

# The S.E.A. Side

Ministry in SouthEast Asia

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## Meet the Wood Family

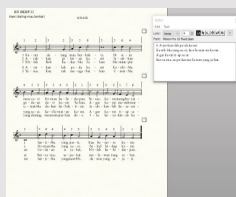
Matthew, Kali, Laurel, Eleanor, and Caroline serve in Medan, Indonesia with LCMS International. Matthew supports *The Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (GKLI)*, by mentoring pastors, providing continuing education, and overseeing translation projects.



## More Updates at [theseaside.asia](http://theseaside.asia)!

### Work from Home

With language classes completed and mandated self-isolation, this is what work looks like for now.



### Peace in Pandemic

Kali recounts life with the children in the midst of the coronavirus.



### New Prayer Cards with Updated Family Picture Available!

We have updated our family photo to include Caroline, our newest member! These are always available for download at [lcms.org/wood](http://lcms.org/wood)



## Thank You!

As we all know covid-19 has blanketed the world under a cloud of uncertainty and anxiety. Naturally, many have expressed their concern and worry about the well-being of LCMS workers around the world. We can only speak to our situation, but we have been overwhelmed with support over the past few weeks. Here are some of the things the Lord has revealed to us over the last few weeks:

- God has surrounded us with amazing people in the LCMS! Our regional offices in Chiayi, Taiwan and our international headquarters in Saint Louis, Missouri are full of people who are making sure we are safe and cared for.
- God has given us a powerful network of prayer support! We are humbled to hear of your prayers from all over the world.
- God has provided strong financial support in the month of March. We are so thankful for your gifts continuing even in the midst of this time of uncertainty. This vote of confidence is not lost on us!

Our family, our relationship with the GKLI, and our work together benefits greatly from the confidence we have to continue to be present here in Indonesia. Additionally, it is very important for our cultural acclimation and our mental health that we stay. Our goal is to be here for two full years before visiting the United States. This would put our first trip back to the US sometime after May 2021.

We could not have come so far without all your support, and we certainly cannot endure without it. Thank you for continuing to be a part of the ministry in Indonesia!

### Prayers

## COVID-19 Update

As of the writing of this newsletter 9,096 people have tested positive for covid-19 in Indonesia, 765 of whom have died. In the province of North Sumatera, where we live, a total of 111 people have tested positive 12 of whom have died. Ramadan started on April 23rd and is a very popular time for Indonesians to travel to their family villages. For this reason the government has grounded all domestic flights until June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**We are all currently healthy and staying at home in Medan, Indonesia.**

We have everything that we need and have no trouble going out to get food, supplies, and pay bills. Apart from suffering from a little boredom we are completely fine. We have no plans to leave Indonesia at this time.

Our brothers and sisters in the GKLI are responding like most churches around the world. Services are online and they are doing their best to care for people who have been impacted economically by the stay at home orders.



### Thanksgiving

- Blessings to work at home.
- Continued Health.
- Internet
- Strong and consistent financial and prayer support from our support network.

### Supplication

- Mental health, peace and patience during self-isolation.
- To form friendships with Indonesian people.
- The GKLI as the church serves her people during this time.



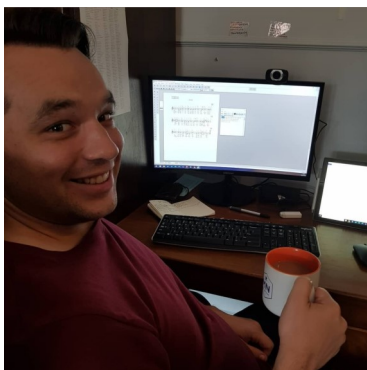
We found something close enough to palm branches and the family is ready for our Palm Sunday Processional.



We are ready for Good Friday Tenebrae Service.

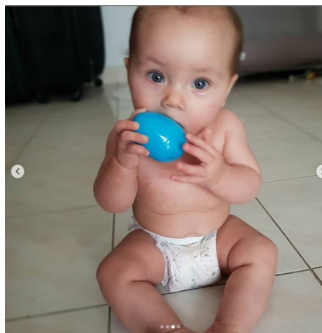


Officials around Indonesia are enforcing regulations requiring the use of face masks. We are preparing ourselves for a grocery run.



Working from my home study to proof and format hymns for the Indonesian Hymnal.

# KIDS' CORNER



Even though we couldn't gather in person with other Christians to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, we did celebrate in our more traditional ways. The girls and Kali dyed Easter eggs. Kali hid those and a set of "resurrection eggs" that tell the story of Holy Week. All eggs were found except one dyed egg, which was found the next day. The girls explored the "resurrection eggs" and Kali shared the story of Holy Week with the girls while they looked through the objects in each one.

## So What Now?


The shut downs and stay at home orders have not brought a halt to our work here in Indonesia. These circumstances have simply refocused and reorganized our priorities. Of course all our plans that require in person meetings and travel are postponed until further notice. Nevertheless, this provides us with time to focus on the Indonesian Hymnal project, prayer, and study. Spending time wisely now will help us hit the ground running when the world opens up again. Below is a list of projects and their current status while stay at home orders are in place:

### Postponed

- Christian education podcast for GKLI leaders and pastors. This project requires travel between Medan and Jakarta which has been prohibited until June 1st. Hopefully, we can launch this project in September.
- Conferences, conventions, and workshops. We are always trying to plan and host conferences or workshops. Often these take place in June or July, but this year we won't be able to meet. Hopefully, we can gather together again in October.
- Visit to Jambi. The GKLI has an incredible ministry among the Sanak people. I planned to see this ministry for myself once language classes were over. This could feasibly happen in August.

### In Progress

- Study. The GKLI wants to learn and grow in their Christian Faith. If I want to be a part of that I need to be studying and growing in my Christian faith. The stay at home orders provide extra time and opportunity.
- The Indonesian Hymnal project is first priority. The stay at home orders have provided abundant time and opportunity to focus on getting the work done. Below is our timeline:
  - ◇ The last 12 months have been dedicated to translating hymns and setting them to music.
  - ◇ Now–31 May 2020: Gather all necessary copyright permissions, proof and edit hymns, pre-format drafts of prayers, Psalms, Small Catechism, and everything else that goes into the 'front of the hymnal'.
  - ◇ 1 June 2020–31 November 2020: Thorough and complete proof read. Yes, it takes this long.
  - ◇ 1 December 2020: Submit files to professional for formatting. Hymnals don't just naturally look so nice, it takes a professional to get the job done right.
  - ◇ 7 February 2020: Send the Hymnal to the Printers.
  - ◇ Easter 2021: Release and Dedicate *Buku Ibadah Luther* (BIL)



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