

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

December 2025

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-1pm	1	2	3	4	5	6
		10am Bible Study	8:30am Card Ministry 6:30pm Bible Study			10am Gathering Thru Fellowship
7 "Change (of heart)" 9am Worship-Communion 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School	8 1pm Quilting Group 7pm Dahlgren Township Mtg	9 10am Bible Study	10 6:30pm Bible Study	11	12	13
14 "Change (of view)" 9am Worship—Children's Christmas Program 10am Potluck 10am Outreach Meeting	15	16 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Council Meeting	17 6:30pm Bible Study	18	19	20
21 "Change (of mind)" 9am Worship-Communion 10am Fellowship	22 1pm Quilting Group	23 10am Bible Study	24 4:30pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27
28 "Change (of plans)" 9am Worship 10am Fellowship	29	30	31			

Words from Pastor Bryant

Dear Disciples,

As I write, the air is thick. Thick with moisture. Thick with fog. Thick with anticipation: Is it going to snow? How much? How heavy? How cold? Is winter here for good? With visibility low, with light dim, with the air heavy and still, it makes you wonder: What is about to happen?

As we enter this season of Advent, it is *the* question: In that little town of Bethlehem, what is about to happen? What type of birth is this? What change is the Christ-child going to bring? How is my life going to be upended by the radical nature of the Gospel?

In this journey that is life and faith, the answer is never quite defined. We never quite know exactly how our life, today, is going to be changed by Jesus. Every day, it turns out, is a day filled with anticipation. Anticipation over a hoped-for future and a hope-filled present. For while we await the birth of our Savior, we also meet our Savior—today—on the foggy road of faith and life.

Together, we wait. We prepare. And we step out in faith.

This Advent season, 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! 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—the gift of life and love?

All is still. All is calm. Everything is about to change.

Peace,

Pastor Bryant

December Theme

Our theme for this month is ***Change***. John the Baptist and Jesus are now on the scene. Their presence is like an earthquake--nothing is going to be the same! In the midst of this upheaval, we are reminded of the radical nature of the Gospel and its impact on our lives. For, together and with Jesus by our side, everything changes for the good!

Tuesday Bible Study

Bible Study continues every Tuesday morning at 10am in the Parish Center. All are welcome! We will not meet on December 30th for Christmas break.

Wednesday Bible Study

Bible Study meets at 6:30pm on Wednesday evenings. No class on December 24th & 31st for Christmas Break.



Sunday School

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

Schedule

12/7/25 Christmas Program Practice	12/21/25 No Sunday School
12/14/25 Christmas Program	12/28/25 No Sunday School

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 3rd at 8:30am.

Gathering Thru Fellowship

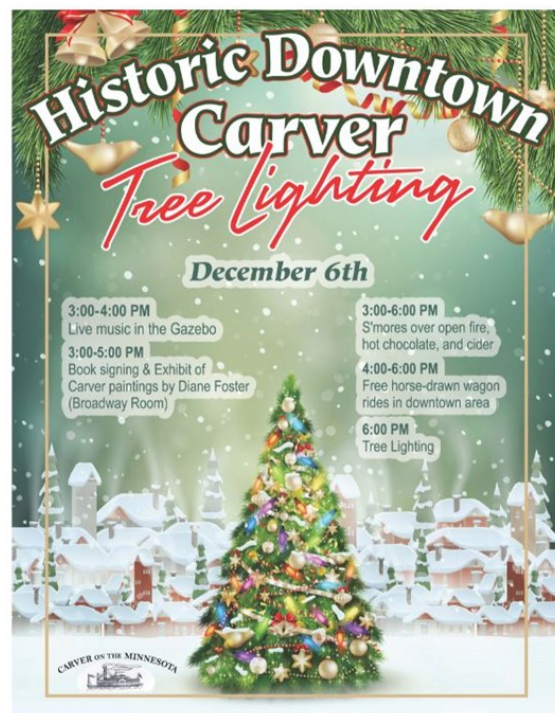
We are looking forward to our next gathering on December 6th at 10am in the Parish Center. We will be making 12" wreaths. All are welcome to participate or visit!

Christmas Caroling & Tree Lighting in Carver

Join us on December 6th for Christmas festivities. We are looking for people who would like to go Caroling, meet at the Gazebo in Carver at 3:15pm. We will start Caroling at 3:30pm.

Christmas Concert

The MN Valley Community Band is hosting a free concert on December 7th at 3pm at the Chaska High School.



Sunday School Christmas Program & Potluck

The Sunday School Children will host their Annual Christmas Program on December 14th during worship. Everyone is welcome to stay for the potluck during Fellowship. Please bring a dish to share. We look forward to it!!

MN Valley Community Band

Mark your calendars for December 21st. The brass quintet from MVCB will provide special music during worship.



Christmas Eve Worship

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

Fellowship on December 28

Please bring your leftover Christmas cookies to share for fellowship on December 28th.

Toys for Tots

We are collecting toy donations for Toys for Tots. Please bring donations to the Parish Center by December 9th. Thank you!



Looking Into the Future:

- ♦ January 3rd—Gathering Thru Fellowship
- ♦ January 22 & 23, 2026—Quilt Retreat
- ♦ January 25, 2026—Annual Congregational Meeting
- ♦ February 7, 2026—Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction
- ♦ February 11, 2026—Blood Drive



Thank you

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

Year End Committee Reports Deadline

Reminder to all committee chairs that 2026 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 enough time to assemble the Annual Report.

Church Council Opportunity

The Council of East Union will have four positions up for election in the coming year. The election of Council members will be held at the Annual Meeting in January, 2026.

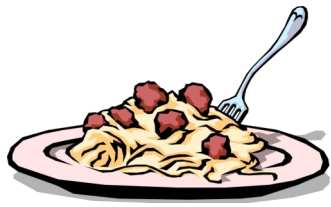
Three positions are for election to full three-year terms, ending in 2029. The fourth seat is for a one-year term, ending in 2027. Council members may serve up to two consecutive three-year terms.

Anyone with interest in serving the Church in this capacity should speak with a member of the Executive Committee of the Council (Todd Johnson, Chris Hallin or Kathy Schallberg) to have their name added to the ballot in January.

To learn more about service on the Church Council, please feel free to speak with anyone currently serving. You will also find many fellow parishioners who have served on Council in the past to speak with. Thanks to all for considering this opportunity to serve our Church!

Card Ministry—Free Cards

Our committee has appreciated all the free card donations! We have an over abundance right now. There is a tote in the Parish Center for anyone who would like to give a card. Please take what you need.



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!

Craft Donations for Plant & Craft Sale

We are starting to think about our Plant & Craft sale in May. We are looking for craft donations to sell at our sale. Thank you.

Tithely

Did you forget your offering? 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.

Use the QR code or go to [Tithe.ly Giving](https://tithely.com/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.



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 grocery bags as well as empty egg cartons. If you have extra, please put them in the grocery cart. Thank you for your donations!

BOUNTIFUL BASKET CURRENT NEEDS - November



- Spaghetti Sauce & Pasta
- Canned Chicken, Tuna & Salmon
- Canned Pineapple & Mandarin Oranges
- Canned Mixed Vegetables
- White & Brown Rice
- Instant Rice
- Healthy Kid Snacks
- Ramen Noodles
- Easy Mac & Cheese
- Cereal
- Hearty Soup
- Saltines
- Mayonnaise
- Flour, Sugar & Cooking Oil
- Baking mixes
- Diapers
- Toilet Paper

We could also use your brown and plastic bags and empty egg cartons!

Quote of the Month

"Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible"

~ Dalai Lama

Unique Christmas Traditions from Around the World

Sweden: The Swedes construct a Yule Goat. This tradition dates back to pagan festivals. However, in 1966, the tradition was changed when someone came up with the idea to make a giant straw goat, now referred to as the Gavle Goat. The goat is more than 42' high, 23' wide, and weighs 3.6 tons. It is taken down after the New Year.



Japan: Although Christmas isn't a national holiday in Japan, the citizens still find an interesting and delicious way to celebrate. Rather than gathering around for a turkey dinner, families head out to their local Kentucky Fried Chicken. The tradition began in 1974 after a wildly successful marketing campaign called "*Kurisumasu ni wa kentakii!*" or "Kentucky for Christmas!" People wait in line for hours!

Iceland: Similar to the 12 days of Christmas in the U.S., Iceland celebrates 13 days. Each night before Christmas, Icelandic children are visited by the 13 Yule Lads. After placing their shoes by the window, the little ones head to bed. In the morning, they'll either have received candy (if they're good) or be greeted with shoes full of rotten potatoes if they're bad.



Mexico: All across Mexico members of the Church put on Pastorelas (Shepherd's Plays) to retell the Christmas story. The Mexican Christmas season begins early in December with Las Posadas, a religious march that re-enacts the journey of Mary and Joseph. The vibrant red poinsettia flowers are also used in holiday arrangements for decoration throughout the country.

The Netherlands: *Sinterklaas* is the Dutch name for Saint Nicholas, the man recognized by children by his long white beard, red cape, and red miter. Kids put a shoe by the chimney or back door and wake up on Christmas morning to find treats like gingerbread men, marzipan, and chocolate letters inside.

Ireland: The Irish leave a tall red candle in a front window overnight, a welcoming symbol of warmth and shelter for the holiday season. Traditional Christmas fare in Ireland often includes homemade roast goose, vegetables, cranberries, and potatoes.

Mark your calendars—Spaghetti Dinner

Hosted by East Union Lutheran Church

Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, February 7, 2026

4:00 – 6:30 p.m.



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

***Take-out available**

**Gluten free & vegetarian
options available**

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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!**