

From Pastor Carl's Desk

By Pastor Carl Billings

Isaiah 55:10-11

*As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return to it without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
it will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

As Christians God calls us to live in hope.

That is certainly true this time of year. March is a month of transition. We enter March in the dead of winter. For many of us we have grown weary of the cold, snow and gloom of winter. Yet by the end of March we begin to see the signs of the new life of spring. In Minnesota it is just the hint of spring; buds starting to show up on trees and bushes, maybe an early flower peeking it's head through the snow. Just a hint of spring, but with that hint we live in hope.

This year the end of March matches with the end of Lent. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday with the reminder, "remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." It ends on Easter with the proclamation, "He has Risen, He has Risen indeed." It is a reminder that our life depends on the love of God in the cross, and power of God in the empty tomb. We catch hints of that eternal life in this life: a powerful worship service, a chance to share God's love in service, an insight into our faith. They're just hints of our life in God's presence but with those hints we live in hope.

We are also in transition in our church. We could get anxious at some of the changes and it is certainly true that the budget cuts have been hard. Having said that, I feel like we are at the beginning of spring. I am seeing hints of new life poking up: a conversation with one member who says that she is excited for where our church is going, prayer with other members who are seeing God's Holy Spirit moving in revival and comments at both the annual meeting and the town hall that members want to be part of the solution, people sharing with me how committed they are to this church, a desire to reach out to people and invite them to discover their full life in Christ. These are just hints of the new growth, but with those hints we live in hope. The reason to live in hope is that God's word will not fail. It will accomplish God's purpose.

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?

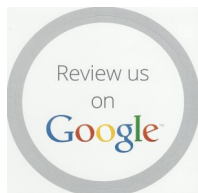
Please email Patsy Cesare,
Administrative Assistant at
Patsy.Cesare@discoverchurchnetwork.org

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



LENTEN COMMENTS: We are well into our 2018 Lenten journey, a journey that's to allow us to be more aware of our short falls as created beings and invites us to reflect on our Lord's ultimate sacrifice for humanity and all that there is. This Lenten season, the word, "Sacrifice" has a deeper and more meaningful reality to me and my family since I've volunteered to temporarily step down to a half-time for the sake of our congregational budget. Truth be told, I have missed being a full-time pastor in these last couple of months. I do want to thank all those who have been praying and working on solutions to re-instate my status and finance back to full-time. Please keep it up! I suppose I can safely say that I am "giving up something for Lent." Be that as it may, it is my hope that this Lenten season be a time of self-reflection and spiritual growth for each of us, as well as for our membership. May Christ our Lord sustain, guide, protect and empower us to the end as we look forward to Easter morning as we joyfully and victoriously celebrate the power and love of our God at work in the world and in our lives.

FMF UPDATE: I'd like to express my deep and sincere thanks to Staci and Ken Kruse, along with their daughters, Courtney and Kiersten, for their dedication and faithful leadership of our Families Moving Forward (FMF) ministry for the past five years. Last month, Staci informed me that they can no longer continue to be the Host Coordinator of our FMF program due to their increased and hectic personal schedules. I am grateful for them, and for the leadership team they have faithfully led these many years. May our gracious God replenish their energies and spirits many, many folds over. I hope you'll have an opportunity to thank them when you see them. Moving forward, I invite us to be in prayer for the Holy Spirit to raise up leaders that will take our FMF ministry to the next level and into a new season. Please feel free to talk to me if you feel led to help with this ministry in any way. In the meantime, I hope for us, as a congregation, to continue moving forward with this ministry, especially when there are some who've expressed interests in helping with the program. I will be contacting and meeting with those who are interested in the next couple of months.

Welcome New Members



**Welcome to our
new members!**

**Mike & Linda Fournier
and
Heinrich Von Mende**





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

Please contact Christy if you can help with any of these volunteer needs for our Children's Ministry:

During the 9:15am Education Hour:

- Helpers for the age 4 to Kindergarten class
- Helpers for the 3 year old class

During the 10:30 Family Service:

- Childcare for age 5 and under during the whole service
- On the Way childcare after the children's sermon

SURVEY RESULTS: Thank you to each person who filled out a survey! The staff and counsel are reviewing the information, praying and asking God how to guide Discover Church best in the near future. We are thankful to hear everyone's hearts and look forward to "tweaking" our Sunday Morning times together to be best for families!

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.



Roller Garden's Family Night:

Saturday, March 10th

Girl's 56er Overnight:

Friday, March 16th-17th

Mercy Me Concert:

Friday, April 13th

Wild Mountain 2018:

Friday, July 20th

Vacation Bible School:

August 6-10



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. Information available on the Children's Ministry table.

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



**YOUTH MISSION TRIP MEETING
SUNDAY, MARCH 11
11:30am (AFTER THE 2nd SERVICE)
IN THE YOUTH ROOM
FUNDRAISING UPDATE
PLANNING FOR PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Wednesday Night Small Groups

Small groups will not meet during Lent due to the Wednesday evening services. Pastor Jon will be leading these services this year and we hope to have some of our youth involved in the services. Small groups will return after Easter on Wednesday, April 4 at 6:30pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 2: Friday Night Live
- March 4: Journey Confirmation
- March 11: Mission Trip Meeting
- April 1: Easter Pancake Brk
- April 4: Wednesday Small Groups Return
- April 6: Friday Night Live
- April 8: Journey Confirmation
- May 20: Confirmation Sunday
- June 3: Graduation Sunday
- June 17-22: Milwaukee Mission Trip
- July 15-20: Houston Mission Trip



The Journey Confirmation program will meet on Sunday, March 4 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. It's free! Invite your friends. Join us on Friday, March 2nd from 7-9pm!

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

Opportunities to Grow



**ADULT EDUCATION
SUNDAYS 9:15am**

MARCH SERIES: FORGIVENESS

As we move forward on our Lenten journey, hopefully we are being made aware of our sins and shortfalls by God's mercy and grace. The topic during the March Adult Education hour will focus on FORGIVENESS. Under Pastor La's leadership and teaching, we'll address this difficult topic, with insights on the issues of shame, guilt, and reconciliation. Admission is free to the first 100 people in attendance.

All Church Prayer

Two opportunities to pray for our church, families and community.
Thursday March 1st at 6:00pm
Saturday, March 3rd at 9:00am



WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



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

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: March 25.**

Amazing Grays

Brunch Bunch: Join us for brunch on Sunday, March 4th at 9:30am at Baker's Square in Brk Park.

St. Patricks Day Pot Luck: Thursday, March 15th at 11:00am. Bingo to follow.

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.

Women's Ministry

Women's Conference: Save the Date for Arise Women's Ministry "Brave Love" conference on April 13-14 at Redeeming Love Church in Maplewood. Cost is \$40 if you register before February 24, then \$50 by April 5 and \$55 on the day of the event. For more info and to register go to arisewomen.org.

Let's Go To The Movies: We will be going to the Christian movie "I Can Only Imagine", inspired by the song of the same title, on Sunday, March 18 with dinner afterwards at Olive Garden. Arrive at AMC theater at 12754 Elm Creek Blvd in Maple Grove by 2:45 for a 3:15 show, or meet in the church parking lot at 2:15pm if want to carpool. for more info contact Barb Victorson at 763-242-4247.

Women of Glory Bible Study: We meet on Thursdays at 7:00pm studying the book "4 Keys To Hearing God's Voice." For more info contact Barb Erickson at pflu65@gmail.com or Jean Hansen at 763-561-2998.

Community Care Groups

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 matter if you cook or buy a meal, because when you provide a meal for a family, you are showing them Christ's love. If you would like to be contacted when there is a need or if you know of someone who could use meals Contact saralbrandon@gmail.com.

Lent and Easter



LENT

Weekly Wednesday Lenten Services

Wednesdays now - March 21
11:30am with communion
and 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

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

It's time to order your flowers for Easter morning. Please note that we are only ordering lilies this year. Plants are \$10 each. Order forms are available at the ministry desk. Orders and payments are due March 11. Dedications will be listed in the Easter bulletin. For more info contact Jessica Kuhn in the church office at Jessica.kuhn@discoverchurchnetwork.org.



HELP DECORATE FOR EASTER SATURDAY, MARCH 31st

Easter is just around the corner! Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 31st at 9 am. Come join in the fun of transforming Discover Church into a beautiful Easter Garden! Goodies and coffee will be provided. No experience is necessary, the more the merrier. Come for the whole time, or just a little while. Kids are welcome. Contact Jessica Kuhn for more information at Jessica.kuhn@discoverchurchnetwork.org.

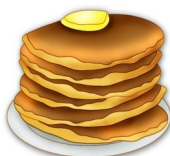


EASTER CHOIR

Join the Easter Choir! Rehearsals are Mondays, March 12, 19 and 26 from 7:00-8:15pm. We will sing on Easter, April 1 at all three services at 8:00am, 9:30am & 11:00am. Sign up on the ministry desk or contact Tirzah Gerber for more info.

EASTER SUNDAY—APRIL 1 PANCAKE BREAKFAST

7:00-11:00am



free will offering
supports the
youth summer
mission trips



MARCH FOOD DRIVE

All through March we will be collecting food for CEAP the Community Emergency Assistance Program in Brooklyn Center. Please bring your items and place them in the collection barrels in both entry ways by Sunday, March 25. CEAP will accept any non-perishable, non-expired food and personal hygiene items, but here is a list of the MOST needed items.

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- Flour
- Sugar
- Cooking Oil
- Rice
- Dried Beans
- Canned Fruit
- Toilet paper



GET YOUR DISCOVER CHURCH T-SHIRT TODAY

If you pre-ordered your T-shirts, please pick them up at the Ministry Desk. If you didn't have a chance to pre-order, don't worry! We have a few extras! Stop by the Ministry Desk and pick one up. Make checks payable to Discover Church.

Adult Sizes:
 S, M, L, XL: \$5
 XXL: \$7
 XXXL: \$8

Reflections

MARCH DEVOTIONAL

The flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today! Even now the seeds in a small envelope have the potential of blooming into to a beautiful bunch of flowers at a future time. They must be properly planted, however.

Then watering and sunshine will help them grow. Certainly, they must come out of the envelope and be put into the ground. They must "die."

John 12:24 Jesus replies, I say to you unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies. it remains alone, but if it dies it produces much grain.

Winter will eventually lose its icy grip and spring will come again bringing joy to our hearts with the greenery and wonderful flowers. New life! Birds will return and build nests and we will marvel at these things.

Even more of a marvel is the seed the Holy Spirit plants, happily growing as we "die" to self and experience the New Life in Christ.

Lord Jesus may we look forward to being planted and grow!

Holy Hugs, Nancy Brown



Tell Your Story By Jean Hanson

Speak –
Tell your story
For God's glory.

Help save the soul
Of your fellowman
You can do it!
Yes, you can!

A short story
Would seem the best.
Tell about challenges;
Tell about tests.
Share about Jesus
Coming into your life;
Bringing you Victory;
Lessening strife.

Keep it short
Keep it true
Tell your story
All about you.

Help touch the life
Of your fellowman
Share Jesus with them
Whenever you can.

Mark 5:19-20: *But Jesus refused and said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you." And he went away and began to proclaim in the city how much Jesus had done for him and everyone was amazed.*

Business and Financials

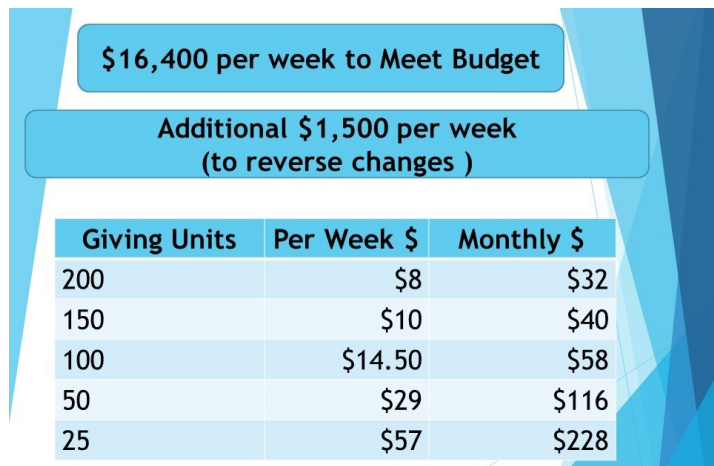


A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT JASON WALDRON

At the annual meeting we heard the congregation's concerns about the staffing changes and the desire to restore compensation and hours to our pastoral staff. This is a desire that is shared by the council. Several people have asked exactly what it will take for us to be able to do that. To that end, we have calculated the additional giving that would be needed.

To meet our 2018 budget we need a little over \$16K/week in offerings. When we exceed that by about \$1500/week we'll be able to reverse the staffing changes that were approved at the annual meeting.

This chart shows how that increase could be divided by giving units. For example, if 200 people gave \$8 extra per week or \$32 extra per month, we would meet the goal and so on.



I also would like to take a moment to thank everyone who attended the Town Hall Meeting on February 18. Many of you shared passionately from your hearts. We are blessed to have a congregation that clearly wants to grow and achieve our mission of "inviting all people to discover their full life in Christ." The council and the staff are looking at everything that was shared and working on how to best address your suggestions and concerns. We will keep you informed as we move forward.

Jason Waldron
Church Council President

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Financial Report through February 18, 2018

2018 Annual Budget	852,561
Year-to-Date Offerings	114,214
Year-to-Date Actual Spending	112,447
Year-to-Date Variance	1,767

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 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 Brk Park
- Street Level Ministries in Minneapolis
- Disaster Relief, various locations
- International Ministerial Fellowship (IMF), Pastor Mark Marxhausen

March 2018

March 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:00pm All Church Prayer 7:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Sacred Stretches	2 7:00pm Youth Friday Night Live	3 9:00am All Church Prayer
4 8:00am Worship 9:15am Ed. Hour 9:30am Amazing Grays Brunch 10:30am Worship 11:30am First Communion Class 6:30pm Youth Journey	5 9:00am Quilting	6	7 9:30am Bible Study 11:30am Lenten Worship 7:00pm Lenten Worship	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 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS 8:00am Worship 9:15am Ed. Hour 10:30am Worship	12 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	13 6:00pm Stewardship Committee 7:00pm Church Council	14 9:30am Bible Study 11:30am Lenten Worship 7:00pm Lenten Worship	15 11:00am AG Lunch 7:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Sacred Stretches	16 7:00pm 56ers Girl's Overnight	17 9:00am Men's Prayer Mtg
18 8:00am Worship 9:15am Ed. Hour 10:30am Worship	19 9:00am Quilting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	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 6:20pm Roller Gardens
25 PALM SUNDAY 8:00am Worship 9:15am Ed. Hour 10:30am Worship 10:30am Life After Loss	26 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	27	28	29 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00pm Maundy Thurs. Worship with 1st Communion	30 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00pm Good Friday Worship	31 9:00am Men's Prayer Mtg 9:00am Easter Decorating

LONG RANGE DATES:

April 1: Easter Sunday Services: 8:00am, 9:30am & 11:00am
 April 1: Easter Pancake Breakfast 7:00-11:00am
 April 2: Office Closed
 May 20: Confirmation Sunday
 June 3: Graduation Sunday
 June 17-22: Youth Millwaukee Mission Trip

June 24: Outdoor Worship & Baptism Service
 July 15-20: Houston Mission Trip
 August 6-10: Vacation Bible School
 August 19: Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic
 September 9: Rally Day