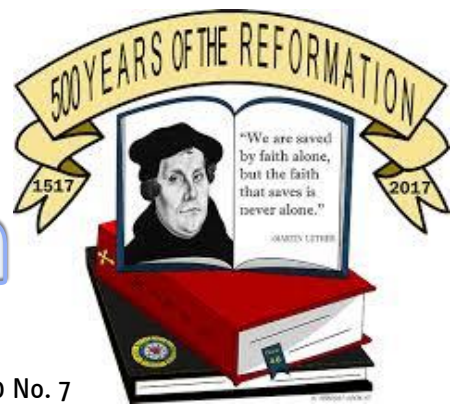




ALCB In Touch



September 2017 – www.alcb.be – Vol. 10 No. 7

Summer time - work in progress

Dear members and friends of our ALCB,

At first glance, nothing happens in Brussels in July and August. And it's true, many people are on holidays, there is no school and the city is empty aside from tourists. Our church was the last two months on summer holidays, too. But at second glance, summer is also the time of major changes. The biggest change is that we "lost" our Pastor Matthias Tepper. He was called back by his church of origin in Germany into a new ministry in Plauen (Saxony). Now, after nearly ten years, several things will be different. Not least the fact that I will be the interim pastor for the coming time.



September is now upon us. The big changes which were developing over the last weeks become real: the next school year starts, children attend school for the very first time in their lives or go to secondary school or young adults start university, some people moved to a new place and home for a new job or or or... In our congregation we also take a fresh start. First, of course, we will start with regularly services again every Sunday. But without Pastor Matthias and the end

of the mission project we will focus more on the development of our congregation. I'd like to start a process of discussion with the elders and with you to reflect on our values and aims, our church family and how we can be a good "church for strangers", like we all are. This might affect our services (liturgy) as well as our website and PR. A big question will also be how we will be able to finance our congregation without a contribution from our partner churches in Germany and the USA. Furthermore we have been asked by the German Protestant congregation we are renting the church building for our services from, to move our service time to 15:00-17:00 as of October. - You can see: we are headed for some big challenges in the nearer future.

But we don't have to be afraid of these changes and we don't have to be desperate. In Psalm 127 the Bible tells us **"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain."** This means also: If the Lord is "on board", the labor will be successful. We take on these challenges with a prayer on our lips and with the confidence and the faith that the Lord is on our side, everywhere in the world. What the Lord promises he will do and he promised us that we are his people and that we do this work in his name. That's encouragement and incentive enough to roll up our sleeves and to start into this future with a joyful heart. - This may grant us the almighty and merciful God.

Yours Pastor Johannes



Our next services	Address: Avenue Salomé 7, 1150 Woluwe-Saint-Pierre (Building of the German Protestant Church)	
27 th August	Service with Holy Communion (led by President G. van Hattem)	16:30
3 rd September	Service without Holy Communion (led by the elders)	16:30
10 th September	Service with Holy Communion (led by Pastor J. Reitze-Landau)	16:30
16 th September (Saturday!)	"Back to Church" Sunday with Service and Picnic (in 3080 Vossem; details below!!)	16:30
24 th September	Service with Holy Communion (led by Pastor J. Reitze-Landau)	16:30
1 st October	Service with Holy Communion (led by Pastor J. Reitze-Landau)	16:30



Summer ends and we meet for our traditional "Back to Church Service". Come and join us! This year we will meet on **Saturday, 16th September 2017 at 16:30** (it's Car Free Sunday the next day). **We meet in 3080 Tervuren-Vossem in the school grounds of "ISF Tervuren" (formerly St. Paul's British Primary School), Stationsstraat 3.** We will celebrate our Service and will have a picnic with a "potluck"

dinner and BBQ. If possible, please bring your favorite dish that would feed the number of people in your company to share on the buffet with everyone. The church provides sausages/meat, bread and drinks. There is enough space within the school's grounds for the children to play and run around. A parking lot is located just across the street at "Pastorieplein".

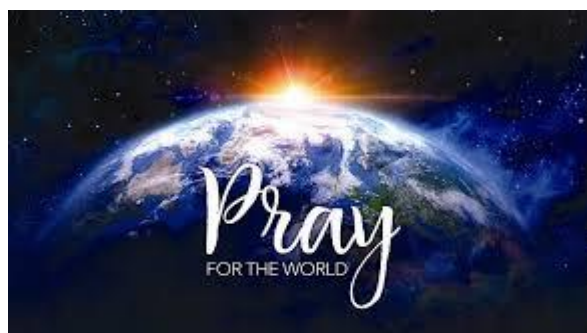
Ask Pastor Johannes for directions or a ride from the terminus of tram 44 (Tervuren)! → [email](#)

Our church members with birthdays this month:

- ❖ 01.09. Susanne Russo
- ❖ 02.09. Judit Ellingstad
- ❖ 20.09. Melissa Kinusa



Happy Birthday to all of you and many blessings of our God!



Financial situation

Along with the return of Pastor Matthias to Germany, our partner churches SELK (Germany) and LCMS (USA) stopped their regular payments to us. Some monthly expenditures like the rent of the

Please pray for...

- ❖ ...our congregation, that it will prosper and be a blessing for many.
- ❖ ...for the Tepper family, that they settle in quickly in their new home.
- ❖ ...for peace in Korea, Syria, Iraq and other war zones.

parsonage and our own contribution to the mission project have been stopped accordingly. Momentarily we only have to pay the rent for the church building, the fees for the organ player, some materials and a fee for Pastor Johannes when he leads a service. But it is not enough to pay a regular salary. We applied for the Belgian state program for the pastor to get paid by the state but we don't have an answer yet and the outcome is absolutely uncertain. So we rely on the generosity of church members and people worldwide to help fulfill our duty in Christ to be the Lutheran Church here in Brussels. You can help us with your donation. Every cent makes a difference. Thank you for considering making a donation to ALCB! - We collect an offering in every service and we ask our members to pay a monthly contribution if they can, so that we can better plan ahead.

Euro donations (for Dollar donations please ask Pastor Johannes)

Please transfer your donation to the bank account:
 IBAN: BE71 9530 6054 7769 | BIC: CTBK BEBX
 Account name: Evangelisch-Lutherse Kerk |
 Address: Tabakvest 59, 2000 Antwerp



Contributions in...	Bank transfers	Sunday offerings	in total
July	€650,-	€184,-	€834,-
August	€650,-	(not registered yet)	€650,- + offerings