

From Pastor Carl's Desk

By Pastor Carl Billings

“Who ever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” 1 John 4:8

“For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:12-13

Every form of human love, at its best, is a fragmented mirror of God's love for us: Whether that is the passion and joy of newlyweds, or the playfulness of a grandfather, or the protecting strength of a father. Each of these qualities gives us insight into God's love for us.

This is particularly true with a mother's nurturing love for her child. At it's best, it is a love that is both inviting and challenging. A mother wants her child to grow to their full potential. She has a desire to see her child be the very best she can be. In the beginning, she takes care of every physical need. As she grows, the mother will challenge the child to begin to take care of some of her own's needs, while setting strict limits. As the child grows that mixture of invitation and challenge changes. The child does more and more for herself, while the limits become more lenient, until the child is finally on her own. The mother steps back letting the child make her decisions and playing an advisory role. She never stops wanting the very best for her child.

God's love, in the same way, is both inviting and challenging. He wants the very best for his children but he has stepped back and given us the freedom to live our lives. At the same time he is present, waiting for us to turn to him. If we are sensitive to the Holy Spirit and seek out the Lord, we become aware of how God, through the Holy Spirit, breaks into our life challenging and inviting us to a more profound life in him.

Sometimes God's love and a mother's love are one and the same. Personally, I am thankful that my mother was instrumental in bringing me to faith. I have watched as my wife has helped deepen the faith of our children. I am thankful to both of them for showing me an important facet of God's love. This May, take time to wish your mom, your grand mom, your wife, your daughter, your sister a Happy Mother's day.

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:

*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



How Has God Answered Our Prayers?

With the arrival and passing of Easter Sunday, on April 16th, it is safe to declare that our 2017 Lenten journey has officially ended. I would like to congratulate all who – you know who you are - embarked, accompanied and reached the end of our journey together this year. I sincerely continue to hope that it was a great spiritual experience for many of you.

As many would recall, at the beginning of this year's Lenten season, I asked the question: *"What would you imagine would happen at Discover Church if every member were prayed for each day during Lent?"* Such a question then prompted me to issue an invitation/challenge for our congregants to commit to praying for at least 5 families a day from the list of people in our 2017 Congregational Directory. When asked to stand and commit to doing so at both services on Feb 26th, many of our congregational members stood up and promised to do so for the entire Lenten season. If you were one who stood up and committed to praying, thank you so much.

Now that our Lenten season and journey is over, I would like to hear (via email or written notes) from as many of you who accepted the invitation and took up the challenge by answering the following two reflection questions:

1. How was the experience of intentionally praying for our members for you?
(Please be as clear and specific as you can)
2. What evidence of answered prayers have you seen thus far as results of our Lenten prayers? (Note: There are NO wrong answers here)

Again, thank you for your partnership in prayers during the Season of Lent. I look forward to reading your responses to the above questions, as well as sharing and being inspired by them.

Much peace and love in the Risen Christ,
Pastor La Andriamihaja

Youth Ministries

Pastor Jonathan Brandon, Director



FRIDAY NIGHTLIVE

Friday Night Live

Friday Night Live is a monthly fun and fellowship event for 7th-12th graders. FNL will be on May 12 from 7-9pm—note the date change. Bring your friends! It's free!

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.

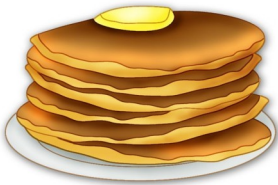
MISSION TRIP TEAM MEETING

We are having a meeting for all youth and chaperones who are going on the summer mission trip on Sunday, May 7 from 11:30-12:15 on the youth room. Please join us for team building, fundraiser info and account balance updates.



Journey Confirmation

All 7-9 graders are invited to come to The Journey, our Confirmation program. We will meet on Sunday, May 7 from 6:30-8:00pm.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST THANK YOU

On behalf of the Mount Hope youth mission team, I'd like to express our heartfelt thank you and appreciation for your support of the Easter Pancake Breakfast. Your generosity continues to be a blessing to our students each year. We look forward to sharing all about our mission experience with you later this summer!

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



From Director of Hospital Ministry Sara Brandon

EASTER FLOWER THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who purchased flowers for Easter. Nothing feels more like spring than the look and smell of fresh flowers! Thank you so much to everyone who came to help decorate for Easter. Everything was so beautiful.





Children and Family Ministries

Christy Grigor, Director

Adult Offerings during the Education Hour FOR YOUR FAMILY: Don't miss these high quality opportunities to grow your marriage and family! The Adult Education Hour is at 9:15 to 10:15 in Faith Hall. Check your kids into their classroom and join us for a great time of learning, fellowship and growth.

Parenting Styles and Life: Sunday, May 7: Taught by Dr. Melissa Mork

This session will investigate four basic parenting styles. How did our parents use them? How did we respond to them as children? How did we adopt or adapt those styles with our own kids? Finally, we will discuss how we interpret the parenting style of God.

Marriage Peace and Conflict: Sunday, May 14: Taught by Dr. Melissa Mork

This session will discuss our personal conflict-management styles. Dr. John Gottman calls them the "Four Horsemen of the Marriage Apocalypse." We will discuss how our conflict-management styles affect all areas of our life.

Children's Offerings during the Education Hour

- Nursery (6 wks to Age 3) A warm, caring environment with experienced teachers who play with and encourage your child.
- 3's Class: Foundational Bible stories are taught, children enjoy a puppet show and get age appropriate play with other children their age. Taught by the same teachers every week with familiar helpers.
- Age 4-Kindergarten: Foundational Bible stories, age appropriate object lessons, activities and crafts. Taught by very qualified, caring, fun teachers who understand the joy of being a child!
- Girl's 1st & 2nd Grade: Age appropriate relational Bible lessons, crafts and object lessons taught in a caring, safe and loving environment. Taught by the same caring teacher each week.
- Boy's 1st & 2nd Grade: Boys learn the "Heroes of the Faith" and have a time of active play and object lessons. They have opportunities to be mentored by two weekly teachers that build confidence in problem solving and expressing their faith.
- Combined 3rd & 4th Grade: Bible lessons that gear toward practical expressions of their faith are taught. Object lessons, crafts and time to play with age mates from our church are a weekly goal.
- Boys' 5th & 6th grade: In depth Bible lessons are taught by veteran teachers who relate very well with boys of this age.
- Girls' 5th & 6th grade: Relational Bible lessons with practical elements on how faith expresses itself in today's world are taught by 2 veteran teachers who relate very well with our girls!

Children's Ministry Thank You Night!! Please put Monday, May 22nd 6:30 to 8 pm on your calendar if you are a children's ministry volunteer! You will be getting more information soon, but I mostly wanted you to put this on your calendar!

Great Salvation Institute (GSI) for Grades 1 through 6: The GSI prize cart will always be out on the 3rd Sundays of the month! Your child should be receiving weekly updates telling them how many points they have to spend toward prizes. If you are not aware, there are sermon questions made available at the "Busy Bag Buffet" located in the foyer. Each week children have the chance to answer 5 questions about the sermon that will earn them up to 5 points a week.

Vacation Bible School: We have set the date for VBS! It will be held August 14-18 from 9 am to Noon. This is available for Children age 4 through 6th Grade. Cost and further information will be available soon. Please contact Christy Grigor if you would be able to help with VBS.

10:30 Family Service Childcare: Each Sunday during the Family Service we have around 10-15 children who are checked into childcare. Please consider serving as a helper for this MINISTRY! Children simply play and need supervision. There are no lessons! Contact Christy Grigor to sign up as a once a month helper. **Jesus DID call us to serve one another!!!**

Upcoming Events:

- Advanced Rider Bike Ride: Saturday, May 20
- Children's Ministry Volunteer Thank you Night: Monday, May 22 6:30 to 8 pm.
- Gaga Ball Tournaments: June 14, July 19, August 16th
- Wild Mountain Water Park: Friday, July 14
- VBS: August 14-18
- Children's Ministry Fall Retreat: September 29 through October 1

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

LEARN AND GROW

9:15am Adult Education Opportunities

Parenting Styles and Life Sunday, May 7

Taught by Dr. Melissa Mork

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How Our Offering Impacts The World Sunday May 21

Taught by the Stewardship Team

The Bible challenges us to give joyfully and generously. But do your tithes and offerings really make a difference? Come see how your stewardship is impacting our community and the world.

No Adult Education Hour Memorial Day Weekend: Sunday, May 28

All Church Prayer

Saturday, May 6
at 9:00am
Every first Saturday
of the month



We are excited to announce we will be offering a Financial Peace University class this Summer on Sunday nights from 6-8pm, June 25-Aug 27. Childcare will be provided!

FPU is a 9 week program written by financial planner and radio host Dave Ramsey that uses Biblical principals to help you get out of debt, create a working budget and plan for the future. It has worked for 100s of thousands of people across the country including folks right here at Discover Church. The course costs \$93 per family for the workbook. It seems like a lot, but it will be one of the best investments you can make.

Any FPU graduates, who would be willing to lead a small group or provide a scholarship for someone to take the course, please contact Sara Brandon at sara.brandon@discoverchurchnetwork.org.

VIA DE CRISTO MEN'S RETREAT COMING TO DISCOVER CHURCH JUNE 8-11, 2017



Via De Cristo is a Spanish phrase meaning "Way of Christ." This is a dynamic three-day weekend designed to strengthen and renew your faith and bring you to a new awareness of living in God's grace. The next men's weekend will be held here at Discover Church, June 8-11 so this is a great time to participate. Watch for more details coming soon. For more information speak to Pastor Carl or register online at mviadecristo.org.



Join us for a Bible Study series on the book of Matthew led by Pastor Carl on Wednesday mornings at 9:30am in the foyer. Everyone is welcome!

SACRED STRETCHES EXERCISE CLASS

Pamela Billings is leading a Sacred Stretches exercise class on Tuesday 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.

Message From Our Stewardship Chairwoman

Happy spring! Pastor Carl and members of the Stewardship Committee asked me to share with you some of my thoughts and our goals as 2017 Stewardship Chair. I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead, and humbled at the same time to be serving in this capacity. In my professional life, for many years, I have been part of successful fundraising teams raising money at the University of Minnesota and one thing I have learned is that Minnesota is a very generous community. When the opportunity was given for me to join the Stewardship Committee last year, I was excited and passionate to use my fundraising experience, along with one of my spiritual gifts, to serve God and Discover Church.

I have learned so much along the way; the first big AHA moment came when I saw the DC annual budget and how much money it takes to operate our church! I hope that many of you got a glimpse of the costs involved during last year's summer stewardship campaign, which was successful thanks to many of you. I know that together we can do great things for God and his Kingdom! Let me answer a couple of questions you may have:

1. What is DC stewardship? It is recognizing that all we have is a gift from God, all we have belongs to God, and all we have is to be used to serve and enjoy God;
2. What is the goal of DC stewardship? We want to invite everyone – you – to discover your full life in Christ. We want to lead every member and visitor into a spiritual foundation and maturity that allows you *to trust and serve God with all you are and all you have*. In other words, it is not only about money – we are called to grow as people with capacity *to give, serve and care generously!*

The Stewardship Committee is busy planning for the rest of 2017 – together, let us discover God's Kingdom Vision for His Church!

Sincerely,
Deb Mueller
Church Council Member & Stewardship Committee Chair

Opportunities To Serve



MEAL MINISTRY

Help us bless our members with meals in the event of a new baby, illness or death in the family. 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 Sara Brandon in the church office or email her at sara.brandon@discoverchurchnetwork.org.



SATURDAY

MAY 6

9:00am - NOON

We need your help with some cleaning & maintenance projects around the building. Many hands make light work so please consider giving a few hours of your morning to help keep the church looking great! Sign up at the ministry desk or contact Pastor La for more info.

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 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. Spots are available at the 8:00am & 10:30am service and the 9:15am education hour. Contact Patsy Cesare at patsy.cesare@discoverchurchnetwork.org for more information.

Opportunities To Get Involved



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

Come to the New Member Class on Sunday, May 7 at 9:15am, during the Education Hour. See Pastor Carl or Pastor La for more information. Please RSVP: patsy.cesare@discoverchurchnetwork.org



Butter Braids are back
Support the West Virginia Youth Mission Team and place your order for delicious Butter Braid pastries at the ministry desk by Sunday May 7th! Free samples are available May 7!



DISCOVER CHURCH ANNUAL BIKE RIDE

Join us for a bike ride on Saturday, May 20. We will leave from the church parking lot at 9:00am for a 25 mile ride and return about noon. Stops will include Elm Creek Park Reserve and the Coon Rapids Dam. Kids and youth should be accompanied by an adult and capable of making the whole ride. Please contact John Teske for further details at jteske@comcast.net or 763-561-9608.



*Join us on Sunday, May 14
To celebrate Mother's Day.
Bring your mom, or that
special woman in your life*

Amazing Grays

Brunch Bunch: Join us for brunch on Sunday, May 7th at 9:30am at Emily's, 2124 44th Ave N, Minneapolis.

Potluck Lunch: We will have a salad potluck on Thursday, May 18th at 11:00am. Everyone is welcome!

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

Women's Ministry

Women's Bible Study: Join us on Thursday nights at 7:00pm for an 8 week study called "Waiting for God." It will focus on pressing into a deeper walk with the Lord. For more information contact Jean Hansen at 763-561-2998.

Women's Fall Retreat: Save the date for the Women's Fall Retreat, Sept 29-Oct 1 at Mt. Carmel in Alexandria. Topic is "Breathe and Be: Finding Real Rest in Life" by speaker Dawn Kaiser. To register please go to mtcarmelministries.com or call 320-846-2744. For more info contact Barb Victorson at 763-560-2420 or barbvictorson@aol.com.

Men's Ministry

Men's Softball Team: The men's softball team is now forming. Games begin in May on Monday nights. We need more players to fill out the team! Please contact Mark Stock at 651-238-8580 for more information or to sign up.

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.

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: May 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.

Business and Financials

Financial Report through April 23, 2017

2016 Annual Budget	909,947
Year-to-Date Budget	297,483
Year-to-Date Offerings	282,783
Year-to-Date Actual Spending	290,475
Year-to-Date Actual Cash Over / (Shortage)	(7,692)

ELIJAH HOUSE SALE UPDATE

The church council voted to accept an offer on the Elijah House at the March meeting. We have cleared the rezoning with the city and are waiting for confirmation from the county. We hope to finalize the sale in early May. We will share more information as it becomes available. Decisions about how to use the proceeds will be made by the council when the sale is complete. Please contact Business Manager, Jessica Kuhn for more information.



Do you shop on Amazon?

Discover Church is now 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. To participate go to www.smile.amazon.com. Select Brooklyn Park Lutheran as your charity of choice. Then make your purchases as usual. Contact Jessica Kuhn for more information.

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 more help.

Reflections

MAY DEVOTIONAL

Beloved Saints-
Enjoy the beauty of silence. God says-"In quietness and confidence is your strength." Isaiah 30:15.

Sometimes when it has been so hectic, a bit of silence can shine like sheaves of silver or gold. It's surprising in a world where noise is blaring constantly and one cannot wait for a business contact in silence, but must listen to piped-in music or ads.

We are so unused to silence, it might be scary. But we can welcome it as an oasis in a dry desert place. Our hearts can sense God there and know we are not alone. God you are in the silence and I feel your touch. Thank you for enfolding me. I revel in your presence and your still small voice says that you love me.

Reflect on the silence dear ones.

Holy hugs,
Nancy Brown

Our Hope Of Glory By Jean Hansen

*Christ in me - "The Hope of Glory"
It is really a remarkable story
How He lived and died for me
How He loves and adores me.*

*Christ in you, Christ in me.
Open our eyes so we can see
All that we can be "in you"
Help us, Mighty Lord, what can we do?*

*Christ in me - "The Hope of Glory"
It is really a true love story
How He lived and died for you and me
How he came to set us free.*

*Christ in you, Christ in me
Open our eyes so we can see
All that we can be in Him.
Help us, Mighty Lord to begin.*

May 2017

May 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:00am Quilters	2 9:30am Staff All Day Planning Meeting 7:00pm Sacred Stretches	3 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Small Groups	4 7:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	5	6 9:00am All Church Prayer 9:00am Church Work Day
FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD						
7 8:00am Traditional 9:15am Ed. Hour 9:15am New Member Class 9:30am AG Brunch 10:30am Contemp. 11:45am Youth Mission Trip Mtg 6:30pm Journey	8	9 6:00pm Stewardship Committee 7:00pm Church Council 7:00pm Sacred Stretches	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	12 7:00pm Youth Fri Night Live	13 9:00am Men's Prayer Mtg
14 Mother's Day 8:00am Trad. 9:15am Ed. Hour 10:30am Cont.	15 9:00am Quilters	16 7:00pm Sacred Stretches	17 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Small Groups	18 11:00am Amazing Grays Pot Luck 7:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	19	20 9:00am Men's Prayer Mtg 9:00am Bike Ride
21 Confirmation Sunday 8:00am Trad. 9:15am Ed. Hour 10:30am Cont. 11:30am Small Group Captains	22 6:30pm Children's Ministry Thank You Night	23 7:00pm Sacred Stretches	24 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Small Groups	25 7:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	26	27 9:00 Men's Prayer Mtg
28 8:00am Trad. 9:15am Ed. Hour 10:30am Cont.	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30 7:00pm Sacred Stretches	31 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Small Groups			

LONG RANGE DATES:

June 4: Graduation Sunday
 June: 8-11: Men's Via De Cristo at DC
 June 25: FPU begins
 July 8-16: Youth Mission Trip
 July 14: Wild Mountain Water Park Family Event
 Aug 14-18: VBS

Sept 10: Rally Day
 Sept 15-17: Men's Retreat
 Sept 24-Oct 1: Families Moving Forward
 Sept 29-Oct1: Women's Ministry Retreat
 Sept 29-Oct 1: Kid's Ministry Retreat
 Oct 15: Blood Drive