

East Union Lutheran Church

15180 County Road 40

PO Box 283

Carver, MN 55315

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Carver, MN



EAST UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Carver, Minnesota

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
& Women's Bible Study**

December 2022

East Union Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pastor Bryant's Office Hours: Monday—Wednesday 8:30am-4:30pm Darcy's Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9am-2pm				1	2	3 10am Gathering Thru Fellowship
4 8am Choir 9am Worship-Communion 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School	12 1pm Quilting Group 7pm Dahlgren Township Mtg	13	14 8am Card Ministry 6:30pm Youth Faith Formation @ EU	15	16	17
18 9am Worship-Communion Christmas Program 10am Fellowship	19	20	21	22	23	24 4pm & 5:30pm Christmas Eve Worship
25 10am Worship 11am Fellowship	26 1pm Quilting Group	27	28	29	30	31

Words from Pastor Bryant

Dear Disciples,

It is truly my joy and privilege to join you as your pastor as together we proclaim the Gospel message! East Union is a warm and welcoming community of faith and you have incredible and amazing gifts to share with your community and the world.

My family is incredibly grateful for your hospitality—especially on our first Sunday here. The bountiful food, the inspiring music, the welcoming words—we were blessed by your generosity and love! Thank you so much for welcoming us into your community of faith.

Before we look ahead to Advent, here's a primer on my family. As you may have heard, I was born and raised in a small, Norwegian town in Wisconsin. I met my wife, Katie, while in college at Mankato and we were married in 2013. She is a registered dietitian and works for Presbyterian Homes in Eden Prairie. Our daughter, Hazel, is five and just began kindergarten. She has a love of hockey, gymnastics, and unicorns. Our son, Harvey, is two and his biggest joy in life is attempting to do whatever his big sister is doing. To round out our family we have two dogs, Lacy and Kirby. I would tell you what we do in our spare time if we had any.

As we begin this season of Advent we wait with baited breath for the arrival of the one who will change the world. Life can be filled with waiting: waiting for a loved one's arrival, waiting for good news, waiting for a miracle to happen—and in the midst of all this waiting we can be filled with anxiety, hope, uncertainty, and dreams.

As the days continue to grow shorter, as we begin to light candles around the Advent wreath, as we wait for love to be born I encourage you to pause, reflect, and take a deep breath.

Because even in the midst of waiting, Jesus is present: in the moonlit sky, the crunch of snow under your foot, in the glint of sun on the distant horizon. As we prepare our hearts for the Savior of the world to be born, be on the lookout for the ordinary miracles that surround you—because yesterday, today, and always, Jesus is with you.

Together, we wait for the Christ-child to be born. Together, let's be the light that shines in the darkness.

Peace,
Pastor Bryant

Committees & Volunteer Opportunities

We have a variety of ways for you to offer your talents at East Union Lutheran Church in 2023! There are various committees that you can sign up for including:

Food and Fellowship

Brenda Lundquist
Nadine Lundquist
Rochelle Hasse
Jeanne Lundquist
LuAnn Haas
Lori Scott
Stephanie Cardinal
Chris Hallin
Carrie Hron
Sandy McGraw
Sandy Hitzeman
Karen Lanpher

Outreach & Evangelism

Ted Wirtz
Gordon Decker
Jason Wieland
Dave Lundquist

Finance & Stewardship

Brenda Lundquist
Tom Lundquist
Paul Lundquist
Janet Schultz
Barb Steers
Kent Hasse
Jamie Scott
Kathy Schallberg

Lector – Sunday Morning Readings
Altar Guild

Youth & Education

Jeri Bowers
Rochelle Hasse
Jan Lundquist

Worship & Music

Jeri Bowers
Barb Steers

Care for Creation

Gordon Decker
Ann Decker

Cemetery Care

Ted Wirtz
Paul Lundquist
Larry Goetze
Dave Lundquist
Rick Beck

Property

Tom Lundquist
Kent Hasse
Gary Lokken
Corey Olson
Jamie Scott
Olav Steen
Tom Strobel

If you would like to sign up for any of these volunteer opportunities, there will be sign-up clipboards in church on Sunday morning or you may contact the church office at eastunionlc@gmail.com or 952-448-3450.

Sunday School Director

We are looking for a Sunday School Director and teachers. If you are interested in sharing your talents with our Sunday School kids, please contact Rochelle Hasse.

Facebook Prayers & Wednesday Devotions

Join Pastor Bryant on Monday mornings on the East Union Facebook page to gather together to lift up prayers for our community and the world. On Wednesdays on Facebook, Pastor Bryant will host weekly devotions, studying the upcoming Sunday's Gospel reading.

Sunday School!!!

December Sunday School Schedule

12/04/22 Sunday School

12/11/22 Sunday School

12/18/22 Sunday School Program

12/25/22 No Sunday School



Youth Faith Formation Schedule

December

12/7/22 @ East Union

12/14/22 @ East Union

12/21/22 No Class

12/28/22 No Class

Women's Bible Study

Bible Study will break through December, enjoy the holidays with friends and family. In January, we will start studying the book of Numbers.

Gathering Thru Fellowship

We will gather to create angel and gnome ornaments on December 3rd at 10am in the Parish Center. We are asking for a small donation to cover the costs of materials. All are welcome to visit or create, coffee will be on!

Choir

Folks who like to sing are invited to be a part of our December choir! We plan to sing on Sunday December 4th, and on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, depending on people's availability. Don't be shy if you don't read music - the music isn't difficult, but it's beautiful and there should be enough strong singers to help lead the group, so join us!! If you have any questions, you can contact Ann Decker (612) 867-0574, or adeckerchaska@gmail.com

Come home for the Holidays Christmas Worship

We will celebrate Jesus' birth on December 24th at **4pm and 5:30pm**. Worship on Sunday, December 25th will be at **10am**.



Quilt Retreat

The quilting group is hosting a retreat on January 12th & 13th from 9am-5pm each day. If you are interested in joining, please call the church office, cost is \$5 per day. Bring your own lunch.

Thank You!

The church is decorated for Christmas!!! Big thanks to our special volunteers, who always do such an amazing job. Thank you Randy, Peg, Tom, Nadine, Taylor, Jan, Jamie and Lori

Christmas Offering 2022

It's long been our tradition to give away our Christmas Eve offering outside our own congregation. This year, the council has selected two organizations to receive our offerings.



ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response: Horn of Africa Drought helps those impacted by one of the worst droughts in recent history, severely impacting more than 15 million people across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

Every Meal fights child hunger by focusing on filling the food gaps children face on weekends, extended breaks, and summer when they're not able to access school meal programs. Specifically, our offering will go to help students at Carver Elementary by purchasing food for those needing this aid.

As always, if you do not wish your Christmas Eve offering to be shared with these groups, you may write "General Fund" on your Christmas Eve offering envelope and your contribution will stay in East Union's general fund. Thank you to those who offered suggestions.

Year End Committee Reports Deadline Upcoming

It's hard to believe that we are almost at the end of 2022. Just a quick reminder to all committee chairs that 2023 budgets are due to the finance committee by December 1 and year end committee reports will be due to the church office the first week of January to allow Darcy enough time to assemble the Annual Report.

Church Council: An Opportunity for Involvement....

We have three spots open on the Council for 2023. As a little background on the council per the Bylaws, The Congregation Council serves as the board of directors of the congregation. The Council has control and management of the property of the congregation and is authorized to transact congregational business. Decisions made by the Council are subject to review by the congregation at annual and special meetings. The Council is responsible for the supervision of all committees and staff supporting the congregation and serves at the pleasure of the congregation. Each Council member serves as a liaison to a committee of their choosing.

Council terms run for 3 years. The Council consists of 9 members. Each year there are 3 terms that will expire. Each council member may only be on Council for a total of 2 consecutive terms.

Please consider volunteering for this very important position in our church. If you are interested or just have questions, please contact Rochelle Hasse (612-747- 6649; hasse.rochelle@gmail.com).

Electronic Newsletter

In February we are going to start emailing the newsletter instead of mailing them out. With postage going up, we are looking at cost savings. If you do not have access to email or would still like a newsletter mailed to your house, please let the office know and we would be happy to keep mailing them to you.

Offering Envelopes

If you are using Tithe.ly and choose to not use giving envelopes, please email the church office. Thank you.

Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction Donations

We are looking ahead to our Spaghetti Dinner in February. We'd love your help to start thinking of donation items or have a business contact for the Silent Auction. Watch for more details to follow!

Towel Helpers Needed!

East Union has an active role in a Towel Ministry, part of ECC Love INC. Volunteering consists of filling towel orders and driving the towels to the client's home. You will receive training too!

Email Ann Decker: adeckerchaska@gmail.com if you are interested!



New address for Lois Scott

Lois moved to Norwood, she loves visitors! Her new contact information is:

600 Railroad Drive #201

Norwood Young America, MN 55368

Phone number: 952-467-2826, ext. 72283

Food Shelf Donations

There is a grocery cart in the Parish Center ready to accept donations for the local food shelves. If you would rather give a monetary donation, please write “food shelf” on your check or envelope and put it in the offering plate. Thank you for your donations!



Card Ministry Team

The Card Ministry Team is looking for unwanted card material that is no longer being used. We can put it to good use.

Council Meeting Minutes

Reminder if you would like a copy of the previous month's council minutes, you can find them in the rack near the library door at the Parish Center.

Church Newsletter

If you have an idea or want to contribute something for the newsletter, please email the church office eastunionlc@gmail.com. Thank you.

Pastor Bryant Contact Information

If you need to contact Pastor Bryant, you can either call his cell phone, 952-567-9554, or email him, pastorbakkum@gmail.com. His office hours are Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, from 8:30am-4:30pm.

Church Mailing Address

Please remember to use the PO Box when sending mail to the church. Our address is PO Box 283, Carver, MN 55315.



God Winks

I'd like to share with all of you a series of books which has had a profound effect on me. I came across one of them as I was browsing in a bookstore a few years ago and have since shared this with many of my friends. The reaction from everyone that has read it has been so positive that I wanted to share it further. The author is Squire Rushnell (yes a capital Q) and his books are about "God Winks".

A God Wink is what some people would call a "*coincidence*".... an answered prayer or simply an experience where you'd say, "Wow, what are the odds of that?". The author wrote his first book after living through the inevitable death of his newborn son and experiencing his miraculous recovery.

So once I became aware of what a God Wink was, I could reminisce the many things that I have experienced or witnessed in other's lives (both small and large) and was able to realize that It was God's hand at work in the situation and not what we might have categorized a 'coincidence'.

A wonderful example of this for us at EULC was the murder of our own church member and friend, Earl Olander. What a coincidence that these men who killed and robbed him would have taken Earl's Bible (complete with the evidence of ownership) and then left it in their vacated Minneapolis apartment. Or might we call this a God Wink?

Mr. Rushnell's books are a compilation of real life stories about people and their God Winks. The stories are uplifting and spirit-filled. I think it is a God Wink that I discovered the book!

Sandy Hitzeman

East Union History....

At a Synod conference meeting in East Union in October 1862, a question about the church school and where it should be moved to was discussed because the location in Red Wing wasn't working. East Union was chosen and at the next conference meeting in June of 1864, the East Union church agreed to sell the building they were using as the church for \$300.00 to the school. The building was moved across the street to the 5-acre piece the Civil War vets had purchased and was rebuilt adding a second story, and thus St Ansgar's Academy was born. The Church reserved the right to use the building for two years until the new church was built. The first director was Reverend Jackson. A side note on Reverend Jackson is from 1862; He was a pastor in the western part of the state, holding services in homes in that area. One day during a service some neighbors came running to the cabin and said the Indians attacked them. This was one of the first acts of war in the Indian uprising. Reverend Jackson ended up in Hutchison and eventually at East Union. Funding for the school was to come from a grist mill built along Beven's Creek about a mile up the road. The mill was built on the east side of the road and a race to move the water to the mill wheel built from the west. That race can still be seen today if you know where to look. Unfortunately, the mill didn't do as well as expected due to a flow of water that was erratic, sometimes too much and other times not enough. It did stay in operation until about 1900 when it was sold and moved. The school was moved to St Peter in 1878 and the name was changed again, this time to Gustavus Adolphus. The stone wheel used in grinding the grain can still be seen on the campus of Gustavus. Reverend Jackson stayed and was West Union's Pastor for some time. A couple students that went on to fame were Andrew Holt, Supreme Court Justice, and Minnesota Governor Lind. Reverend Jackson's house is still directly across the road and the next building is St Ansgar's Academy minus the second floor. It became our fellowship hall.

To be continued.....