



# ALCB In Touch



November 2017

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## The end is near, Christ will come!

Dear brothers and sisters of ALCB,



Autumn has come, the leaves are tinted in different shades of red, orange, yellow and brown. They have been falling for a few weeks. The weather has become colder, wetter and less cosy. Natural life starts to take a break or sometimes dies. These signs show us every year that summer time has ended and the end of the year is near. And always the nature and the change of the seasons remind us humans vividly of our own life and its end: also our lives will have an autumn once and then an end. "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.", prays Psalm 90, 12. In this time also the Church Year comes to an end in November and according to this topic and Psalm word, the services during this time have the

main theme of Jesus Christ's return at the end of the world "to judge the living and the dead," as we confess nearly every Sunday. And it's also about our own death. At first glance these thoughts seem very sad and dismal. We could name the last Sunday just "Last Sunday of the Church Year", but there is also another name for it: "Sunday of Fulfilment"! We Christians believe that the last day of this earth won't just be an awful doomsday, but also the glorious day of Jesus Christ when he will end this sinful world full of disease, pain and tears. Jesus Christ will defeat hell, death and devil for the very last time and once and for all. This day won't be the end of life, but the true beginning of real life, a life in heaven without sorrows and tears, with God in heaven. Thus this time is a time of grace in Church. Let us be happy to have a friend and redeemer in Jesus Christ and let us pray to God that we may celebrate our services with a joyful heart. - I hope to see many of you on Sunday!



Our church members with birthdays this month:

- ☆ 2.11. Jessica Vahrenhorst
- ☆ 8.11. Charlotte Császi-Palmer
- ☆ 10.11. Martin Luther in 1483
- ☆ 24.11. George Boomer
- ☆ 28.11. Chris Vahrenhorst



Yours Pastore Johannes

(in front of the church in Wittenberg / Germany, where Martin Luther started the Reformation in 1517)

----- Cut for your black board -----

### ALCB Services in November

Date	Sunday	Time	Place	Sermon
5.11.	Reformation Celebration	10:00	Antwerp	
12.11.	2 <sup>nd</sup> to Last Sunday of the Church Year (Reformation Celebration)	15:00	Woluwe	-
19.11.	1 <sup>st</sup> to Last Sunday of the Church Year	15:00	Woluwe	Matthew 12, 33-35(36-37)
26.11.	Sunday of Fulfilment (Last Sunday of the Church Year)	15:00	Woluwe	Daniel 12, 1-3
3.12.	1. Advent	10:00	Vosseem	Revelation 5, 1-5(6-14)

Addresses of the church buildings we use:

- ◆ German Protestant Church "Emmaus Church" in 1150 Woluwe-Saint-Pierre, Avenue Salomé 7 (parking lot behind the building)
- ◆ our Lutheran congregation in Antwerp "Heilige Drievuldigheid" ("Holy Trinity") in 2000 Antwerp, Tabakvest 59
- ◆ Sint-Paulus church in 3080 Tervuren-Vosseem, Dorpstraat 3 (parking lot around the corner, Sint-Pauluslaan 8)

# Reformation Celebration Year ended on October 31<sup>st</sup>



One year long Lutherans across the globe celebrated the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day when Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg (Germany) on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1517. The young Augustinian monk and Professor of Theology Dr Martin Luther (two weeks later he turned 34) just wanted to start a theological discussion about repentance, confession and absolution. But this occurrence was the start of the Reformation, the start of a very long process, which bore the uncountable numbers of protestant

denominations and started also a reform process in the Roman Catholic Church. The Middle Ages found an end (in this time there were also other important developments like important inventions, the discovering of the so-called “new world” of America and that the world is a globe and no plate for example) and a new time started. But more than that, Martin Luther re-discovered the Biblical truth of a just but loving God, who does not want to expel someone for eternity. Later Martin Luther said that his light bulb moment was when he studied the Biblical letter to the Romans and read (Rom 1, 17): “For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed – a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”” He realised that there is nothing humans can do to inherit eternal life in heaven by their own deeds, as good as they might be. Because all humans are sinners to some extent, nobody is perfect and so all humans are guilty of their sin. But God sent his Son Jesus Christ to take over the sin of the world so that everyone can have a relationship with God, just by believing the good news (“gospel”). – And we Lutherans think and believe that this good news is most clearly preached and taught in the Lutheran Church, which stands firmly on the biblical text and teaching and the Lutheran Confessions which explain this biblical truth best. Therefore the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Reformation is also a good reason to celebrate and to thank God for his mercy. It’s a kind of 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday of our Lutheran Church, after Pentecost, when the One Church was founded through the Holy Spirit among the Disciples and first Christians. – By the way: As mentioned at our Back to Church Sunday in September our All Lutheran Church of Brussels turned 25 years old this year as an international, confessional Lutheran congregation. (The roots of the congregation as an “American Lutheran Church” are around 36 years old.) So we have double reason to celebrate! Use this opportunity in one of the Reformation services! (See below!) – The year of celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the reformation ended now, but it was really just the start. In the following years we will have the opportunity to celebrate a lot more “500th anniversaries” related to the Reformation: Luther’s confession in front of the Emperor in Worms (2021), Luther’s translation of the New Testament (2022), Luther’s form of a German Lutheran Mass (2026), Luther’s Catechisms (2029), the Augsburg Confession (2030), the translation of the whole Bible into German (2034) and much more.



## Focus on Service



Starting in November we will focus on our service and its several parts. Maybe not every Sunday, but regularly, we will spotlight one part of the liturgy while celebrating the service. 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 November we will focus on the “Amen”, a very frequent and important speaking part of the congregation, and the “Salutations”, the greetings of pastor and congregation.

Please pray for...  
 ... the unity of all Christians in faith and deed.  
 ... the spread of the Gospel of the loving God for all people.  
 ... those who are facing sickness and death that their faith may carry and comfort them.

## Financial Update October 2017

Month	Bank transfer	Offerings	Earnings in total	Expenses	Conclusion
October	€650,-	€1183,40	€1833,40	€1107,50	€725,90

### Evangelisch-Lutherse Kerk in België – All Lutheran Church of Brussels

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