

Pastor Eric Wood grew up in Waseca, Minnesota, and graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in nearby St. Peter in 1993. After teaching English at a teacher-training college in China for three years as a volunteer LC-MS missionary, he became a student at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

He received his Master of Divinity degree in 2000 and was called to serve as campus missionary based at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Manhattan, Kansas. There he met Emily Genter; they were married in 2002 in her hometown of Leavenworth, Kansas, about a month after Emily received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Kansas State University.

In 2005, Pastor Wood accepted the call as assistant pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church and Student Center, Carbondale, Illinois, where he led a weekly worship service in Mandarin Chinese. The Woods' two daughters, Nora and Sophia, were both born in Carbondale. In 2011, Pastor Wood accepted the call to be Immanuel's pastor. The family's home and Pastor's office are in the parsonage, next door to the church building. The Lord has richly blessed the Wood family through the people of Immanuel Lutheran Church and School and others in Okawville.