

East Union Lutheran Church

15180 County Road 40

PO Box 283

Carver, MN 55315



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

10:15 a.m.

Women's Bible Study

December 2023

East Union Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pastor Bryant's Office Hours: Mon—Wed 8:30am-Noon Darcy's Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 9am-2pm			1	2	1	2 10am Gathering Thru Fellowship
3 9am Worship-Communion 10am Fellowship 10am SS Program Practice 10:15am Women's Bible Study	4	5 10am Bible Study	6 8:30am Card Ministry 7pm Chime Rehearsal 6:30-8pm Youth Faith Formation @ WU 6:45-7:45pm Bible Study @ EU	7	8	9
10 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10am SS Program Practice 10:15am Women's Bible Study	11 1pm Quilting Group 7pm Dahlgren Township Mtg	12 10am Bible Study	13 6:30-8pm Youth Faith Formation @ WU 6:45-7:45pm Bible Study @ EU	14	15	16
17 9am Worship-Communion & Sunday School Christmas Program 10am Potluck Fellowship 10:15am Women's Bible Study	18	19 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Council Meeting	20 8:30am Card Ministry	21	22	23
24 9am Advent Worship 10am Fellowship 4pm & 5:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Services	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26	27	28	29	30
31 8:50am Hymn Sing 9am Worship-Communion 10am Fellowship						

Words from Pastor Bryant

We light one candle. We wait, we hope, we persist. The winter winds blow, an icy chill hangs in the air, darkness envelops the night. We wait, we hope, we persist.

We light two candles. We long for peace, we strive for mercy, we bring about justice. We comfort others in their sorrows, we lift up those who cannot stand on their own, we shine a light in the darkness. We long for peace, we strive for mercy, we bring about justice.

We light three candles. We sing for joy! We shout praises to the heavens! We give thanks to our God! Darkness shall not overcome the light! Hate shall not overcome love! God's reign will overcome the powers of destruction and chaos! We sing for joy! We shout praises to the heavens! We give thanks to our God!

We light four candles. All is still. All is calm. Everything is about to change. Has our patience paid off? Have our efforts to make a difference truly changed lives? Are we, but humble servants of God, worthy of such a gift? All is still. All is calm. Everything is about to change.

In this season of Advent, we wait. But, what exactly is it that we are waiting for? Hope? Peace? Joy? Love? Anxieties to cease? Pain and suffering to end? That chaos and disorder would melt into calm? For disease and sickness to disappear? Some sign that everything will be okay?

Markers and signs of our awaited hopes and dreams are all around us—if only we would look. The surprise of this Advent season is knowing that the One who makes all things new doesn't do so with the snap of a finger or the blink of an eye.

That first Christmas night, a baby was born. Nothing changed, yet everything changed. The in-breaking of God into our lives—in our world—is the story of a seed growing into a towering tree.

At times, our waiting seems for naught—it's as if all hope is lost—it would appear on a daily basis that the tree isn't growing. But, when we step back, when we view the whole picture, we notice small and subtle changes that remind us we do not make this journey alone.

We wait because we *know* God's reign of hope, peace, joy, and love *will* arrive. And while we wait, we look for the signs of God's kingdom—we help bring about God's kingdom—in small and gentle ways.

One day at a time, one moment at a time, you journey closer in the arms of the One who was born as a baby for the world, for your neighbors—*for you*.

Peace,
Pastor Bryant

Sunday School

Hello Church Families! If any parent has questions about Sunday School or would like to assist, feel free to talk to Mel Simonson at church or call at: 320-304-1557. Classes are held for children ages 3 through grade 5 on Sundays from 10am-11am.

Schedule

12/03: Practice for Christmas Program

12/10: Practice for Christmas Program

12/17: Christmas Program during worship, No Sunday School

12/24: No Sunday School

12/31: No Sunday School



**Classes will resume on January 7, 2024

Youth Faith Formation

Youth Faith Formation (YFF) is held @ WU on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8pm.

Schedule: 12/6 & 12/13, classes will resume on January 10, 2024



Bible Study

Bible Study continues every Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. in the Parish Center. (No Bible Study on December 26th).

Wednesday evening Bible Study is held @ EU from 6:45-7:45pm and follows the Youth Faith Formation schedule. All are welcome!

Women's Bible Study

Bible Study is on Sundays at 10:15am in the Parish Center Library. We are studying the book of Deuteronomy. We meet on 12/3, 12/10 & 12/17

Gathering Thru Fellowship

We will gather on December 2nd at 10am in the Parish Center for a deer Make-N-Take. Free will donations are accepted to cover the cost of materials. All are welcome to visit or create, coffee will be on! If you have a craft idea to make for future events and you would like to help coordinate the event, please let the church office know.

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 December 6th & 20th at 8:30am.

Sunday School Christmas Program & Potluck

The Sunday School Children will host their Annual Christmas Program on December 17th during worship. Everyone is welcome to stay for the potluck during Fellowship. Please bring a dish to share. We look forward to it!!



Christmas Services

We will celebrate Advent 4 on Sunday, December 24th at 9 a.m. and Christmas Eve Candlelight Services will be at 4pm and 5:30pm.

Looking Into the Future:

- ♦ Saturday, January 6th—Gathering Thru Fellowship
- ♦ January 25th & 26th—Quilters/Crafters Retreat
- ♦ Sunday, January 28th—Annual Congregational Meeting
- ♦ Saturday, February 10th—Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction
- ♦ Wednesday, February 14th—Ash Wednesday

Offering Envelopes

2024 Giving Envelopes are available in the Parish Center. If you use online giving and don't need envelopes; if you don't find your envelopes; or if you have any questions, please let us know - contact either the office or Rochelle Hasse.

Year End Committee Reports Deadline Upcoming

It's hard to believe that we are almost at the end of 2023. Just a quick reminder to all committee chairs that 2024 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.

Christmas Special Offering 2023

Each year, our Christmas Special Offering is directed to community services as a reminder that we are part of a larger community, whether it is local, regional, or global. Your council has decided to direct the 2023 Christmas Special Offering to the following worthy programs:

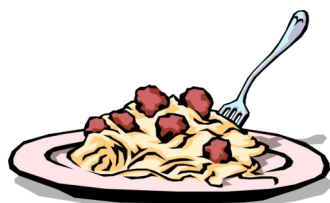
- Carver Ridge Senior Center Activities Fund. This donation will be used to sustain senior activities at the Senior Center in Carver.
- ELCA Middle East Crisis Fund - 100% of this donation will be used to provide long-lasting support to those whose lives have been impacted by the ongoing conflict in Gaza and Israel and other disasters in the region.

Please note that you always have the option of directing your Special Offering as you wish: example: 100% to one or the other above choices; to the Food Shelf, etc. Simply note your alternative choice on your envelope. If you want your donation to stay in-house, there is a December 24 regular offering envelope. Thank you for your generosity.



2024 Church Council Opportunity

Do you like to be involved in your church community? You are exactly the person we need! The Church Council consists of 9 members, each with a 3-year term (term limit is 6 years/2 terms). Council meets once a month. Each year we have 3 members whose terms are ending. We have 2 members who wish to continue to a second term. Which means we have an opportunity for a new council member beginning in 2024. Elections will be held at the annual meeting on January 28. Please contact the office or any current council member to add your name to the ballot or if you have questions.



Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction Donations

We are looking forward 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!



Worship & Music Committee

Thank you to Ann for arranging for the Minnesota Valley Community Band Brass Ensemble to provide special music for us on November 26! It was beautiful!

December 3 is the first Sunday in Advent and the choir will be providing special music for this Sunday. On December 10, the chime choir will be providing special music for the second Sunday in Advent.

The Worship & Music Committee is involved in all the aspects of the worship service –

- Scheduling special music
- Organizing the volunteers for the Altar Guild (communion preparation, changing of paraments and banners)
- Organizing the volunteers for the Sunday morning scripture readers
- General input regarding Sunday morning services, communion, input and service layout for special services, such as Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday, Easter, etc.

Watch for sign-up clipboards during the services in December to sign up for scripture reading and Altar Guild during 2024.

We would love to have you join the committee or participate in any of the groups! If you have any questions about joining this committee, please talk to Barb or Ann.

Contact Information for Altar Guild and Lector Scheduling – Barb Steers - bsteersmn@gmail.com



Food & Fellowship Committee

The EULC Food & Fellowship Committee is a dedicated group of volunteers responsible for planning and organizing food related events and activities, ensuring that every gathering creates a sense of belonging and community. This committee manages kitchen supplies, prepares food, serves and cleans up after church events. It is an opportunity where friendships are nurtured, bonds are strengthened and newcomers feel embraced.

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. Thanks for your donations!

Thank you

A personal note of thanks to everyone who wrote down their thoughts on the bulletin insert from November 12th . Your words will hopefully help us share our wonderful little country church with new neighbors in the area. I appreciate your time and would be more than open to any more help in the future. Most sincerely, Kathy Schallberg

Thank you

The church is decorated for Christmas!!! Big thanks to our special volunteers, who always do such an amazing job.

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!



Address Changes

Please notify the church office if you have changed your address/phone number so we can keep our records updated. If you would like to receive a birthday card, please email the office as well with your birthdate. Thank you!

Swedish Meatball Gravy Recipe

5 T. Butter
5 T. Flour
2 cups beef broth
1 cup heavy cream
1 T. worcestershire
1/2 tsp dijon mustard
Salt and Pepper to taste



- 1- add butter to skillet/pot and melt
- 2- Whisk in flour. Keep whisking until brown
- 3- Slowly add beef broth, cream, worcestershire and mustard.
- 4- Simmer until it starts to thicken