



From Pastor Carl's Desk

By Pastor Carl Billings

Philippians 4:6-8

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

You are probably reading this after Thanksgiving and at the beginning of Advent. More importantly, you are reading this just as the frenetic activity of the holiday seasons begins. Let me state up front that I love this time of year. I love the seasonal music (both religious and secular) and the decorations. I love shopping for gifts for love ones and receiving gifts from them. I love the big meals and special treats. I love the stories and traditions that have grown up around these two holidays. It truly can be a wonderful time of year.

If we are not careful, however, we can let the trappings of the season: food, decorations, shopping, special parties, and presents, obscure the heart of both Thanksgiving and Christmas. We can go through this holiday season at such a frenetic pace that instead of experiencing the joy of the season we just end up tired and frustrated. In the hustle and bustle of the season, we can lose sight of what is truly important. Add to this the worry and anxiety of an uncertain future. Many of us are facing that worry on numerous levels from international tensions, to our "Gideon moment" here at Discover Church, to personal concerns. The holiday season can end up being anything but peaceful. In addition, for some of us the holidays have become times of loneliness and grief due to the fact that we have recently lost a loved one. Because of that grief, we face the holidays not with joy but with trepidation.

Thankfulness can be both an antidote to that feeling of frustration and anxiety as well as comfort in times of loneliness. Make room in your schedule to fellowship with God. Take time to thank our Father for all the good gifts He has showered on us. Think about all of those things in your life that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable. Take time to think about them to thank the Lord for them and to trust that God will see you through any present need. Indeed, the Bible is right – if we take that time to remember God's gifts and trust God for our needs the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

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
Sara Brandon, Director of Hospitality:	Ext. 1007
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*



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!

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

We now offer a K-2nd grade class during the sermon time of the 10:30am family service. These younger 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 "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!



Children's Christmas Program:

Sunday, December 10 at both services

Roller Garden's Family Nights:

Saturday, March 3rd

Snow Tubing at Elm Creek:

Saturday, January 27th

2018 TOBYMAC 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–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

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: There will be no small groups on Wednesday, December 27.**

FRIDAY NIGHTLIVE

Friday Night Live is a monthly fun and fellowship event for 7th-12th graders. FNL will be on Friday, December 1st. Bring your friends! It's free!

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 17th – June 22nd 7th – 12th 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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, December 1: Friday Night Live
Sunday, December 3: Journey
Sunday, January 7: Journey
January 12-14, 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.

Holiday Season



HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 9am—NOON

Help bring Christmas cheer to the church by helping decorate! Many hands make light work. Refreshments will be served. Contact Sara Brandon for more info at sara.brandon@discoverchurchnetwork.org.



AFRIKAN KRISMAS NIGHT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 AT 6:00PM

We invite everyone to come and experience how different Afrikan people and cultures celebrate the birth of our Savior. There will be a variety of foods to enjoy, stories and traditions to learn and the meaning of Christmas to our Afrikan Sisters and Brothers.



The Sharing Tree

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.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT BOTH SERVICES



HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24

10:00am - Children's focus service

No education hour for children or adults

4:30pm - contemporary candle light service

9:30pm - traditional candle light service

Christmas Day Service with Communion

Monday, December 25 at 10:00am

New Years Eve Sunday Service

Sunday, December 31

10:00am—One service only

No education hour for children or adults



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

Planning to shop on Amazon this holiday season? Discover 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. It's that simple!



JOIN THE CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Come join the fun and sing in the choir on Christmas Eve at the 4:30pm & 9:30pm services. You can sing at both services or just one. Young and old welcome (7th grade and up). Rehearsals will be Mondays Dec. 4, 11 and 18 at 7pm in the Chapel. Music and rehearsal CD's will be available at the 1st rehearsal. Sign up at the ministry desk. For more information contact Tirzah Gerber at kingdomrhythms@msn.com.

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN

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 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 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.



ADULT EDUCATION SUNDAYS 9:15am

GOD IN THE FLESH

As we prepare to celebrate the season of Christmas, come to the Sunday Adult Ed Hour in December and wonder with Pastor La why there is a God who chose to be among us "in the flesh" the Emmanuel.

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

NEW LIFE GROUP: BIBLE AND BREWS

Introducing a new Life Group: Bible and Brews. Join us on Sun, Dec 17th at 6pm to Pastor Jonathon'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.



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.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

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 in Houston.
- We will still stay in a local church during the week.
- All meals are provided during the stay.

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?

10:30am Nursery: URGENT NEED. Help in the nursery just once a month during the 10:30am family service and help families experience the love of Jesus while we lovingly take care of their little ones. Contact Christy Grigor for more info at Christy.grigor@discoverchurchnetwork.org.

Tech Crew: We need some more volunteers to run the media slides at the 10:30am service. No experience is needed and training is provided. Contact Kim 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 for more information at patsy.cesare@discoverchurchnetwork.org

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 information contact Patsy at patsy.cesare@discoverchurchnetwork.org

All Church Prayer

Saturday, December 2 at 9:00am
Every first Saturday of the month



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, December 3 at 9:30am at the Roasted Pear

Holiday Flower Show: We will go to the Holiday Flower Show at Como Park on Tuesday, December 5th. We will car pool from church at 9:30am and go to lunch afterwards.

Christmas Luncheon: Our annual Christmas luncheon will be Thursday, December 14 at 11:00am. Holiday music by Touching Hearts and a catered lunch. Tickets are \$13 and will be on sale at the ministry desk on Sundays November 26th and December 3rd.

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 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: December 17th due to Christmas holiday.**

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.

Meal Ministry: Help us bless our members with meals in the event of a new baby, illness or death. It doesn't really 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.

Reflections

DECEMBER DEVOTIONAL

Beloved Saints,

There was a man sent from God whose name was John.. This man came for a witness of the Light, that all through Him might believe! (John 1:6-7)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld his glory, as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14)

We too are sent from God. Jesus dwells in us and we in Him. What a priceless gift He has given us, His presence. On the other hand, the secular Christmas can be tiring. We celebrate Christmas with family traditions that may have been made years ago. Choose the ones that bring you joy and leave those that don't.

He loves us so very much. So seek Him daily. Desire to know His love, and delight in it. May we enjoy the music, texture, and flavors of the Christmas season. May we not get caught up in the presents but enjoy His presence.

Holy Hugs,
Nancy Brown

The Gift That Keeps On Giving *By Jean Hansen*

*You are the gift that keeps on giving.
You are my Lord, Savior and King.
You are the gift that keeps on giving.
You are Lord of everything!*

*You are the Rock of my Salvation.
You are the One who died for me.
You are the Rock of my Salvation.
You are the one who sets us free!*

*You are the gift that keeps on giving.
Day after day, year after year,
You are the gift that keeps on giving.
You are the one who takes away fear.*

*You are the gift that keeps on giving.
You are the gift from above.
You are the gift that keeps on giving
You are the gift—the gift of love.*



*Every good and perfect gift is from above.
James 1:17*



From Director of Hospital Ministry Sara Brandon

Sara Brandon, Director of Hospitality Ministries will be stepping down from her position on December 3rd. Please read her message to the congregation below. We are so thankful for Sara’s commitment to providing excellent hospitality during her time at Discover and we wish her well in her new job. We will temporarily be covering the Director of Hospitalities responsibilities with a mix of current staff and volunteers. Please watch for more info to come soon about specific volunteer needs.

It is with a bittersweet heart that I step down from my position as Director of Hospitality Ministries. I have truly enjoyed serving this congregation in this role, and will miss it terribly. I have accepted a full-time position with MapleBrook Soccer Association as their Program Manager. I have been with MapleBrook as a player, volunteer, and contracted employee for the last 21 years, so stepping into a full-time position with an organization that I know so well is a huge blessing. I look forward to continuing to serve the people of Discover Church and the community as a volunteer for years to come. Thank you again for being such a blessing to me and my family!

In His Grip Always,
Sara Brandon

Business and Financials

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Financial Report through November 19, 2017

2017 Annual Budget	909,947
Year-to-Date Offerings	743,119
Year-to-Date Actual Spending	783,344
Year-to-Date Variance	(40,225)

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.



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS

Please note that the church office will be closed Monday, December 25 & Tuesday, December 26 for Christmas and Monday, January 1 for New Years Day.



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 – Ethiopia
- Disaster Relief
- Madagascar Seminary
- Teen Homeless Shelter (Avenues)
- Hospitality House
- ReSolved Ministry—Vicki Epper

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:00pm Youth Fri Night Live	2 9:00am All Church Prayer 9:00am Christmas Decorating
3 8:00am Trad 9:15am Ed. Hour 9:30am Amazing Grays Brunch 10:30am Cont. 6:30pm Youth Journey	4 9:00am Quilting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	5 9:30am Amazing Grays Flower Show	6 9:30am Bible Study 11:00am Bible Study Pot Luck 6:30pm Youth Small Groups	7 7:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Sacred Stretches	8	9 9:00am Men's Prayer Mtg
10 Children's Christmas Program 8:00am Trad. 9:15am Ed. Hour 10:30am Cont.	11 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	12 6:00pm Stewardship Committee 7:00pm Church Council	13 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Small Groups	14 11:00am AG Lunch 6:30pm Quilting 7:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Sacred Stretches	15	16 9:00am Men's Prayer Mtg 6:00pm Afrikan Krismas
17 8:00am Trad. 9:15am Ed. Hour 10:30am Cont. 10:30am Life After Loss	18 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	19	20 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Small Groups	21 7:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Sacred Stretches	22	23 9:00am Men's Prayer Mtg
24 CHRISTMAS EVE Worship: 10:00AM 4:30PM 9:30PM	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Worship: 10:00am OFFICE CLOSED	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27	28 7:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Sacred Stretches	29	30 9:00am Men's Prayer Mtg
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE Worship: 10:00am	LONG RANGE DATES: Jan 28: Annual Meeting Feb 14: Ash Wednesday Feb 24: Staff/Council Long Range Planning Retreat March 25: Palm Sunday April 1: Easter					