

Dear Friends,

In the beginning of the year we naturally look to the future. We are hopeful for things to happen to our benefit and excited about new opportunities. Some things might also raise some questions. What's going to happen? The Brexit divorce has to be arranged, we look warily towards world leaders, the complexity of the war in Syria feels paralyzing, we still deal with the refugee crisis and work on preventing and protecting from the terror threat. In addition you still have your fair share to deal with in your own life: family, finances, job and health issues.

There is one ray of hope, one little light, that still is shining and especially this year, when we remember 500 years of the Lutheran Reformation. It was in 1517 when an insignificant monk dared to question the status quo and with increasing certainty made his stand, even before the emperor Charles V. His intention was to "reform" the church, not to split it. And God knows, it needed to go back to the roots. That's what Luther discovered: the long lost truth of the Gospel of Christ. As a sign post and significant event we consider October 31st of the same year to be the beginning of the reformation when Luther nailed the 95 Theses against the unchristian practice of the indulgences to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg (the notice board of the city). It wasn't easy as his opponents (mighty and violent ones too) threatened him and he prevailed only by the grace of God. He stood up for what he know from the Word of God to be true and right. His fight was all about Jesus. His preaching and teachings, his writings and composing, his life and relationships, everything was propelled by the newfound Gospel: the assurance of forgiveness of our sins and the sonship as the a child of God and the loving presence of the Spirit, all because of what Christ had done on the cross without our works, good deeds or other human intervention. As a free gift from God to us.

It's 2017. 500 years after Luther it's still about Jesus. I invite you to focus on Him in the coming months together. Let your spirit soar like an eagle. Let the hope we have in Christ encourage and strengthen you for the tasks ahead, and disperse your fear of the future. Have a great Reformation year, *Pastor Tepper*

**"Two natures beat within my breast
The one is foul, the one is blessed
The one I love, the one I hate.
The one I feed will dominate."**

-Anonymous



Please Pray...

- For a blessed new year for our church family that we recommit our lives to Jesus and to one another.
- For the children's ministry that we reach out with Christ's love to children and parents.

- For those with birthdays in these months:
 - Jan 15: Michel
 - Jan 16: Felix
 - Jan 20: Raymond
 - Jan 28: Vera
 - Jan 31: Anna C
 - Jan 31: Rebecca

Send your prayer requests to: pastor @ alcb.be and specify whether it is private or to be shared.



Some of the folks who came to our Christmas Eve celebration with potluck in Leefdaal

Upcoming Events...

Last minute updates/changes: www.alcb.be

Sunday, Jan 15

4:30pm Worship Service in Woluwe-St. Pierre
Sermon Johannes Reitze-Landau

Tue, Jan 17

8:00pm Ecumenical Prayer (Vossem, see p.2)

Wed., Jan 18

7:30pm Discovery Bible Study, Etterbeek

Thu, Jan 19

8:00pm Ecumenical Prayer (Brussels, see p.2)

Saturday, Jan 21

7:00pm **Praise & Worship** at the parsonage (see p. 2)

Sunday, Jan 22

2:30pm **Kids Club and Bible Study** (Marc's house)

4:30pm Worship Service in Woluwe-St. Pierre

Wed., Jan 25

7:30pm Discovery Bible Study, Etterbeek

Sunday, Jan 29

4:30pm Worship Service in Woluwe-St. Pierre

Wed., Feb 1

7:30pm Discovery Bible Study, Etterbeek

Sunday, Feb 5

4:30pm Worship Service in Woluwe-St. Pierre

Worship services are held normally at: Ave. Salomé 7, Woluwe-St. Pierre (across the Centre Sportif, close to Stokkel)

Pastor Tepper: 0487 45 85 99 pastor @ alcb.be www.alcb.be

IBAN: BE71 9530 6054 7769, BIC: CTBK BEBX, Evangelisch-Lutherse Kerk. Address: Tabakvest 59, 2000 Antwerp

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Once a month we invite you to get together to discuss a Bible passage together. Just grab a cup of coffee or tea and

join in! It's a good place to ask questions you might have. **On Sundays, 2:30-4:00 p.m.** (just before our church service). The children enjoy instruction and fun at the same time during their Kids' Club.

Ask pastor for the location. (pastor@alcb.be)



Walking with the Lord

5 Important Things the Lutheran Reformers Wrote

... and why they're still important today

In this issue: #3 **Luther's September Testament** – In Luther's time, most people never read the Bible because most copies were written in Latin, a language that no one spoke and few Germans could even read. Luther changed this by translating the New Testament into German. The first edition became known as the "September Testament" because it was printed in September 1522. By translating Scripture into German, Luther returned the New Testament to the language of the people, a process that continues to day. No matter what language someone speaks, God's Word can still proclaim freedom in Christ to them.

Important Things Luther Said ... and what he meant by it

„A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none.

A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.“

The Freedom of a Christian (1520)

By this, Luther meant that Jesus Christ is a Christian's only Lord—a Lord who commands us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

(both taken from *the Lutheran Handbook by Augsburg Fortress*)



Reading your Bible is the life blood of every Christian. The very Words of Christ nourish and encourage us, bring us deeper in our relationship with the Lord and help us grow in our faith.

What about our Lutheran Confessions?

I highly recommend reading them on a regular basis. Not as a replacement for the Bible, but rather a supplement to your daily intake of Scripture. You will experience the struggles and questions that our church fathers faced when they penned those important documents. Some are shorter (like the Small Catechism), others are longer (like the Apology of the Augsburg Confession). Some were written by Luther, some by others. 1580 they were put together as an appropriate expression of the Lutheran faith. By reading them you will discover much about what we believe. In the center of them all stands Christ, by whose blood we are fully and freely redeemed.



Shop for: "Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions - A Reader's Edition of the Book of Concord" (also for Kindle)

Our Investments in People's Lives

Thanks to all who have set up automatic bank transfer for tithes, contributions and donations for automated giving for God's glory.

Mission '16	Sunday Offerings	Bank Transfers	Total (goal vs. received)	Giving goals*
November	€ 940.36	€ 430	€ 1,370.36 (66%)	€ 2,083
December	€ 904.42	€ 330	€ 1,370.36 (59%)	€ 2,083
Year to	€10,007.62	€ 7,510	€ 17,517.62 (70%)	€ 25,000
Things that you support	Preaching ministry	Lives served	You, your family	January € 2,083

* 12 x 2,083=25,000 € is what we need to raise ourselves in Brussels. We are currently subsidized by the LCMS and the SELK for our total budget of € 55,000.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Please help the body of Christ with your gifts.

- ✎ Join the Act Now drama team
- ✎ Show hospitality to newcomers at church
- ✎ Help with the Daddy Daughter Dance



catechism quiz

1. What do we pray for in the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer?
2. Why do we pray to God for daily bread in the Lord's Prayer?

Answers:

1. Everything our bodies need such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, and we look to Him for physical as well as spiritual blessings.
 2. To realize that our life depends on God, we give thanks to Him, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, spouse, upright children, upright workers, upright and faithful house, home fields, livestock, money, property, an upright

the lutheran