

**November 2017** 



# From Pastor Carl's Desk

By Pastor Carl Billings

### FAQ about our Gideon moment

Philippians 4:19 "My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

### Q: What is this "Gideon moment" that everyone is talking about?

A: There are two criteria to a Gideon moment. First, that God has given us a mission. Discover Church's mission is "Inviting all people to discover their full life in Christ." Second, that the mission is of such a size that we must look to God to provide the resources. Discover Church is facing such a moment. It is the reason why the Church Council called for a week of prayer and fasting last month to ask God to provide the resources to accomplish our mission.

#### Q: How do you think the week of prayer and fasting went?

A: Great! I was very heartened by the involvement of the congregation, both for the entire week and for the twenty four hours of prayer. I had multiple people come up to me and share how the Lord spoke to them during that week.

#### Q: Can you share what people shared with you?

A: I can sum up it in one word: revival. This week of prayer and fasting is going to be an inflection point that leads our congregation in a time of revival and spiritual growth.

#### Q: What about you Pastor, did the Lord speak to you in a specific way?

A: The one specific message that I received from the Lord comes from the theme verse for the week, "My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." I felt God tell me that He will meet our needs, not according to our needs, but according to the riches of His glory. I felt God speaking to me at several other times during the week but each of them can be summed up in that theme verse.

## Q: What do we do now?

A: First, I believe that we have to wait for the Lord's timing to answer our prayer. The week of prayer and fasting was an act of faith that God will provide the resources to accomplish His mission. God's timing is always perfect but sometimes slower than we would like. While we wait I would encourage you to continue to pray.

#### Q: How should we pray?

A: Pray that God will provide for us the resources (time, talent and treasure) so that we can accomplish the mission that He has given us. For specific prayers I would encourage you to look at the devotional that was published for the week of prayer and fasting.

## Continued on page 3



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# 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









## 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
Sara Brandon, Director of Hospitality: Ext. 1007
Patsy Cesare, Administrative Assistant: Ext. 1000

Bud Larson, Custodian

## 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

## Pastor Carl's Article Continued

## Pastor Carl's Article Continued from page 1

## Q: How do you hope God will act?

A: As I said in my initial sermon, I hope God will answer our prayer His way and that when His answer comes we will know that God has acted and that God should receive all the glory.

#### Q: Are the staff and lay leadership making any plans for the future?

A: Yes. The annual meeting is coming up in January so we are already working on the 2018 budget. We are currently creating a budget that is about the same dollar amount as the 2017 budget. However, that could change depending on how we finish this year financially. I am also pulling together a team of leaders that can advise me on future staffing levels depending on our yearly giving. Both the budget and changes in staffing would be brought before the council prior to the annual meeting and the budget, of course, would be approved by the congregation at the annual meeting on Sunday, January 28 at 11:30am.

#### Q: In light of the past couple years, how do you feel about our congregation?

A: I am hopeful. Discover Church is a very special place. In my Gideon moment sermon, I shared a conversation I had with a visitor who confirmed that reality. Just recently, I had a similar conversation with a board member of Hospitality House who shared how unique and special he thought our congregation was. I heard similar things from many of you. Add to this that we continue to try to improve our ability to *invite all people to discover their full life in Christ*. Several examples include our overall hospitality on Sunday mornings, more fellowship/belong events, our growing Life Groups ministry and a new ministry that you will hear more about called "Discover Church Serves."

## From Pastor La's Desk Pastor La Andriamihaja



"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever." (I Chronicles 16:34)

Growing up in Madagascar, we don't have a national day of thanksgiving. I suppose it's because each day should be a day of giving thanks to God and others in our lives. As a young child, I remember being taught the protocols and the art of appropriately expressing thankfulness whenever I given something by someone. And I can also recall the stern words and the disapproving looks from my parents and other adults when I had forgotten to be thankful. Hmmm! ...I wonder if God gives us such looks when we've forgotten to thank Him for the unfathomable blessings He lavishes on us each day?

Well friends, this Thanksgiving season, I invite you to be intentional in thinking about how God has blessed you since last Thanksgiving. Yes, I realize that the list can be long and tedious, but that's where the "intentional" part of it comes in. List the blessings that you know beyond the shadow of a doubt that "it was all God's doing." And then, share and explain your list at your family Thanksgiving gatherings. As for me, my list, thus far, includes being thankful that I golf, a phenomenon of only God's doing in my life. Thank you, Lord.



# **Children and Family Ministries**Christy Grigor, Director



## NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN DURING THE 10:30AM FAMILY SERVICE

#### Childcare for children up to age 5:

During this service childcare is offered for babies 3 months old to children age 5. This is located in the last classroom on the right of the Education wing. You can check your child in at the beginning of the service, or after the Children's Ministry Sermon!

#### New "On The Way" Class for grade K-2:

We now offer a new K-2nd grade class during the sermon time of the 10:30am family service. These younger elementary kids will still worship with their families at the beginning of service, come up for the children's sermon, and then be escorted out to the new "On The Way" class. Parents can come pick up their kids in the 4yr-K classroom after service. We will continue to offer nursery care for age 5 and under during the entire service.

#### Great Salvation Institute for grades 1-6:

During the service children can fill out worksheets based on the sermon to earn points to get prizes from the prize cart! There are also color sheets, clip boards and twistable crayons for younger ones to stay busy!



## Roller Garden's Family Nights:

Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

## **Children's Chrismas Program:**

Sunday, December 10 at both services

## **Snow Tubing at Elm Creek:**

Saturday, January 27th

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CLASSES SUNDAY MORNING'S AT 9:15AM

### Nursery, 6 weeks to age 3

A staff that LOVES babies, and special developmental toys for the many stages of interest for babies to toddlers is our strength. Mouthed toys are washed weekly. Special snacks for babies and toddlers, as well as sippy cups are used each week. The highest standards of safety are maintained. Your child will feel loved, safe and cared for.

#### 3's Class

This class is taught by a seasoned veteran and has a wonderful routine. Puppets, plenty of helpers, snacks, activities and a fantastic array of children's toys will initially encourage your child. Nurture, Bible time, snacks, crafts and play make this a favorite time for our current children.

#### 4's & 5's Class

This class is for ages 4 years to Kindergarten. Opening activities, Bible time, group activities, snack time and a craft time are the Sunday routine. Allowing time for our children to play together is also part of the Sunday routine. Children learn the basic foundations of faith in units that last about a month.

#### **Boys 1st and 2nd Grade Class**

Lessons that are a foundation to our faith are taught with a healthy mix of object lessons, activities and teaching that boys of this age can understand.

#### Girls 1st and 2nd Grade Class

Lessons that are a foundation to our faith are taught with object lessons, songs, crafts and relational ministry.

#### Combined Boys and Girl's 3rd and 4th Grade

Foundational lessons of faith are taught with object lessons, activities and games. More emphasis is put on life application through prayer, discussions and relational ministry.

#### 5th and 6th grades

Boys and Girls have their own classes that suit their interests. Both classes are taught by wonderful, seasoned, caring teachers. These classes challenge our 56ers to grow up in the expression of their faith. Couches, tables, and a comfortable environment will welcome your child.

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



## **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! Please note: No small groups on Wednesday, November 22.



## **Friday Night Live**

Friday Night Live is a monthly fun and fellowship event for 7-12th graders. FNL will be on Friday, November 10th. Bring your friends! It's free!



## **Journey Confirmation**

The Journey Confirmation program will meet on Sunday, November 5th from 6:30-8:00pm in the youth room. All 7-9 graders are invited.

# Milwaukee Youth Mission Trip June 17<sup>th</sup> – June 22<sup>nd</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade

While in Milwaukee, our team will have the opportunity to serve with **Youthworks** as they come alongside organizations that are working to support local communities. One of these is Scott Christian Community Center, which houses a food pantry and clothing give away service. Another organization we could serve alongside is Gingerbread Land, a neighborhood beautification organization. We may also serve at elder care centers or a soup kitchen. In the evenings, we'll have the opportunity to participate in a church service, go to the beach of Lake Michigan and hear from a community friend who works with teenagers and adults growing up in the inner city.

### **Chaperones:**

 The trip will be led by Pastor Jonathan Brandon and chaperoned by adults from Discover Church.

#### **Travel & Lodging:**

- We will be driving to Milwaukee as a mission team.
- While there, we will be housed in a local church during the week.
- All meals are provided during the stay.

#### **Trip Cost:**

- \$460.00
- \$100.00 deposit due by Sunday, December 10
- Fundraisers will be available



Sunday, November 5: Journey Friday, November 10: Friday Night Live

Sunday, December 3: Journey

Friday, December 1: Friday Night Live January 16-18, 2018: Winter Retreat

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

## **Opportunities to Serve**



# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

You can help bring the love of Jesus to children all over the world through Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes! All boxes and donations need to be returned Oct 22 -Nov 5th.

There are three ways to participate:

- Simply fill a shoebox or standard shoebox sized plastic container with small toys and personal items
- Bring items and we will pack shoe boxes for you
- Make a donation to cover the cost of shipping boxes over seas—\$9 a box. Checks should be made to Samaritans Purse.

Suggested items include deflated soccer balls, flashlights with batteries, small toys, dolls with light brown skin, jump ropes, new t-shirts with no writing on them, socks, comb, bars of soap in a plastic soap case, toothbrushes, pens, pencils & pencil sharpeners, colored pencils, sunglasses, No toy guns, liquids, food or candy.



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11 9:00am - NOON We need your help with some fall cleaning & maintenance projects around the building. Many hands make light work, so please consider giving a few hours of your morning Saturday, November 11 to help keep the church looking great! Contact Pastor La for more information.



7he Sharing Be part of sharing the love of Jesus with others this Christmas with the Sharing Tree. Starting November 26, you can take an ornament from the tree in the foyer and purchase the gift on the back. Bring your gift back UNWRAPPED and place it under the tree by December 10th. Gifts will be distributed through International Student Fellowship, Sharing and Caring Hands and to needy families in our area. Thanks for touching Jesus by blessing others! For more info contact Dorris Petit-Von Mende at 763-412-9477.



## **UNION GOSPEL MISSION**

## THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Provide Thanksgiving meals for families in need through Union Gospel Mission's annual food drive
October 1-November 5

- Pick up a shopping list on the Ministry Desk.
   Please only donate items that are on the list.
- Bring food to church by Sunday, November 5.
- If you don't want to shop, you can give money and we will shop for you! \$9 buys all the dry goods, \$10 buys a turkey and \$19 pays for both. Place cash or check in the box on the ministry desk.
- Watch the tally on the display in the foyer go up as we work toward our goal of 300 meals!

## HOUSTON MISSION TRIP JULY 15-20, 2017

The impact of Hurricane Harvey is extensive. Thousands of homes have water damage, over 30,000 people have been displaced, businesses and schools have been effected as well. Praying Pelican Missions is working with church partners within the Houston area to support them in long-term relief efforts. We will come alongside these churches as they serve their communities. Our team will be assisting with cleanup, clear out, and/or repair of water damaged homes, as well as other projects identified by our partner churches. The trip will be led by Pastor Jonathan Brandon & additional adults from Discover Church.

#### Who Can Go:

 The trip is open to anyone age 12 and up. Youth age 12 to 15 must be accompanied by an adult.

## Estimated Trip Cost: \$1,100.00

- Final cost determined by travel expenses as we get closer to the date.
- \$200.00 deposit due by Sunday, December 10th

#### **Travel, Lodging & Meals:**

- We will be flying to Houston.
- We will then rent vans for transportation around the city.
- We will still stay in a local church during the week.
- All meals are provided during the stay.

## **OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND GROW**



BELIEVE BELONG BLESS

Neighborhood Small Groups are now called Life Groups! We are excited to re-launch this ministry this fall. We are celebrating our existing groups, inviting new people to join them and starting brand new groups too. 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 build connections 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 brand new Life Group display on the wall in the fover 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.



## **All Church Prayer**

Saturday, October 7 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.



## WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Join us for a Bible Study series "Acts of the Holy Spirit" a study of the book of Acts lead by Pastor Carl on Wednesday mornings at 9:30am in the foyer. We will have a pot luck lunch together after the study at 11:00am on the first Wednesday of the month.



# ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES SUNDAYS 9:15am

## **NOVEMBER: MISSION FOCUS**

Our adult education hour for November will have a mission focus. Each Sunday will feature a different mission organization that we support and will often include hands on activities.

Sunday, November 5: Union Gospel Mission

As we finish up our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive for UGM, come hear about their ministry in some of the poorest areas of our city. You will also have a chance to write words of encouragement to people who are staying in their shelters.

Sunday, November 12: Quilting Ministry

Our Discover Church Quilting Ministry will share about their ministry and have quilts set up for us to tie. No experience is necessary. If you can tie a knot, you can do it! We will also be dedicating all the quilts they've made over the last year during both services.

Sunday, November 19: Families Moving Forward Join us as we play a board game designed to show you the many factors that contribute to homelessness and the kinds of decisions homeless families are faced with every day. This will be an eye opening activity with a time of discussion to follow.

Sunday, November 26: Hospitality House

Come learn more about the ministry of Hospitality House Youth Development and how they are serving children and youth in need in the inner city of Minneapolis.

# COMING IN DECEMBER: GOD IN THE FLESH

As we prepare to celebrate the season of Christmas, come to the Sunday morning Adult Education Hour Sundays at 9:15am, December 3-17 and wonder with Pastor La as to why there is a God who chose to be among us "in the flesh" – the Emmanuel.

Please note there will be no education hour on Sunday, December 24 and Sunday, December 31 for children or adults.

## **Welcome New Members**



#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Congratulations to Xao Kue, Beth, Lane and Marlo Lovre, Moses Neekpo, Bruce and Becky Medearis and Tony, Kristi, Archer, Siane and Aili Peltier who are becoming new members this morning. Welcome to the Discover Church family!

## **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.

## **Amazing Grays**

**Brunch Bunch:** Join us for brunch on Sunday, November 5th at 9:30am at Bakers Square in Brooklyn Park.

**Lunch:** All Seniors are invited to join us for lunch on Thursday, November 16th at 11:00am at Sarnas Classic Grill, 3939 University in Columbia Heights. We will carpool from church.

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

## **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 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: November 26

**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.

## **Holiday Season**



THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22 AT 7:00PM
JOIN US AFTER WORSHIP FOR FELLOWSHIP
AND PUMPKIN OR APPLE PIE!
A FREE WILL OFFERING
WILL BE TAKEN



HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2nd 9am-12pm PASTRIES AND COFFEE WILL BE SERVED



Christmas Eve Services
December 24 at 10:00am, 4:30pm & 9:30pm

Christmas Day Service December 25 at 10:00am

New Years Eve Sunday Service December 31 at 10:00am—One service only

## Reflections



This is just a momentary affliction. Sometimes we get our undies in a bunch over the smallest things. We make a big deal over things that we forget by next Tuesday. It is important to realize that we shouldn't sweat the small stuff. Our faithful Lord is able to carry the load that we sometimes insist on carrying.

When the big stuff comes around, guess what! He will carry your burdens as well. He is there 24/7 to hear us share our fears and struggles. We remember that all our troubles are light and momentary compared with the eternal glory being achieved by them. Our eyes have not seen the glory that shall be revealed to us. Saints, its worth waiting for!

His richest blessings Holy hugs, Nancy Brown



### **FELLOWSHIP** By Jean Hansen

Do you keep in touch with old friends? What is your connection, relationship, trend? Fellowship, a deep relationship, values Common thread and trust For Christians loving Jesus is a must.

> Jesus is the sovereign Lord Maker of all things He is to be adored.

Jesus is the Church's Cornerstone. He taught his disciples Sent them to places far from home.

The Holy Spirit is given To those who obey Him Testifying to the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus our Savior, Healer, Defender, Master of all Many lives He restored.

> From the Holy Land One movement is still around The witness of Jesus Is now everywhere to be found.

## **Business and Financials**

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Financial Report through October 22, 2017

2017 Annual Budget 909,947 Year-to-Date Offerings 673.489 Year-to-Date Actual Spending 715,141 Year-to-Date Variance (41,652)

## **Electronic Giving Program**

The Simply Giving® Program is an auto-withdrawl 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.



## RAISE FUNDS FOR DISCOVER WHEN YOU SHOP ON AMAZON THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Discover Church is a member of the Amazon Smile program, which earns us a small percentage on the purchases you already making with no additional cost to you. Go to ww.smile.amazon.com. Select Brooklyn Park Lutheran as your charity of choice. Then make your purchases as usual. Contact Jessica Kuhn for more information.



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 will support 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 Ethopia
- Disaster Relief
- Madagascar Seminary
- Teen Homeless Shelter (Avenues)
- Hospitality House
- ReSolved Ministry—Vicki Epper

#### November 2017 Sunday Monday **Tuesday** Wednesday **Thursday Friday** Saturday 1 2 3 4 9:30am 7:00pm Men's 9:00am All Bible Study Bible Study Church Prayer 11:00 Bible 7:00pm Women's Study Pot Luck Bible Study 6:30pm Youth 7:00pm Sacred **Small Groups** Stretches 10 11 6:30pm Quilting 8:00am Trad 9:00am Quiliting 9:30am 7:00pm Youth 9:00am Men's 9:15am Ed. Hour Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Fri Night Live Prayer Mtg 6:30pm Youth Bible Study 9:00am Church 9:30am Amazing 7:00pm Women's Grays Brunch **Small Groups** Workday 10:30am Cont. Bible Study 6:30pm Youth 7:00pm Sacred Journey . Stretches 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 6:00pm 11:00am 8:00am Trad. 9:30am 7:00am Mayor's 9:00am Men's 9:15am Ed. Hour Stewardship Bible Study AG Lunch Prayer Prayer Mtg 6:30pm Youth 10:30am Cont. Committee 7:00pm Men's Breakfast 6:20pm Small Groups Bible Study 7:00pm Church Roller Skating 7:00pm Women's Council Bible Study 7:00pm Sacred Stretches 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 9:00am Quiliting 9:30am 9:00am Men's **THANKSGIVING** 8:00am Trad. Bible Study Prayer Mtg 9:15am Ed. Hour 7:00pm 10:30am Cont. Thanksgiving **Eve Worship OFFICE OFFICE CLOSED CLOSED** 27 28 26 29 30 8:00am Trad. 9:30am 7:00pm Men's Bible Study 9:15am Ed. Hour Bible Study 10:30am Cont. 6:30pm Youth 7:00pm Women's

## **LONG RANGE DATES:**

10:30am Life After

Loss

Dec 2: Christmas Decorating

Dec 10: Children's Christmas Program

Dec 24: Christmas Eve Services at 10:00am, 4:30pm & 9:30pm

Dec 25: Christmas Day Service at 10:00am

Dec 31: New Years Eve Sunday Service at 10:00am

One service only

Jan 28: Annual Meeting
Feb 14: Ash Wednesday
Feb 24: Staff/Council Long Range Planning Retreat

Bible Study 7:00pm Sacred

Stretches

**Small Groups**