



From Pastor Carl's Desk

By Pastor Carl Billings

**“Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.”
Psalm 51:1**

One of the things that I love about the liturgical year is that it allows us to focus on important aspects of God's determination to save us. Pentecost, and the Sundays after Pentecost (early summer through late autumn), focus on how to share God's love to all of creation. Advent and Christmas focus on God loving his creation so much that he became a part of it through the birth of Jesus. Epiphany is the season of the church year that is about revealing who Jesus is and what that means for us. Lent is a reminder that we need to confess our sins and acknowledge that we all fall short of the glory of God. Of course Holy Week and Easter talk about the depth of God's love and power of the cross and resurrection. Each one of these seasons helps us to focus on important aspects of the Christian life, but there is one bright thread that runs through them all. God's unfailing love toward us.

The start of Lent this year corresponds with the secular holiday Valentine's Day. Ash Wednesday is on February 14th this year. Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day are a good fit for each other because they both speak of Love. Of course Ash Wednesday is not about romantic love, but rather that bright thread of the love of God for us - the love of God that is unfailing.

The classic Psalm of confession often used on Ash Wednesday is Psalm 51. Tradition says it was written by David after he was confronted by the Prophet Nathan for his sin with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband Uriah. The important point of that story is that God knew David's sin and God forgave. David still had to face the consequences of his sin, but God forgave him.

The same holds true with us. God knows us better than we even know ourselves. He knows the dark corners of our soul and the hidden recesses of our spirit. He longs for us to know that despite our sin, despite the hurt and pain we have caused, he loves us. His love for us will not fail. An important part of confessing our sin is understanding the depth of that love and depending on that love in the face of our own failings.

During this Lenten season, we will be using the 51st Psalm as a template to explore the depth of God's love for us and how we can access that love in the face of our own sin and mortality.

In Hope and Joy,
Pastor Carl

DiscoverChurch

A Lutheran Community in Brooklyn Park



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CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Discover Church

1400 81st Avenue North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

Office Phone: 763-561-5877

Email: info@discoverchurchnetwork.org

Website: discoverchurchnetwork.org

Pastoral Care Phone: 763-202-2741

Church Office hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9AM-3PM

Friday: 9AM – Noon

Staff

Pastor Carl Billings, Senior Pastor: Ext. 1002

Pastor La Andriamihaja, Associate Pastor: Ext. 1003

Pastor Jonathan Brandon, Youth Pastor: Ext. 1004

Christy Grigor, Children's Director: Ext. 1005

Joe Gerber, Worship Director: Ext. 1006

Jessica Kuhn, Business Manager: Ext. 1001

Patsy Cesare, Administrative Assistant: Ext. 1000

Bud Larson, Custodian

Have an announcement for the bulletin or newsletter?

Please email Patsy Cesare,
Administrative Assistant at
Patsy.Cesare@discoverchurchnetwork.org

Bulletin Deadline:

Noon on Wednesdays

Newsletter Deadline:

Noon on the 3rd Friday



Discover Church Vision Statement:

Believe, Belong, Bless

Discover Church Mission Statement:

*Inviting all people to discover
their full life in Christ*

Discover Church Values

Discipleship is a Priority

Inspired by the Living Word

Spirit Charged

Culture of Forgiveness

Ordinary People Serving an

Extraordinary God

Vision for World Mission

Ethnically Diverse

Rooted in Our Communities - Reaching Out

From Pastor La's Desk Pastor La Andriamihaja



Fellow Discoverers,

May the grace, peace and love of God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, and in full unity of the Holy Spirit be multiplied richly in your life, now and forever more. Amen.

On Sunday, January 7th, 2018, following our second worship service, members and participants in Discover Life Groups (Small Groups) gathered for a potluck lunch in Faith Hall. The turnout was great and the food was even better. To add to the overall joy-filled mood of the gathering, I was pleasantly surprised when Pastor Carl invited everyone to quiet down so that Jean Hanson could hand me a manila envelope. In it were cash and check gifts with the most beautifully hand crafted greeting card I have ever seen. The note on the card read: *"Dear Pastor La, We appreciate you! Happy New Year! Blessings from your Life Groups"* To all those who were at the Life Group Large Group gathering last month, and to all those who weren't able to be there but contributed toward the generous gift and well wishes that I received, I say with every fiber of my being: **THANK YOU!**

I wish for you to know how much you all have truly been, and continue to be *"my Life Group,"* like a *"life line,"* especially in recent days. As many of you know it has been a month since I've been on "half time" status at Discover Church and I am still looking for an additional job or income stream to supplement our income. Thanks to your gifts, prayers and love for me and my family, your support empowers us forward. That being said, please continue to pray for us to remain patient and faithful as we wait on the Lord. Thank you again for your continued partnership in the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Now, a new Church season dawns this month with the celebration of Ash Wednesday on February 14th. For the next 40 days (not counting Sundays), we'll be journeying through the season of Lent. Traditionally, the focus of Lent was on self-denial, on "giving something up," which are appropriate acts when the sacrifice connects with Christian commitment. But there is another view of Lent: it's a time to learn new things, acquire new insights, and a time to prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. And like in our homes, when we prepare to celebrate something, we often must do some housekeeping chores.

Lent is like that -- a time for spiritual housecleaning, a time to dust off our faith, shine up our commitment, lay in a supply of thanks and decorate our lives with the joy of the Christian life. Then, when Easter morning comes, we know in our hearts what the celebration is all about.

I sure hope and pray that you'll plan to worship with us during this holy season.



Children and Family Ministries

Christy Grigor, Director

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN DURING THE 10:30AM FAMILY SERVICE

During the Family Worship Service we have the following childcare options:

- Childcare for age 6 weeks to 5 years in the last class on the right of the Education Wing.
- "On the Way" for grades Kindergarten to 2nd Grade in Faith Hall. Dismissed from the sanctuary to go to the class after the Children's sermon.
- Children grades 3-6 are encouraged to stay in the service for the sermon and can fill out worksheets to earn prizes from our Great Salvation Institute prize cart that is open each 3rd Sunday of the month.

TEACHERS AND HELPERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers during the 9:15am Education Hour. Please contact Christy if you can help.

- Our age 4 to Kindergarten class needs more help! Please contact Christy Grigor if you would like to help this class! This is the most fun age group, and what an honor to teach them about our faith and love in God!!!
- We still need helpers for the 3 year old class, Family Childcare and On the Way childcare!



Toby Mac Concert:

Sunday, February 25th

Girl's 5th & 6th Grade Overnight:

Friday, March 16th-17th

Roller Garden's Family Night:

Saturday, March 10th

Mercy Me Concert:

Friday, April 13th

Wild Mountain 2018:

Friday, July 20th

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:15AM
AGE 3 THROUGH 6TH GRADE
NURSERY FOR CHILDREN
6 WEEKS-3 YEARS



GIRL'S 56'ERS OVERNIGHT MARCH 16-17

Each year we LOVE having our Girl's 5th and 6th Grade overnight! The girls can invite as many friends as they like and we play, sing and focus around God's word from 7pm Friday, March 16 to 10am on Saturday, March 17.




Mercy Me and Tenth Ave North
Target Center
Friday, April 13 at 7:00pm
Tickets: \$22 each

Please contact John Teske at 612-458-5310 or jeteske@comcast.net if you'd like to go. Payment will be needed by March 20. Make checks payable to Discover Church Watch for more information on the Children's Ministry table coming soon.

For more information about Children's Ministry contact Christy Grigor in the church office at 763-561-5877 or by email at Christy.Grigor@discoverchurchnetwork.org

Youth Ministries

Pastor Jonathan Brandon, Director



**ALL
NIGHTER
YOUTH
LOCK
IN**

**YOUTH LOCK IN
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16
8:00PM—7:30AM
COST \$20
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
SIGN UP OUTSIDE
THE YOUTH ROOM
OR CONTACT PASTOR JON**

Wednesday Night Small Groups

Small groups are for 7-12 grade youth on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:30pm. We have a time for fun and fellowship and then break into groups and focus on sharing life experiences, diving deeper into God's Word and a time of prayer. **We will not meet during Lent. Our last meeting will be February 7. We will return after Easter.**



The Journey Confirmation program will meet on Sunday, February 18th from 6:30-8:00pm in the youth room. All 7-9 graders are invited.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 16:	Lock In
February 18:	Journey Confirmation
March 2:	Friday Night Live
March 4:	Journey Confirmation
June 17-22:	Milwaukee Mission Trip
July 15-20:	Houston Mission Trip

For more information about the Youth Ministry at Discover Church, contact Pastor Jonathan at jon.brandon@discoverchurchnetwork.org or (763) 561-5877.

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN



**ADULT EDUCATION
SUNDAYS 9:15am**

FEBRUARY SERIES: LOVE AND COVENANT

During this class, taught by Christy Grigor, we will be looking into two major doctrines about God. Who God is (love) and what covenants are. How do these two things work together? Understanding God's love and covenant helps us to be confident in our lives as we navigate the difficulties we face. As always, we will tie in how this affects relationships, family and parenting. This class is for everyone who has relationships!



Want to learn more about becoming a member at Discover Church?

Join us for the New Member Class on Sunday, February 11 at 9:15am during the Education Hour. Learn more about Discover Church. See Pastor Carl or Pastor La for more info. Please RSVP to Patsy at: patsy.cesare@discoverchurchnetwork.org.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Join us for a Bible Study series on "Acts of the Holy Spirit" lead by Pastor Carl on Wednesday mornings at 9:30am. We have a pot luck lunch together after the study on the first Wednesday of the month.

All Church Prayer

Saturday, February 3rd at 9:00am
Saturday, March 3rd at 9:00am
Every first Saturday of the month



SACRED STRETCHES EXERCISE CLASS

Pamela Billings is leading a Sacred Stretches exercise class on Thursday nights from 7-8pm. This class combines breathing techniques, Scripture meditation, stretches and postures. It is the intentional practice of connecting our entire being, body, mind and spirit with God. Bring an exercise mat if you have one. No experience needed. You need to sign a waiver to participate. A free will offering will be taken. For more information contact Pamela at 763-360-4792.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

DISCOVER CHURCH SERVICES



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN MEGA PACK

FEBRUARY 25 - 3:45-6:00pm

We're joining forces with area churches again this year for the FMSC Mega Pack on Sunday, February 25 from 3:45-6pm. Our goal is to bring 100 people from Discover! For the past 2 years, we have surpassed the goal of packing a million meals in 1 week. So this year our goal is TWO MILLION MEALS! Children age 5 and up can participate. Sign up at the ministry desk today. For more information, contact Patsy Cesare in the church office.

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Ministry needs volunteers in several areas:

- 4 year old/Kindergarten classroom helper
- 3 year old classroom helper
- Helpers and teachers for the On the Way class that meets during the sermon time of the 10:30am service.

These helpers can serve just once a month and help show the love of Jesus to our little ones! Contact Christy Grigor at Christy.grigor@discoverchurchnetwork.org.



MEAL MINISTRY

Help us bless our members with meals in the event of a new baby, illness or death. It doesn't matter if you cook or buy a meal, because when you provide a meal for a family, you are showing them Christ's love. Contact saralbrandon@gmail.com if you would like to be contacted when there is a need or if you know of someone who could use meals.



LENT

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 14 at 11:30am & 7:00pm
Communion and the Distribution of Ashes

Weekly Wednesday Lenten Services:

February 21, 28, March 7, 14, & 21
11:30am (with communion) & 7:00pm

Special Offering

The offerings from the Wednesday Lenten services are given to a different missions organization every year.

This year they will be donated to
Feed My Starving Children

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 9 - 8:00am & 10:30am

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday Service with 1st Communion

Thursday, March 29 at 7:00pm

Good Friday

Friday, March 30 at 7:00pm

Easter Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 1

8:00am, 9:30am & 11:00am

No Education Hour

Communion at all three services

Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast:

7:30am – 11:00am in Faith Hall

Free will offering will benefit
the summer youth mission trips



Discover Church Town Hall Meeting Sunday, February 18, 2018 after the second service

The council and staff invite you to a Discover Church town hall meeting on Sunday, February 18 after the second service.

This will be a chance to discuss outreach and opportunities to invite people to Discover their full life in Christ with us.

We hope that you'll join us as we discuss how best to fulfill God's plan for our church.

PLEASE TAKE OUR SURVEY ABOUT THE SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

We are looking for your input about our Sunday morning schedule. If you didn't have a chance to fill out a green survey at the annual meeting, please pick one up at the Ministry Desk and return it to us by February 11.



**DISCOVER CHURCH
NAMED BEST
CHOIR/MUSIC PROGRAM
BY THE 2018 SUN POST
READERS CHOICE AWARDS!
CONGRATULATIONS TO
EVERYONE INVOLVED IN
OUR MUSIC PROGRAM!**

Women's Ministry

Women of Glory have a Bible study on Thursdays at 7:00pm studying the book **"4 Keys To Hearing God's Voice"** by Mark & Patti Virkler. All women are invited. For more information contact Barb Erickson at pflu65@gmail.com or Jean Hansen at 763-561-2998.

Community Care Groups

Life After Loss: This grief group meets on the last Sunday of each month in the Conference Room at 10:30am and deals with all kinds of loss, including death of a loved one, illness, divorce, and job loss to name a few. Call Nancy at 763-783-8367 or Bob at 612-804-7568 with questions. **Next Meeting: February 25.**

Prayer Shawls: Know of someone who is having surgery or has other physical or spiritual needs and would appreciate a prayer shawl? These shawls are made with loving care and prayed over for the recipients. Contact Barbara Horn at 651-483-3063 or contact the church office for more information.

Amazing Grays

Brunch Bunch: Join us for brunch on Sunday, February 4th at 9:30am at Lindees in Osseo.

Lunch at 50's Grill: We will be meeting for lunch at 50's Grill in Brooklyn Center on Thursday, February 15th at 11:00am.

For more information contact Elaine Sorensen at 763-515-6178 or Carol Pahl at 763-323-8233.

Men's Ministry

Thursday Night Bible Study: All men are invited to join us on Thursday nights at 7:00pm for a Bible study, prayer and fellowship. For more info contact Chad Murray at 763-242-3470 or chadderinmn@gmail.com.

Weekly Prayer Meeting: Every Saturday morning at 9:00am. All men are invited.

Reflections

FEBRUARY DEVOTIONAL

God: Abide in me and I in you

Me: How do I do that, Lord?

God: Follow me. Listen to my heart. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.

Me: I am trying to listen but the world is so noisy and I get distracted.

God: Lean on me. Go to a quiet spot. Turn off your distractions, even your cell phone. You will live in me and bear much fruit. I am the vine. Connect with me and you will grow in grace, bearing much fruit. — from John 15:4

It is so wonderful that the God of heaven and earth wants to live in each of you. He wants us to feel safe, loved and feel us clinging to the vine, God Himself. Try reading the book of John chapter 15 and hear what He wants to tell you. He wants to spend time with you!

Holy Hugs,
Nancy Brown

*God's Promises
By Jean Hansen*

*The Bible tells us of God's Promises
Numbering 5,467
Over 2,000 years ago
These all were given*

*Read God's Word
For answers to life
Read God's Word
To relieve any strife*

*Through faith
God's Blessings come to us
Commit your life to God
In Him, put your trust*

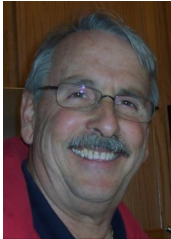
2 Corinthians 1:20

Business and Financials

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

The annual meeting was held on January 28, 2018. Thank you to everyone who helped serve and clean up from the meal. The 2018 budget of \$852,561 was approved. The following people were elected to serve on church council and the nominating committee.

CHURCH COUNCIL



JOE AXE



DAVE DALBEY



TODD HENNING



GREG VETTRUS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE



**KAY
HANSON**



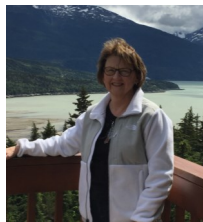
**MARY LOU
SCHUTZ**



**KATE
MURRAY**



**DORINDA
OLSTAD**



**CHERYL
HUSTRULID**

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Financial Report through January 28, 2018

2018 Annual Budget	852,561
Year-to-Date Offerings	58,855
Year-to-Date Actual Spending	77,100
Year-to-Date Variance	(18,245)

Electronic Giving Program

The Simply Giving® Program is an auto-withdraw program. You determine what amount and how often you want to give and your contribution will be automatically transferred from your account to Discover Church. Go to discoverchurchnetwork.org and click on "give" to set this up, or call the church office for help.



Discover Church gives 10% of our yearly income to support missions in our community and around the world. These are the missions and ministries we are supporting in 2018:

- International Student Fellowship, Howard & Marie Hanson
- Discover Church Dorcas Quilting Ministry
- Youth With A Mission (YWAM), Todd & Vicki Hedgepeth
- Wycliff Bible Translators, Chuck and Cheryl Liesch
- China Outreach Ministries, Tom and Kathy Lindstrom
- Guyanese Outreach, Ruth Singh
- South America Missions (SAM), Greg Dahl
- North India Community Outreach, Dinesh Chand
- Hope Lutheran School in Madagascar
- Madagascar Seminary
- Resolved Ministries, Vicki Epper
- Hospitality House Youth Development in Minneapolis
- Brooklyn Avenues Teen Homeless Shelter in Brooklyn Park
- Street Level Ministries in Minneapolis
- Disaster Relief, various locations
- International Ministerial Fellowship (IMF), Pastor Mark Marxhausen

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Sacred Stretches	2	3 9:00am All Church Prayer 9:00am All Church Work Day
4 8:00am Worship 9:15am Ed. Hour 9:30am Amazing Grays Brunch 10:30am Worship	5 9:00am Quilting	6	7 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Small Groups	8 6:30pm Quilting 7:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Sacred Stretches	9	10 9:00am Men's Prayer Mtg
11 8:00am Worship 9:15am Ed. Hour 9:15am New Member Class 10:30am Worship	12	13 6:00pm Stewardship Committee 7:00pm Church Council	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:30am Bible Study 11:30am Ash Wed Worship 7:00pm Ash Wed Worship	15 11:00am AG Lunch 7:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Sacred Stretches	16 8:00pm Youth Lock-in	17 9:00am Men's Prayer Mtg
18 8:00am Worship 9:15am Ed. Hour 10:30am Worship 11:30am Town Hall Meeting 6:30pm Youth Journey	19 9:00am Quilting	20	21 9:30am Bible Study 11:30am Lenten Worship 7:00pm Lenten Worship	22 7:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Sacred Stretches	23	24 9:00am Men's Prayer Mtg 9:00am Staff & Council Retreat
25 8:00am Worship 9:15am Ed. Hour 10:30am Worship 10:30am Life After Loss 3:45pm Feed My Starving Children	26	27	28 9:30am Bible Study 11:30am Lenten Worship 7:00pm Lenten Worship			

LONG RANGE DATES:

- March 3: Church Work Day
- March 4: First Communion Class
- March 25: Palm Sunday
- March 29: Maundy Thursday
- March 30: Good Friday
- April 1: Easter