



ALCB IN TOUCH

November 2016



www.alcb.be

Vol. 9 No. 9

Dear Friends,

Now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. (2 Corinthians 6:2)

“Now! Now!” Two times this word is spoken to us in this verse. There is an urgency in this call. We feel the passion and insistence of the one calling to us: “Now!” It's crucial that we don't miss the right moment! Whenever we hear about us being lost and doomed in our sin and what God has done about it, whenever the message of our rescue through Jesus Christ reaches us, we need to be wide awake and very attentive. God offers us time with Himself and that can only be good. It's God's time of favor, full of His love and grace. That is pleasant and satisfying to our soul. It's time spent with the Lord and King of our life. The One calling reaches out to us still: “Be reconciled with God! Come back into communion with Him. Receive new life, love, forgiveness, comfort, hope, peace and unfading joy.”

How do we respond: “I don't have time for that now. I'm too busy. That's enough on a Sunday sometime...!” The famous German Lutheran composer 300 years ago, J.S. Bach sang: *Blinded mind, turn back now / so that this very hour does not find you unprepared!** The End of the church year, with the attention fixed on the end of the world reminds us of our mortality. It brings to our mind the coming judgment and life with God (or apart from Him) in eternity. Bach continued: *Today you live, today be converted, / before tomorrow comes, things could change.**

It's comforting to hear God's Word and the Good News: He still calls us. He still invites us. He still has the best for us in His mind: Time with Himself, now—right now—and in eternity. He is the best thing that could ever happen to us. *God's favor* is God Himself. *Salvation* means being together with our Savior Jesus Christ. May we never miss time with the Lord. May we never be found wandering away from God. May we always be ready for Christ's return.

We pray with Bach: *Help, oh Lord Jesus, help me / so this day I may come to you / and in a moment do penance / before swift death overtakes me, / so that in this way today and at all times / I may be ready for my journey home.**

Have a happy and blessed End times, your *Pastor Matthias*

**(J.S. Bach, Cantata BWV 102)*

**“Jesus is the Lion of Judah
and the Lamb of God –
He was lionhearted and lamblike,
strong and meek, tough and tender,
aggressive and responsive,
bold and brokenhearted.”**

- John Piper



Please Pray...

- For **Brussels** that God send His Holy Spirit to open and prepare the hearts of the people that they might believe: Belgians, expats, immigrants and refugees.
 - For us that we ever grow in our faith, study the Bible, and love God and one another more and more.
 - For our children that they will grow in their faith in Christ.
 - For those with birthdays this month:
- Nov 8: Charlotte
- Nov 28: Chris
- Send your requests to: pastor @ alcb.be and specify whether it is private or to be shared.



Location of our Discovery Bible Study, the akaZOE café to the right of the blue door in 17 Rue des Celtes/Keltenlaan, next door to the Christian bookstore MessageMedia (books in English, French and Dutch).

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

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| <u>Sunday, Nov 6</u> | 4:30pm Worship Service in Woulwe-Saint Pierre with Johannes |
| <u>Sunday, Nov 13</u> | 4:30pm Worship Service in Woulwe-Saint Pierre |
| Saturday, Nov 19 | 10am-16pm belgium2go street evangelism |
| <u>Sunday, Nov 20</u> | 4:30pm Worship Service in Woulwe-Saint Pierre |
| <u>Sunday, Nov 27</u> | 10:30am Worship Service in the stable in Leefdaal |
| <u>Sunday, Dec 4</u> | 4:30pm Worship Service in Woulwe-Saint Pierre |
| Saturday, Dec 10 | 10am-4pm <i>winter2go</i> , outreach of the Santas (p. 2)
4-9pm <i>Social Christmas Market</i> Tervuren (p. 2) |

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

5 Important Things the Lutheran Reformers Wrote

... and why they're still important today

In this issue: #2 **The Small and Large Catechism** – Martin Luther led a team of people to see how well congregations were doing making sure people got the good news of Jesus. They found that many Christians in their territories didn't know the most basic parts of the faith. Luther wrote the Small Catechism so families would have a handy summary of the Christian faith. He wrote the Large Catechism so pastors could learn to preach so that people would have faith.

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

„The Law says, ‘do this’ and it’s never done.

Grace, ‘believe in this’ and everything is already done.“

Heidelberg Disputation (1518)

This shows how important Luther believed it to be that Christians understand the difference between God's law and the Gospel. A life free to serve others begins with this. No matter how well you keep the law, only the free gift of the Gospel can save you. (both taken from the *Lutheran Handbook by Augsburg Fortress*)

Meeting the Family

I've been at ALCB for... more than 15 years. You may call me ALCB's official dinosaur!

Once upon a time I... used to live and work in Sydney. Unfortunately visa requirements didn't allow me to stay and so I somehow ended up in Brussels - which I grew to love fondly despite its lack of kangaroos (yummy!). I still get "homesick" though from time to time and I only finished 3/4 of my trip around the Australian continent, so here's a plan for retirement!

I find a lot of joy in... singing, hiking and skiing; the latter definitely not happening often enough due to certain geographical circumstances. And I greatly enjoy using my always supportive ALCB fellow members as guinea pigs for my latest cake recipes!

It's not fashionable but... ok ok I admit it, in wintertime I'm reading books with my gloves on. In bed. My hands are just getting really really cold!

If my life was a book, the title would be... "How I came to Brussels for 6 months and forgot to leave"

I came to ALCB because... I had been a member of our German sister church "SELK" all my life and it was an obvious choice to continue to attend a Lutheran church. I did check out the German church, too, but quickly figured out that confession was more important to me than language. Apart from that, ALCB is simply a friendly bunch of people!

One thing I love about ALCB... now where do I start? The welcoming international atmosphere, the many kids attending the service, the hymns which are often the same as back home - and not to forget the occasional culinary treats from all over the world!



Esther

● **Giving** – 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 (see front page, at the very bottom). Please don't forget to give from your 13th month pay.

● **winter2go – Sat., Dec 10th**: Evangelism for beginners: Slip into a Santa costume (beard optional) and sing Christmas carols with the group (everyone can do that), hand out Christmas leaflets. If you dare: Ask people what the reason for Christmas is—and then tell them about Jesus.

● **Christmas Market Tervuren – also Dec 10th**. Plan and prepare our tent at the *Social Christmas market*. You will meet with Johannes and do this together. You can help beforehand even if you aren't there on the 10th.

● **Discovery Bible Study** – Join our small group every week on Wednesday, 7:30-9:30p.m. at the *akaZOE* café, Rue des Celtes 17, Etterbeek (see picture on p.1). It's a friendly, open atmosphere young adults. It's ideal for bringing believing and un-believing friends. All are welcome!

Our Investments in People's Lives

Mission '16	Sunday Offerings	Bank Transfers	Total (goal vs. received)	Giving goals*
September	€ 792.94	€ 680	€ 1,472.94 (71%)	€ 2,083
October	€ 1,075.56	€ 480	€ 1,555.56 (75%)	€ 2,083
Year to	€ 8,162.84	€ 6,750	€ 14,912.84 (80%)	€ 18,750
Things that you support	Discipleship	Lives served	You and your family	November € 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.