

September 2017



From Pastor Carl's Desk By Pastor Carl Billings

Values, Vision, & Mission

This month's Newsletter article is being co-written by Pastor La and Pastor Carl. Earlier this summer, we met weekly for lunch to pray and talk about Discover Church's Values, Vision and Mission and how all three of them impact the future ministry of Discover Church. In this newsletter, we are going to briefly address each one of these important areas.

Our foundation is our Discover Church values. As many of you know they spell out the word "discover." While this is a helpful memory tool, it is not just a cute trick. Our values are what we believe and value most as a community in Christ. They help define our vision and mission. In other words, our vision and mission are born out of who we are in Christ. Since we have talked a great deal about our values in the past, we are simply going to mention them in this news-letter. They are: 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, and Rooted in our communities and Reaching out. It is these values that set the boundaries and define who we are as a congregation in the Kingdom of God.

Let's move on to the vision that we believe comes from the Holy Spirit. Let's begin with a clear understanding as to what a "vision" is, for without a clear vision the "mission" will unravel (Prov. 29:18). To put it in the simplest way possible, a vision statement is one that answers the question: "As a congregation, what is our hope for the world?" It's a big, wide and broad question, but that's what "vision" is. So, for Discover Church, our hope for the world is that everyone on earth will come to "Believe in the Triune God, Belong to the Body of Christ, and Bless one another and God's creation." So in a nutshell, our congregational vision is three words, "Believe, Belong, Bless," short, clear and easy to remember.

The mission of Discover Church is the strategy to accomplish the vision that God has given us. Now that we're clear on what our hope for the world is (vision), how we're going to accomplish and achieve such a vision is our "mission," which is to "invite all people to discover their full life in Christ." The mission is to invite all people to join and to belong among us as people of God, so they may come to know, to believe and to be in a right relationship with the Triune God, so that they may bless others, wherever and however they are led by the Holy Spirit. It is important to know that this mission is for the congregation as a whole, but it is also for each believer and member of the Body of Christ. Therefore, it is not just the pastors, the staff or the Church Council members who are to carry out this mission, but all believers in the resurrected Jesus, the Son of God.

Another part of our mission is the short-term tactics or methodology that we employ to accomplish our mission to live out our vision. In developing our methodology, we again turn to those three words: believe belong, and bless. Two prongs comprise the believe/belong/bless tactics, one large and one small. First large, as a congregation we want to have large events that give participants a chance to believe, belong, and/or bless. Every large event should focus on one of these three areas. These three areas are of equal significance, so it is important to maintain a balance between all three within the congregation. What is true for the congregation is also true for the individual Christian life. Each believer should have a balance between believing: learning to trust in Jesus, belonging: fellowshipping with other believers in Jesus name and blessing: sharing the love of Jesus with those who don't yet know his love.

That is where the second prong of believe/belong/bless tactics is applied. Our Life Groups are places where individual believers get a chance to believe, belong and bless in a small group setting. It is a time to gather together and support one another in the faith (belong), to study God's word (believe) and to serve the community (bless). As we believe, belong and bless, we begin to discover our full life in Christ at the same time inviting others to start (or continue) to find their full life in Christ.

DiscoverChurch A Lutheran Community in Brooklyn Park

Discover Church

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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



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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: Pastor La Andriamihaja, Associate Pastor: Pastor Jonathan Brandon, Youth Pastor: Christy Grigor, Children's Director: Joe Gerber, Worship Director: Jessica Kuhn, Business Manager: Sara Brandon, Director of Hospitality: Patsy Cesare, Administrative Assistant: Bud Larson, Custodian	Ext. 1002 Ext. 1003 Ext. 1004 Ext. 1005 Ext. 1006 Ext. 1001 Ext. 1007 Ext. 1000

Díscover Church Vísíon Statement:

Believe, Belong, Bless

Discover Church Mission Statement:

Inviting all people to discover their full life in Christ

Díscover 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

Discover Church Family Events



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT JASON WALDRON

"So you are no longer outsiders and strangers. You are citizens together with God's people. You are also members of God's family." **Ephesians 2:19 NIRV**

I've always loved this verse from Ephesians. The truth that as Christians we have been joined together as part of a community, as part of a family has really resonated with me. I've seen this play out powerfully in my own life. The church family that I grew up in as a child helped to shape my faith into what it is today. The people that I got to know as an adolescent helped to guide me in the transition from youth to adult. The church family at Discover that we are now a part of has been there to help us grow in our faith as a family. As I reflect on these relationships and their importance to me I realized where they grew. These relationships grew over card games and basketball games. They deepened around campfires and meal tables. God nurtured them through sharing time together into a bond that is truly family. These relationships have been so important to me and my hope and prayer for our church family is that we would develop and strengthen relationships like these in our church.

That is why I am so excited about what we're launching this fall! We'll be having Discover Church Family events throughout the year that I hope you'll join us for. When I say, "Discover Church Family" I mean everyone at Discover Church. These will be a fantastic opportunity for us to get to know one another better, share meals together and have fun together.

Our first Discover Church Family event is an Ice Cream Social on Friday, September 22 from 7-8:30. We invite you to join us for some ice cream and fellowship with your church family.

Jason Waldron, Discover Church Council President





DISCOVER CHURCH BIKE RIDE SEPTEMBER 23

Join us for a family bike ride on Saturday, September 23. 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. This is a fun event for families or individuals. Kids and youth should be accompanied by an adult and capable of making the whole ride. Invite your friends and neighbors. Please contact John Teske for further details at jeteske@comcast.net or 612-458-5310.





The competition heats up in three ways:

Showdown #1:

• Vikings/Packers game on the sanctuary big screen. **Showdown #2:**

Chili cook off lunch. Bring a pot of chili or sides to share.
 Vote for your favorite. Winners announced at half time.
 Watch for more details to come.

Showdown #3:

 Bring food donations for Union Gospel Mission's Thanksgiving meal drive. Place your items on the Packer or the Vikings side and see which team can collect the most donations. UGM shopping lists will be available at the Ministry Desk starting October 1.

Invite friends and neighbors to join us!



Children and Family Ministries Christy Grigor, Director



Children's Ministry Fall Retreat September 29-October 1

Each fall the 3rd through 6th graders have a Fall Retreat at Camp Wapogasset full of outdoor activities such as Gaga Ball, canoes, water boards, kayaks, hikes or sitting by the lake. Our kids enjoy fellowship and solid Biblical teaching as well as wonderful song and worship times! It is the highlight of most children's year at Discover Church! The cost is \$100 per child and scholarships are available. Volunteers needed to help drive kids to Wapogasset, or attend as a mentoring adult. For more info contact Christy Grigor or grab a flyer on the Children's Ministry table!



Children's Ministry Thank You Banquet October 20

If you have been involved in Children's Ministry at all at Discover Church in the last 4 years you are invited to this banquet! Thanking the people of our church that take on the charge of Jesus to "go and make disciples" is LONG overdue! Please contact Christy Grigor if you would like to attend and have not received an email invitation!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THANK YOU BANQUET

Calling for creative decorators! If you love being creative and would like to sponsor a table for the Children's Ministry Thank You banquet, please sign up at the Ministry Desk! We want to make this banquet special by decorating each table differently. Bring your best dishes, decorations, table cloths, flowers and candles! We will be purchasing clear plastic plates to put on top of your dishes so they will be SEEN but not USED! Set up time anytime on Thurs, October 19th to 5pm on Fri, October 20th.

Help with the meal! If you would like to help prepare or serve food at this meal, help set up or clean up please contact Christy Grigor!

RALLY DAY: SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

Rally Day Schedule:

 Traditional Worship:
 8:00am

 Education Hour:
 9:15am

 Contemporary Worship:
 10:30am

Fill out a registration form—GET A BALLOON! Help us make sure that our information is up to date. Please fill out a registration form at the Children's Ministry table even if you've been here for many years. Kids will get a free balloon when their family fills out a form!

Sunday School At 9:15am for kids and youth: All kids age 3-12th grade will "move up" to their new classrooms on Rally Day. For more info see Christy Grigor for kids through 6th grade and Jon Brandon for grades 7-12.

NEW K-2nd Grade Class during the 10:30am Service: Starting on Rally Day we will 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. Kids grade 3 and up can remain in the whole service and participate in the "Great Salvation Institute" (GSI) worksheets that teach them how to follow along with the sermon and earn prizes. See Christy Grigor for more information.



Gaga Ball Tournament: Friday, September 8th at 7pm Rally Day: Sunday, September 10th Fall Retreat: September 29-October 1st. Thank You Banquet: Friday, October 20th 6:30-8:00pm Fall Family Hayride: Saturday, October 21st Roller Garden's Family Nights: Saturday, November 18th and Saturday, March 3rd

Snow Tubing at Elm Creek: Saturday, January 27th

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. Small Groups start on Wednesday, September 13.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 9:15AM IN THE YOUTH ROOM



Sunday, September 10: Wednesday, September 13: Sunday, October 1: Friday, October 6: January 16-18, 2018: Rally Day Wednesday Night Small Groups Begin Journey Confirmation Begins Friday Night Live Returns Winter Retreat

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

2017 VBS WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

Thank you for the overwhelming support you gave to VBS this year. We sponsored 70 kids from Hospitality House, gave10 scholarships to Discover Church and neighborhood families, and gave 19 of our teens an opportunity to grow as leaders! Boy did they do a great job! Thank you to those who helped set up VBS on Sunday, August 13th! Thank you to all of the amazing adult volunteers who made this amazing week possible: Dorinda Olstad, Elaine Sorensen, Tracy Rossing, Laurie Vettrus, Jon Brandon, Felicia Lockrem, Hannah Stenback and Sis Heinzeman. Thank you to our wonderful youth leaders: Maddi, Kenzi, Charlene, Autumn, Annie R, Lauren, Annie G, Antonio, Elijah, Natol, Isam, Josh, Alex, Ruel, Coco, Chelsea, Clea & Ahmed.

The week was FULL of laughter, fun and smiles. During the week we sang a song called, "My Father's House" and the lyrics perfectly sums up the week. We had the chance as a church to truly show them what being in God's house means!

Come and go with me to my Father's House. It's a big, big house with lots and lots of room, A big, big table with lots and lots of food, A big, big yard where we can play football, A big, big house: it's my Father's House!

Thank you again! Christy Grigor, Director of Children and Family Ministries



We had a fantastic VBS with over 135 kids!



Opportunities to Serve

Women's Ministry



Families Moving Forward is a ministry that uses a network of churches to provide overnight housing and meals for homeless families in our community. FMF will be at Discover September 24-October 1.

- <u>Volunteers are needed</u> to help set up and take down bedrooms, donate food, make and serve meals and stay as overnight hosts. Sign ups will be at the Ministry desk starting September 10.
- <u>Volunteer training</u> on Sat. September 16 from 10am-12pm. If you are able to volunteer for this wonderful ministry, please join us. You will learn more about what FMF is all about and how to help our FMF families feel welcome when they stay at our church.

Please contact Staci Kruse for more information at 612-810-7919 or slk@memorylanestudios.com.



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 sara.brandon@discoverchurchnetwork.org

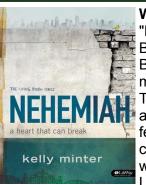
LCMC NATIONAL GATHERING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our denomination, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) is hosting it's national gathering in Minneapolis October 8-11. Churches from around the world will be gathering for the event. They are looking for volunteers from local congregations to help in many areas. Volunteer needs are:

- Saturday, October 7, 9am-Noon: assemble material packs for participants
- Sunday, October 8, 6:15pm: set up a communion station and serve during the opening worship.
- Monday-Wednesday, October 9-11: daytime volunteers needed to serve as greeters, prayer chapel, merchandise table and registration table.
 If you are able to help, please see Jessica Kuhn or

Patsy Cesare in the church office.

Prayer Shawls: Know 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 info.



Women's Fall Bible Study: "Nehemiah, A Heart That Can Break" by Kelly Minter is a 7 week Bible study starting Sept 12th. We meet on Tuesday nights at a NEW TIME, 7:00-8:30pm. Sign up today at the ministry desk. A registration fee of \$10.00 will be collected. Purchase your workbooks at any Lifeway store. Questions? Contact Libby Axe at laxe50@comcast.net.

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

Holiday Tea: Join us for our holiday tea on Sunday, Nov 19 at 2:00pm at St. Joseph the Worker. Entertainment by the Cassidy Brothers. Tickets are \$16. Contact Tarri Nelson at 763-400-7205 and tell her you want to sit at the Discover Church table. Contact Barb Victorson for more info at 763-560-2420 or barbvictorson@aol.com.

Amazing Grays

Brunch Bunch: Join us for brunch on Sunday, September 3 at 9:30am at Lindees in Osseo.

Lunch At Pizza Ranch: September 21 at 11:00am, we will be having lunch at the Champlin Pizza Ranch.

White Elephant Bingo: September 28 at 6:30pm at Real Life. Bring a prize and treat to share.

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

Men's Ministry

Men's Fall Retreat: Sign up for the Men's Fall Retreat at Cragun's Resort September 15-17. To register or for more information contact Dave Nelson at 763-670-1096.

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.

LEARN AND GROW



Adult Education Opportunities Sunday's at 9:15am

September 3:

Teen Challenge: Come hear about the ministry of Adult and Teen Challenge and how they are helping people overcome addiction and grow a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Starting September 10: Two Offerings

- Enrich Your Marriage: There are certain elements that make for a healthy marriage: communication, conflict resolution, understanding our family of origin, financial management, etc. Each one of these categories is important for a healthy and thriving relationship. Join Pastor Carl for this 4 week series as he gives ideas and techniques that will strengthen each category for a stronger marriage.
- We Got This Far by Faith: 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, a defining moment in the history of the Christian Church and in the history of the world. Pastor La will address: the what, the how, the when and, most importantly, the why of the Reformation, and it's importance for us today.

Coming in October:

A small group format on connections with God, family and community. Watch for more details to come.

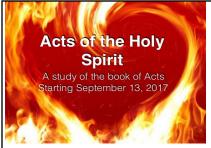
Coming in November:

We will have a mission focus in November, possibly with some service project opportunities. Watch for more details to come.



MEN'S RETREAT: SEPT 21-24 WOMEN'S RETREAT: SEPT 28-OCT 1

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. Men's and women's weekends are coming in September. For more info see Pastor La or Pastor Carl. Register at mnviadecristo.org.



NEW WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Join us for a new 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 starting September 13.

SACRED STRETCHES EXERCISE CLASS MOVING TO THURSDAY NIGHTS

Pamela Billings is leading a Sacred Stretches exercise class now at a new time 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.



All Church Prayer

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

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



Come to the New Member Class on Sunday, October 1 at 9:15am during the Education Hour. See Pastor Carl or Pastor La for more information. Please RSVP to Patsy in the office at: patsy.cesare@discoverchurchnetwork.org

LIFE AFTER LOSS GRIEF GROUP

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: September 24**

NEW LIFE GROUPS MINISTRY



Neighborhood Small Groups are now called Life Groups! We are excited to re-launch this ministry in September. 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 foyer at church. Group contact DiscoverChurch information is available there so that you can find a group that fits your life. For more information about Life Groups, see Pastor Carl.

Reflections

Trust God

By Jean Hansen

Find (go to) your special place To seek your Savior's face Get quiet and peaceful Away from the world's fast pace

He will meet you there Showing you how much He cares Our God is everywhere He is beyond compare

Bring your thanksgiving and praise The burdens of you days Trust Him to show the way To help you through each day

He has a dream and destiny For each one of us Ask Him to unfold it In Him put your trust

SEPTEMBER DEVOTIONAL

Early Morning Splendor

God, you met me in a special way when I took my walk this morning. As I strolled over the rise, each individual blade of grass was touched with dew, shining in brilliant array. It was as if the grass was covered with thousands of sparkling diamonds.

I saw you there in the early morning sunlight and felt the sun's warmth. It gave me a taste of what Your glory must be like in heaven. Even though this is only a shadow of glory, I paused in awe and amazement. My mind cannot contain what Your heavenly glory must be like. Lord help me remember this time with you.

"I will remember the works of the Lord: surely I will remember your wonders of old!" Psalms 77:11-NKJ

Holy hugs, Nancy Brown





Business Manager Jessica Kuhn

With the beginning of fall here, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their faithful support of our ministry and to give you an update on our current financial situation. Back in May we launched our "City on a Hill" Summer Bills program to help offset annual summer slump, when giving drops but the financial needs of the church remain the same. We set a goal to raise \$16,000 by the end of September to help us meet our summer expenses. We have already received over \$15,500 of that goal! Thank you for your generosity in making this happen.

While our summer bills campaign has been great a success, our general giving has dropped even more than expected this summer. As of the end of August, we have a deficit of \$47,598. While we anticipate giving to "bounce back" this fall as people return to church from summer travel and activities, we do have an immediate need to close the gap. That \$47,598 shortfall is a daunting number, but I want to assure you that the staff and council are continuing to work to find ways to cut expenses without impacting the needs of our ministries.

There are two ways that you can help.

- First, please pray for the ministry of Discover Church to continue to be a shining "city on a hill" to our members, our community and the world despite our budget deficit. Please pray for wisdom and discernment for the staff and leadership as we look at options to close that gap without sacrificing ministry needs.
- Second, in mid-August, we sent updated giving statements to anyone who had given thus far in 2017. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding your statement. If you've fallen behind on your giving more than you intended to this summer, please consider giving an extra offering to help catch up and reduce the deficit. If you haven't fallen behind this summer, please prayerfully consider if you can make an extra donation at this time to help reduce the deficit.

Blessed be,

Jessica Kuhn, Business Manager Jessica.kuhn@discoverchurchnetwork.org

Business and Financials

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Luke 6:38

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Financial Report through August 27, 2017

909,947
549,641
597,239
(47,598)

Mission Moment of the Month

Here's one of the many ways Discover is sharing the love of Jesus thanks to your financial support!

• Our building was used this month for the annual International Student Fellowship (ISF) banquet. This ministry connects international students studying in MN from all over the world with the word of God, supports them on their faith journey and equips them to share the gospel when they return home.

"A CITY ON A HILL CANNOT BE HIDDEN" SUMMER STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



SUMMER BILLS CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Our "City on a Hill" summer bills campaign is almost complete. We have received \$15,000 toward our goal of \$16,000! You can see the sunbeams "lighting up" on the display as we get closer. Remember, you don't have to wait until the date on the envelope, you can turn it in any time. Thank you for helping meet our summer expenses!

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Families Moving Forward	Men's VDC					n's Via De Cristo F	Retreat	

Oct 1: New Member Class Oct 15: Blood Drive Nov 17: Mayor's Prayer Breakfast Nov 22: Thanksgiving Eve Service Dec 2: Christmas Decorating

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 10:00am—One service only Jan 28: Annual Meeting