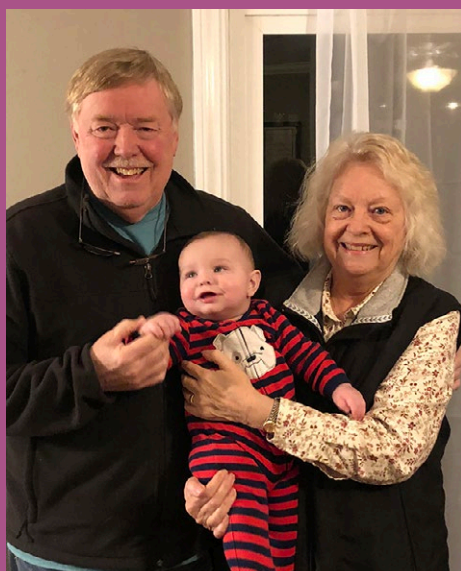
One room currently serves as a nursery and looks out on the most lovely tree with pink blossoms in the spring. Another room has been redone for Isaac with a beautiful mountain mural on the wall and woodland creatures to play with.





We've both been blessed to have grown up in close-knit families, surrounded by love. Furthermore, we've found friends that have become brothers and sisters to us. The support and encouragement we've received while going through infertility, and adoption, have been amazing.

When we finalized Isaac's adoption, it was just after his first birthday, and at the same time as his baptism. Therefore we had a big party and had friends and family from all over the country come to visit together. Since then we all take turns visiting and fill the gaps with facetime and zoom.





Since having Isaac our family time has become even more precious. We love getting out together for hikes around St. Louis with Creve Coeur Lake being our favorite.



We also enjoy doing other activities in the city like going to the zoo, the aquarium, baseball games and Grants Farm.



We also love having friends and family over to our house for food and games, and traveling to visit them both near and far. Isaac's done well with his first plane ride and several long car rides!



When Paul has a chance he likes to be involved with sports like softball and bowling, and anything Nebraska related.



When we can, we still try to find time for things like home improvement projects and doing some gardening. Lauren's favorite past times are baking and reading.

Dear BirthParent(s):

We appreciate your time looking through our profile and getting to know our little family better. The decisions and choices you have to make are difficult, and we admire the strength and love you have shown for your child. We look forward to walking through this journey with you and getting to know you more, as well. Our promise to you is that we will raise this child with laughter, patience, and love. They will grow up knowing comfort and peace with a devoted family. They will also grow up knowing how much you love them and sacrificed for them. We will make sure they have the opportunity and the courage to pursue their dreams and do great things with their lives. Adopting our son has been the biggest blessing of our lives and we are excited to grow our family even more. We pray this adoption blesses you as much as it will us, and we can't thank you enough for considering our application.

Lauren &
Paul





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