



ALCB

In Touch

December 2017

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ALL
are
welcome
Lutheran
Church
Brussels

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The Lord is coming! „God dwells with us in darkness / and makes the night as day.” This is the first verse of the last stanza of the hymn “The Night Will Soon Be Ending” by Jochen Klepper. Jochen Klepper, born in 1903, was a German Theologian and worked as a writer and journalist. He was married to a Jewish woman. He was very pious and was seriously affected by the Nazi regime. Because of his Jewish wife and his two Jewish stepdaughters he wasn’t allowed to work any longer. After his older stepdaughter left Germany to safe Great Britain, he saw the deportation of his wife and second stepdaughter coming, because they weren’t allowed to leave the country anymore. So the family decided to commit suicide in the night from 10th to 11th December 1942 (75 years ago). In his diary his last entry was: “In the afternoon hearing at the security service. Now we die - but even that is in God's hands - tonight we go together into death. Above us in our last hours stands the picture of the Blessing Christ, who struggles for us. In whose sight our life ends.” He became one of the most important and popular writer of Christian poems and hymns in the 20th century.

We will sing this above-mentioned hymn in the service of First of Advent at the beginning of our service. It will link the season of Advent with the Sunday of Fulfillment. It reminds us that we as Christians wait for Him, Jesus Christ. He, who came once, about 2000 years ago, as a human child to become man to join us in every situation of our life, and who will come again to save us for eternity – our God who dwells with us in our darkness. Like the last Sundays in the Church Year Advent is a time of preparation. The readings, sermons and hymns in this time shall strengthen us to be prepared for His coming and to focus on the only important thing in life: our relationship to God, our creator, preserver, and redeemer – the God, who turns our night into a bright day. With all our daily stress, health problems, difficult relationships, troubles with or without a job, we can be assured: “The night will soon be ending; the dawn cannot be far.” God sees us and is on a hurry to come to us and help us. Let’s be served by His Holy Word and Sacrament to overcome this time of waiting and let’s celebrate God at our side on Christmas. Stay blessed and steadfast in this faith!

Yours Pastor Johannes



Our church members with birthday this month:

- ☪ 04.12. Elisia Mweuhanga
- ☪ 08.12. Lina Kinusa
- ☪ 19.12. Grephson Shoo
- ☪ 29.12. Dimitri Proskurovski
- ☪ 29.12. Katelynn Russo



Please pray for...

- ... for the people who live in darkness, that the light of Christmas will shine in their lives
- ... for the parents-to-be, like Mary and Joseph, that their sorrows may be small and the joy great
- ... for all children, the unborn and the born, that they may find loving people around them and a world worthy to live in
- ... for all single persons, that they may not feel lonely but find a place to be in these times of the year, where they can find rest and satisfying relationships

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

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Financial Update October 2017

This month you see a bombastic financial overview. We had big transaction volume this month. This is due to the fact that we received a one-time substitution of €2000,- from our German partner church (SELK) to buy equipment for our band so that we can have quality musical support in those services without an organ player. We are very, very thankful for this contribution! We bought a stage piano, a so-called “PA” (amplifier with two loudspeakers) and microphones with settings. It’s all (big and heavy but) portable. All together we spent €2113,69, so just a little more than the contribution was. And we purchased a few smaller items, the original music sheets for the contemporary liturgy we often use, for example. Nevertheless, we must state that the offerings in November were much lower than in September and October. And we expect a potential substitution by the Belgian Government not before the end of 2018. Please consider making a donation to ALCB! Thank you!



Month	Bank transfer	Offerings	Earnings in total	Expenses	Conclusion
November	€2650,-	€750,20	€3400,20	€3333,58	€66,62



**Sint Paulus Church
in 3080 Tervuren-Vossem**

Focus on Service

In November we started a small series about the Liturgy and I talked about the “Amen” as the answer of the congregation to the words and prayers of the pastor. Furthermore, we focused on the “Salutations”, the “The Lord be with you! – And also with you!”, as a moment of assignment: The pastor steps out of the congregation to become a counterpart and the congregation assigns him to go to the altar to pray for them. The pastor greets them from “God’s side” and the congregation blesses him to speak for them all to God.

Now in December we will focus on the parts at the beginning of the service, i.e. the preparatory liturgy: Confession/Absolution, Introit, Kyrie and Song of Praise. Furthermore we will learn another part of the contemporary liturgy by Simon Schmidt, the “Lamb of God”. Last but not least we will celebrate Absolution with laying on of hands, like we did several weeks ago, on the 3rd Sunday of Advent, because it’s the Sunday of John the Baptist who called people to repentance.



----- Cut for your black board -----

ALCB Services in December

Date	Sunday	Time	Place	Sermon
03.12.	1 st of Advent	10:00	Vossem	Revelation 5, 1-5(6-14)
10.12.	2 nd of Advent	10:00	Vossem	Isaiah 63, 15-64, 3
17.12.	3 rd of Advent	15:00	Woluwe	Romans 15, 4-13
24.12.	4 th of Advent / Christmas Eve	16:00	Vossem	



Addresses of the church buildings we use:

- ✗ German Protestant Church “Emmaus Church” in 1150 Woluwe-Saint-Pierre, Avenue Salomé 7 (parking lot behind the building)
- ✗ our Lutheran congregation in Antwerp “Heilige Drievuldigheid” (“Holy Trinity”) in 2000 Antwerp, Tabakvest 59
- ✗ Sint-Paulus church in 3080 Tervuren-Vossem, Dorpstraat 3 (parking lot around the corner, Sint-Pauluslaan 8)