



A  
L  
C  
B

# In Touch

February 2012

[www.alcb.be](http://www.alcb.be)

Vol. 5 No.2

Dear Friends,

How do you explain what we believe? What are the essential facts of the Christian faith that all believers share? As a stool has three legs in order to be stable, we have three truths that our faith is based on. This month we are talking about the first of these "legs": That Jesus is the Son of God.



When you read the Gospel accounts of Jesus' life and ministry you will notice quickly that He was different. Human for sure, with bodily needs as hunger and thirst, also emotions as laughter and crying, even anger. But in many ways He displayed His true origin. In words and deeds He let the people know that He was indeed the Son of God who existed from before the creation of the world, who came from God the Father and who is Himself true God. He showed His power over nature, sickness, evil spirits, even death. He forgave sin, which only God can do. Jesus' enemies understood His claim to be equal with God quite well, challenged Him constantly and tried to kill Him for this blasphemy (offense against God). Jesus, however, never denied their accusation, rather He confirmed it.

Jesus is either a *liar*, a *lunatic* or the *Lord*. If He deceived people willingly or was mentally unstable, we had to reject His claim like His enemies did. If His claim to be God is true, however, we owe Him our allegiance, trust and love. As the Son of God, Jesus never committed a sin, unlike us. As such He is the perfect sacrifice. For that purpose He came from God, to save us from our sin by dying on the cross for us. Let us confess with Thomas: **"My Lord and my God!"** (John 20:28). Let us celebrate Him. Let us worship Him. Let us cry, sing and dance for Him. Let us live in honor of His Name! In awesome reverence of Him,

*Pastor Tepper*

**Let the wife make the husband glad to come home, and let him make her sorry to see him leave.**

Martin Luther



## Please Pray...

- For all of our married couples that we stay united and committed to each other as we grow together in our faith and live toward the future in God's Kingdom; that we learn from Christ what love and forgiveness means and practice it in our relationships.

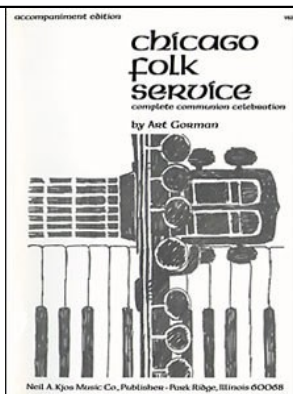
- For all of us that we remember that love, in the true meaning of the word, is ultimately found in the arms of our heavenly Father.
- Feb 4: Austin H.

Send your requests to: pastor @ alcb.be and specify whether it is private or to be shared.

Nourished by the Holy Spirit we are committed to:

- sharing with all people the love of Christ,
- studying the Word of God,
- sustaining each other with fellowship and vibrant worship,
- growing in members and faith.

Simon and his wife Narissa lead our singing in the Chicago Folk Services on **Feb 19<sup>th</sup>** and **Mar 18<sup>th</sup>**



## Upcoming Events...

**Sunday, Feb. 5:** 4:30pm *Family Service*

Sat., Feb 11: 8:00pm Men's Movie Night—Fireproof (p.2)

**Sunday, Feb. 12:** 4:30pm Worship Service (sermon John 16)

**Sunday, Feb. 19:** 9:30am Antwerp church service on TV (p.2)  
4:30pm Chicago Folk Service (sermon John 17)

**Sunday, Feb. 26:** 4:30pm Worship Service (1st Sunday of Lent, John 18)

**Sunday, Mar. 4:** 4:30pm *Family Service*  
Afterward: **General Meeting of our church (p.2)**

**Important date – March for Life, March 25**, afternoon in Brussels  
<http://www.marchforlife.be/>

Mark your calendars for the **Family Faith Formation Workshops**  
**March 17th and June 16th**

Upcoming Events for Your Family:

On **Saturday, March 14 10:00-13:00**

Topic: Children in Church: Engaging and Training your Child to Worship.

(Childcare available)



This **Sunday, February 5:**

Family Service.

Theme: Let your Light Shine!

\*\* Please collect toilet paper and paper towel rolls for our Children's Church. We will be making Resurrection Sets and will need a lot! (10 per child!)\*\*

See you soon!

## Developing our Mission Mindset...

**One of the hottest topics in church is money** — We might not like to *talk* about it, but we can't *exist* without it. For the past years we have been supported financially by American and German Lutheran churches. They are not doing it indefinitely, and one of them is already reducing the contribution slowly year by year. The goal is for us to stand on our own feet. So far we have come up with about a third of our budget ourselves in the past years. **Thanks to all of you for your financial support.**

Money in church however, is more than donating to a good cause. We have the opportunity to respond to the One who sacrificed Himself for us and also graciously still gives us all things (Romans 8:32). Our offering and tithes are born out of our amazing friendship with Jesus who gave His life for His friends (John 15:13). Our giving should be heart-motivated and individually decided, so yes there is no "law" or compulsion. Rather, we feel compelled by gratitude to give and to serve the Lord Jesus even with our money. It's not a question about fulfilling a law or paying back debt to God! It's a question of gratitude and generosity! Let's fix our eyes on Jesus and abide in Him (John 15:4). Any fruit that grows out of our loving relationship with Him will be done with a cheerful heart, will bring glory to God and result in joy for us – joy that is complete. It's a full joy. With this in mind, would you prayerfully rethink your offering and tithes?



## Parenting Tip

What is **worship**? What is our children's place in the **worship** service? Are we training them to be quiet or to **worship**? Do we go to church or do we go to **worship**? Is **worship** primarily for my benefit or for God's glory? These and many, many more are questions I am being confronted with as I prepare for our next **Faith Formation Workshop, on Saturday, March 17**. I am learning so much and feeling very convicted as well. I hope that you will make it a priority in your life to be there. I am sure that we all have something to learn about worship and I know that I for sure can use some help in training my children to worship! We will be covering these topics as well as how to keep the Sabbath holy and have Sabbath rest. Worship is not only for Sundays of course, but engaging our children in the worship service is an important part of the worship that we hope will be a part of their lives for the rest of their lives. Study after study has shown that great numbers of children leave the church after high school. One of the primary reasons for this is that they have never been taught to worship. They have been going to church their whole lives, but never worshipping. Never encountering the God who loves them like crazy and giving Him glory, loving Him back with all of their hearts, souls, and minds. I don't know about you, but I strongly desire to improve in my own worshipping and to train my children in worship as well. We spend so much time, energy and money teaching and training our kids to do all sorts of things. But worship is the one thing that they will be doing for eternity. Let's start now!

### Our Investments in People's Lives

They will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others. 2 Cor 9:13

Mission '12 € 21,000*	Tithes & Offerings	Bank Transfers	Total (goal vs. received)	Giving goals*
January (= year to date)	€ 1.067.35	€ 580	€ 1,647.35 (80%)	January € 2,030

Below, we are from now on presenting services that we, as a congregation, are supporting as wise investments in people's lives.. We like to help and serve.

Project of the month	Family Service	Lives served	Children, families	February € 1,540

\* Note: This is the goal for our giving in 2012 (5% higher than our giving in 2011). We are currently subsidized by the LCMS and the SELK for our total budget of € 60.000. Giving goals are based on giving patterns in 2010+2011.

● **Lent: In 40 days through the New Testament** an ideal time to connect with Jesus. Listen to the Word on your mp3-player as you commute, work out or clean. Just 28 minutes per day from Ash Wednesday to the day before Easter, six days a week! 40 day listening plans available at church. Free downloads through our website [alcb.be](http://alcb.be).

● **Men's Movie Night** – Sat. Feb. 11: Movie, beer and a manly topic: Fireproof. 8:00pm at the parsonage

● **Antwerp service on TV** – On **February 19**, the service in the Antwerp church is broadcasted on VRT. Come and help fill the church. But you cannot come too late. For technical reasons everybody needs to be there at **9:30**. (service at 10:00). Tabakvest 59, Antwerp.

● **Serve the City** – Homeless Focus Day, on **Saturday, Feb 18th**. [www.servethecity.be](http://www.servethecity.be)

● **General Meeting** – March 4, after the Family Service. All are invited. Agenda:

- 1 – Pastor's Report
- 2 – Church finances
- 3 – Election of elders
- 3 – Plans for the year
- 4 – Miscellaneous



Small groups

## discipleship fellowship

**Women's** Tuesdays, 10:30am-12:30pm

**Bible study** Contact: Pamela C.

**Confessions study group** Upon mutual consent, 7:30pm  
Contact: Chris V.

**Confirmation class** Upon mutual consent  
Contact: Pastor Tepper (0487 45 85 99)

**Guys night out** **Sat. 2/11 Men's Movie Night—8:00pm parsonage**

Contact: Pastor Tepper (0487 45 85 99)

**Girls night out** Next event to be announced  
Contact: Hilde F.

**Men's Bible Study** Fridays, 7:30pm at Dima's house (close to Waterloo). Car sharing possible.

Contact: Pastor Tepper (0487 45 85 99)