

# IN TOUCH

Newsletter of All Lutheran Church of Brussels

## Content of This Special Edition:

- 500 years of singing—Reformation in Brussels

## Season of The Spirit

*Dear Members and Friends of our ALCB,*

Just a few weeks ago it looked very different in our services. We were lucky if there were ten or twelve of us who sang together, prayed, listened to God's word and gathered around the altar. The pandemic and our typical changes had left their mark. In the church board we were at a loss what to do. - And once again we were proved wrong. God is in control and can change things much faster than expected. Suddenly, in the last few weeks, our services were fuller than they had been for a long time. New faces as well as old ones spread a cheerful atmosphere. Pentecost was not just a date in the calendar at the end of May, but we felt the Holy Spirit blowing among us. We look back on the probably biggest Spring Picnic ever. And now we can celebrate three baptisms in a row! Isn't that wonderful!?! We learn from this that we are not abandoned by God. Our almighty God can suddenly breathe life into what was thought dead and even was dead, reignite the smouldering wick, move people. That is wonderful. So let us be grateful and joyful about this time given to us by the Holy Spirit. Let us take advantage of the wave and be excited to see where it takes us. There is still so much to discover and experience - in faith and in the communion of saints. God is waiting for us.

*Yours Pastor Johannes*



# 500 Reformation

We may be only a small Lutheran congregation and church here in Belgium. But in fact a major event of the Reformation took place here in Brussels. And this anniversary is now returning for the 500th time. Saturday 1 July 2023 marks the 500th anniversary of the burning of the first martyrs of the Reformation worldwide. On 1 July 1523, two Antwerp Augustinian monks, Jan van Esschen and Hendrik Voes, were burned at the Grand Place in Brussels for refusing to revoke their Lutheran views. This was the first time ever that followers of the Reformation were executed for this. (In Munich/Germany, only 6 days later, the first Lutheran, baker's servant Sebastian Tuschler, was executed for his Lutheran beliefs). Shocked by their fate and in response to the burning in Brussels, Martin Luther composed his first hymn, a ten-stanza ballad ("A New Song We Raise") telling the story of the two Augustinian brothers. At the same time, this was the beginning of a broad development of poetry of hymns, first of the

Protestant, but later also of the Roman Catholic Church.

Today, the diverse congregational singing is a natural part of worship life on both sides, Protestant and Roman Catholic, and has also influenced church life in other parts of the world. Starting from a terrible event 500 years ago in Brussels, Christians of different denominations are today united in singing together to confess their faith in Jesus Christ.—Therefore we want to gather with different churches and sing and pray together on **Saturday, 1 July at 18:00 in a musical devotion in four languages in the „Eglise de Musée—Chapelle Royale“, Rue du Musée 2 in Brussels. Please see the attached poster.**

*Holiday time does not mean that the church is on holiday, even if we then reduce our services.*

*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.*

## Our following services:

July 2 + 9 + 30 | September 3 + 10 + 23 (Saturday with picnic—tbc!)

