

The S.E.A. Side

Ministry in SouthEast Asia

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Presentation Issue



Meet the Wood Family

Matthew, Kali, Laurel, Eleanor, and Caroline serve in Medan, Indonesia with LCMS International. Matthew supports *The Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (GKLI)*, by mentoring pastors, providing continuing education, and overseeing translation projects.



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INDONESIA FAST FACTS



FLAG: *Merah Putih (The Red and White)*

POPULATION: 267 Million (4th largest)

Geography: Archipelago consisting of 17,508 islands totaling 735,358 sq mi, about the size of Alaska and Washington State combined. (14th largest)

GDP: 3.328 Trillion (7th largest)

PER CAPITA: \$12,345 (95th largest)

Currency: Indonesian Rupiah (Rp)

Conversion Rate: \$1 = Rp 14,030

Official Language: Bahasa Indonesia
(Over 700 living languages)

Religion: 86.7% Islam

10.72% Christianity

1.74% Hinduism

0.77% Buddhism

.03% Confucianism

.04% Other

Legally all Indonesian citizens must claim one of the five listed religions.

Ministry on Sumatra

Medan

Our home is in the heart of Medan, the largest city on the island of Sumatra with a population of 2.209 million. From our home we have easy access to Kualanamu International Airport and thus the rest of Indonesia.



GKLI Office

The leadership, 49 pastors, and over 100 congregations/preaching stations of the *Gerje Kristen Luther Indonesia (GKLI)* are our closest collaborators in accomplishing the Lord's work in Indonesia.



Mentawai Islands

Seeking to be faithful to their Lutheran Identity, ten congregations on the Islands of Mentawai sought out support from a confessional church body. They found and joined the GKLI. Welcoming these non-Batak congregations into their fellowship is a tremendous development for the GKLI. It reflects that the pastors and leadership of the GKLI realize that they are not a Batak institution, but a Christian institution for all the people of Indonesia.



Kuamang Kuning

The local GKLI congregation in the rural village, Kuamang Kuning, extends mercy to a group of Sanak people who were displaced from their homes. The congregation taught the Sanak people how to farm and sell produce. The LCMS, Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA), and the GKLI coordinated to build housing and shelter. This ministry has resulted in 19 baptisms!



Listen, Mentor, Teach, Translate

We can't do everything. So we focus our efforts in Indonesia around four main categories. Working with these four goals in mind we aim to strengthen the Christian proclamation of the Gospel in Indonesia.

Listen: Vital to the success of the ministry in Indonesia is listening. We are not going into Indonesia with all the answers and telling churches and congregations what they need to do. Instead, we are listening. We are here to help and strengthen the Gospel proclamation of Christians in Indonesia. So we listen to the local leaders.

Mentor: As we listen and follow the local leaders we also want to demonstrate by example a strong Christian life dedicated to the Gospel. As we meet with leaders we are active in prayer, worship, and mercy.



Is there a better place to listen than during a meal? Taken at the 2019 Pastor's conference.



Teach: The Lord has abundantly blessed the LCMS with quality education and a strong academic tradition. As we listen and mentor leaders in Indonesia we regularly take advantage of the opportunity to teach through conferences and podcasts.

Translate: We often hear that there is a need for quality theological resources in Bahasa Indonesia. We work with an Indonesian Pastor to translate and produce resources. How do we know what resources are needed and helpful? We listen.

Listening to questions at a seminar on the Small Catechism, Mentawai Islands 2020.



How can you listen if you don't know the language? Our family spent 8 months in intensive language classes at this school. We're not fluent yet, but we can get by without any English!



The importance of meals cannot be overstated. Here I am pictured with our translator's family outside of Jakarta. They were impressed that I enjoy the spicy chili paste.



When travel in Indonesia opened back up the hymnal committee met in at the GKLI central office in Sihabonghabong.



Our youngest daughter was born in Medan. Her older sisters were excited to meet her.

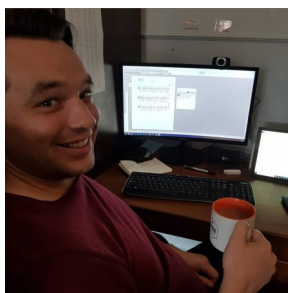
Buku Ibadah Luther (BIL)

(Lutheran Worship Book)

We are working with the GKLI to produce an Indonesian worship book. It will contain traditional Indonesian songs, prayers, and forms of worship. Additionally, we are taking the opportunity to introduce over 50 hymns, liturgical resources, and ancient prayers into the Indonesian Language.

Why an Indonesian hymnal?

Indonesia has over 600 ethnic speaking over 700 different languages. Since it's independence in 1949 the official language has been Bahasa Indonesia. The government, public schools, television and radio broadcasts all operate in Bahasa Indonesia. As time goes on the percentage of people who can speak only Bahasa Indonesia increases. Yet many Christian Churches continue to operate in their native languages.



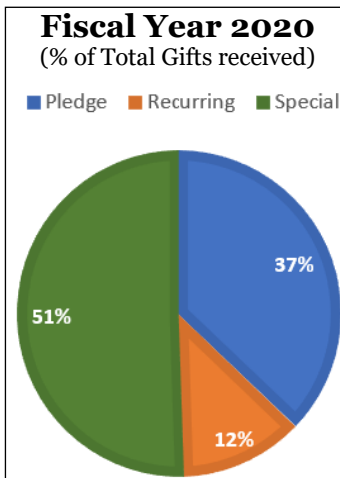
After learning Indonesian my work shifted to the Hymnal. I format and proof hymn texts. I'm getting pretty good at recognizing Indonesian Syllables.

The GKLI generally operates in the Batak language, but recognizes the need to be able to communicate and engage their families and communities in Bahasa Indonesia. So their leadership has requested the aid of the LCMS to produce resources in Bahasa Indonesia in order to more effectively proclaim the Gospel in Indonesia and pass down the faith from generation to generation. They already have the Bible, Luther's Small and Large Catechisms, and the Book of Concord. Our next project is a quality hymnal.

Support and Funding

All LCMS international workers coordinate with the Office of International Mission to establish a network of support that provides long-term sustainability for their respective ministries, known as the [NSM model](#). All financial gifts given in support of our family stays with our family.

Three types of financial gifts fund the ministry in Indonesia:



Special gifts: Give as you can. Generally received after fundraising presentations, in response to newsletters, or as end of year gifts.

Pledge: A commitment to give regularly over a specific period of time.

Recurring: A commitment to give regularly for an indefinite amount of time.

Every gift is appreciated and important. Special gifts provide the majority of our funding and help to keep us accountable with communication. Pledge and Recurring gifts provide confidence and sustainability while we are on the field.

Ways to contribute financially to the ministry in Indonesia:

- To give by mail download our [prayer card](#) at lcms.org/wood, fill out the form, and mail it to the specified address.
- To give by phone call 1-800-930-4438
- To give entirely online visit lcms.org/givenow/matthew.wood