



**ALCB**

# In Touch

November 2019

[www.alcb.be](http://www.alcb.be)



ALL  
are  
welcome  
Lutheran  
Church  
Brussels

Vol. 12 No. 4



*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

I'm too late frequently. My wife can tell you a thing or two about it. Often the problem is that I try to squeeze too many things into my tight time schedule. It is not a question that many of these things are important and need to be done as soon as possible, but prioritising would be necessary in such cases. Then it is good to be reminded by a well-kept to-do-list or by kind people to tackle the most important things first and at the right time. – The last weeks of the Church Year are

also such reminders. They remind us – matching the foggy dark weather in November – of the so-called “last things”, the end of our lives, the end of the world, the returning of our Lord Jesus Christ, Judgment Day, and eternity in heaven. The Sundays and readings for this time call us to be prepared to meet our Creator before His judgment seat and to belong to the “righteous” who have access to heaven after our death. And we would be fools to think that this has several years more time because I am young at the moment or have other things to do which seem to be more important at the moment. There is this one moment in my life when it is too late, and there won't be a second chance afterwards. When my time comes – and this could be the case even tonight (compare Jesus' parable of the rich farmer: [↗ Luke 12, 16-21](#)) – God will ask me about my life and preparations. What will I answer then? The right answer will be: I can't boast with anything but I know that my redeemer lives. Ask my Lord Jesus Christ! Then it will be good to be known by him. So, take your time now, before it is too late, and cling to your entrance ticket to heaven: your Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

*+ Yours Pastor Johannes*



## Following Services

Date	Sunday	Time and Place	Topic and Passage for the sermon
10.11.	Third to last Sunday	15:00 in Woluwe	Live like a redeemed: Luke 6, 27-38
17.11.	Second to last Sunday	15:00 in Woluwe	God's judgment: Job 14, 1-6+13+15-17
24.11.	Sunday of Fulfilment	15:00 in Woluwe	Be prepared for Christ 1: Matthew 25, 1-13
29.11.*	1st Advent	17:45 in Vossem	Be prepared for Christ 2: Romans 13, 8-12

*\* Friday! Service at the Parsonage with dinner. Wait for further information!*



## Habemus elders!

After a new Pope has been elected, the highest Roman cardinal proclaims this news with the Latin phrase “Habemus papam!”, “We have a pope!”. Now we could say “Habemus elders!”, at least we have two candidates for the three vacant seats in the Church Board: Mark Eng. and Wendy are willing to take over this duty. We are very grateful for their readiness! We will soon hold a General Meeting to decide about the logo and to elect the elders. – If you have a suggestion for a third elder or if you are willing to take over this duty, please contact the Pastor!

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

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## Ready for Fulfilment: Confirmation

It is time to cling to Jesus Christ! Our two confirmands Katie and Barbora have been taught since February in the essential aspects of our Christian, Lutheran faith and are prepared now. They already showed parts of their acquired knowledge in two services before the summer; a third will follow now in November. Suitable for the so called "Sunday of Fulfilment", the last Sunday of the Church Year, they will confess their faith with their own voice, after their godparents did it for them at their Baptism and they will get blessed with a special blessing. So the Confirmation is, next to confirming one's personal faith, a remembrance of one's Baptism.



Now, when the children are old enough, they listen again to God's promise: "You are my beloved child!" And they answer by confessing their faith.

Therefore, they have been prepared the last month to be a responsible, independent Christian personality. Afterwards they will be adult members of the church and will be allowed to take over duties like becoming a godparent. Come and celebrate this day with them and the congregation! à Sunday of Fulfilment (Last Sunday of the Church Year, 24 November)



## Sendoffs

We are sad having to say goodbye to the Shoo family and Dorina. Dorina was with us just for two months during her internship in Brussels but was a faithful attendant and always active in the services. Thank you for your engagement! We wish her successful further studies in Hamburg (Germany)! – The Shoo family has now been sitting on packed bags for more than a year. Now, eventually, they have received their marching orders back to their home in Tanzania. They are very happy about it and we're glad for them but we will miss them tremendously. They have belonged to ALCB for several years and were very faithful members. Their children Kunda (already studying in China) and Naïke were both confirmed by Pastor Matthias and Mr Shoo served for many years as an elder, not to mention the joyful atmosphere Mrs Shoo spread especially at festive moments. We thank them for all their engagement at our ALCB and we wish them safe travels back home and a good new start there. – To both, Dorina and the Shoo family, we say: Stay blessed and see you again – at last in heaven if not before! Godspeed!

## Please pray for...

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...the Confirmands that they will be filled with and preserved in the true faith in the Triune God.

...for the students of theology of the seminaries of our partner churches and the future pastors in formation, especially for our brother of our congregation Frederic 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 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.

## Our church members with birthday in September:

☞ 8 Charlotte Császi-Palmer

☞ 24 George Boomer

☞ 28 Chris Vahrenhorst

*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.*



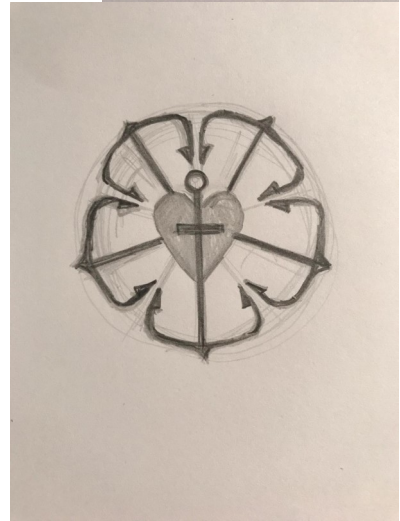
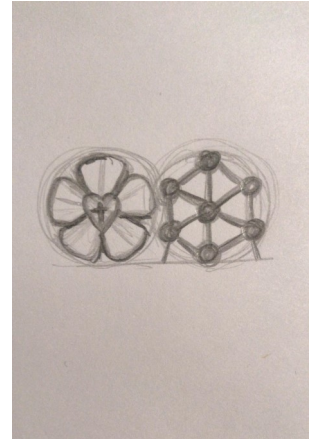
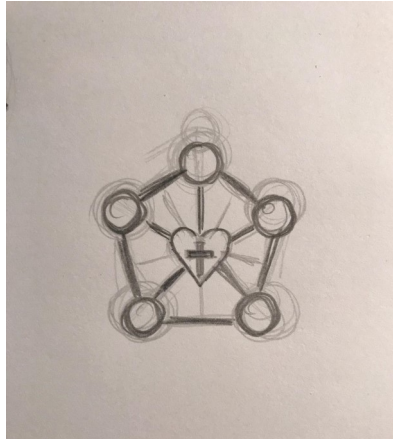
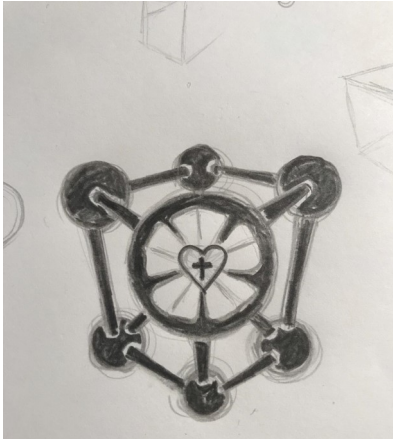
## Focus on Service – the Entrance liturgy: Introit – Kyrie – Gloria

In November we focus in our small series on liturgy on the so called "entrance liturgy", the Introit, Kyrie, and Gloria. Here we are confronted with very ancient parts of the liturgy, rooting back to the old Roman Empire and its traditions. Actually the "real" service starts with the Introit (and not with the prayers before – we will focus on the preparations in January). The Introit is a Psalm (or part of a Psalm) fitting the topic of the Sunday and usually sung or spoken alternately verse by verse between two groups or the Pastor and the congregation. Also a hymn can serve as an Introit. Psalms are biblical poems or songs. Introit is Latin and means "entrance": under the alternately sung or spoken Psalm God enters the church and the service, formerly represented by the clergies moving into the church. With the Introit God is praised. – Then He is among us and we welcome God with the "Kyrie eleison". This is Greek and means "Lord, have mercy." This was the welcome greeting to the Emperor in the Roman Empire. It means: "Thank you, Emperor, that you are visiting us here. Please be kind to us, we humble ourselves before you." The Christians took this tradition over in the liturgy to show and proclaim: our Lord is not the Emperor, but the glorious God. – After showing His mercy and as a thanksgiving for His visit we praise God (not the Emperor!) with the Gloria, Latin for honour/praise – the "Song of Praise". The Gloria finalises the entrance of God in the service. It is a great, amazing moment, full of heavenly glory and salvation. Now God is among us, and a window into the heaven is open. Now we are part of the heavenly worship service with all the powers, angels, and saints.



## 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 dissuades 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. The name of our congregation would stand next to the logo. 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 and let your opinion be heard!



ECUMENICAL  
PRAYER LUNCH

DISCOVER  
PRAYER, REST  
& FELLOWSHIP

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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.

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THURSDAYS, 13:00



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



The Evangelisch-Lutherse Kerk in België and as their part the ALCB is a registered, legal church body in Belgium and part of the Belgian Council of Churches to the State of Belgium (ARPEE).

