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In Touch

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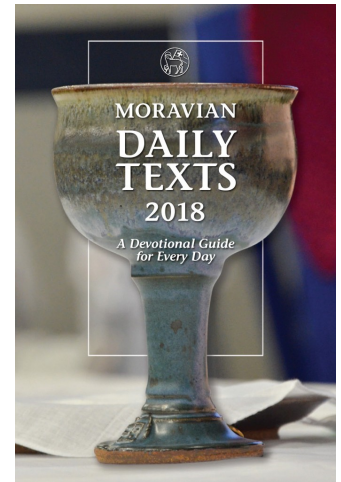


ALL
are
welcome
Lutheran
Church
Brussels

Vol. 11 No. 1

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I wish all of you a happy and blessed new year with God's guidance and peace! – A new calendar year has begun. Year in and year out time is running. Our lifetime is running, nonstop. And while it seems that everything changes rapidly, the dark clouds above us often don't seem to change. Then it is important to have one thing in life that never changes; a point of rest and a moment of security. We Christians are lucky to have such a solid ground in God's Word. God's Word remains in eternity and it provides orientation and footing. – This is also something the Moravians knew. They were a group of pious church reformists approx. 100 years before the Reformation, following their leader Jan Hus. They came originally from Bohemia and Moravia (today the main parts of the Czech Republic). Because of their faith they had to leave their countries several times until the 20th century. Today they are a protestant denomination, close to the Lutherans. 288 years ago they settled in the region of Saxony (Germany). There they started to draw lots out of a collection of 1824 verses from the Old Testament as a message for every day. Then they choose another word from the New Testament, which fitted to the lot. For 288 years they have done this without interruption until today. Since 1731 they have printed little books so that everyone can read a message for the day, translated into 60 different languages for more than 100 countries. If you'd like to have a short word/thought from God's Word and/or not enough time for a longer daily devotion I recommend the "Moravian Daily Texts" to you. – This tradition encouraged the "Oecumenical Working Group for Reading the Bible" in Germany to select a special word from the Bible as a motto or watchword for every year. For 2018 they chose Revelation 21, 6b: Jesus Christ says: "To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life." – I wish and pray that this living water from the spring of life, God's Word, Sacrament, forgiveness and peace, will accompany you all the days in this year that it will become a year full of mercy of the Lord for you.



... the church members who can't come to our services.
... the homeless in these cold times.
... the growth of our congregation.
... the unity of all Christians, as we pray every year in January during the Oecumenical Week of Prayer.

+ Yours Pastor Johannes

Financial Update

Month	Bank transfer	Offerings	Revenue in total	Expenses	Sum
December	€570,-	€971,01	€1641,01	€941,66	€699,35

Please pray for...

... the church members who can't come to our services.
... the homeless in these cold times.
... the growth of our congregation.
... the unity of all Christians, as we pray every year in January during the Oecumenical Week of Prayer.



Our church members with birthday this month:

- ☞ 15.01. Michel Proskurovski
- ☞ 16.01. Felix Lukacsi
- ☞ 20.01. Raymond Auquier
- ☞ 28.01. Vera Proskurovska
- ☞ 31.01. Anna and Rebecca Császi-Palmer



Services in January

Date	Sunday	Time	Place	Sermon
07.01.	Epiphany	15:00	Woluwe	
14.01.	2 nd Sunday after Epiphany	15:00	Woluwe	1Cor 2, 1-5(6-10) + Rev 21, 6b
21.01.	Last Sunday after Epiphany	15:00	Woluwe	Rev 1, 9-18
28.01.	Septuagesimae (70 days before Easter)	15:00	Woluwe	Jer 9, 22-23

Christmas and New Year's greetings It's nearly 12 months to go until Christmas we might say. But we are still in the current Christmas period. Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day are just the joyful beginning of Christmas time which ends with the Last Sunday after Epiphany, respectively "The Presentation of Our Lord" on February 2nd. So we have enough reason to think about the Christmas Gospel, sing the carols and greet us for Christmas (and the new year). Hence I send you with this newsletter the "Christmas Card" from our Lutheran friends around the world.

Christmas Greetings from our Confessional Lutheran Family* Worldwide

Portuguese Evangelical Lutheran Church (95 Baptized members in 3 Congregations) President Reverend Adalberto Hiller: "Queridos irmãos. É o anjo lhes disse: Eis aqui vos trago novas de grande alegria, que o será para todo o povo. Hoje na cidade de David vos nasceu o Salvador." (Lc 2,10-11) Com este verso nós desejamos a todos vós um Feliz Natal e a benção deste Salvador em vossas vidas. Feliz Ano Novo! Cumprimentos de vossos irmãos Portugueses." (Dear Brothers. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you". (Lk 2, 10-11) With this verse we will wish to all of you a Merry Christmas and the blessing of this Savior in your life. Happy New Year! Greetings from your Portuguese Brothers

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of England (1.000 Baptized members in 14 Congregations) Chairman Reverend Jon Ehlers: "May God's peace and joy be yours this Christmas as we sing joy to the world, Lord is come. From your Brothers and Sisters in Christ."

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Belgium (150 Baptized members in 2 Congregations) President Gijbertus van Hättem: "To all the Lutherans in the world we wish a blessed Christmas and 'Anno Domini' 2018."

Lutheran Church of Australia (49.600 Baptized members in more than 466 Congregations) Bishop John Henderson: "May the miracle of the first Christmas fill your hearts with joy. The Lord be with you as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Saviour."

Lutheran Church of Venezuela (1.607 Baptized members in 15 Congregations) Pastor Miguel Ángel Pérez: "Saludos en el nombre de nuestro Señor encarnado Cristo Jesús, sus hermanos de Venezuela les desean una feliz navidad y un crecimiento constante en su fe bautismal. Unidos en Cristo." (Greetings in the name of our Lord incarnate Christ Jesus, your brothers in Venezuela wish you a merry Christmas and a constant growth in your baptismal faith.)

Lutheran Church Synod of Nicaragua (1.800 Baptized members in 23 Congregations) President Reverend Marvin Donaire: "Hola hermanos en el Señor Jesús el cristo feliz navidad que Dios los bendiga."

Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa (2.827 Baptized members in 17 Congregations) Bishop Dr Dieter Reinstorff: "I am writing to you from South Africa, where we will be celebrating Christmas in the middle of Summer. But irrespective of where God has placed us in the world, his word remains unchanged and his mercy reaches out to all of us. [...] God came in a quiet, inconspicuous way born as a child and laid in a manger. The heavens opened, but there was no earthquake, no lightning that made the mountains tremble. Instead on the field of Bethlehem and angelic choir sang a song: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests" (Lk 2:14). That is the Christmas message: God has come to us, but he has come to bring peace and forgiveness. He comes in humility and weakness, reaching out to our heart. I pray that we will all share in God's peace and love to others."

Lutheran Church of Brazil (243.093 Baptized members in more than 2.600 Congregations and Mission stations) President Reverend Egon Koperck: "Desejo-lhes um feliz e abençoado Natal, na alegria da vinda do nosso Salvador Jesus, e um feliz e próspero ano novo." (I wish you a happy and blessed Christmas, in the joy of the coming of our Saviour Jesus, and a prosperous new year.)

Lutheran Church-Canada (62.649 Baptized members in 304 Congregations) President Reverend Dr Robert Bugbee: "With these lines I send you sincere greetings from Winnipeg, the coldest English-speaking major city on the face of the earth. Fortunately, the Lord is giving us some December days that are milder than usual, a little bit more like civilized western Europe! These lines come not from me alone, but from our approximately 300 congregations in Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC), as well as from our pastors and deacons. We are not a large group, but we are spread over a vast area: It is 6327 kilometres from St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Halifax, Nova Scotia (on the Atlantic) to Grace Lutheran Church, Port Alberni, Vancouver island, British Columbia (close to the Pacific). The rest of our Canadian Lutheran family is somewhere in between. May God pour out His Spirit on your pastors and on all those who will have a part in hosting and leading the services of Christmas. In the person of Jesus, the true God came down and took His place next to us in this dark world so that we one day could take our place beside Him on high and sing His praises forever. May God give you the heart and the words to hold out this Christ to people who come to worship with you this Christmas. Sincere greetings and love in Christ our Lord."

Lutheran Church of Venezuela (1.607 Baptized members in 15 Congregations) Pastor Miguel Ángel Pérez: "Saludos en el nombre de nuestro Señor encarnado Cristo Jesús, sus hermanos de Venezuela les desean una feliz navidad y un crecimiento constante en su fe bautismal. Unidos en Cristo." (Greetings in the name of our Lord incarnate Christ Jesus, your brothers in Venezuela wish you a merry Christmas and a constant growth in your baptismal faith.)

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

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* According to the International Lutheran Council (ILC). Image, contact details and information about the church taken from ilc-online.org/members/ created by Pastor Johannes Reitze-Landau, Brussels/ Belgium