

# In Touch

## in Trinity time 2021

Newsletter of All Lutheran Church of Brussels  
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ALL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF BRUSSELS



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## EDITORIAL

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*Dear Members and Friends of our All Lutheran Church of Brussels,*

Finally, summer has come. As usual in Brussels, June is the “end of the year” and summer the great time of change. The academic year has in several aspects more impact on our lives here than the calendar year. The time of coming and going has begun, when people move on to other places and destinations or back to their home countries, new people arrive, school children will be promoted to the next year and so on. The summer holidays, when Brussels seems to fall into a “summer sleep” in July and August, were longed for by many, after a long time of confinement. Although the confinement was more and more lifted during the last weeks and many people have already been vaccinated, the time was hard for many. – In church we have tried to keep the show running. But of course, the hygienic measures and social distancing, having no coffee and get-together after the services, and the low attendance on several Sundays did not make it easy. Finally the “Spring Picnic” could take place in June again and we were more people than initially expected. It was a great and moreish experience! – Now, let us use the summer break to take a breath, to refill our personal life-batteries, but also to keep in mind the importance of a congregation as “the Church on the ground”, as Lutheran theology teaches. If the pandemic situation allows, let us take a fresh start after the summer holidays to come together joyfully, to take our places at the great banquet when our Lord Jesus Christ invites us to come into his presence. Without Christian community and worship service our faith will fade like a small plant in the heat and drought of summer. Sunday is the necessary interruption

after long working days. Don't miss it! – In this spirit, I wish you a blessed, peaceful summer break full of rest and afterwards a good start into the "new year". I hope to see you again in September and to celebrate a joyful Harvest Thanksgiving being aware of all the blessings we receive from God our Lord,

*Yours Pastor Johannes*



The world is changing, this is at least my personal feeling. I feel more often insecure about the future. It was a development slightly noticed for years. More and more people and socio-economic groups realise that we need to change sides in the climate question, in protecting the environment, in keeping animals, in treating workers better (foremost in the nursing sector), but also being better prepared in times of pandemics or future wars and being less dependent on countries and supply chains we cannot control, ->

and last but not least also be more aware again of geopolitical rivalries and “games”. In the pandemic, fortunately, the radical voices in our western societies became a bit more quiet, in France and German for example the extreme parties lost percentage of votes in the last elections. But in other countries the political systems became close-minded and more radical. Many things are in state of flux. Some for the better, some for the worse. – Also in my much smaller personal world. I am more and more thankful to live in a stable country with a good health system and so on. On the other side especially ethical discussions worry me, and I see the freedom of speech under pressure. Among our brothers and sisters in the congregation poverty and health issues are no longer alien. – In these times, it is good when I have trained my faith in the past, when I know where I can find orientation and strength for my everyday life and all challenges. Like the Prophet Elijah for example who had the duty in difficult times to proclaim the Word of God against the false religion of the Israelite king Ahab and his wife Jezebel (1 King 16, 29 et seqq.). He was persecuted and a refugee from the first day on of his duty after God had called him. Later, it became too much for Elijah and he longed to die in his depression. Then it is written in 1 Kings 19, 5-7: “And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, “Arise and eat.” And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. And the angel of the Lord came again a second time and touched him and said, “Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you.”” And the same God said to His people (Isaiah 43, 9b-10): “I have chosen you and not cast you off”; fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” – Our faith in God is the power to hold us even in difficult times. God is with us, in spring, when life blossoms, and in summer, when times are good, but also when the sun changes, days are getting shorter, and life loses its power and fades in late summer and autumn. God is with us each morning and evening and each new day and on the move – on holidays as well as at home. Remember that you are called into this secure arch of God’s hands and that He will be with you wherever you are, also now in the following weeks without service. Just try to train your relationship to God, choose your moments to listen to God’s voice, to the angel who sustains you with the Word of Life. – Stay blessed under God’s right hand and protection and Godspeed until we meet again,

*Yours Pastor Johannes*



## End of Summer Picnic!

We will meet again for our traditional "End of Summer Picnic" (if the pandemic allows).

**Please save the date: Saturday (before the car-free Sunday), 18 September**

In the afternoon service in Vossem, afterwards bbq and potluck at the parsonage. **Finally, the preparations have started:**



### PLEASE PRAY...

...for a peaceful summer holiday with enough rest and recreation for all of us.

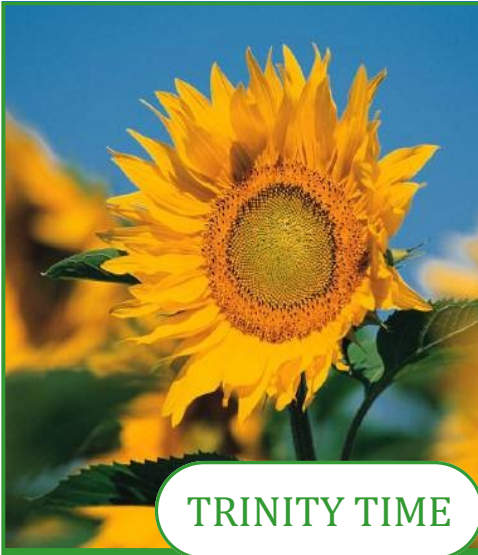
...that the pandemic will finally be overcome in the following months and that we can "re-start" our usual church practices without fear of infection.

...for safe travels and/or blessed moments at home.

...for the nature and the crops on the fields, that rain and sunshine may be in the right balance.

...for our congregation that we will stay together in close unity and grow after the summer.

...for all who face a change in their lives after summer or who long for a change ...  
for our big Lutheran family in Europe and worldwide, particularly for our brothers and sisters in persecution, especially our partner church in Finland.



## TRINITY TIME

Since the end of May we have been in the “Trinity time”, the longest period in the ecclesiastical or church year with maximum 24 Sundays (depends on the Easter date). The first half of the ecclesiastical year is over and with the Sunday of the Holy Trinity we have entered the second half which will end in November with the “Sunday of Fulfilment”. Trinity time was often called “feastless time of the year”. Indeed, the main feasts of

Christianity, Easter, Christmas, Pentecost and the important times of Advent and Lent are all in the first half. But “feastless” sounds so negative. In Trinity time we have nice feasts as well, among others the Sunday of Holy Trinity itself, the day of John the Baptist and the day of St. Michael and all Angels,



### **From the Church Records**

The Lord over life and death was pleased  
to call our brother in Christ

Percy George Boomer to His kingdom.

\* 26 November 1924 ~ 27 September 1925

+ 10 May 2021

The Christian Funeral Service took place on 18 May 2021  
and the buriel on 19 May 2021.

The almighty and merciful God  
may show him what he has believed.

Jesus Christ says: “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever  
believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who  
lives and believes in me shall never die.” (John 11, 26)

Harvest Thanksgiving, and the Reformation Festival. Of course, the character of the time is different. We have many more “common” Sundays, and we emphasise other things. In the first half of the church year it is mainly about the so-called “history of salvation”: Jesus was born and came to earth to redeem us, which happened on Good Friday and Easter – to gather us in Jesus’ name and to have the faith, God sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and established the Church. Now, in Trinity time, it is mainly about the Christian life in the world under the guidance and blessing of the triune God. It is about the “modules” or “components” of our faith, the Word of God, our faith, the sacraments. And it is a lot about ethical topics: about judging others, personal gifts and how to use them, how to treat my neighbour, the poor, and the needy, how to live together in family and partnership, about thankfulness and many more topics. The Sundays after Trinity want to teach and lead us in a beneficial life here on earth. As Christians we also live in this world, but we have another background and perspective: the citizenship of heaven as redeemed and forgiven children of God. With this knowledge in heart and mind we can live differently and can make a difference for the world. We do not need to follow worldly laws of wealth, power, oppression, violence, the wish for everlasting youth or health. Christians are capable to see other values with the eyes of faith: the unconditioned value of each life, already since procreation, unconditional love, mercy, forgiveness, and hope. These aspects are highlighted in the time after Trinity. Each Sunday as a feast of life, carried by hope. – Therefore, the liturgical colour of these Sundays is green, the colour of hope and growth (in faith).



You would like to read some information about our congregation or church, you missed an edition of the newsletter, or you would like to read one or the other sermon again? Visit our website! There are also interesting links to other pages like Bible Studies on YouTube or our Partner Churches.

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



## FROM THE CHURCH BOARD

**Back to normal in September?** We expect that the confinements of the Covid19 pandemic will be lifted as far as possible from September on. If possible, we will finally revert to our usual practice of sitting together, using the hymnals, sharing the Peace, and sharing the common cup in the Holy Communion. Probably we will keep the Zoom broadcast of the services for the time being (at least until spring 2022 when the current subscription ends). We hope that you share our anticipation as well!

Nevertheless, several weeks with limited services respectively no services during the summer break lay before us. This means also just few or no offerings. Please keep in mind that your congregation permanently relies on your donations to keep the church running. Please consider transferring your offerings to the Church account also during the holidays. You can find the account number at the end of the newsletter.

There is no news regarding the official approval of our congregation... In the meantime we have sent an enquiry to the “Régie der Gebouwen”, the public owner of the Sint-Hubertus chapel in Tervuren, asking if we could use the chapel regularly. The local Belgian Protestant church has withdrawn from the project, but we are still on board together with the local St. Paul’s Anglican Church and the Pentecostal Redefined Church Tervuren. Let us see if a door opens for us in Tervuren.

Furthermore, we have made a new attempt at asking the German congregation to let us meet later in the afternoon for our services – regrettably without answer yet.

**Last service before the summer break: Sunday, 11 July at 15:00 with Holy Communion | “Back to usual”: Sunday, 29 August, probably at 15:00**



# Members' Page



My Name is Astrid Brunner, I was born in Brussels from a French father and Swedish mum. She brought us up, my brother and I, in the Swedish and Lutheran traditions.

When we moved to Africa when I was a teenager, we found no Lutheran church there and when we came back, the one of Brussels from Pastor OBUS was closed. Great disappointment.

It is when Karl my partner and I got our son Hadrien that I really felt the need to come back to church and found ALCB. I was so grateful to have met Pastor Matthias and Michèle and their 3 children. A great family that made me feel at home. I wanted Hadrien to grow with values as respect, share, care, love, support others.

Karl was brought up in the catholic faith, but doesn't take the time to reflect on what life is all about. He is in the action !

We both work in IT, in the Utilities sector. And we met in Rome while both working there, from 2003 to 2009. That is where Hadrien holds his first name from. And of course Karl is half Italian.

We both love horses but do not have time to ride. We bicycle with Hadrien whenever possible, between his homework, hockey, tennis and piano lessons.

I really hope to have matching agendas for next year and come back to church.



**LUTHERAN RADIO**  
co.uk

"All about Christ and to all God's People" – This is the motto of the "Lutheran Radio". The roots go back al-

most 100 years to the U.S. where in 1930 the first "Lutheran Hour" was broadcast, a radio program with organ music and hymns, a "sermonette", and prayer. It developed into a full radio station program. In 2012, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England, one of our partner churches with congregations throughout Great Britain and 14 congregations, 1,351 baptised members and 13 active pastors, inaugurated their own Lutheran Hour radio station from their theological seminary "Westfield House" in Cambridge. They broadcast worldwide via internet. "LutheranRadioUK is a 24/7 internet radio broadcasting station proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ from a distinctly Lutheran perspective through a series of programs and music.", as they introduce themselves on their website. The program includes: 5 Daily Offices, Daily Devotions, Bible studies and sermons / Bible readings and reflections to brighten up your day with the comforting Good News of Christ / The Lutheran Confessions brought to you in everyday language / Documentaries and talk-shows examining pressing issues for the Church today and providing straight answers to life's most debated questions / News rounds reporting what happens within and around Christendom / traditional and contemporary Christian music

If you would like to listen in, visit [www.lutheranradio.co.uk](http://www.lutheranradio.co.uk) !

Pastor will be on holidays too and sometimes abroad but can be contacted as usual via email or mobile phone (see last page). Please be patient if he does not answer immediately. In urgent cases you may also contact Pastor van Hattem in Antwerp:  
lutherse.kerk@skynet.be |  
landline +32 3 233 62 50 |  
mobile +32 495 87 53 38



Need to talk? The Pastor is here for you to listen! Contact him and he is happy to talk via phone or face to face, maybe with a cup of coffee or a walk in the park. – He is also happy to help in practical ways as much as he can.



## THE TOPICS AND READINGS OF THE SUMMER SUNDAYS

### 18.7. 7th Sunday after Trinity: **Holy Communion**

Old Testament Exodus 16, 2-3+11-18

Epistel Acts 2, 41-47

Gospel John 6, 1-15

Sermon 1 Kings 17, 1-16

### 25.7. 8th Sunday after Trinity: **Christians make the difference**

Old Testament Isaiah 2, 1-5

Epistel Ephesians 5, 8b-14

Gospel Matthew 5, 13-16

Sermon 1 Corinthians 6, 9-14(15-18)19-20

### 1.8. 9th Sunday after Trinity: **Use your gifts!**

Old Testament Jeremiah 1, 4-10

Epistel Philippians 3, (4b-6)7-14

Gospel Matthew 13, 44-46

Sermon Matthew 7, 24-27

### 8.8. 10th Sunday after Trinity: **Israel Sunday (Relationship of Christians and Jews)**

Old Testament and Sermon Exodus 19, 1-6

Epistel Romans 11, 25-32

Gospel Mark 12, 28-34

### 15.8. 11th Sunday after Trinity: **Grace alone!**

Old Testament 2 Samuel 12, 1-10+13-15a

Epistel and Sermon Ephesians 2, 4-10

Gospel Luke 18, 9-14

### 22.8. 12th Sunday after Trinity: **God's healing presence**

Old Testament Isaiah 29, 17-24

Epistel Acts 9, 1-20

Gospel and Sermon Mark 7, 31-37





# European Lutheran Conference

EuLuthConf.org

From 2 to 4 June the European Lutheran Conference (ELC) took place. It was already postponed from last year and should have taken place in Aarhus/Denmark. Again, due to the pandemic, it was not possible to travel and meet in one place. Therefore, the ELC was held digitally. The ELC is an association of Confessional Lutheran Churches which “promotes unity, fellowship and co-operation between the member churches. It does this through sharing in detailed studies in the areas of theology and evangelism.”, as it is written in the ELC Guiding Principles. Besides our Belgian Church, the Lutheran Churches from Denmark, England, France, Germany, Norway, and Portugal are full members and were represented by one clergy and one lay member each. 14 other Confessional Lutheran Churches in Europe (mainly from Scandinavia, the Baltic states, Eastern Europe) and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (USA) and the Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa (FELSISA) are guest churches. This time the topic was “Sharing Hope in Times of Fear” with keynote speakers from Finland, Germany, and Denmark about “Hope in Luther’s Writings of 1520”, “Hopes and Threats today” (in church and society) and “Living with Hope in Daily Life – How the Christian Faith Shapes Our Actions and Witnessing to Our Generation”. The conference was framed with morning and evening prayers and rounds to share information and situation of the attending church bodies. The Finnish Bishop Juhana Pohjola impressingly gave an account of the difficult situation of the Finnish church and himself due to public persecution by the state because of critical editions of the church about homosexuality and same-sex marriage. – It is always good, especially for such small church bodies like our Belgian church to meet others in a big family. Sadly, due to the digital format, it was almost impossible to chat a bit longer or grow closer together. We hope and pray that the situation will be better in two years when the next ELC is scheduled, again in Denmark. – If you are interested in the keynotes, contact the Pastor.

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

Reverend Johannes Reitze-Landau

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