

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

January 2024

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 10am Bible Study	3	4	5	6 10am Gathering Thru Fellowship
7 “Child of God” 9am Worship-Communion 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School	8 1pm Quilting Group 7pm Dahlgren Township Mtg	9 10am Bible Study	10 8:30am Card Ministry 6:30-8pm Youth Faith Formation @ WU 6:45-7:45pm Bible Study @ EU	11	12	13
14 “Found by Jesus” 9am Worship 10am Fellowship	15	16 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Council Meeting	17 8:30am Card Ministry 6:30-8pm Youth Faith Formation @ WU 6:45-7:45pm Bible Study @ EU	18	19	20
21 “Fisher of People” 9am Worship-Communion 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School 10:15am Women's Bible Study	22 1pm Quilting Group	23 10am Bible Study	24 8:30am Card Ministry 6:30-8pm Youth Faith Formation @ WU 6:45-7:45pm Bible Study @ EU	25 9am-5pm Quilt Retreat	26 9am-5pm Quilt Retreat	27
28 “Empowered by the Spirit” 9am Worship 10am Annual Congregational Meeting 10am Sunday School	29	30 10am Bible Study	31 6:30-8pm Youth Faith Formation @ WU 6:45-7:45pm Bible Study @ EU			

Words from Pastor Bryant

Dear disciples,

The Christmas decorations are slowly being put away. Family gatherings with their food, laughter, and travel have come and gone. The silent nights of the Christmas season have faded from view.

The new year has begun! Every year the calendar turns over it feels as if all things are possible. And why not? Why shouldn't 2024 be filled with endless opportunities? Well, perhaps *endless* is a bit of a stretch—I, maybe like you, often make resolutions in January only to find them broken by February.

Which is a bit odd given the excitement the new year generates. How is it possible that within one month most of us have fallen into the doldrums of winter—the hope, joy, and excitement of “all things are possible” turned into “maybe next year?”

I'm not sure I have a solid answer for you, but a little self-reflection on my part lets me know part of the problem might be the rush to bring about years' worth of change within the span of a few months. It'd be like attempting to run a marathon without first taking the next step—it doesn't feel like much, a single step; however, without it we can't accomplish the goal at hand.

In this way, the possibilities that are ahead of us aren't necessarily filled with great change, but instead gentle improvement. And isn't that just as wonderful—and to be honest, just as difficult to accomplish?

One day at a time, one moment at a time, we have the opportunities to bring about great change—we have the chance to accomplish that which we set out for. So, what is it that you would like to improve upon this year?

I'll let you in on what I'd like to accomplish this year: I'd love to spend more time with you—the people of East Union. This isn't an earth-shattering resolution, but instead a goal to build upon a foundation that's already been laid. I would love to continue connecting with our local community—in ways that invite folks in and send us out in mission.

During the last year I spent time with ecumenical colleagues and reading books that helped inspire and make me a better preacher, teacher, and pastor—my goal is to continue broadening these relationships and the time I spend learning so that the wisdom and experience of others is represented within our community of faith.

They're all small goals aimed toward a greater goal. The greater goal isn't going to be finished in 2024. In fact, it might never be finished in this lifetime. We're never “complete.” We're never “finished.” The marathon isn't something we complete—it's a journey we're always on.

Words from Pastor Bryant—cont'd

So, with that in mind, what's the next step you can take? How can you continue to build and improve upon the gifts you have received from Jesus in this year ahead? And remember, you can't do it all this year.

However, with the Holy Spirit by your side, even when you embrace the smallest opportunity put before you, great change will happen. I look forward to seeing where the Spirit leads us in this year ahead—and I look forward to making the journey with you: faithful disciples of the Christ-child—the One who makes all things new!

Peace,
Pastor Bryant

January Theme

Our theme for this month is ***Claimed***. Throughout January, we will hear stories of how the first disciples were chosen by Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit for mission in the world. You, too, have been claimed as a child of God and sent out to be the hands and feet of Jesus! Join us in worship this month as we prepare our hearts and minds to be beacons of Jesus' light and love to all people!

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

1/07: Sunday School
1/14: No Sunday School
1/21: Sunday School
1/28: Sunday School



Youth Faith Formation

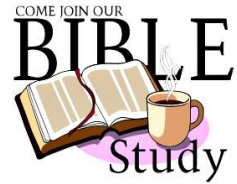
Youth Faith Formation (YFF) is held @ WU on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8pm.

Schedule: 1/10, 1/17, 1/24 & 1/31

Bible Study

Bible Study continues every Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. in the Parish Center.

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 1/21

Year End Committee Reports Deadline

Reminder to all committee chairs that year end committee reports will be due to the church office by **January 4th** to allow Darcy enough time to assemble the Annual Report.

Card Ministry Team

The Card Ministry Team is here for anyone in need of Christ's love through a card.

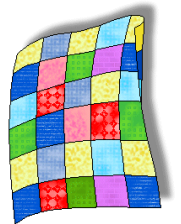
The Team will meet on January 10th & 24th at 8:30am.

Gathering Thru Fellowship

We will gather on January 6 at 10am in the Parish Center and we will be making nature sculptures, hosted by Don Kopperud. 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.

Quilt Retreat

The quilting group is hosting a retreat on January 25th & 26th 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.



Annual Congregational Meeting

Join our East Union Lutheran Church community on **January 28th** after Worship for our Annual Meeting of the Congregation. Lunch will be provided in celebration of all that we have achieved this year.

Looking Into the Future:

- ♦ Saturday, February 3rd—Gathering Thru Fellowship
- ♦ Saturday, February 10th—Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction
- ♦ Wednesday, February 14th—Ash Wednesday



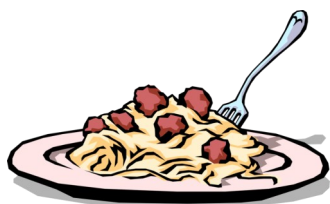
Offering Envelopes



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.

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. Please drop off your items at the church office.

Super Roll Sunday

We are collecting toilet paper for our Annual Super Roll Sunday! Food shelves cannot spend donated money on toilet paper; they can only buy food. The only way they can stock up with toilet paper is if it is donated. Please bring rolls of toilet paper to the Parish Center by February 11. Last year we brought in 1,183 rolls of toilet paper! Let's see if we beat last year's donations.

New Photo Directories

We are looking forward to new photo directories. Mark your calendars for May 16-18 to come to church to have your picture taken for the directory. Please make sure that the church office has your current address and phone numbers. Watch for more information as the time gets closer. We are excited to create new directories!

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!



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!

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.



Hosted by East Union Lutheran Church

Spaghetti Dinner *and Silent Auction*

**Saturday, February 10, 2024
4:00 – 6:30 p.m.**

Pricing

Adults \$10

Children (4-17) \$5

Ages 3 and under Free

Family (Household) \$25



*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.

***Need not be present to win the Silent Auction**