



The Nelson Family serving in Indonesia & Southeast Asia <http://partners-apart.org>

## Regional Gathering

**WARNING!!!!**

Please **DO NOT** post this newsletter on the Internet without our permission!

**Did You Know?**

- LCMS Southeast Asia Regional headquarters is in Chiayi City, Taiwan
- The LCMS rents a large building for both living space and office space from the Chinese Evangelical Lutheran Church.
- Plans are in the works for a seminary in Chiayi as well as a Christian music conservatory

For more regular updates and images of our life in Medan, Indonesia please visit our blog:  
<http://partners-apart.org>

Or click [HERE!](#)

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

September was the first all-region worker gathering since before Covid and my first opportunity to attend such a gathering. We converged on the regional headquarters in Chiayi City, Taiwan in the shadow of increased military maneuvering by mainland China in the weeks preceding. But everyone arrived and departed safely.

We met Wednesday through Friday, September 27-29. I was privileged to function as chaplain for the event, which meant preaching for our three morning worship services. The assigned texts for the following Sunday (Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-10; Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18; Matthew 21:23-27) provided some thought-provoking considerations into the nature and limitations of institutions!

**Right**—Rev. Matthew Wood, Regional Director, Rev. Charles Ferry and Rev. Dr. Tom Parks enjoy a moment of levity after dinner Wednesday night. Informal opportunities for discussion and fellowship are often the best part of any official gathering—and this was no exception!



**Below**—What do you eat for lunch? Pork dumplings, and lots of 'em! Irene Paul and Rev. Dr. Steve Oliver peruse their options before digging in.

**Below**—Three days of presentations on regional activities as well as visits from Human Resources and Short Term Missions in St. Louis kept us plenty busy!



## Prayers and Thanksgivings

- Thanksgiving and continued prayers for safe travels
- Prayers for Gena's training in Thailand
- Prayers as we begin planning our first Home Service next year
- Prayers as our children begin plotting their next life-steps

*In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.*  
**Isaiah 2:2**

Mission Central provides incredible financial support to LCMS workers around the world—including us! Contact Mission Central for more information!

<https://missioncentral.us>  
712-882-1029

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](https://lcms.org/service).

## Family Updates

**Paul**—Paul will be traveling extensively through the end of the year, visiting deployed staff in Cambodia, presenting to the Lutheran Church of the Philippines at their National Convention at the end of October, co-leading a teaching mission to Nepal, and working with Deaconess Sandra Rhein in the Philippines on a week of review lessons for their deaconesses.

**Gena**—Gena has been invited to attend a Community Health Evangelism (Christ centered community development) seminar at the end of October in Chiang Mai, Thailand. She'll be attending with Aimee Cima from Cambodia, Mercy Manager for Southeast Asia, as well as Chenhsi Hansen from South Korea.

**Alec**—Alec has restarted his undergraduate studies in history online from Medan via Ft. Hays University in Kansas. He has about two years left on his studies and hopes to get a better idea during that time of what will come next. For the time being he wants to remain in Medan a little longer to absorb the cross-cultural experiences and continue volunteering as an English tutor.

**Mika**—Mika graduated high school in May and will return to the US in November. Her plan is to live with relatives and work as much as she can to save money. She then intends to return to Southeast Asia and attend *The One Academy* in Kuala Lumpur, a prestigious art school in Kuala Lumpur for three years. This should launch her into a career in digital illustration for major movie companies or perhaps video game companies.

**Caedmon**—Caedmon is finishing his final year of high school, and much of this is spent taking online college courses through Grand Canyon University. His goal is to get most of his prereqs out of the way so he can begin taking courses in finance. He intends to stay in Indonesia until at least after his high school graduation next year.



### Home Service 2024

Tentative plans are approved for our return to the US in spring/summer 2024 on our first **Home Service**. This is an 8-week visit to reconnect with our partners as well as family.

Thank you to those who reached out after our last newsletter to express an interest in us visiting with your congregation. Most of the Sundays are now booked, but we still have mid-week opportunities!

Please reach out in the near future if you would like to try and arrange a visit from some or all of us to your congregation, Men's Group, LWML group, mid-week Confirmation classes, Bible studies, or other gatherings usual or special. We love to share how God is working in Southeast Asia! We hope to celebrate his goodness with you in person next year!

To support our work financially, make checks payable (memo line: "Support of Rev. Paul A. Nelson") to "**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**" and send your tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861  
**888-930-4438**

Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on our online giving page at [lcms.org/Nelson](https://lcms.org/Nelson).