



**ALCB**

# In Touch

February/March 2018 [www.alcb.be](http://www.alcb.be)



ALL  
are  
welcome  
Lutheran  
Church  
Brussels

Vol. 11 No. 2+3

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

We are in the middle of Lent, the time to think about the Passion of Christ and to get prepared for the highest feast of Christianity: Easter. But what does this actually mean? The services during Lent put the focus on the existence and life of a Christian, not implicitly on ethics or how a Christian should live according to God's will (this is more the subject during the summer time), but more on how we could "deal" with our existence: Often life is full of troubles and keeping the faith by facing the world on the one hand and facing my personal problems on the other hand is often hard. This is what the Bible calls "temptations". Temptations are the moments when we start to doubt whether our faith is the right one, whether God really listens to our prayers or whether our life has a purpose. – This is quite human. A normal reaction. And we must state: as long as you doubt, you still believe. If you have stopped doubting, there might be a problem... At the beginning of Lent we have heard the story when Jesus spent 40 days (as long as the time of Lent) in the desert, fasting (Matthew 4, 1-11). Then the devil himself came and tempted him. We see: even Jesus Christ was tempted. He knows this feeling quite well. But Jesus resisted the devil's offers. He argued with words from the Bible and the devil had to leave. Again we see: it is good to know some words of the Bible to have an effective weapon against the devil and his arguments. God provides us with resources to overcome temptations by his Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. So, don't stop reading the Bible and/or listen to God's Word during the services! And come regularly to receive the Holy Communion! It will help you keeping your faith. And it will help you to rethink. That's the second subject of Lent: rethinking our existence. What can you do alone? Is there any other sense in life next to living alone for God? Is there any other comfort in the face of death? – No, there is nothing else! – And the third subject of Lent is the fact that Jesus died for us. He accompanies us in every suffering and pain we can possibly imagine. He knows how you feel. But finally, he destroyed all these temptations, sufferings and pains and the devil and death himself. Jesus was and is stronger. He bearded the lion in his den and won. The victory is his and with his brothers and sisters – us! – For a while (our lifetime here on earth) we might feel the last shapes of darkness, but it is nothing more than a reverberation. With the morning of Easter, the Future without tears, "death or mourning or crying or pain" (Revelation 21, 1-4) has begun. And together with Jesus Christ by our side we are already part of this new world and just "aliens and strangers in the world" (1Peter 2, 11). Let's try to live like that, always remembering: the cross towards which we are heading during Lent on our way to Good Friday is no longer a sign of death, but a sign of life and comfort for us!



*+ Yours Pastor Johannes*

## Financial Update

| Month    | Bank transfer | Offerings | Revenue in total | Expenses | Sum     |
|----------|---------------|-----------|------------------|----------|---------|
| January  | €1030,-       | €868,90   | €1898,90         | €1309,95 | €588,95 |
| February | €570,-        | €812,80   | €1382,80         | €1246,74 | €136,06 |

The **Sundays in Lent** traditionally have a bit strange names. But these names are just the first word of the Psalm of the new week, which begins on Sunday, in Latin. There is a mnemonic or memory trick to remember the Sundays and the right order.

**Invocavit** ("When he calls to me" – Ps 91, 15)

**Reminiscere** ("Remember" – Ps 25, 6)

**Oculi** ("My eyes" – Ps 25, 15)

**Laetare** ("Rejoice" – Is 66, 10)

**Judica** ("Vindicate" – Ps 43, 1)

**Palmarum** (Palm Sunday) (name because of the Palm branches the people used to greet Jesus)

➤ **In Right Order Learn Jesus' Passion.**

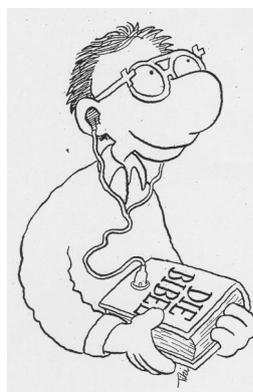
This mnemonic summarises the subject of Lent in a good way because if we consider or meditate on Jesus' Passion, his deed for us, we are on the right path, the cross always in our view.



## Focus on Service

With our new hymnals we will start a new period of focusing on our liturgy.

Maybe it will be possible to sing more parts of the traditional liturgy and everyone can follow better with the hymnal. In the past months we have already talked about the "opening liturgy" (Introit or Psalm of the week, Kyrie and Gloria or Song of Praise) and the parts before the service to be prepared for it, the Confession and Absolution or opening prayer. Furthermore we have focused on the Salutation (greeting) as a blessing and assignment of the congregation to the pastor and – last but not least – the "Amen", the answer of the congregation to the prayers the pastor speaks for all in front of God.



In this newsletter we will focus on the "proclamation part", which means the lessons or readings and the sermon. This part of the liturgy is normally initiated by a prayer after the first Salutation (greeting) and is called Collect of the Day. Collect does not mean to collect an offering but to collect topics (the church calls this "Proper of the Day") and thoughts. In this prayer the subject of the Sunday and the following readings is mentioned. Afterwards we normally hear three readings which rise from the stories and prophecies of the Old Testament beyond the consolations and instructions of the first Christian leaders like the Apostle Paul in the Epistles to the words of our Lord Jesus Christ himself in the Gospel reading. Then we hear the sermon in which a word from the Bible is explained and interpreted for the present-day time. Generally the pastor doesn't just randomly pick a paragraph from the Bible he happens to like. There are so-called "lectionary series". As pastor of the ALCB I generally use the series of the German protestant churches which is a 6-year series meaning that every paragraph for the sermon is preached every sixth year. In year one it is always the Gospel reading, in year two the Epistle. The others are mixed. At the moment we are in year four, where sometimes the Old Testament Reading is also the paragraph for the sermon. – Finally the part of the proclamation is concluded by the Creed, the confession of faith by the congregation. We believe that the proclamation of God's word awakens faith. And then we are able to answer God's Word in faith with the words of the Creed to show God and the whole world what we believe.

## Please pray for...

... the son of Bruna Wildemann and Gordon Craggs, that he may feel the company of the Lord Jesus during his whole life after his Baptism.

... for the bereaved of Ivan Halasz, that they may find comfort and hope in the Gospel of Easter.

... our persecuted brothers and sisters, that their time of Passion may find an end in freedom and peace.

... Pastor Matthias and his congregation in Plauen (Germany), that they may reach many people with the Gospel.

... the warzones in the world, especially Syria and Yemen, that the authorities put an end to all bloodshed and that peace may rise.



## Our church members with birthday in February and March:

☞ 14.02. Hemson Kinusa

☞ 03.03. Jakob Landau

☞ 05.03. Betty Boomer

☞ 11.03. Gijsbertus van Hattem

☞ 13.03. Esther Landau

☞ 22.03. Hadrian Piccinin

☞ 25.03. Anna Ellingstad

☞ 25.03. Grace Ellingstad

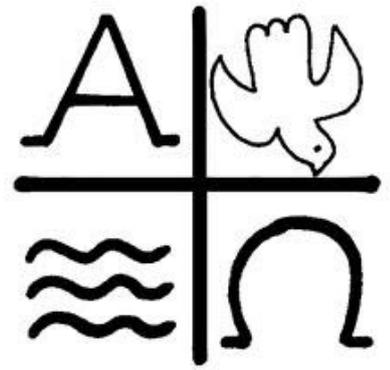
**Evangelisch-Lutherse Kerk in België – All Lutheran Church of Brussels**

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## Holy Baptism

On Sunday Laetare, the Fourth Sunday in Lent, on 11/3, we will celebrate Holy Baptism with the Wildemann/Craggs family from Leuven. "What does Baptism give or profit?", asks Martin Luther's Small Catechism. "Answer: It works forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare. Which are such words and promises of God? Answer: Christ, our Lord, says in the last chapter of Mark: He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Link to Martin Luther's Small Catechism: <http://bookofconcord.org/smallcatechism.php> ) I invite all of you to take the opportunity to remember your own Baptism especially on this Sunday by confessing the baptismal creed of the Church, the Apostles' Creed! Due to the family of the child's mother being Brazilian, parts of the liturgy will be in Portuguese.



### Big donations from our „big“ friends!

We are very thankful for and happy about the two big donations we received in the last months from our Partner Churches.

Already in November our German Partner Church "SELK" made a big donation so that we could buy an electric piano and an amplifier with two loudspeaker boxes and microphones. Now our band can accompany our services properly, also when we are in another room without an organ or without organ player.

In February we received a big delivery from Rev. Michael Kumm and his "Holy Cross Lutheran Church" in Dakota Dunes (SD/USA), a congregation of our US-Partner Church "LCMS".

They donated 50 new hymnals and a big "Agenda" (Altar Book), where all the different texts for the liturgy and service are included. – It is good to know and to feel that we are not alone but have brothers and sisters out there in the world! Thank God!



### Following Services



#### Announcement

Our member and brother in Christ  
**Dr. Ivan Gyula Halasz,**  
 born 29th April 1928 in Budapest (Hungary),  
 died 21st February 2018 in Brussels.  
 He was buried on 28th February 2018  
 with a Christian ceremony in 1430 Rebecq.

*May the Lord of life and death show him what he believed.*

Ivan is the first member of ALCB who overcame this life and world.

*"The Lord's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him." (Psalm 32, 10b)*

#### Announcement

Herewith the ALCB Church Board calls the **Annual General Meeting for Sunday, 18th March 2018** after a shorter service.

#### Order of business

1. Report of Pastor's work
2. Review and evaluation of the time since Pastor Matthias left
3. Financial affairs
4. Plans for the future
5. Miscellaneous

Please come and assist our ALCB!

| Date   | Sunday  | Time  | Place  | Sermon                  |
|--------|---|-------|--------|-------------------------|
| 11.03. | 4th Sunday in Lent – Laetare (with Holy Baptism)          | 15:00 | Woluwe | Psalm 28, 7             |
| 18.03. | 5th Sunday in Lent – Judica (with General Annual Meeting) | 15:00 | Woluwe | Numbers 21, 4-9         |
| 25.03. | 6th Sunday in Lent – Palm Sunday                          | 15:00 | Woluwe | Isaiah 50, 4-9          |
| 30.03. | Good Friday   | 17:30 | Woluwe | Hebrews 9, 15+26b-28    |
| 31.03. | Easter (Easter Vigil) <b>to be confirmed!</b>             | 18:00 | Woluwe | 1Thessalonians 4, 13-14 |
| 08.04. | Second Sunday of Easter – Quasimodo Geniti                | 15:00 | Woluwe | Colossians 2, 12-15     |
| 15.04. | Third Sunday of Easter – Misericordias Domini             | 15:00 | Woluwe | 1Peter 5, 1-4           |