

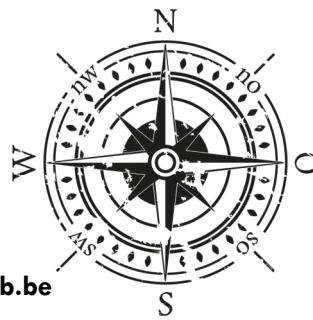


ALCB

In Touch

July/August 2019

www.alcb.be



ALL
are
welcome
Lutheran
Church
Brussels

Vol. 12 No. 2

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A happy new year to all of you! – A happy new year? – Yes, indeed, as you may have already experienced the long summer break of July and August is always a kind of turn of the year in Brussels, much more than the normal change in winter. Many people left Brussels during the summer, new “expats” have arrived to start into new jobs, children at school and young adults at university have started into a new academic year, sometimes joining new schools. Hopefully, everyone starts refreshed and with new power, after a good and peaceful rest, into this new daily routine. And we have also had a re-start at our church and will have services again every Sunday. Nevertheless, not every new start and change is easy. Many start into an unknown future, sometimes with more sorrows than expected chances. For some even the summer break brought no change at all, despite all hopes for a change. Also the “big politics” can frighten us. Which answers do we find as Christians to the big questions of our time?



We are invited to bring all these aspects of our lives before God. He offers us to lay everything, also the sorrows, unfulfilled hopes, and tears into His caring hands and to trust Him that He will do what is best for us. God would like to strengthen us every Sunday for our way through this life with His Word and Sacrament and He blesses us again and again for the things which lay before us. And He teaches us through the Holy Spirit how we can and should shape this world in a beneficiary way. In all those thoughts it is good and comforting to listen to God who says (Jeremiah 29,

11): *“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”*



Naturally, many of us have sometimes or often good times, jobs, money, family and friends, and so much more. In this case we should think about to giving thanks to Him who granted all these blessings to us. For both – for sorrows and for joy – there is this one, right place and space: the loving arms of our Lord and God, found in Jesus Christ. The service on Sunday is the moment when you have your personal date with Him. Come and meet Him!

Stay blessed, + Yours Pastor Johannes

Following Services

Date	Sunday	Time and Place	Topic and Passage for the sermon
15.9.	13 th Sunday after Trinity	15:00 in Woluwe	Christian charity: Mark 3, 31-35
21.9. (Sat!)	14 th Sunday after Trinity	16:30 in Tervuren	Gratitude to God: Genesis 28, 10-19a
29.9.	St. Michael and All Angels	15:00 in Woluwe	Angels: Luke 10, 17-20
6.10.	Harvest Thanksgiving	15:00 in Woluwe	Richly blessed: Isaiah 58, 7-12
13.10.	17 th Sunday after Trinity	15:00 in Woluwe	Having faith: Joshua 2, 1-21



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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! For the first time we will be for our service at the „Sint-Jan-Evangelist“-Church (Saint John the Baptist) in Tervuren (Kerkstraat / market square). Come to celebrate with us in this amazing old church! There are parking lots in the streets around the church and a car park under the townhall diagonally

ally opposite the church. If you come by public transport, use Tram 44 to Terminus Tervuren (and tell us for a pick up!) or come by bus (several lines). Afterwards we will go together to the Parsonage in Vossem for our potluck. This time we plan to make hamburgers and not the usual sausages etc. If possible for you please bring a side dish which can feed the number of people. Hamburger and drinks will be provided by the church. Please save the date!

This year it will be Saturday, 21 September 2019



Wanted: Elders for tthe 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. - **It is your chance to shape the church and to implement new ideas! Come, discover and use your talents! Please consider if this could be a job for you or suggest people from our congregation.**



An General Meeting with elections is planned for the following weeks.



Our church members with birthday in September:

- ☞ 2.9. Judit Ellingstad
- ☞ 20.9. Melissa Kinusa

Please pray for...

- ...new faithful Elders for our ALCB and the beneficiary development of our church.
- ...the peacemaker in the world, for power and the right words for the right time.
- ...our Confirmands on their way to Confirmation.
- ...our persecuted Brothers and Sisters in the world. (see also: www.opendoors.org)



Focus on Service – the Amen

Almost two years ago we started a series on the different elements of the service. Despite the fact that we never ended this series, the congregation has changed a lot since then and we will talk about the service and its liturgical elements in Confirmation Class. Reason enough to re-start this series again in our newsletter. This shall help to understand and to follow the liturgy of the church a bit better. Our (Lutheran) service liturgy has grown since 2000 years, since biblical times. After such a long time some traditions and backgrounds may have been lost. Then it is not always easy to follow the service, when parts of the liturgy seem very strange to us. But it is not just a service by us; first of all it is a service by God with and through the Holy Spirit. And this is the reason why we will never fully understand the whole mystery of a service. First of all we have to celebrate the service and to have our experiences with the living God, who comes to us in Word and Sacrament to serve us. – In this newsletter, we will focus on the “Amen”, a very frequent and important speaking part of the congregation. Amen means “yes, this is my will” or “this is most certainly true”, as Martin Luther translated it in the Small Catechism. The Amen is the foremost word of the congregation and its involvement in the liturgy. With the Amen the congregation confirms what the pastor has said and takes over the statements or prayers has their own or accepts what is said to it.–The Amen is your word! Make use of it!