



MEET THE WOOD FAMILY

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

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KEEP US IN INDONESIA!**
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CHURCH FELLOWSHIP TALKS SCHEDULED



Pastor Wood and GKLI leadership get together to prepare for a meeting with LCMS Church Relations, which will take place in late November.

From left to right: Pastor Julianto Simanjorang, Pastor Eben Ezer Aruan, Pastor Matthew Wood, Bishop Jon Albert Saragih, Sek Jend (vice president) Lamris Malau.

We have recently received the welcomed news that LCMS Church Relations will be visiting Indonesia to resume church fellowship dialogue. The GKLI has been pursuing fellowship with the LCMS since the early 1990s. However, it wasn't until the 2010s that the relationship between the LCMS and GKLI began to solidify. After several years of interactions between LCMS and GKLI leadership and pastors the two church bodies are much more familiar with each other. The Fellowship talks scheduled for the end of November have tremendous potential to bear fruit.

The Church Is Already One in Christ

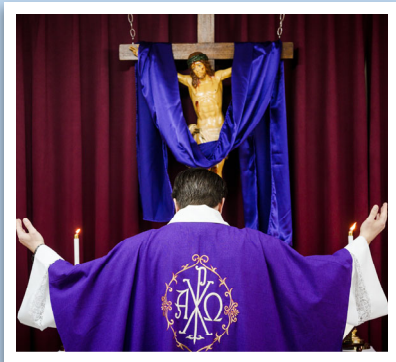


To prepare we took time to study the CTCR document, *The Lutheran Understanding of Church Fellowship*. We were reminded that the unity and fellowship of the Church is a matter of faith. All Christians already have fellowship with each other because we are together partakers of Christ. Nothing the LCMS or GKLI does, recognizes, or declares will change what Christ has accomplished.

What Is Altar and Pulpit Fellowship?

Outward fellowship is still important. As we pursue it with other church bodies the LCMS proceeds with the confidence that the unity of the Church is the work of Christ not the work of bureaucrats in denominational offices. That means we don't have to rush into anything. We can take time to thoroughly study and honestly ask whether our two church bodies stand united in public proclamation of Christ. That's what Altar and Pulpit fellowship is about. It answers the question, "Do these two church bodies proclaim Christ to the world with one voice?"

To answer this question faithfully two church bodies need to study each other's confessions, preaching, worship, and education. Are the confessions the same and is the practice of the church bodies consistent with those confessions? If members of the two church bodies celebrate Holy Communion together will they truly "Proclaim the Lord's death until He comes" with one voice? For the LCMS this all takes time and that's o.k. because our proclamation of Christ to the world is impacted by it. May the Lord bless the GKLI and the LCMS as they continue to work toward Altar and pulpit fellowship.



PRAYERS

SUPPLICATION

- For the meeting between the GKLI and LCMS Church Relations.
- For the GKLI pastors' meeting in November.
- For Laurel, Eleanor, and Kali as they begin another school year.
- For continued work with the GKLI and to identify ways to expand our reach in Indonesia.

THANKSGIVING

- For Matthew's safe travel to and from Taiwan for OIM Asia Region meetings.
- For family vacation, rest, and relaxation before a blitz of meetings and workshops in November, December, and January.



FAMILY UPDATE

The school year is in full swing, and Kali now has two full time students on her hands. Laurel is in fifth grade. She loves literature, Greek myths, Latin, and has started learning Greek as well. Eleanor is in first grade. She is working hard on her reading and writing skills. She looks forward to starting Latin when her reading skills are sufficient.

Caroline celebrated her fourth birthday and is learning in her own way during her abundant free time during the day. She loves spending time with our new cat, Ginger. In August Kermit celebrated his first birthday with his first steps. He is cruising now and making sure nothing is left on any flat surfaces within his reach. Including the previously mentioned cat.



COMING UP

While much of our effort is going toward preparing for the meeting between the GKLI and LCMS Church Relations, there are some important projects on the horizon. We remain committed to providing theological resources and education to the GKLI.

Continuing Education

The GKLI will hold its annual pastors' conference over the last week of November. They have asked for an introduction to the Formula of Concord. The entire book of Concord first became available in Indonesian in 2004, but it wasn't widely available to GKLI congregations until 2016. So the GKLI has not had opportunity to study this important piece of the Lutheran Confessions.

Looking to Expand

We are planning an education event on the Island of Batam, where there are two GKLI congregations. The GKLI is working to extend invitations to other non-GKLI congregations, their pastors, elders, and members. This is great news as we desire our work with

the GKLI to be a blessing to as many people as possible in Indonesia.

Theological Works for Translation and Publication

Dr. Robert Kolb has graciously granted us permission to translate and distribute *Teaching God's Children His Teaching* in Indonesia. Our translator is beginning to work on the text now and we hope to have the translation completed before the end of June 2024. We have also received a preliminary proposal from CPH to translate and distribute 3,000 copies of *Praying Luther's Small Catechism* by Dr. John Pless.

Additionally, we're working to publish and distribute a daily devotional resource for pastors and congregational leaders of the GKLI. Called an Almanak, it is a common annual publication for denominations in Indonesia. This year we are working to strengthen the devotional aspects with daily readings, prayers, themes for Sunday worship, and including a copy of the Augsburg Confession translated into Indonesian.