



IN TOUCH

Newsletter of All Lutheran Church of Brussels

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Spring Time!

Dear Members and Friends of our ALCB,

The Easter season is already drawing to a close and the extended weekends in spring are already showing in the agenda and the end of the school year is looming on the horizon. I hope that the beautifully blossoming and greening, fresh nature cheers you up like me and thus creates a counterbalance to the emerging tiredness before

the "Brussels end of the year" in July. As always, summer is a time of change, much more so than a calendrical turn of the year. People come to Brussels for the first time or move on, school classes or even schools are changed and for some people a new phase of life begins with their studies. Mostly, this also changes our congregation. We are excited and happy to welcome all new and also old faces. With every change, which may also cause stress and perhaps fear, we should remember that our Lord and God remains the same in all of this. He knows our path and walks with us at our side.

Now we have a whole year behind us in which we had to reduce our services by 50% due to the precarious financial situation. Even though we were able to stop the downward trend, the hope that the few services would then become fuller at the same time, because people try to attend the few services, has unfortunately not yet been fulfilled. What does that mean? What is the reason for this? What about our relationship with God? What draws me to God, what keeps me away? Especially the spring and summer time can show us in many ways how much we owe to God: our life, our living space, the order of the cosmos and a free society, our daily bread, the peace in which we live and so much more. Aren't these all reasons to show reverence back to God, not just when I feel I need Him in my time of need? But much more than my "feedback", God wants to serve us in service even more than through daily goods. That's why we call it "Divine Service". He invites us to draw from Him courage, confidence, hope, orientation and blessings for everyday life. Last but not least, we humans need strong communities that carry us invisibly and offer us a home. Church is just such a place. We will soon celebrate this at Pentecost: that the Holy Spirit has created a safe place for us, where we can come to rest, where we are at home and welcome, where people are waiting for us. This place is the Church of Jesus Christ, represented in Brussels by our congregation. Be invited, come and let you be blessed!



Pastor Johannes

Our Following Services

There are only a few services left until the summer holidays and then there will be a break again. Let's be surprised what the situation will be like from September onwards and whether we will be able to celebrate more services again. In any case, the service schedule is always subject to change. Leading are the e-mails the pastor sends out the week before each service. Not yet on the mailing list? Then please send a short email to pastor@alcb.be !

Holiday time

Holiday time does not mean that the church is on holiday, even if we then reduce our services even further. The pastor is (almost) always available, at least by phone or email. If there is a need, do not hesitate! If it is not a very urgent matter, I only ask for patience for an answer.



Retrospective on Easter

On Easter we celebrated a beautiful, joyful service with Kay's confirmation. After several months of catechetical lessons with the pastor, he confessed his Christian faith during the Easter liturgy and the baptismal memorial and was blessed. Kay chose Psalm 23 as his confirmation verse. We are very happy to welcome him to our congregation and wish him God's guidance and rich blessings for his future life and especially for his studies in theology! Another highlight was the proclamation of the Easter message of forgiveness with the word of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 53, 5b in seven different languages!

“Upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.”



Baptism or Confirmation?

The pastor is always happy to receive enquiries.

We are happy to check together all possibilities if and when a baptism and/or confirmation can take place and if necessary we can conduct catechetical lessons beforehand. This depends on the age. We will probably start classes again soon, probably even with two courses, one for adults and one for young people. Interested in talking about faith and learning more about the Lutheran Confession? Just contact the pastor!

Spring Picnic on 11 June – Save the Date!

It's that time again, our traditional Spring Picnic in the Parsonage Garden is coming up. As always, there will be sausage and meat from the grill and potluck. The service will take place in Vossem on this day!



Diakonia The word “diakonia” means service. In every edition, this section of the newsletter presents a charitable organization. Those who are able, are invited to donate to the suggested organization, according to their ability. At the same time, it also introduces these organizations to the people in our community who might want to make use of their services. Giving help and accepting help are two sides of the same coin.

Restos du Coeur "Restos du Coeur" organizes food aid. Its mission is to fight against poverty in an adapted and up-to-date way. It collects funds and goods to distribute them directly to the most needy. Resto du Coeur is most known for their social restaurants and food pantries. More on what they offer to the community can be found on their website: <https://restosducoeur.be/nl/> (website in Dutch or English). You can make a donation here: <https://donate.restosducoeur.be/b/my-donation>

Reformation

After the great 500th Reformation anniversary 1517-2017 at the starting point of the Reformation with the publication of the 95 Theses by Martin Luther, we can currently celebrate a Reformation commemoration almost every year. This year it particularly concerns us in Brussels. For on 1 July 1523, the two Antwerp Augustinian monks Jan van Esschen and Hendrik Voes were burned to death on the Grand Place in Brussels because they refused to recall their Lutheran views. This was the first time ever that adherents of the Lutheran confession were executed for this. In response, Martin Luther composed his first hymn, a ten-stanza ballad ("A New Song We Raise") that tells the story of the two Augustinian brothers. At the same time, this was the beginning of a broad development of poetry of sacred songs, first of the Protestant, but later also of the Roman Catholic Church. Today, it is impossible to imagine Christian churches without hymns, and Christians have long since sung together ecumenically. Ultimately, a positive, cross-denominational development emerged from the sad and terrible occasion 500 years ago. Therefore, we as the ALCB, together with the two German-speaking congregations (Protestant and Roman-Catholic), and with the support of several other churches in Brussels, are planning a singing flash mob and in the evening an ecumenical musical devotion with spiritual songs to listen to and sing along to in the Protestant Museum Church (Eglise de Musée). There will also be several other events organised by the Protestant Church in Belgium. More information will follow.