

The S.E.A. Side

Ministry in SouthEast Asia

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Meet the Wood Family

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



Baptism!



Last December we wrote about the Sanak people and their new-found relationship with the GKLI. These nomadic people are poor, hurting, and lost as their way of life in Indonesia becomes increasingly impossible. The GKLI congregation in Kuamang Kuning and Pastor Anton Ben Gurion took them in and cared for them. You can read more about this at blogs.lcms.org and Lutherans Engage.

What a blessing when we see the fruit of the Gospel proclamation. The Holy Spirit has worked through the GKLI and on Pentecost Sunday 2019 Pastor Hutagalung baptized 19 Sanak people, 13 adults and six children!



More updates at theseaside.asia!

Our First Unit of Language Classes

Kali describes the daily demands of our language learning. Two hours of class is at most one third of what we are expected to do every day.



Home Worship



Matthew reflects on the prospect of worshipping at home. We miss congregational life, but are thankful for the Lord's gifts. The Lord truly makes good on His promise to be with us always!

A Day in the Life

Kali reflects on our daily schedule. There are a lot of moving pieces to get us to school, the children taken care of, meals on the table, homework completed, and time spent with the family.



Prayer Requests

Thanksgiving

- ◇ Completion on Language Learning Unit One.
- ◇ We have found a doctor that we like. All checkups have been positive and mom and baby are healthy. Our due date is September 3.

Intercession

- ◇ For the continued blessings of a healthy pregnancy and a safe and healthy birth.
- ◇ For continued language acquisition.
- ◇ For the GKLI, especially for their relationship with the Sanak people.

“For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’”

Romans 10:13-15

Heavenly Father grant that these new Christians be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, they would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

See more pictures online at theseaside.asia.



Laurel's Baptism Anniversary



Matthew and Kali off to their first day of classes.



We found a playground. The girls enjoyed the swings.



Our family celebrates baptism Anniversaries on the Church Year Date of the baptism. Laurel was baptized at just four days old on Pentecost Sunday 2013. So this Pentecost Sunday we had a special celebration and commemoration of her baptism.

During our worship service we all took the opportunity to remember our baptisms. What a blessing to hear Laurel confess the Apostles' Creed and renounce the Devil. God be praised for preserving His wonderful child in the Holy Ark of the Church.



Batak style window decorations in a GKLI congregation of Medan.



Coffee mugs from Matthew's past: his home congregation Redeemer, his vicarage Good Shepherd, and his first call Coenordia.

Buku Ibadah Luther (Lutheran Worship Book)

From June 17–21 the GKLI pastors and musicians came together to work on a new Indonesian Hymnal, learn about historic Christian worship practices, learn how to critically examine the content of a hymn, and join their voices in a Hymn Fest. This event is a response to requests from the GKLI for help in putting together a new hymnal and for catechesis in the history and substance of Christian worship.

The first two days were spent meeting and strategizing about this new hymnal. It will be called Buku Ibadah Luther (BIL). The entirety of the hymnal will be in the Indo-

nesian Language. This is a huge step for GKLI. Most people in Indonesia speak at least two languages, the language of their tribe and Indonesian. Christian worship across Indonesia is often in tribal language and this can foster an unhealthy attitude/understanding about worship. The new hymnal will be in the language *everyone* knows. Worship with the BIL will help to foster the understanding that GKLI isn't a Batak church. The GKLI is a Christian Church in Indonesia and it is open to all the people of Indonesia. This is a huge change of perspective for the GKLI, a difficult change, and a necessary one. Please keep the GKLI in your prayers as there is much work to be done on this hymnal and in this country. Pray for steadfastness, peacefulness, and boldness to be the Gereja Kristen Luther *Indonesia*.

The rest of the week was spent learning from Dr. Robert Rhein about the historic practices and music of Christian worship. The event ended with a delightful Hymn Festival. We were able to introduce five newly translated hymns and also sang five hymns which the GKLI pastors and musicians already knew and loved.

Read more at theseaside.asia




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