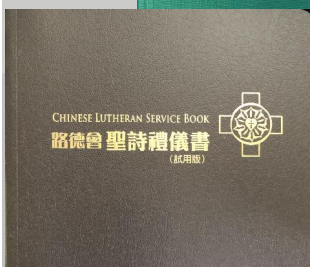
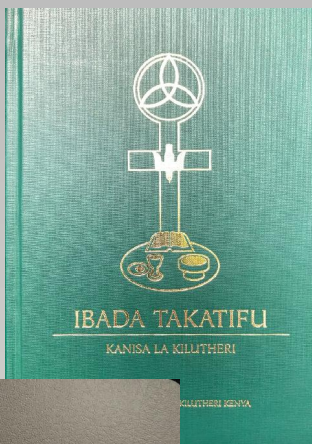




Swahili hymnal for the Kenyan Lutheran Church

Chinese hymnal (test booklet) for the Chinese Lutheran Church

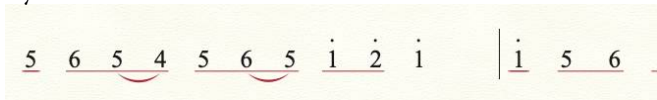
Amharic hymnal for the Ethiopian



[sandra.rhein@lcms.org](mailto:sandra.rhein@lcms.org)

## Numerical Music Notation

We expect to see a foreign language in a hymnbook from another country, but did you know some countries use a different kind of music notation? Here is the beginning of a Pentecost hymn in numerical music notation:



This notation is common in both China and Indonesia, where I'm assisting with hymnals. There are slight differences in the notation between the two countries, but the concept is the same. It is called 簡譜 in traditional Chinese. Transliterated, this is *jiǎnpǔ*, and it means 'simplified notation'. In Bahasa Indonesian the term is *not angka*, or 'note numbers'.

In both countries, Western notation, with its five-line staff, clefs, and notes is gradually becoming more common, so the hymnal committees decided to include both styles in their hymnals. Music software is not built to accommodate two forms of notation, and this problem stymied me for years. Finally, a Finale music software engineer offered to develop a plug-in specifically for these hymnal projects. C.J. Garcia, the engineer, has worked with me off and on for two years now, and is my hero! With his help, that first measure now looks like this:



I find the numerical notation intriguing, and fun to read. The numbers correspond to scale degrees:

Note: C D E F G A B  
Solfège: do re mi fa so la ti  
Notation: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Have you figured out which hymn this is? Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest, LSB 499. One of the oldest hymns in our hymnal, both text and tune date back to the ninth century. It is one of the greatest hymns on the work of the Holy Spirit. Perhaps you will sing it on the Feast of the Pentecost, Sunday 31 May.



Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,  
And make our hearts Your place of rest;  
Come with Your grace and heav'nly aid,  
And fill the hearts which You have made.



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to [sandra.rhein@lcms.org](mailto:sandra.rhein@lcms.org) with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.



## BUKU IBADAH LUTHERAN (Lutheran Worship Book)

The hymn list is complete for the Indonesian hymnal, *Buku Ibadah Lutheran*, and all the hymns have been entered into Finale. Most of the hymn texts were available electronically, which saves me many hours of typing, and keeps mistakes to a minimum. I did, however, have to divide words into syllables often, to fit them to the notes. Having no list of rules for syllabification, that process allowed mistakes to creep in.

Fortunately, Rev. Matthew Wood, LCMS missionary in Indonesia, volunteered to continue his language study by proofreading all these hymns. He had recently finished six months of intensive language training, so is testing his skills on these 300 hymns.

Rev. Wood and I are hoping to be able to meet in Chiayi, Taiwan, along with one of the Indonesian pastors, Rev. Eben Ezer Aruan, in October, to finally work in person again.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *Patience for missionaries who have had to postpone travel to visit family, to carry on their work, and to connect with supporters.*
- *Perseverance for the Spanish hymnal committee, as our hymnal nears completion.*

### GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *The consistent progress we've been able to make on both the Indonesian and the Spanish hymnals, even while sheltering-in.*

### PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and support us*

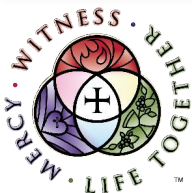
Rev. Matthew Wood  
Deaconess Sandra Rhein  
Bishop Esra Sinaga



Rev. Eben Ezer Aruan

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord,  
all the earth; break forth into  
joyous song and sing praises!*

*Psalm 98:4*



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at [lcms.org/service](http://lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

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