



Dear Friends,

Today in the West, not many people consider the religious meaning of Christmas. Most people will not go to church, even at Christmas. It has become a busy race to spend money on presents, and get ready for the day. A visitor from another world might think that Christmas was a festival to the gods of money and shopping.

What do you want from Christmas? Many people do hope for more than presents at Christmas. We want to somehow return to a time in our childhood (or some other good time in the past), when life was simpler and made more sense, before the troubles of adult life arrived. We feel certain that behind all the fun and decorations, there must somehow be a message, something more, some key to life, hope and happiness.

Can we look beyond the way Christmas is celebrated today, and find any real meaning, any message for our lives today? Yes, we can, when we go back to the origin, to the child whose birth we celebrate. Jesus said about Himself: ***The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many*** (Mark 10:45). We were stuck in our own harmful ways and needed to be saved. Jesus is the bail-out plan of God. He is the key to forgiveness and fellowship with God – and so to Christmas as well. We are celebrating God's gift to us, the greatest servant, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He came to serve you. He was born to save you. Because He loves you. Does the true meaning of Christmas change how you see this holiday? How you see God? How you see yourself? Can we revel in Christmas besides presents and the atmosphere? With Christ, our servant in the center, we can!

Merry **Christ**-mas to all of you.

Pastor Tepper

**“The Son of God
became a man
to enable men
to become sons of God.”**

- C.S. Lewis



Please Pray...

- For the lost that God send His Holy Spirit to open their hearts for the message of Christ so that they come to believe in their Savior this Christmas season: For the refugees and the people we meet in the pedestrian zone with *winter2go*.
- For us that we ever grow in our faith, and serve the church and the world in Jesus' name.
- For those with birthdays in this month:
 - Dec 4: Elisia
 - Dec 8: Lina
 - Dec 19: Grepshon
 - Dec 29: Katelynn
 - Dec 29: Dimitri

Send your prayer requests to: pastor @ alcb.be



Christmas Eve in our stable in the past years

Upcoming Events... Last minute updates/changes: www.alcb.be

- Saturday, Dec 10** 10:00am **winter2go Christmas Outreach** (p. 2)
Place du Nouveau Marché aux Grains 34, 1000 BXL
4:00-9:00pm Our tent at the **Social Christmas Market**
Tervuren, market place
- Sunday, Dec 11** 4:30pm Worship Service in Woluwe-St. Pierre
Advent 3
- Sunday, Dec 18** 4:30pm Worship Service in Woluwe-St. Pierre
Advent 4
- Thursday, Dec 24** 5:00pm **Christmas Eve Service** in Leefdaal
Christmas Eve
with potluck dinner together (p.2)
- Sunday, Jan 1** 10:30am Worship Service in Leefdaal

Worship services are held normally at: Ave. Salomé 7, Woluwe-St. Pierre (across the Centre Sportif, close to Stokkel)

Pastor Tepper: 0487 45 85 99 pastor @ alcb.be www.alcb.be

Please support our church and mission. Thank you for your cheerful giving: **IBAN: BE71 9530 6054 7769, BIC: CTBK BEBX**

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Once a month we invite you to get together to discuss a Bible passage together. Just grab a cup of coffee or tea and

join in! It's a good place to ask questions you might have. **On Sundays, 2:30-4:00 p.m.** (just before our church service). The children enjoy instruction and fun at the same time during their Kids' Club.

Ask pastor for the location. (pastor@alcb.be)



Walking with the Lord

Children and the Offering – Parents are the first teachers of our children and that is true for our spiritual life as well. It's from us that children get to know and love the Lord. They should see us pray, worship, interact with Christians and non-Christians, set biblical priorities, and also give our offerings at church. Here are ideas for you to help your children to become cheerful givers:

- Let your children drop in your offering for the family or for themselves
- Set a part of their pocket money aside and have them bring it to church
- Talk about it and explain why, and for what we give from our income to God
- Pray for pastors and missionaries and for willing hearts to support them
- Be a good role model to them as you walk with the Lord

If you haven't yet put in your contribution into the church funds this year, you can still easily catch up in these days. We continue to rely on donations for our church and mission in the city. Please transfer your contributions or donations to the account of our congregation.

Please don't forget to give from your 13th month pay.

Church account: IBAN: BE71 9530 6054 7769 — BIC: CTBK BEBX

Meeting the Family

I've been at ALCB for a year and a half. We were very excited to find an English speaking Lutheran service because the countries we were stationed in the past this was never an option.

Once upon a time when I was 15-16 my sister and I were part of a Reformed (Calvinist) chorus in our little town where we grew up.

I find a lot of joy in cooking, gardening and handcrafting jewelry. I also enjoy spending time with my family out in parks and biking with the kids.



Judit

If my life was a book, the title would be "The life of plants". I am rather a plant person and believe that those living creatures also communicate, but we need to be more open to understand them.

I came to ALCB because of my husband. I did not grow up in a religious family with learning about church. I was baptized as an adult in a small Lutheran church in Budapest. The pastor who baptized me also married Marc and I. Every time we visit Budapest we stop there for a Sunday service.

One thing I love about ALCB that there is communion every Sunday.

Our Investments in People's Lives

Mission '16	Sunday Offerings	Bank Transfers	Total (goal vs. received)	Giving goals*
October	€ 1,075.56	€ 480	€ 1,555.56 (75%)	€ 2,083
November	€ 940.36	€ 430	€ 1,370.36 (66%)	€ 2,083
Year to	€ 9,103.20	€ 7,180	€ 16,283.20 (71%)	€ 22,913
Things that you support	Outreach	Lives served	The bruxel-loises	January € 2,083

* 12 x 2,083=25,000 € is what we need to raise ourselves in Brussels. We are currently subsidized by the LCMS and the SELK for our total budget of € 55,000.

• **winter2go** – the Christmas outreach of the Santas on Saturday, Dec 10. We need:

- 1- Lots of Santas. All ages welcome!
- 2- Teams for food preparation for the Santas and people reached (Christmas Party Saturday evening).
- 3- People who can help on Saturday morning with 1- practicing the songs and 2- choreography of dances and pantomimes

• **Christmas Market Tervuren** – also Dec 10th.

Help out at our tent at the *Social Christmas market*. Johannes has a plan for presenting our church to the community with our banners and selling of bags of walnut from his own back yard.

• **Christmas Eve** – We celebrate the birth of our Saviour in our own stable on Dec 24th, at 5p.m. You're invited to stay for our church's **Potluck buffet**. Please bring a dish large enough to feed your whole family to share.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Please help the body of Christ with your gifts.

- ✎ Think of a project or activity for our church, invite to it and do it for a time limit of 3 months.
- ✎ Join the coffee cart ministry and give out drinks for free



catechism quiz

1. Where in the Small Catechism do we find a reference to Christmas?
2. What is the correct ending of the explanation of the first commandment: *We must fear, love and trust God more than ...*
A. our boss B. our money
C. our spouse D. anything else
3. How can we keep God's name holy?

1. In the Creed: *Born of the virgin Mary.*
2. D. Examples to its meaning are A-C.
3. When we live holy lives as God's children based upon nothing else but God's Word. (See Luther's explanation to the first request of the Lord's Prayer)