

# East Union Lutheran Church



A Wellspring of Faith, Hope, and Love

# History of East Union

In 1858, the East Union congregation was organized. Peter (Pehr) Carlson had intended to stay in East Union for only a short time. Instead, he remained pastor of the settlement for twenty-two years.

In 1866, construction of the current church building began. It was built with Carver brick and took almost two years to complete. The total cost was \$5,340. The new building was dedicated on June 14, 1868.

Other highlights of the early church:

- 1880-1882 – a bell was hung in the steeple. It later cracked and is now mounted outside the church building's main entry.
- 1886- - Rounding of the ceiling and the tops of the windows. The alter picture was painted and hung, and a new pulpit was built.
- 1887 – the first pipe organ installed

\* Information taken from the 1858-2008 One-Hundred-Fifty Years history book



# History of East Union

- St Ansgar's Academy

- Opened the fall term in 1863 in the log church built in 1856
- Originally called Minnesota Elementarskola (Swedish indicating an institution for secondary education)
- In 1865, name was changed to St. Ansgar's Academy when Swedish Lutherans were observing the 1000 anniversary of the death of St. Ansgar
- After first year, three young men were prepared to enter the Seminary at Paxton
- 1876, with church politics and financial finagling in flux, school moved to St. Peter and renamed Gustavus Adolphus School
- Notable attendees
  - John Lind, 14<sup>th</sup> Minnesota governor and first Swedish immigrant elected to the US House of Representatives
  - Andrew A. Holt, Minnesota Supreme Court justice

- Church Hall

- 1883 the congregation bought back the hall and 5 acres for \$800
- It served as a young people's hall with classes, literary society meetings, debates and concerts
- With many renovations over the years, the hall was used for education and social building for the congregation
- 1994, a new parish center was constructed



# History of East Union

## Church Cemetery

The cemetery land was acquired in 1856 but not laid out in lots until 1876. From 1891 to 1942, members paid one dollar for a five-grave lot, and until 1908 each owner was in charge of upkeep on their own lot.

The beauty of the East Union Lutheran cemetery may be credited to a group of 18 people who organized the Cemetery Society in 1910 and many of the people who gave their time and efforts throughout the past 98-years. In 1982, the Cemetery Society was dissolved, and a constitutional amendment adopted to provide administration of the cemetery by the church council.

Many veterans of the Civil War, World War I and II, Korean War, Vietnam War, two Gulf wars as well as peacetime duty are buried in the cemetery.



# History of East Union

- 1851 – First settlers arrive in area
- 1856 – First church erected
- 1858 – East Union Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church is organized
- 1860 – Sunday School starts
- 1866 – Current church erected
- 1874 – Present parsonage built
- 1886 – Alter painting created
- 1888 – Ladies Aid starts
- 1905 – First English service conducted
- 1911 – First Memorial Day program
- 1923 – Stained-glass windows installed
- 1928 – First Lutefisk supper held (continued for approximately 50 years)
- 1939 – Last Swedish service conducted; first Sunday bulletin published and handed out at church



# History of East Union

- 1941 – *Scandinavian* name dropped from name of church
- 1949 – Congregation goes to free-will contribution instead of membership dues
- 1956 – Major remodeling completed
- 1971 – Current pipe organ, a Wicks model, installed
- 1974 – VBS with West Union for first time
- 1977 – First time lectors read lessons during services
- 1979 – Corrine Hasse first woman on church council
- 1982 – Major restoration project completed
- 1988 – Sunday school attendance reaches peak of 70
- 1989 – First parish secretary hired
- 1994 – New parish center dedicated
- 2008 – East Union Lutheran Church celebrates 150 years of God's grace with events throughout the year







## Music and More Music

Music fills the East Union worship service. With many talented musicians, we listen to guitars, bongo drums, chimes, guitars, organs, pianos, and voices to bring the spirit of the congregation to us at worship services.





# Dinners at East Union

East Union hosts many dinners throughout the year. Many are fund raisers for the church programs while others are just social. They include the Spaghetti Dinner in February, Summer Ice Cream Social, and fall Swedish Meatball (formerly Chicken) dinner.



# Annual Plant Sale



The annual plant sale in May brings people from all over to purchase plants, bake items, and garden decorations. People line up early in the morning to find just the right items for the spring planting.





# Gathering Through Fellowship

On the first Saturday of each month, members, family, friends join to celebrate friendship. Arts, crafts, fellowship, coffee, snacks are enjoyed by all.



# Rally Sunday

We will be kicking off the school year with a Carnival themed Rally Sunday event. Take this time to meet the teachers, visit the Sunday school rooms, ask about volunteering opportunities and sharing the word of God.

- Meet with your Sunday School teacher
- Carnival games and craft projects
- Food and drinks will be



## TOWELS, TOWELS, & <sup>more</sup> TOWELS!

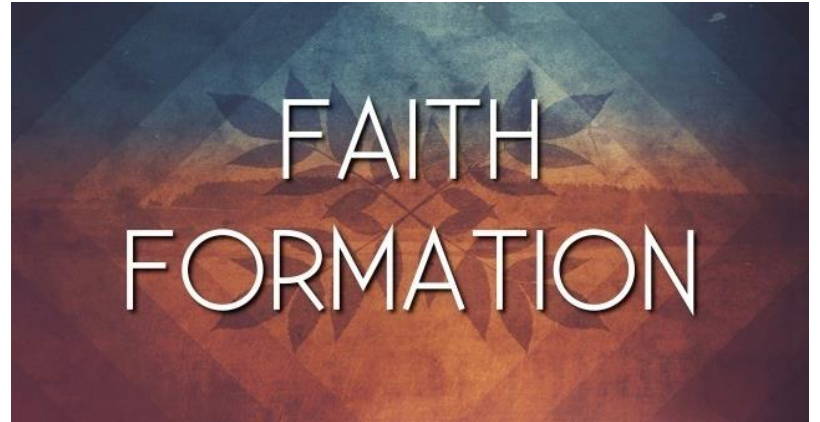
A stack of several folded towels in various colors including red, purple, green, and white.

# CHURCH SOFTBALL



# Involvement

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# Volunteering