

## 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**

# December 2024

# East Union Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 "Hope"</b> 9am Worship-Communion 10am Fellowship	2	3 10am Bible Study	4 6:30pm Bible Study	5	6	7 10am Gathering Thru Fellowship
<b>8 "Peace"</b> 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School 10am Outreach Meeting	9 1pm Quilting Group 7pm Dahlgren Township Mtg	10 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting	11 8:30am Card Ministry	12	13	14
<b>15 "Joy"</b> 9am Worship-Communion Sunday School Christmas Program 10am Potluck	16	17 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Council Meeting	18 6:30pm Bible Study	19	20	21
<b>22 "Love"</b> 9am Worship 10am Fellowship	23 1pm Quilting Group	24 4:30pm Candle-light Christmas Eve Worship	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28
<b>29 "Light"</b> 8:50am Hymn Sing 9am Worship-Communion 10am Fellowship	30	31				<b>Pastor Bryant's Office Hours:</b> Mon—Wed 8:30am-Noon <b>Darcy's Office Hours:</b> Tues & Thurs 9am-2pm

## Words from Pastor Bryant

Dear disciples,

*“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.” – Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

We light one candle. The winter winds blow. Dark of night takes hold. We wait. We hope.

We light two candles. Snow flies. Birds travel. We prepare. We get ready.

We light three candles. The stars shine. The moon is bright. Joy fills our hearts. Peace clothes our weary souls.

We light four candles. The night is silent. The earth still. We hold our breath and watch and listen and will our spirits to uncover the unexpected surprise hidden around us.

This is the Advent season—we hurry up and wait. We wait with hopeful hearts, we expect the unexpected, and turn with joy toward the one whose birth brings about newness of life and love. This Advent, we remember that even in the darkest of night, the smallest of lights burns bright. This Advent, we celebrate the gifts of hope and peace and joy and love that will be born in a manger so long ago.

This Advent, we ready our hearts, souls, spirits, and minds for the incredible and radical arrival of the one who will make all things new. The one in whom we have our faith, our hope, and our life. The one, Jesus Christ, whose presence moves into the neighborhood with us and whose presence and kingdom we help bring about with our very hands and hearts.

This Advent, we steady and ready ourselves for the arrival of the one whose presence changes everything. Jesus Christ, the one who surrounds you and clothes you with an abundance of grace, life, and love.

Peace,

Pastor Bryant

## December Theme

Our theme for this month is **Preparation**. With the arrival of our awaited Savior, change is in the air. With Jesus moving into the neighborhood, the very kingdom of God is taking root within our world. Together, we prepare our hearts and minds to receive this incredible kingdom and celebrate the generous gifts of forgiveness, life, and love brought to bear in the Savior of the entire world: Jesus Christ.

## Tuesday Bible Study

Bible Study continues every Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. in the Parish Center. All are welcome! We will not have bible study on 12/24 & 12/31.

## Wednesday Bible Study

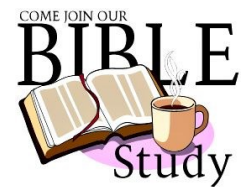
All are welcome to Wednesday Evening Bible Study, We are studying the season of Advent. Schedule is:

12/4/24 Bible Study

12/18/24 Bible Study

12/11/24 No Bible Study

12/25/24 No Bible Study (Christmas Break)



## Sunday School

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

### Schedule

12/1/24 No Sunday School

12/22/24 No Sunday School

12/8/24 Practice for Christmas Program

12/29/24 No Sunday School

12/15/24 Christmas Program

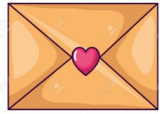
## Gathering Thru Fellowship

We will gather on December 7th at 10am in the Parish Center for a Make-N-Take. We will be making Christmas light bulbs and snowman top hats. There will also be a kid's craft project. All ages are welcome to visit or create, coffee will be on!



## Toys for Tots

We are collecting toy donations for Toys for Tots. Please bring donations to the Parish Center. The deadline for toy collection is December 8th.



## 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 11th at 8:30am.

## Sunday School Christmas Program & Potluck

The Sunday School Children will host their Annual Christmas Program on December 15th during worship. Everyone is welcome to stay for the potluck during Fellowship. Please bring a dish to share. We look forward to it!!



## Christmas Eve Worship

We will celebrate Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24th at 4:30pm.

## Looking Into the Future:

- ♦ January 4th—Gathering Thru Fellowship
- ♦ January 26, 2025—Annual Congregational Meeting
- ♦ February 8, 2025—Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction
- ♦ February 12th, 1pm-7pm—Blood Drive

## Year End Committee Reports Deadline Upcoming

It's hard to believe that we are almost at the end of 2024. Just a quick reminder to all committee chairs that 2025 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.

## 2024 Giving

2024 giving statements will be sent out in January; however, if you would like to see where you are at with your 2024 giving, please contact Barb Steers ([bstegersmn@gmail.com](mailto:bstegersmn@gmail.com) or in person) and she will provide you with a statement anytime between now and year end. Thank you for your generous support throughout the year!

## Offering Envelopes

2025 Giving Envelopes will be available in the Parish Center by December 8th. 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.

## Tithely

Tired of writing out checks? Are you out of town? Tithely is an easy way that you can contribute to East Union online. Your gift is safe and secure and goes directly to our church.

Go to <https://give.Tithe.ly/my-church> 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.

Select “sign up” to create an account to track your gifts, set up recurring giving, and more. Reach out to Chris Hallin if you have any questions.

## Church Pictorial Directory

The new directories are here! If you had your picture taken for the new directory, please see Chris Hallin or Brenda Lundquist after worship on Sunday to pick up your copy or come to the church office on Tuesday or Thursday to pick it up.



## 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!

## Dish Towels for Love INC

We urgently need new dish towels for our towel ministry. Please bring them to the Parish Center. Thank you.

## Food Shelf Donations

Please remember our neighbors in need during the Holiday Season. There is a grocery cart in the Parish Center ready to accept donations for the local food shelves. Thank you for your donations!

## Toilet Paper & Box Kleenex Drive

We are hosting a toilet paper and box Kleenex drive during the month of January. Please bring your donations to the Parish Center. We will be donating the toilet paper to Bountiful Baskets and the box Kleenex to Carver Elementary.

## Thank you

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

## Altar Guild 2025



We are in need of several new groups to join us on the Altar Guild! The team is responsible for changing paraments, communion set-up, filling candles, changing banners, etc. Two persons are needed each month. Ideally, if we get enough volunteers, the two members will only be on for one month during the year. If you have not participated in this important and rewarding part of the service previously, no worries! We will schedule a training session in January. Please consider joining us. Contact Barb Steers if you are interested.



## Christmas Eve Offering 2024

Traditionally, the Christmas Eve Offerings collected by EULC have been given to various charitable organizations locally, regionally and globally. This year, the council voted to split the offering equally between Carver Ridge Senior Living (local), Bountiful Basket (regional) and ELCA Good Gifts (global). The global donation would go towards "God's Global Barnyard." Examples of the barnyard include --



**10 Chicks** - when they grow up to become chickens, their eggs not only provide an ongoing supply of protein-rich meals, they can also help start a small business and generate a steady source of income -- \$10



**Goat** - fresh milk from a goat provides daily nutrition for children and their families. -- \$50

**Cow** -- one dairy cow can produce a few gallons of milk each day -- \$500

**Piglet** -- provides a source of natural fertilizer or sold at market to provide funds to support the family -- \$30

**Honeybees** -- provides honey to eat and beeswax to transform into handcrafted soaps and candles plus they boost crop growth by pollinating plants -- \$20

If you would like your offering to go to a specific outreach and not split equally between the three, you can note that in the memo of your check or offering and it will go to the outreach organization that you specify. Thank you for your generosity!



# Spaghetti Dinner Flyer

**Hosted by East Union Lutheran Church**

# *Spaghetti Dinner* *and Silent Auction*

**Saturday, February 8, 2025**

**4:00 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Pricing**

**Adults \$12**

**Children (4-17) \$7**

**Ages 3 and under Free**



*Bring your family, friends  
and neighbors and support  
a great cause!*

**\*Take-out available**

**Gluten free & vegetarian  
options available**

**East Union Lutheran Church**

**15180 County Road 40**

**Carver, MN 55315**

There will be something for everyone at this event. Baskets, gift certificates, and specialty items all up for bid. Dinner includes: spaghetti with homemade sauce, salad, bread, beverage, and homemade desserts.

**\* Silent Auction closes at 6:15pm. Need not be present to win. Proceeds are used for our Youth Programs. Thank you for your support!**

## Chaska Community Center (The Lodge) Upcoming Events for December

BINGO—Monday, Dec. 2nd and 16th . No registration needed. Play the entire time for \$1-\$5. All proceeds are returned in winnings.

Place: The Lodge Time: 1- 2:30 p.m. Cost: \$1/card, 5 card max

Box Lunch BINGO—Monday, Dec. 9th. Play bingo and have lunch. Register by Friday, Dec. 6th.

Place: The Lodge Time: 11:00 – 12:30 p.m. Cost: \$10/person

THE LODGE HOLIDAY PARTY—Wednesday, Dec. 11th

Join us at the Lodge at 9:30 a.m. for holiday cheer, music, treats, and prizes! This event is free and no registration necessary.

Fabulous Holiday Sweater Spud Bar—Friday, Dec. 20th. Enjoy a baked potato bar with choices of all the toppings. For extra fun, wear your holiday sweater! This bar includes beverage and dessert as well. Registration and payment deadline is Friday, Dec. 13th

Place: The Lodge Time: 11:45 – 1:00 p.m. Cost: \$10/person

New Year's Bingo Bash—Friday, Jan. 3rd. Play regular cash bingo with bonus prizes! \$1/card, 5 cards maximum. No registration necessary

Place: The Lodge Time: 1:00 – 3:00 pm Cost: \$1-\$5/person

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS:**  
Find and circle the  
vocabulary words  
in the grid. Look  
for them in all  
directions including  
backwards and  
diagonally.

# Christmas Treats

## Word Search

S	D	M	I	N	C	E	M	E	A	T	Q	D	K	E	I	Q	E	S
E	F	X	E	I	P	N	I	K	P	M	U	P	V	T	C	M	E	E
I	R	D	Y	Q	Y	X	N	Y	B	Z	P	O	A	A	N	Z	P	G
R	U	V	G	X	K	S	T	U	F	F	I	N	G	L	R	F	Q	N
R	I	B	O	Z	R	R	C	B	R	P	G	T	J	O	S	K	U	A
E	T	O	N	M	C	L	Z	K	I	E	O	M	I	C	T	Z	B	R
B	C	Z	G	L	O	I	M	S	S	E	O	A	F	O	N	P	P	O
N	A	W	G	V	E	E	M	D	C	G	S	E	R	H	G	N	Y	V
A	K	N	E	Q	E	O	N	X	B	R	E	Y	U	C	P	P	U	T
R	E	S	T	A	N	G	N	A	S	M	U	L	P	R	A	G	U	S
C	Z	S	C	Y	D	O	B	E	C	N	G	M	X	A	N	V	D	Q
Y	P	P	Z	F	I	Z	M	S	D	Y	M	I	P	Q	M	U	T	R
E	V	E	G	D	U	F	Q	G	Z	E	D	H	M	T	E	G	T	I
K	P	A	E	C	O	O	K	I	E	S	H	N	T	H	I	E	Z	S
R	Z	W	R	O	Q	R	Y	Q	R	F	P	C	A	N	R	O	D	M
U	W	U	K	G	B	W	N	T	F	M	K	M	U	C	G	N	U	I
T	G	I	N	G	E	R	B	R	E	A	D	E	P	B	K	K	T	S
S	W	E	E	T	P	O	T	A	T	O	E	S	H	B	K	F	G	B
B	M	M	O	O	Y	W	C	R	V	V	K	Q	K	T	H	V	T	L

- BUCHE DE NOEL
- CANDY CANE
- CHOCOLATE
- CLOVES
- COOKIES
- CRANBERRIES
- EGGNOG
- FRUITCAKE



- FUDGE
- GINGERBREAD
- GOOSE
- GRAVY
- HAM
- MINCEMEAT
- NUTS
- ORANGES
- PUMPKIN PIE
- SCRUMPTIOUS
- STUFFING
- SUGARPLUMS
- SWEET POTATOES
- TURKEY

## You Grew Up in Minnesota If...

1. You know how to polka, but never tried it sober.
2. You know what “knee high by the fourth of July” means.
3. You know it’s traditional for the bride and groom to go bar hopping between the reception and wedding dance.
4. You know the difference between “Green” and “Red” farm machinery and would fight with your friends on the playground over which is better.
5. You buy Christmas presents at Fleet Farm.
6. You spent more on beer and liquor than you did on food at your wedding.
7. You hear someone use the word “oof-dah” and don’t break into uncontrollable laughter.
8. You or someone you know was a “Dairy Princess” at the county fair.
9. You know that “combine” is a noun.
10. You let your older siblings talk you into putting your tongue on a steel post in the middle of winter.
11. You think Lutheran and Catholic are THE major religions.
12. You know that “creek” rhymes with “pick”
13. Football schedules, hunting season and harvest are all taken into consideration before the wedding day is set
14. A Friday night date is getting a six-pack and taking your girl shining for deer
15. Saturday you go to your local bowling alley
16. There was at least one kid in your class who had to help milk cows in the morning before coming to school
17. You have driven your car on a lake
18. Every wedding dance you have ever been to has the hokey pokey and the chicken dance
19. Your definition of a small town is one that only has one bar.
20. The local gas station sells live bait.
21. At least twice a year some part of your home doubles as a meat processing plant
22. You think the start of deer season is a national holiday
23. Pop is the only name for soda
24. You actually understand these jokes and will forward them to all your Minnesota friends!!!  
(Credited to Mike Coleman)