



ALCB

In Touch

July/August 2019



ALL
are
welcome
Lutheran
Church
Brussels

www.alcb.be

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In German we say in a moment of big surprise when something happens that we didn't expect to happen anymore: "Sometimes signs and wonders happen!" – This "In Touch" newsletter is one of these moments. Many people wouldn't expect to receive it anymore. It is the first volume for more than a year and several members of our congregation haven't seen a newsletter yet at all because they joined us just after the last newsletter came out. Now everyone of you can see what it looks like.

Signs and wonders... As so many sayings it has its roots in the Bible. In John 4, 48 Jesus says in a critical way to the people who just want to see "signs and wonders" but don't listen to him: "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe." Nevertheless, he complies with the Official's request and heals his dying son.

Signs and wonders... What do we expect from our faith? Do we just want to see signs and wonders, immediate help in times of trouble? What is our Christian faith all about? Of course it is not (just) about extraordinary events. Naturally, signs and wonders can be expected. They are one piece of our faith and the Bible is full of stories when miracles happened. But they were always isolated events, special for some (few) people. They underline the power of God or the status of our Lord Jesus Christ, but they are never the subject of our faith. The real "sign and wonder" is that God turned to us and "shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners", as the Apostle Paul in Romans 5, 8 writes. We are God's family, that is wonderful!

Now we have summertime and holidays, even our "summer break" in our congregation. Nevertheless, church and faith and God don't stop in this time. And especially the summer holidays can become a time of "signs and wonders" for us, when we watch and enjoy God's beautiful creation full of wonders. Or when we take a rest for body and soul and find a new turn in our spirituality by seeing a "sign" when we visit a church as a tourist. Who knows? Summer can be a time when signs and wonders happen among and for us. – I wish you the experience of God's loving care in many signs and wonders and a restful break, wherever you are or may be in the following weeks.

Stay blessed,
+ Yours Pastor Johannes

Stay blessed,
+ Yours Pastor Johannes



Please pray for...

...safe travels for all our church members who are travelling during the summer holidays

...the Brothers and Sisters who leave us and for a good start in their new positions.

...for our ALCB, that new people who move to Brussels in summer will find us as their anchor place abroad.

...for our refugees and members who are looking for new jobs that they may have a successful start into new life possibilities.



Pastor's absences:

22/7 – 05/8 and
12/8 – 27/8 (holidays)

*If necessary you can call
the Pastor
on his mobile
(0470 10 38 26)*



Financial Update As we announced at our last Annual General Meeting in spring our savings are still sufficient, but have decreased during the last one and a half years. We are still waiting for the acknowledgment by the Belgian State as a “real” church to receive substitutions in form of a salary for the Pastor. Now we are still paying our Pastor a small honorarium. Furthermore we have the usual expenses for the rent of the church (each Sunday €87,50) and the fee for the organ player (each Sunday €65,-), also purchases or travel costs (€0,25 per km) etc. Please consider to donate for our ALCB regularly each month via bank transfer or offering to make sure that we can operate the congregation! Thank you for every Euro!

During the last ten months we paid almost €5.000,- for the refugees (€1.815,- for the lawyer, cost for food, accommodations, medical costs etc) and received also a substitution of €2.400,- from our German Partner Church SELK and the SELK congregation in Bremen for the refugees. Since they are now officially registered the Belgian State pays for them as long as they don't earn enough money on their own. Anyway we thank God that He led us through this work so successfully until today!



Next services

We will celebrate one service in the middle of the summer holidays. This service shall be celebrated in a more informal atmosphere at “the Parsonage” of the Landau family in Vossem in the later afternoon. Afterwards we will have a bbq and potluck and a time of get-together in the garden. The service will take place on **11 August**. The time and address will be announced via the usual email distribution list.

The next “normal” service will take place, God willing, on **September 1st at 15:00** in the German Protestant Church, Avenue Salomé 7 in 1150 Woluwe-Saint-Pierre (big parking lot behind the building).



Biblical texts (Old Testament, Epistle, Gospel) and subjects for the summer time (5th–10th Sunday after Trinity)

- 21.07.: “Going new ways with God – courage and confidence to believe in God” Genesis 12, 1-4a, 1Cor 1, 18-25, Lk 5, 1-11
- 28.07.: “Fear not! I have redeemed you. – We are baptised.” Is 43, 1-7, 1Peter 2, 2-10, Mt 28, 16-20
- 04.08.: “God stills the hunger – Holy Communion” Ex 16, 2-3+11-18, Acts 2, 41-47, John 6, 30-35
- 11.08.: *We will have service. See above!*
- 18.08.: “Take your chance! – Trust in God and not in the world!” Jer 1, 4-10 Philippians 3, (4b-6+)-7-14, Mt 13, 44-46
- 25.08.: “Israel Sunday – The relation to the people of God” Ex 19, 1-6, Romans 11, 25-32, Mk 12, 28-34

Wanted: Elders for the Church Board!

Since June we have no Church Board at the moment and are still looking for candidates who would like to be elected as new Elders. We need three people, who serve together with the Pastor as the Church Board. The work contains to feel “a bit more responsible” for the congregation than the “normal” members by taking care of the processes on Sunday for example, or welcoming newcomers. Also it contains to support the Pastor with discussions and in decision making (for example to decide when and where services shall take place or when services must be cancelled or for what we want to spend on money). The Church Board meets unregularly a few times per year and communicates apart from that via email. Please consider if this could be a job for you.



End of Summer Picnic—Save the date and be welcome!

We will have our traditional “End of Summer Picnic” in September on the Saturday before the “Car Free Sunday” in Brussels. Welcome to join us as usual at the Sint-Pieters Church in Vossem and afterwards for potluck and bbq at “the Parsonage”! Please save the date! **This year it will be Saturday, 21 September 2019**

Goodbyes

We must say goodbye to some people of our church family who have to leave Brussels for new destinations and jobs. We let them go with sadness but also with thankfulness for their faithfulness, memories, and the good time we had together. We wish them “Godspeed”, which means “safe travels and many blessings from God”!