



ALCB

In Touch

February 2020

www.alcb.be



ALL
are
welcome
Lutheran
Church
Brussels

Vol. 13 No. 1

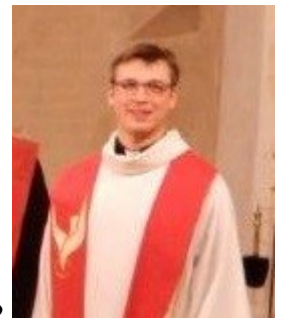
Faith – An Anchor to Rely On



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Dear Brothers and Sisters, a new year has started. A year full of hopes, plans, and new beginnings. Still, fears and sorrows are not far and are popping up straight after New Year's Day. What will the still young year 2020 bring? Wherein can I trust? What can I rely upon? What can be the stable ground to stand on? – There will be also changes for us in ALCB. Brothers and Sisters have left us, and more will leave us during the year. Hopefully, new people will join us. Hopefully – eventually – we will receive recognition by the Belgian state, combined with financial substitutions. – We don't know what the year 2020 will bring for us, both privately and for the congregation. But what we know is that we have a stable anchor in our faith which can hold us steadfast in every situation which may come. Nevertheless, keeping this faith is in the face of some afflictions not easy at all. This is totally normal and already the Bible knows it. There is this story about a father of a severely ill child. He came to Jesus and asked for help as a last resort in his despair. Je-

sus asked him about his faith. The father cried out: "I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9, 24 – watchword for 2020). There are moments when we can do nothing but cry. The Bible doesn't keep silent about this fact. – This story shows us that faith is a twofold thing. First of all, it is the decision, created by the Holy Spirit, to trust Jesus as Lord of all. Then, it is the act of trusting in his power. And this is sometimes stronger, sometimes weaker, and depends on our current situation. The father is no faith-hero, but in his weakness, he becomes a credible and encouraging witness for us: my all-day trust in my faith may waver like a boat in a storm, but the steadfast anchor is set. It is the basic faith in Jesus Christ that he is Lord and is in charge. With this anchor in heart and mind we can face the year 2020 and everything that may come and pray full of confidence: Strengthen my faith, O Lord, and guide me in your mercy. Amen. † Yours Pastor Johannes



Following Services



Date	Sunday	Time and Place	Topic and Passage for the sermon
09.02.	Septuagesimae (with AGM)	15:00 in Woluwe	God judges differently: Matthew 20, 1-16
16.02.	Sexagesimae	15:00 in Woluwe	Listen to God's word: Ez 2,1-5+8-10; 3,1-3
23.02.*	Estomihi	15:00 in Woluwe	Called to follow Jesus: Luke 18, 31-43
01.03.*	Invocavit	15:00 in Woluwe	Tempted faith: Genesis 3, 1-19(+20-24)

* Sundays during the Half-Time-Break. Look for confirmation on the website!

Please pray for...

...our Annual General Meeting, all discussions and decisions, and the future of our congregation.
...for the students of theology of the seminaries of our partner churches and the future pastors in formation, especially for our member Frédéric and his studies at the seminary in Germany, that they will become faithful pastors who proclaim the Gospel happily and steadfastly for the blessing of many.
...for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ, especially in Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan where our brothers Jeff and Marc are currently working, and that they all may be protected and guarded by God's mighty angels.



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

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Website relaunch – www.alcb.be

Finally, our church website has been relaunched! The old website was no longer very up to date and a bit old-fashioned. Now there is a newly designed website online. Visit the site and please tell the Pastor what you think about it, your ideas and suggestions! ...and don't forget to spread the link!



Our church members with birthday in Dec, Jan, Feb:

☞ 19.12. Mr Shoo

☞ 29.12. Dimitri Proskurovski

☞ 15.01. Michel Proskurovski

☞ 20.01. Raymond Auquier

☞ 28.01. Vera Proskurovski

☞ 31.01. Anna and Rebecca Császai-Palmer

in February no birthdays

Your birthday is missing? This may be because the church doesn't have your data. In this case please contact the pastor and let him know! The pastor is still busy revising the membership list.



Annual General Meeting 2020

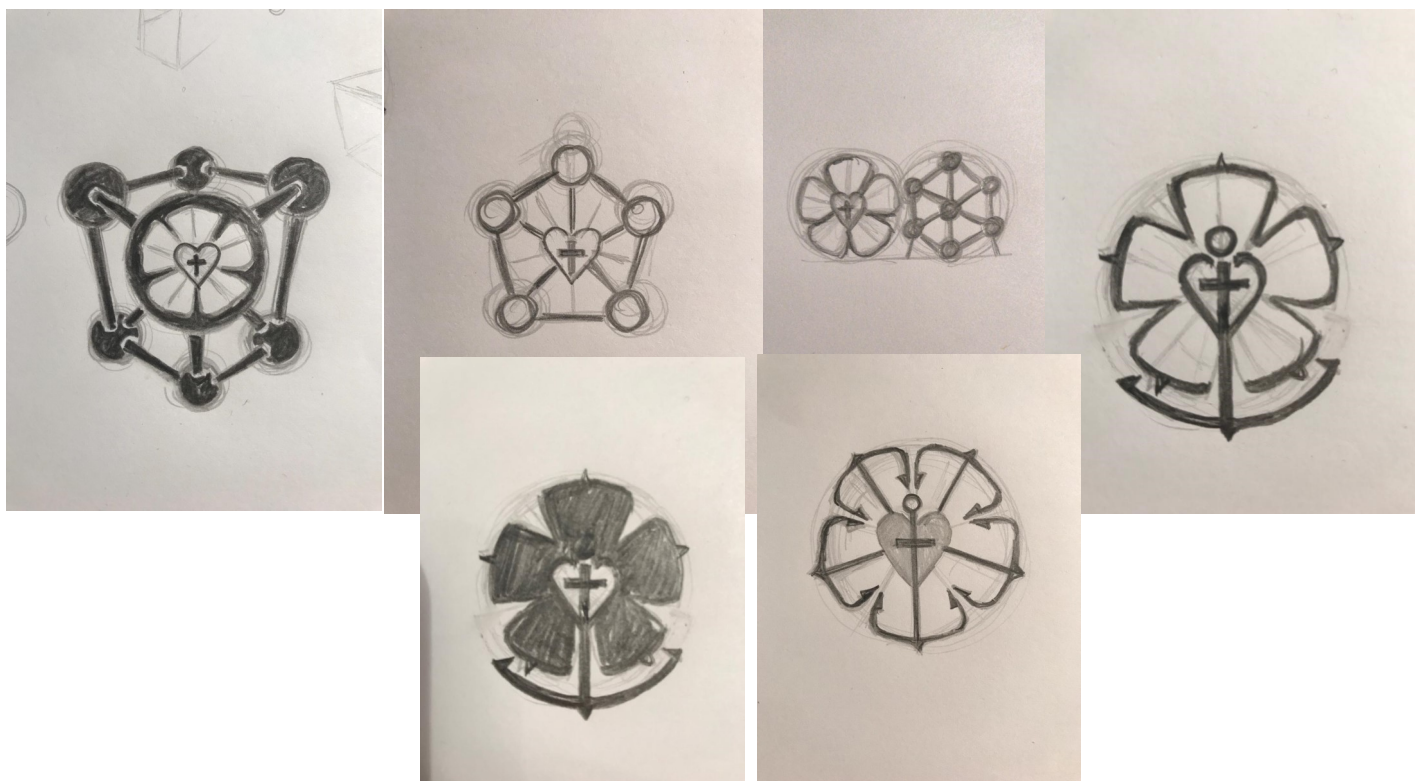
Herewith you are invited to our AGM for 2020 after a shorter service (15:00) on Sunday, 9 February 2020!

The preliminary order of business is:

1. Pastor's report about 2019 and perspective 2020
2. Financial report
3. Result of the poll from 2019
4. Election of a new church board
5. Decision about a new church logo (see information below!)
6. Projects for 2020
7. Miscellaneous

A new logo for our congregation

At the last Annual General Meeting the congregation discussed Pastor's new draft for a new logo, showing the Luther Rose and the Atomium together with our name. The congregation asked for another slight variation to express our internationality, for example through the symbol of a compass, like the logo of the International Lutheran Council (ILC). – Now the Pastor asked a friend who is a professional “communication designer” (someone who creates logos and corporate identities, advertisements, web presences etc.) for a draft according to our wishes. He discourages us from using a compass like the ILC because he says that the ILC logo is already very perfectly made and a similar use of a compass with the Luther Rose would be just a “cheap copy”. He proposes a few drafts as a discussion basis. Amongst others he integrated an anchor, according to our motto “Anchored in the Lord, called to Brussels” (“ALCB”). Please have a look at the drafts. We will discuss and decide at the AGM!



ECUMENICAL PRAYER LUNCHEON

DISCOVER PRAYER, REST & FELLOWSHIP

Come and sit in silence.
Come and sing
contemporary praises.
Come and sing ancient
hymns.
Come and imagine your
place in the story of the
Scriptures.

Come and pray, and share
food and life together.

THURSDAYS, 13:00



Chapel for Europe
CHAPELFOREUROPE.EU
RUE VAN MAERLANT 22
METRO MAELBEEK

Focus on service: The Word of God (Biblical Readings and the Sermon)

Last time we focused on the so-called “entrance liturgy”, the Introit, Kyrie, and Gloria. This month, we will emphasize the part of the service with the “proclamation” or “Service of the Word”. This is opened by the “Collect” or “Prayer of the Day” and covers then the biblical readings and the sermon. The Collect prayer “collects” the topic and thoughts of the following readings and brings them before God, and it leads us to the combining topic of the readings. Then we usually hear three readings. Now God speaks to us through His word! It starts with a reading from the Old Testament as the foundation of everything that is to follow. We hear about promises of God to the fathers and mothers of the people of Israel and about the coming Saviour. In the Epistle Reading we hear words from the Apostles about and for the life of the Church and us Christians. At last, we hear words from the Gospel – words of the promised Saviour Jesus Christ himself. To underline the speciality of the Gospel Reading as words of Christ himself, we praise him for them with the Alleluia Praise before the Gospel Reading. Last follows the sermon, normally based on one of the three readings or another biblical passage which fits the general topic. This topic of the particular Sunday is called “proprium”, Latin for “the own thing”. The pastor usually doesn’t choose the Readings himself. The three readings of a particular Sunday are always the same. The passage for the sermon changes every year. The pastor – respectively the particular church – follows a so-called “reading series”. There are different systems. We in ALCB follow a 6-year-series. This series is used today only by the German Protestant Churches but has the oldest roots back in history and has a broad variety of passages compared to other series. It is also called “ancient church series” because the tradition and many readings according to the series have been read since the times of the ancient church of the first centuries. It is a nice and amazing idea to read and to listen to the same readings as hundreds of generations of Christians before on this very Sunday. Therewith we stay in a real ecumenical and apostolic tradition and hear more passages of the Bible than most other churches who use a different series (mostly a 3-year-series).

Review

In the last months we celebrated a few nice services on special occasions. On the Sunday of Fulfilment, the Last Sunday of the Church Year, on 24 November 2019, we celebrated Confirmation with Barbora and Katie. After confessing their faith and affirming their Baptismal Vows, they were blessed for their lives as adults in the church. On 2nd Advent we celebrated the Holy Baptism of Isabella and the Farewell of the Shoo family in the church in Duisburg. And again, we have been in the wonderful church of Duisburg for our festive Christmas service with bells and a fulminant organ. In January, the Pastor joined two ecumenical services during the worldwide “Week of Prayer for Christian Unity”; one in the region of Tervuren-Overijse and the big service in Brussels. The initial work on the theme for this year was “They showed us unusual kindness.”, from Acts 28, 2 and was prepared by a group of representatives from the Christian Churches in Malta.



The Evangelisch-Lutherse Kerk in Belgie and as part of it the ALCB is a registered, legal church body in Belgium and part of the „Belgian Council of Churches to the State of Belgium.”

