

Dear Friends,

Self-evaluation is the call of this season. On March 1 with Ash Wednesday, Lent begins. Forty days in which we follow our Lord Jesus to the cross. Lent commemorates the 40 days He had spent in the desert before He began His public ministry (Matthew 4). During that time Jesus fasted and allowed His motives to be tested. The devil tempted Him to become a miraculous source of physical bread, but that would have neglected our need for *spiritual* food. He could show how invincible He is, but Jesus knew that people would not receive saving faith without His sacrifice. Finally Jesus could have become a multimillionaire and been crowned king, but He'd rather share His heavenly inheritance with us.

If we are not careful, the evil one can deceive us. He comes with tempting suggestions which are hard to reject. He promises wealth, popularity, power, fame, happiness, peace of mind. Who can resist all that? Not all that the tempter offers is wrong per se. It's not immoral to change stones to food and to jump off tall buildings unharmed if one has the power to do so. But is the "good" which Satan suggests really the best? Jesus chose instead the way of humble service, self-sacrifice, and the cross.

We are often tempted to let the lesser "good" prevent us from doing the greater good. We want to believe that in our good judgment all we do is good and right. The season of Lent challenges your belief system, what you think of yourself, where your priorities lay, what your motives are. Lent is a time for reflection and self-evaluation. It's a time to shed light on fundamental issues of your life: Where do I come from? Who am I? Why am I here (addressing the meaning of life)? What is right and wrong? Where will I go after death? Do I live to the fullest in God's calling?

The Lord calls you to realign your life to the best option. God knows, either our way of life and the Kingdom of God are identical or they are quite different from each other. Self-evaluation is a chance to repent from imperfect ways and to follow the perfect way, the truth and the light: Jesus Christ.

Pastor Tepper

**"The depravity of man is at once
the most empirically verifiable fact
but at the same time
the most intellectually resisted fact."
-Malcom Muggeridge, British journalist**



Please Pray...

- For our brothers in sisters in Christ who suffer persecution because of our faith that they are comforted by the Lord, helped in their agony and freed from their attackers.
 - For the unwanted, unborn children that their mothers find physical, mental, and spiritual help that they need in order to keep their babies, that the children are granted the right to live.
 - For those with birthdays in these months:
 - Mar 3: Jakob
 - Mar 11: Pastor van Hattem
 - Mar 13: Esther
 - Mar 22: Hadrian
 - Mar 25: Anna
 - Mar 25: Grace
- Send your prayer requests to: pastor @ alcb.be

Our new confirmation group:
Vini, Grace, Anna and Alzbeta (from left to right)
Please pray for them as they during their intensive discipleship time



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

Sunday, Mar 5
Wed., Mar 8
Saturday, Mar 11
Sunday, Mar 12
Wed., Mar 15
Sunday, Mar 19
Wed., Mar 22
Sunday, Mar 26
Wed., Mar 29
Sunday, Apr 2
Wed., Apr 5

4:30pm Worship Service in Woluwe-St. Pierre
7:30pm Discovery Bible Study, Etterbeek
6:00pm **Daddy Daughter Dance**, Vossem (p.2)
4:30pm Worship Service in Woluwe-St. Pierre
7:30pm Discovery Bible Study, Etterbeek
4:30pm Worship Service in Woluwe-St. Pierre
7:30pm Discovery Bible Study, Etterbeek
10:30am Worship Service in Leefdaal
with a quick lunch and **General Meeting** (p. 2)
7:30pm Discovery Bible Study, Etterbeek
4:30pm Worship Service in Woluwe-St. Pierre
7:30pm Discovery Bible Study, Etterbeek

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

IBAN: BE71 9530 6054 7769, BIC: CTBK BEBX, Evangelisch-Lutherse Kerk. Address: Tabakvest 59, 2000 Antwerp

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

5 Important Things the Lutheran Reformers Wrote

In this issue: #4 **The Formula of Concord** – After Luther died, his German followers argued about what his teachings really meant. For the next 30 years, they fought about how God's law works, whether we have free will, and what happens in the Lord's Supper. They managed to settle these issues and published their agreement: The Formula of Concord. Along with the Augsburg Confession, the Formula of Concord helps the church's preachers and teachers know how to do their work so people can hear what Christ has done for them.

Important Things Luther Said ... and what he meant by it

“Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.”

Letter to Melancthon (August 1, 1521)

This is not a license to breaking God's commandments. There's no point in denying you're a sinner. But more importantly, *knowing* you're a sinner will bring you closer to Jesus Christ, the one person who can save you from sin and death.

(both taken from the Lutheran Handbook by Augsburg Fortress)

Future: Church

The future is approaching and we invite you to be part of it.

The increase in the giving in the last month was both very noticeable as well as encouraging for the future of our church. As you know the financial support that we enjoyed in the past nine years from our sister churches in Germany and the US will come to an end this summer. As a result I'm changing with my family to a ministry in Germany. However you will not be without shepherd. We have the privilege to have a pastor in our church whom we ordained two years ago, Johannes Reitze-Landau.

He is willing to take over the ministry of preaching the Word and administering the Sacraments for you. Our elders together with Johannes and Pastor van Hattem from Antwerp will ensure that you will continue to have the "Means of Grace" brought to you every Sunday. They believe that gathering every Sunday is crucial for the wellbeing and continuation of the ALCB.

We invite you to *Future: Church*. Many already have raised their giving as you can see in the financial update (see below). Please continue, and if you haven't yet, join in in the support.

Please also consider how you can help with your time and talents: Come faithfully to our services. Share some goodies for the fellowship. Welcome newcomers. Be a greeter and usher. Help clean up. Come with open eyes for what is needed. Serve. Lead. Participate.

Our Investments in People's Lives

Thanks to all who have set up automatic bank transfer for tithes, contributions and donations for automated giving for God's glory.

Mission '17 € 25,000*	Sunday Offerings	Bank Transfers	Total (goal vs. received)	Giving goals*
January	€ 1,039.97	€ 330	€ 1,369.97 (66%)	€ 2,083
February	€ 1,319.68	€ 600	€ 1,919.68 (92%)	€ 2,083
Year to date	€ 2,359.65	€ 930	€ 3,289.65 (79%)	€ 4,168
Things that you support	Preaching Sacraments	Lives served	Your soul	March € 2,083

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

● **General Meeting** – We meet for our annual assembly on **Sunday, March 26**. We'll start with our worship service, have a quick Pot Luck lunch together (everyone brings and shares on the common buffet), and proceed with the meeting by 1p.m. with Pastor van Hattem from Antwerp. Please make it a priority to be there! Agenda: Pastor's Report, Finances, Future of the church, Election of an additional elder, Plans for the year

● **Daddy Daughter Dance** – On Saturday, March 11 from 6-8p.m. we are having our second DDD. This night of elegance at the St Paul's British Primary School in Vossem is a special time for fathers as they shower their girls, age 4-14, with fun and attention, and bonded and made fun memo-ries together. We have a DJ, refreshments, games and we take lots of photos of the participants. There a few spaces left open. Please let others know about it. Everyone is welcome. 5€ per person.

● **Spring Picnic** – Mark your calendars for Sunday, **May 21** for our annual church outing! 11a.m. worship service in Leefdaal. Afterward picnic with BBQ and fun together in the yard of the parsonage.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Please help the body of Christ with your gifts.

- ✎ Give cheerfully from your income
- ✎ Show hospitality to newcomers at church
- ✎ Help with your time, talent and treasure



catechism quiz

1. True or false: For all God has been doing for me as described in the first article of the Creed, it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him.
2. What does "hallowed" mean in the Lord's Prayer? Choose from A-D:
A. empty B. of little depth
C. spooky (hence: Halloween) D. keep holy
1. How often should we repent and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever?

the lutheran

1. This is most certainly true.
2. D - To keep holy.
3. Daily.