

From Pastor Carl's Desk

By Pastor Carl Billings

The Challenge

The past year has been a good year in many ways: multiple baptisms, new members joining, good ministry done in partnership with Hospitality House, Families Moving Forward, Feed My Starving Children and other organizations, the re-launch of our Life Groups and the growth of the mid-week Bible study. We could add wonderful times of fellowship, meaningful experiences of praise and worship, life changing testimonies and much more.

It has, however, been a difficult year financially. As we reached the end of the year it was obvious that significant reductions needed to be made to the 2018 budget and because the budget committee worked so hard in 2016 to trim fat from the 2017 budget the significant changes were going to have to come from the staff portion of the budget. I worked with an ad hoc committee to make suggestion to council on how to proceed. We were facing some grim choices. That is why I am grateful to Pastor La for volunteering to temporarily reduce his position to half-time. With Pastor La's sacrifice we were able to make several smaller reductions to bring the 2018 budget in line with our current income levels.

The key here is that we want Pastor La's half-time status to be **temporary!** We want to bring Pastor La back to full-time status as soon as possible. That is our challenge for 2018. How do we go about doing that? We need to set a goal and work toward meeting it. For Pastor La to come back to full-time status we need to average \$17,499 per week. That was the weekly income amount needed to meet the 2017 budget. We are currently averaging about \$16,500 per week. Now I know that many of you have given above and beyond, and we are extremely grateful, but if we could not make the \$17,499 in 2017 how are we going to reach that goal in 2018?

Here are several important ideas on how we can reach this goal:

- **Continue to invite people to discover their full life in Christ.** As we continue to grow as a congregation our financial resources will also grow. It's important that we keep our priorities straight. We invite so that people might know Jesus, not to help with our budget. A happy byproduct though is that our income grows.
- **Develop separate income streams outside regular offerings.** The staff is already working on some possible income streams. One simple one that is already in place is *Amazon Smile*. When you use this program a portion of your purchases on Amazon are given to the church. Further instructions on how to do this are listed on page 9 of this newsletter.
- **Focus on the General Budget.** It is fun to give to a special ministry. My wife Pam and I have done it often in the past. However, I want to encourage all of us to focus on general fund giving rather than designated funds until we are able to move past this temporary setback.
- **Increase tithing.** If you are not a tither take another step towards tithing.

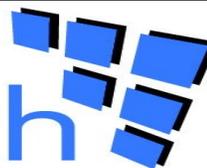
In the months ahead, the council will be working on more steps to bring Pastor La back to full-time status. We are also planning to have some "listening posts" in January prior to the annual meeting for you to ask questions and share input with council members and Pastor Carl. The dates and details of these meetings are still being finalized. Watch for more information to come after the first of the year.

The most important step is to continue to pray. We are still in the midst of our Gideon Moment and God will continue to be with us in this moment. If we take time to listen and pray, He will teach us and comfort us. He will lead us through this financial valley to brighter days and significant ministry ahead.

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



Dear Discover Church Family,

First and foremost, many of you are aware by now that I volunteered to temporarily step down to a half-time position as your Associate Pastor as of the first day of this New Year (January 1st, 2018). Please know that I decided on this course of action with the best interest of our congregation at heart – in order to reach a workable budget for 2018. That being said, I would be lying if I said that I am not worried nor concerned about this decision, especially in regards to my family's financial wellbeing. However, as a servant of God who trusts in his provision and grace, I take comfort in the assurance that God has always and will continue to make a way for us. Furthermore, as my decision to be half-time is temporary, I am strengthened by the goal of our Church Council to restore and re-instate me to full-time as soon as it is financially possible for this congregation to do so. In the meantime, I covet your prayers and support in finding and landing a half-time position somewhere in the area, and soon, in order to fill the financial gap in my household.

It is unfortunate that hard and difficult decisions like this have to be made. However, I am confident that this congregation's best years are ahead of us, not behind us. I'm thankful for each of you for being a part of this faith family. Yes, I am convinced that God still has great plans and opportunities for us to be his hands and feet in the community, if not in the world, so that all people may discover their full life in Christ. Let's carry on!

Secondly, I want to thank all our Afrikan brothers and sisters at Discover Church who were involved in the success of our Afrikan Krismas Night, on Saturday, December 16th. We had great food, wonderful fellowship, lovely songs, and beautiful stories of how Christmas is celebrated in some parts of Afrika; even "Old Man Beggar" (a Liberian Santa Clause) showed up and delighted everyone with his dancing skill. All in all, it was a beautiful night and I thank all those who had a hand, or two, in its success. Asante Sana!

Lastly, all Lutherans across the globe know that 2017 marked the 500 year anniversary of the Lutheran and Protestant Reformation, the event that birthed so many Protestant Churches, including our Lutheran heritage. Back in October, I taught on the Protestant Reformation during our 9:15 Sunday morning Adult Class in preparation for this grand anniversary. Many of you who were in the class found the topic fascinating and wanted to continue the study. I agreed then that we'd do so during this month of January. Therefore, I invite you to come each Sunday (9:15a.m. class) during January and let us continue to celebrate, understand and give thanks for Martin Luther and the other Reformers of the 15th and 16th centuries.



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!



Snow Tubing at Elm Creek:

Saturday, January 20th

Toby Mac Concert:

Sunday, February 25th

Girl's 5th & 6th Grade Overnight:

TBD for March

Roller Garden's Family Night:

Saturday, March 10th.

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

2018 TOBY MAC HITS DEEP TOUR



Seven-time GRAMMY winner TOBYMAC will bring his dynamic HITS DEEP Tour to Minneapolis, alongside a talent-packed line up including DANNY GOKEY, MANDISA, RYAN STEVENSON and FINDING FAVOUR.

Upper Level Tickets \$22 Each
Pay for your ticket by February 1st
Make Checks Payable
to Discover Church
Please contact John Teske
for information
jeteske@comcast.net

Join us for the Toby Mac Concert at Target Center on Sunday, February 25th. Group discount tickets are \$22 each. Although this is a late night, it is a fantastic night for faith formation! Check out the Children's Ministry table in the education wing entry way for more info or contact John Teske at jeteske@comcast.net.

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



WINTER Retreat

We will be heading back up to Camp Patmos, an LCMC Bible Camp, in Hackensack, MN where we will have an awesome weekend filled with Biblical teachings, small group time, worship, and a little time to relax with your friends.

- **When:** Friday, January 12 through Sunday, January 14th
- **Registration:** Registration materials are available outside the youth room and are due Wednesday, January 3rd.
- **Cost \$90:** Covers all lodging, food & transportation costs. Scholarships are available.
- **For More Information:** Please contact Pastor Jon

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 7:	Journey Confirmation
January 12-14:	Winter Retreat
February 11:	Journey Confirmation
February 16:	Lock In
June 17-22:	Milwaukee Mission Trip
July 15-20:	Houston Mission Trip

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. Come check it out next Wednesday!



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



Friday Night Live is a monthly fun and fellowship event for 7th-12th graders. We will not have Friday Night Live in January due to the Winter Retreat.

FEBRUARY LOCK IN

Our February event will be a lock in on February 16. Watch for more details to come soon.

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 AND GROW

DiscoverChurch LIFEGROUPS

BELIEVE BELONG BLESS

LOOKING TO GET CONNECTED AT DISCOVER? JOIN A LIFE GROUP!

What exactly is a Life Group? It's simply a group of people who want to gather monthly (or more) to fellowship, eat, do a Bible study, pray, serve and connect with other members of the group. Some groups are formed based on geography and others on common interests or stages of life. All our Life Groups are centered around the Discover Church Vision Statement of Believe, Belong and Bless. Check out our Life Group display on the wall in the foyer at church. Group contact information is available there so that you can find a group that fits your life. For more info about Life Groups, see Pastor Carl.

LIFE GROUPS LARGE GROUP MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 AT 11:30am

We want to celebrate our Life Group ministry and invite all Life Group members to join us for a pot luck lunch on Sunday, January 7 at 11:30am. Bring a dish to share. This is a time for fellowship and celebration. If you are looking to join a Life Group, please join us and meet some group members!

NEW LIFE GROUP: BIBLE AND BREWS

Introducing a new Life Group: Bible and Brews. Join us on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 6pm to Pastor Jon's house, 1309 82nd Ave N, for some time reading the Bible, praying and all the while enjoying a new craft beer. It will be a relaxed evening listening and learning from the Bible and one another. Grab a bottle and spend the evening with friends. For more info contact Vicki Epper at 763-486-6412 or oojonli@gmail.com.

LIFE GROUPS DISPLAY UPDATE

We will be updating the Life Group foyer display and information packets this month. If your Life Group needs to update your contact info or submit a new picture for the display, please send them by January 14 to patsycesare@discoverchurchnetwork.org



ADULT EDUCATION
SUNDAYS 9:15am

January Adult Education Hour Series: The Protestant Reformation

In 2017 Lutherans across the globe marked the 500 year anniversary of the Lutheran and Protestant Reformation. In October, Pastor La taught an adult ed series on the Reformation in honor of this grand anniversary. Many in the class found the topic fascinating and wanted to continue the study. In January Pastor La will offer part 2 of the series and let us continue to celebrate, understand and give thanks for Martin Luther and the other Reformers of the 15th and 16th centuries.

Coming In February:

Love and Covenant: Taught by Christy Grigor. Watch for more information to come.



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 will have a pot luck lunch together after the study on the first Wednesday of the month.

All Church Prayer

Saturday, January 7th 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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Can you give a little of your time to help the ministry of Discover Church? Here are several ministries that need volunteers. Where is God calling you to serve?

Worship Slides/ Tech Crew: We need volunteers to run the media slides at the 10:30am service once a month. No experience is needed and training is provided. Contact Kim Saastamoinen at kimsaas@gmail.com.

Ushers: We are looking for more ushers at both services. This is an important ministry that helps guests & members alike feel welcome. Serve just once a month. Contact patsy.cesare@discoverchurchnetwork.org for more info.

Welcome Desk & Greeters: Help make Discover Church a welcoming place. Serve just once a month and welcome people as they come to church. For more info contact patsy.cesare@discoverchurchnetwork.org

Children's Ministry Teachers and Helpers: 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.

Serve and Clean Up Meals: We do not currently have a Hospitality Coordinator and need volunteers to help occasionally serve and clean up meals. You would be contacted on an as needed basis to see if you are available. Contact Jessica.kuhn@discoverchurchnetwork.org

- Church Fellowship Meals—mostly Sunday lunchtime meals such as Life Group gatherings, annual meeting lunch, etc.
- Funeral Meals—mostly weekday daytime.
- Evening Fellowship Meals—weekday evening meals that may accompany a special service or meeting.

Kitchen Cleaning: We are looking for help with special cleaning projects in our church kitchen. The schedule would be flexible to suit your availability. Contact Jessica at Jessica.kuhn@discoverchurchnetwork.org

CHRISTMAS CLEANUP WORK DAY SATURDAY, JANUARY 6 AT 9:00am

Please help us Saturday, January 6 as we take down Christmas decorations, clean up and reset things around the church. Many hands make light work. Contact Jessica Kuhn in the church office for more information.



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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE LUNCH AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

We will be having a catered lunch at the annual meeting on Sunday, January 28. We need volunteers to help set up tables, serve and clean up. We do not currently have a Hospitality Coordinator and most of our staff will be working to help run the meeting, so your help is really needed. Please sig up at the Ministry Desk. Contact Jessica Kuhn in the church office for more information.

DISCOVER CHURCH SER>ES



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN MEGA PACK COMING IN FEBRUARY

We will be joining forces with other area churches again this year for the FMSC Mega Pack! For the past 2 years, we have had a goal of packing a million meals in 1 week. We have surpassed that goal each year. So this year we are reaching for a bigger goal of TWO MILLION MEALS! Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 25 from 4-6pm. Sign ups and more details will be available in early February.

Women's Ministry

Starting January 11th, Women of Glory will start a new 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: January 28.**

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, January 7th at 9:30am at Perkins in Osseo.

Lunch at Broadway Pizza: We will meet for lunch on Thursday, January 18th at 11:00am at Broadway Pizza in Brooklyn Park.

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

JANUARY DEVOTIONAL

A New Year always feels like a clean slate. Our calendar has no marks on it yet and there are lots of possibilities. What lies ahead?

We know God is with us. *"You will show me the path of life; in your presence is fullness of joy.; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."*

Psalm 16:11 NKJV

We know that there are perhaps trials and tribulations in the future but joy filled times too. Someday in heaven, we will come to the place that God has prepared for His people, where life will be a pleasure, with no pain, no tears. Until then, if we choose to stay in His presence, our path will be so much smoother.

What shall we say then, let us celebrate all the beauty that God has created for us to enjoy. Beautiful sunsets and sunrises, birds and squirrels, pets, little children, flowers and clean snowfalls, forests, mountains and peaceful rivers. God has said, "It is very good."

Holy Hugs
Nancy Brown

God Is Moving Today *By Jean Hansen*

*God is moving today!
God's promises are real and true.
What do they mean to you?*

*Let Your Glory fall and go from here
To the nations of the world we hold dear.
The signs in politics and Heaven's signs we fear.
Let us remember our God is near.*

*In our times as knowledge does increase
The love of the world waxes cold and may cease.
The heroes of the faith were persecuted and died.
Some like Judas betrayed, Peter denied.
Remember Jesus is by your side.*

*"Follow me, I've shown you the way,
Take my example — live it today."
Be strengthened — don't be dismayed.
Our Lord Jesus will show you the way!*

Business and Financials

ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28
11:30AM**

**Discover Church Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 28 at 11:30am
In Faith Hall**

**Lunch provided for a free will offering
Volunteers needed to help serve lunch
Child care available during the meeting**

**Election of Church Council members
Election of Nominating Committee
Approval of 2018 Budget
Update on current & future ministries**

**Annual reports available January 14
Contains a list of candidates
2017 financial summary
2018 proposed budget
Staff and ministry reports**

 **RAISE FUNDS FOR DISCOVER
WHEN YOU SHOP
ON AMAZON**

Discover is a member of the Amazon Smile program, which earns us a small percentage on the purchases you are already making with no additional cost to you. Go to www.smile.amazon.com. Select Brooklyn Park Lutheran as your charity of choice. Then make your purchases as usual. It's that simple!

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Financial Report through December 25, 2017

2017 Annual Budget	909,947
Year-to-Date Offerings	852,361
Year-to-Date Actual Spending	880,416
Year-to-Date Variance	(28,055)

Electronic Giving Program

The Simply Giving® Program is an auto-withdrawal 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 supported in 2017:

- *International Student Fellowship*
- *YWAM – Todd & Vickie Hedgepeth*
- *Wycliffe Associates - Chuck & Cheryl Liesch*
- *China Outreach – Tom & Kathy Lindstrom*
- *World Mission Prayer League – Jeff & Kathy Dahl*
- *Guyanese Outreach – Ruth Singh*
- *South American Missions – Greg Dahl*
- *NICO – Dinesh Chand*
- *Hope Lutheran, Madagascar*
- *TeamServe – Ethiopia*
- *Disaster Relief*
- *Madagascar Seminary*
- *Teen Homeless Shelter (Avenues)*
- *Hospitality House*
- *ReSolved Ministry—Vicki Epper*

**See the 2017 Annual Report for information on
ministries we will be supporting in 2018**

January 2018

January 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2	3 6:30pm Youth Small Groups	4 7:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Sacred Stretches	5	6 9:00am All Church Prayer 9:00am Christmas Decorating Clean Up
7 8:00am Worship 9:15am Ed. Hour 9:30am Amazing Grays Brunch 10:30am Worship 11:30am Life Group Pot Luck 6:30pm Youth Journey	8	9 6:00pm Stewardship Committee 7:00pm Church Council	10 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Small Groups	11 6:30pm Quilting 7:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Sacred Stretches	12	13 9:00am Men's Prayer Mtg
14 8:00am Worship 9:15am Ed. Hour 10:30am Worship	15 9:00am Quilting	16	17 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Small Groups	18 11:00am AG Lunch 7:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Sacred Stretches	19	20 9:00am Men's Prayer Mtg 1:00pm Tubing at Elm Creek
Youth Retreat					Youth Winter Retreat	
21 8:00am Worship 9:15am Ed. Hour 10:30am Worship	22	23	24 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Small Groups	25 7:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Sacred Stretches	26	27 9:00am Men's Prayer Mtg
28 8:00am Worship 9:15am Ed. Hour 10:30am Worship 10:30am Life After Loss 11:30am Annual Meeting	29 9:00am Quilting	30	31 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Small Groups			

LONG RANGE DATES:

Feb 14: Ash Wednesday
 Feb 24: Staff/Council Long Range Planning Retreat
 March 25: Palm Sunday
 April 1: Easter