

# 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)!

### The Great Heavenly Banquet

While eating with the pastors of the GKLI Matthew reflects on the promises of Christ's return and eternal victory.



### Visa Update

We have 3 of 5 visas! We are beginning to see a light at the end of this bureaucratic tunnel. The whole process is explained here!

### Podcast: Teaching the Ten Commandments in Indonesia.

At [international.lcms.org](http://international.lcms.org) I am interviewed for the LCMS Asia podcast. I talk about the GKLI pastor's conference and adapting to life here.



# Teaching, Travel, And Bureaucracy

A plethora of activities, trips, and applications have been keeping the Wood family busy since Caroline was born in August and since our last newsletter. Sometimes it has been overwhelming, but the flurry of activity has been helpful for us to get to know the people and culture here, practice our language, and aid the Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church with her ministry. Below are some highlights from our family life over the last several weeks.

- We successfully registered Caroline with the Immigration Office. To get this done I spent 8 hours over five trips to the Population Control office in Medan to get Caroline's Indonesian birth certificate. Then our whole family had to travel to the US Embassy in Jakarta to apply for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad and Passport. Once we obtained those two documents we went to Immigration in Medan to register Caroline. The whole process took just under 60 days which also happened to be the deadline.
- Laurel, Eleanor, and I completed the E-Kitas process. This means that our visas are complete and we can now live in Indonesia for the next year. Kali and Caroline are still working through the process, but we can see the light at the end of the tunnel!
- Kali and I completed Bahasa Indonesia Unit 3. This unit introduced a lot of new grammar. We also took a break in the middle to welcome Caroline into the world. We haven't received our test results yet, but we are confident!



I had the privilege to teach the Small Catechism at the GKLI pastors' conference in mid October. We took the time to reflect on the certainty of our Heavenly Father's love shown to us in Christ Jesus. It felt so good to be teaching again. I look forward to doing this more often after we have completed our language classes. Speaking of which, this was a great opportunity to see both how much progress we have made in Bahasa Indonesia and how much more work needs to be done!



## Prayers

### Thanksgiving

- Kali's recovery and health.
- Caroline's health and growth.
- Visas received for Matthew, Laurel, and Eleanor.
- Safe travel to Jakarta, Singapore, and Sihabonghabong.

### Supplication

- Continued language acquisition.
- Peace during the holiday season.
- That Laurel and Caroline form friendships here in Indonesia.
- For the GKLI and her continued faithfulness.





Selamat Hari Reformasi! Happy Reformation Day! For the occasion Kali made a delicious chocolate cake, which the family enjoyed after Reformation Vespers.



Our home altar is starting to take shape. The tapestry is called an Ulos and it is the traditional hand woven cloth of the Batak people.



Laurel and Eleanor love to help out with Caroline.



Caroline's one month birthday.



# KIDS'

## CORNER

We have had opportunity to meet some families from Norway and America who are also living here in Medan. They let us know about a local play group that meets in a school gymnasium. Every Wednesday Laurel and Eleanor get to go interact with kids their age. This has been a tremendous blessing!

Kali also gets to practice her Bahasa Indonesia with the other moms and caretakers. Matthew typically stays home to get some work and study done.



### Making Friends From Kali



One of my prayers since receiving this call has been that God would grant us friendships. God created us to be in community, and not just community with other people, but in community with other Christians. The girls and myself had a great circle of support back in St. Louis and have dearly missed it since moving away. We had 8 years to build it up, so I knew that I wouldn't have anything like that im-

mediately when we moved here. But I have prayed that God would give us friends so we could start building that network of support and care.

As we know, God is good and God provides. We have met several Christian expats through our language school, and we have become friends. One family even lived in the St. Louis area before moving here. All of them have young kids and they get along great with Laurel and Eleanor.

One family introduced me to a playgroup that meets in the gym at the International School once a week. I have been taking the girls each week and they love it. There are about 10 other children who attend, some Indonesian, some British, some Austrian, and some Norwegian. I have enjoyed the time to speak to other moms and get to know their experience in Indonesia. I, also, get to practice my Bahasa Indonesia as I talk with the nannies.

