

The S.E.A. Side

Ministry in SouthEast Asia

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Volume 2

Epiphany 2019

Issue 1



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.

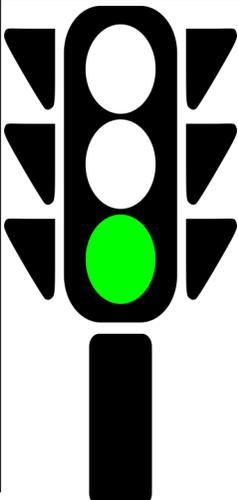
Green Light!

Our family has officially received the “Green Light” to deploy to Indonesia. In August we were originally told that the green light might not come until May! So this is a tremendous blessing to be able to deploy two months early.

This is possible only because the Lord has blessed us through all of you! The Lord is working through your prayers, your encouragement, and your gifts. Thank you!

We are now shifting gears from doing as many presentations as possible to packing and working hard to sell our house. We will be ready to leave by the first week of March.

From America we will fly to Taiwan where we will go through orientation for the Asia region and work on our Indonesian with a professional instructor. During this time we will apply for social visas to Indonesia and procure housing in Medan. Please pray for our smooth transition!



Thanks for Listening

Minnesota

Mount Olive, Mound
Our Savior, Excelsior

Michigan

Zion, Bay City
Saint Paul, Bay City

Missouri

Our Savior, Fenton

Kansas

Saint Peter, Humboldt

Where We'll Be

Illinois

2/3 Zion,
Marengo

Wisconsin

2/10 Bethlehem,
Sun Prairie

Missouri

2/19 Trinity,
Troy

Minnesota

2/24 Trinity,
Rochester

THEN TO INDONESIA!

Meet Pastor Eben Ezer

In January I attended the Theological Symposia at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. This event is chalk full of papers, lectures, and opportunities to learn and grow as a theologian. The best part is the people you get to meet. For most pastors, and for me, that would normally be old seminary buddies or other pastors they know.

This year was an exceptional blessing for me because I got to meet pastor Eben Ezer who serves an Indonesian Christian Lutheran congregation in Jakarta. He is an invaluable resource for us and I will be working closely with him on various translation projects for the GKLI.

We spent time getting to know each other and discussing the challenges and opportunities for the GKLI in Indonesia. What he and other pastors are thirsty for is the Gospel, solid teaching, and encouragement in the Faith.

Look for an interview with Eben Ezer in a forthcoming issue of the Lutheran Witness!



Listen

- ◆ Website: theseaside.asia
- ◆ Follow us on **Instagram**: [instagram.com/seasidewoods](https://www.instagram.com/seasidewoods)
- ◆ Email matthew.wood@lcms.org to receive email updates

Pray

- ◆ *For the sale of our home.*
- ◆ Peaceful farewells
- ◆ Health and Wellness
- ◆ Thanksgiving for the Green light.



Tell

- ◆ Talk with your friends & family about our ministry in Indonesia
- ◆ Connect us with your Lutheran school, LWML, Mission Board, or Congregation.
- ◆ Share our Newsletter!

Give

- ◆ Visit: www.lcms.org/wood to partner with us financially.
- ◆ Call 712-882-1029 to support us through our MC friends in **Mapleton, Iowa.**



Even 2 year olds help with the heavy lifting. Laurel opens the door and Eleanor helps dad lift.



Matthew reconnects with Pastor Wu. Kali knew pastor Wu from her time in Macau.



This is how we spent many, many hours during the last few months. Our daughters do so well in the car



Laurel has become quite skilled at finding Indonesia on any map.



A map hangs in our basement as a visual reminder of our support. At the beginning of August it hung empty. With the help of the staff in Saint Louis and the hard work of Gary, Brent, and the volunteers in Mapleton, IA it did not take long for it to fill up!

A Reliable Network

We may not have covered 98% of the nation like the best mobile networks. However, in the last 30 weeks we have covered 14 states, 33 cities, 45 congregations, and more miles and hours in the car that I care to count as we presented on the Lord's work in Indonesia over 85 times.

This ministry is only possible because of the faithful network of believers that have listened, prayed, advocated, and given in support of our work with the Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church. You are all part of this ministry and it cannot happen without the Lord working through all of you.

As we prepare to deploy we still need you! We still need your encouragement, your prayers, your advocacy, and your financial support. What we accomplish together in the years to come is and will be important and eternal.

We are so blessed to know that we are not in this alone. Our Lord has blessed us with all of you. Although you're not present physically with us we are united in the Spirit. We look forward to sharing this work in Indonesia with you!



Selamat Makan! (Have a nice meal!)

While visiting First Lutheran Church in Concord, CA we met a wonderful family from Indonesia. After talking with the wife for a bit I asked if there were any Indonesian restaurants in San Francisco. She quickly wrote down the name and address to one that she recommended. We went there that evening for dinner with our gracious hosts and friends, Pastor Andy and Stephanie Jones.

This meal was a game-changer! It is hard to stay excited about moving abroad for 6 months straight. But after eating that delicious meal I was ready to get on a plane the next day. I look forward to many more delicious Indonesian meals.

Anda bisa bicara bahasa indonesia? Kids' Corner



Laurel requests to listen to a "Learn Indonesian for your Trip" CD in the car. She delights in trying to pronounce the new words and phrases. She has mastered the phrase: *Nama saya Laurel. My name is Laurel.* She often asks me to look up what a word is in Indonesian. She is embracing the idea of bilingualism with open arms.

Eleanor mimics the sounds better than we do. She will adapt and learn quicker than the rest of us. Pray that our language acquisition comes quickly.

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