

## East Union Lutheran Church

15180 County Road 40

PO Box 283

Carver, MN 55315



## EAST UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Carver, Minnesota

[www.eulc.org](http://www.eulc.org)

952-448-3450

### Sunday Worship Schedule

**9:00 a.m.**

**Worship**

with Holy Communion on 1st, 3rd,  
and 5th Sundays

**10:00 a.m.**

**Coffee Fellowship & Sunday School**

**April 2026**

**East Union Lutheran Church**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Pastor Bryant's Office Hours:</b> Mon—Wed 8:30am-Noon <b>Darcy's Office Hours:</b> Tues & Thurs 9am-1pm			1	2	3	4
<b>5 "Risen"</b> 9am Easter Worship-Communion 10am Fellowship	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>12 "Encounters"</b> 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School	13 1pm Quilting Group 7pm Dahlgren Township Mtg	14 10am Bible Study	15 6:30pm Bible Study	16	17	18
<b>19 "Relationship"</b> 9am Worship-Communion 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School	20	21	22	23	24	25
<b>26 "Protected"</b> 9am Worship 10am Sunday School 10am Pancake Breakfast	27	28	29	30		
	1pm Quilting Group	10am Bible Study	6:30pm Bible Study			
		10am Bible Study 6:30pm Council Meeting	8:30am Card Ministry 6:30pm Bible Study	7pm Maundy Thursday Worship @ EU	7pm Good Friday Worship @ WU	10am Gathering Thru Fellowship

## Words from Pastor Bryant

Dear Disciples,

*“When [the disciples] saw [Jesus], they worshiped him, but they doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:17-20)*

I had a simple project in mind the other day: put some new mulch down around the base of the swing set in the backyard. It was that simple: just put down new mulch. However, it quickly became not that simple.

First, there was the question of what kind of mulch? What color? How much? And after timidly answering those questions, another issue popped up: What to do with a few dozen pavers laying in a pile behind the swing set. What if I made a small path through the new mulch so the kids would have a solid surface to walk on?

But, that would require digging. Measuring. Oh, and then finding some rock to put under the pavers so water would drain. But, where would I get the rock from? Well, there was some old gravel-like landscaping rock beyond the fence I could scoop up and use. So, that I did.

And then there was the question of where to put all the dirt I had dug up so the pavers could be put in place. Where should it all go? Well, the dog had dug plenty of holes around the backyard, so what better place to put all that dirt but in those holes. But, then I would need to plant grass. And then water that new grass. And then probably think about fertilizing, too.

The project was simple initially: lay down some mulch. But, even I know a project is never that simple. And perhaps that’s why the disciples both worship and doubt after that first Easter. Perhaps they doubt they can actually live out the Great Commission. Perhaps they know on paper it sounds straightforward, but in practice it will be a path filled with detours, potholes, and unknowns.

And, perhaps, that’s why Jesus’ final words in Matthew’s Gospel are what they are: *I am always with you*. It is a reminder we hold fast to each and every day. The reminder that although the path put before us is expansive and bold—proclaim the Gospel message—it is a journey that begins with a single step. A single act. A single word.

And, it is a calling that we do not live out alone. The Holy Spirit journeys with us through the ups and downs, valleys and mountains, and in all the ways the “simple” Great Commission takes us in directions we never imagined.

Together, we live out the bold commission now put before us in the small, daily moments and opportunities around us. For our risen Savior has given us exactly what we need to accomplish it.

Peace,

Pastor Bryant

## April Theme

Our theme for this month is **Experiences**. After Jesus' resurrection, the women at the tomb, the disciples, and two travelers headed to Emmaus all have an encounter with the risen Christ. Each of them experience the Gospel message--they taste and see that the Lord is good! We, too, daily encounter the risen Jesus in the people, plants, and places around us. Let us open our hearts and minds to experience the life-giving presence of Christ in unexpected and amazing ways!

## Tuesday Bible Study

Bible Study continues every Tuesday morning at 10am in the Parish Center. All are welcome!



## Wednesday Bible Study

The Wednesday group will meet on April 8th—April 29th for a 4-week series.



## Sunday School

Classes are held for children ages 3 through grade 5 on Sundays from 10am-11am.

### Schedule

4/5/26 No Sunday School

4/12/26 Sunday School

4/19/26 Sunday School

4/26/26 Sunday School



## Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars, East Union VBS will be held July 27th—July 30th. Theme is Rainforest Falls, exploring the nature of God. **Registration forms** are coming soon!

## Holy Week

Maundy Thursday Worship will be at East Union on April 2nd at 7pm.

Good Friday Worship will be hosted by West Union on April 3rd at 7pm.



## Easter Worship

Celebrate Easter with us on April 5th at 9am!

## Easter Special Offering

Your council has selected to designate the Easter Special Offering this year to the East Union General Fund. Please remember that you always have the option of directing your funds - simply state your preference on your check or offering envelope. Your offerings are always welcome and much appreciated.

## Gathering Thru Fellowship

We are looking forward to our next gathering on April 4th at 10am in the Parish Center. All are welcome to participate or visit!

## Card Ministry Team

The Card Ministry Team is here for anyone in need of Christ's love through a card. The Team will meet on April 8th & 22nd at 8:30am.

## Environmental Talk

Dr. Jill Wasik, Professor of Environmental Science, will be hosting a talk during fellowship on April 19th about microplastics in our environment.

## Carver Stories

Come to the Carver City Hall on April 19th at 5pm, to hear interviews from Dale Koltan & Mike Wedolek of the Polish Playboys and Luanne Kloos Anderson.

## Pancake Breakfast

There will be a pancake breakfast during fellowship on April 26th. Pancakes, sausage and fruit will be served. Free will offering. All are welcome!

## Plant, Bake, Craft Sale & Quilt Raffle

Our Annual Spring Plant Sale Plus Homemade Bake & Craft Sale on May 9th from 8am – Noon. There will be hanging baskets, vegetables, herbs, flowering annuals, fertilizer and potting soil. Plus, Crafts, Baked Goods and a Quilt Raffle. Quilt Raffle Tickets are available now. They are \$2/ticket, proceeds donated to the local food shelf. Please contact the church office to buy tickets. Winner will be drawn at our Plant Sale on May 9th.



## Looking Into the Future:

- ♦ May 9—Spring Plant, Bake & Craft Sale
- ♦ May 17—History of EU talk during Fellowship by Kathy Coleman
- ♦ May 25—Memorial Day Service
- ♦ May 31—Carver Mayor talk during Fellowship
- ♦ May 31—Graduation Sunday
- ♦ June 23—Beth El Synagogue Visit
- ♦ June 18th & 19th—Quilt Retreat
- ♦ July 27-30—Vacation Bible School
- ♦ August 9—Antique & Unique Car Show
- ♦ September 13—Steamboat Days Parade
- ♦ September 20—Rally Sunday
- ♦ October 24—Trunk or Treat
- ♦ December 13—Sunday School Christmas Program



## East Union Clothing

Coming soon, we will be offering East Union clothing for sale in assorted adult sizes. T-shirts—\$10, Long sleeve T-shirts—\$15, Zip up Pullovers—\$25. Shirts will be available for sale before Fellowship and during our Annual Plant Sale on May 9th.

## Heritage Scholarship

If you are an EULC graduating high school senior with plans to continue your education next fall, don't miss out on the opportunity to gain a \$1000 scholarship towards your fees. Please contact the church office as soon as possible to get the application, which will be due by May 17th.

## Food Shelf Donations

Please remember our neighbors in need. There is a grocery cart in the Parish Center ready to accept donations for the local food shelves and for brown paper and plastic grocery bags. If you have extra, please put them in the grocery cart. Thank you for your donations!

**BOUNTIFUL BASKET**  
CURRENT NEEDS - March 2026



- Hearty Soup
- Ready-to-Eat Meals
- Crackers
- Canned Chicken, Tuna & Salmon
- Canned Pineapple & Mandarin Oranges
- Coffee
- Healthy Kid Snacks
- Bread & Tortillas
- Spices
- Flour
- Sugar
- Cooking Oil
- Brownie/Cake Mixes
- Baby Formula
- Laundry Detergent
- Dish Soap
- Feminine Hygiene Products

\*\*\* We also graciously accept (non-refrigerated) fresh produce including but not limited to\*\*\*: bananas, oranges, grapes, avocados, garlic, tomatoes, peppers, lemons and limes



We could also use your brown and plastic bags.

## Tithely

Use the QR code or go to [Tithe.ly Giving](https://Tithe.ly/Giving) to get started. Search for East Union Lutheran Church, select the link to “give now” and you are ready to go. Enter the amount you want to give, the fund you want to give to, select the frequency of giving, enter your contact details, and payment information to give. You can create an account to track your gifts, set up recurring giving, and more. Reach out to Chris Hallin if you have any questions.



## Quote of the Month

“Find the seed at the bottom of your heart and bring forth a flower”

~ Shigenori Kameoka

## Card Ministry Partners with Pinky Swear Foundation

Our Card Ministry has a new partner through whom they’ll share their time and talents!

That new partner is Pinky Swear, a Minnesota-grown charitable foundation serving kids with cancer and their families! Our card group is supplying the foundation with (of course!) cards to help brighten the spirits of those struggling through this difficult time.



The genesis of the Pinky Swear foundation is unique and close to home. Its creation was inspired by the plea of 9-year-old Mitch Chepokas, who was dying of bone cancer and asked his father to “pinky swear” to keep helping kids with cancer after he was gone. Today the organization founded by Mitch’s parents helps the families of those kids cover non-medical expenses such as housing, food and transportation during pediatric cancer treatment all across our country. What a testimony to the power of a single, selfless act of love!

And what a remarkably kind and talented group of folks we have right here in the Ministry of Outreach! If you’d like to know more about our Card Ministry or help out in any way, check with LuAnn Haas or any other member of the group! They really have an amazing portfolio of work on the go!

*(You can read more about the Foundation on its website or as featured in a story in the February 2026 edition of People Magazine).*

## Thank you

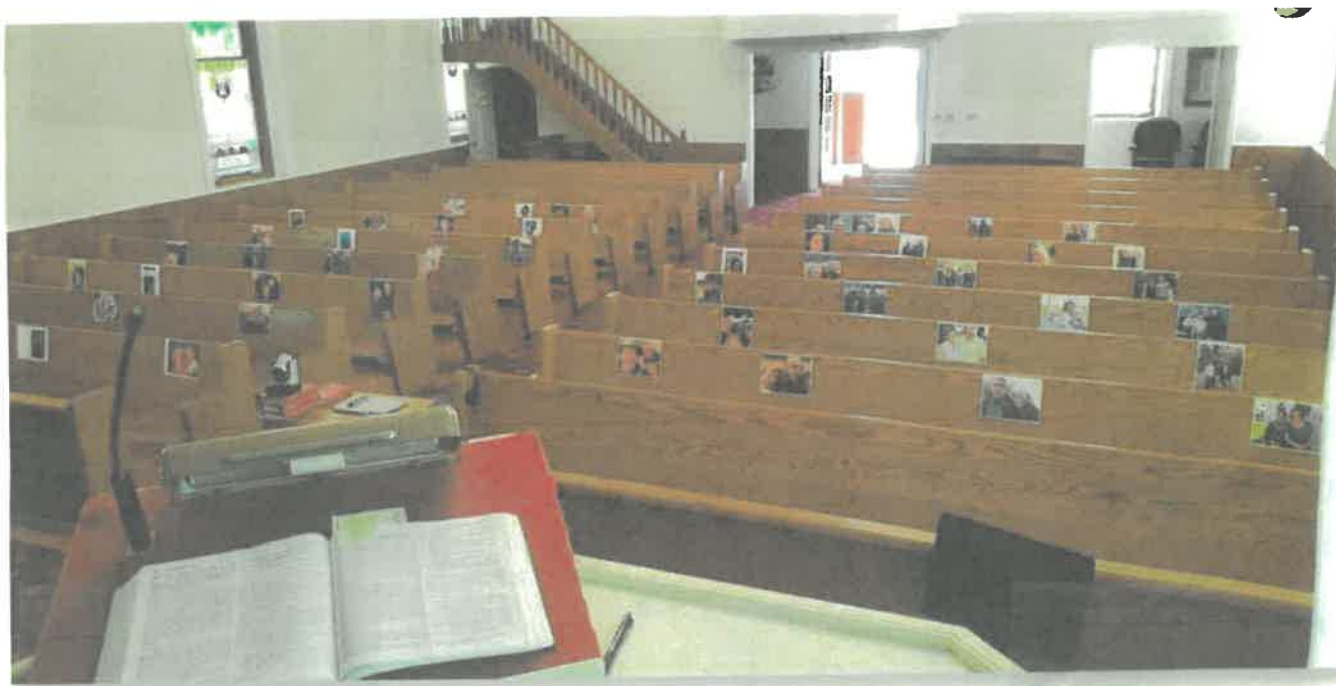
Thanks to all who attended the Feed My Starving Children session. We packed 149 boxes which contains 32,184 meals.

Amazing!!



## Church History

It was about 6 years ago when COVID was starting to rear it's ugly head around here. The first thing we did was to move the service outdoors by the hall. We borrowed a hay rack, ran some electric cords out there, and set up for temporary service. We stayed in our cars and listened to the service. That worked well until the weather turned cooler (cold) and we had to do something different. Pastor Sarah moved into the church and the rest of us parked in the lot in front of the church and listened on our radios to the service. At the end of the service, Pastor Sarah would walk down the walkway to the hall. We would drive our cars past her and she would collect the offering and pass out communion packs on communion Sundays. This was starting to be a drag for us and for Pastor Sarah preaching to an empty church. To surprise her one Sunday, we enlisted the aid of our secretary to gather family photos taken earlier, blow them up as big as she could and place them around the church in the pews so it looked like there were people there. As you can guess, Pastor Sarah was overwhelmed by the gesture. It wasn't but a few more weeks when we were able to attend services in the church again.



# EASTER

Easter is celebrated by Christians around the world as the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. In 2026, Easter Sunday will fall on April 5. However, this important religious day is celebrated around the world in many different ways!

**Guatemala:** The streets are covered in vibrant, intricate carpets made of dyed sawdust, flowers, and pine needles for Easter processions to walk over.

**Poland & Eastern Europe:** On Easter Monday, they have vigorous water fights in the streets using buckets and water guns.

**Finland & Sweden:** Children dress as “Easter witches” wearing headscarves, painted red cheeks and carrying willow twigs, going door-to-door for candy.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is

**France:** On Easter Monday, a massive omelet requiring thousands of eggs is cooked in the town square to feed the community.



**Bermuda:** People fly colorful, handmade kites on Good Friday to symbolize the ascension of Jesus.

**Australia:** Instead of the Easter Bunny, there is an “Easter Bilby,” a native marsupial, to raise awareness for the endangered animal.

**Greece:** People paint eggs bright red, symbolizing the blood of Christ, and play “Tsougrisma,” a game of tapping eggs to see which holds up the longest.

**Philippines:** Easter Sunday morning begins with Salubong, a procession where statues of Jesus and Mary meet to symbolize their reunion after the resurrection.



**PLUS**  
**SPRING PLANT SALE**  
**HOMEMADE BAKE & CRAFT SALE**

**SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026**  
**8AM-NOON**

HUNDREDS OF HANGING  
BASKETS, VEGETABLES &  
HERBS

FLOWERING ANNUALS,  
FERTILIZER & POTTING  
SOIL

**\*\* QUILT RAFFLE \*\***

**\$2 PER TICKET, PROCEEDS DONATED TO THE LOCAL  
FOOD SHELF**

**GET YOUR MOTHER'S DAY GIFT HERE!**

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