I grew up in Princeton, IL which is located about an hour east of the Quad Cities on Interstate 80. Even though I am a small town gal, travel and God's world captivated me when I was 14 years old. The summer after my freshman year in high school, I traveled to Italy and Greece with a school group. Since then I have traveled out of the country whenever an opportunity presented itself. I studied Spanish in High School and University. I have always been fascinated by other cultures and God's majesty that is shown throughout this world in incredible landscapes. My major at DePauw University was Spanish and I have a minor in Computer Science with an emphasis in Secondary Education. Through study abroad programs at the University, I studied in Mexico and Spain during college.

After graduating from the University, I worked for Andersen Consulting for many years. One of my consulting assignments was in Buenos Aires, Argentina which afforded me the opportunity to get to know Chile, Paraguay, Brazil, and Uruguay a little bit and Argentina quite well. Several years later, I worked in the Christian Education Department for our denomination, the Evangelical Covenant Church, in Chicago. I met my husband, Steve Peterson who is a pastor and has a heart for missions. After we were married, we served in Indiana in a Covenant church during which time Rachel and Abigail were born. After several years, we felt the call to missions and moved to Costa Rica where we served for four years with International Teams. In June of 2009, we sold our house in Costa Rica and after a few confusing months due to visa troubles, we moved to Tenancingo, Mexico in November, 2009. We had an incredible team and worked with them until May, 2013 when we came back to Princeton on furlough. During that time we felt God was calling us back to the United States and my husband was offered the pastorate at Elim Covenant Church in Moline, IL. We have enjoyed living here the last two years and are super excited to be a part of Christian education in the Quad Cities.