

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

January 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-2pm			1	2	3	4 10am Gathering Thru Fellowship
5 "The Word" 9am Worship-Communion 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School	6	7 10am Bible Study	8 8:30am Card Ministry 6:30pm Bible Study	9	10	11
12 "Baptized" 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School 10am Outreach Meeting	13 1pm Quilting Group 7pm Dahlgren Township Mtg	14 10am Bible Study	15 6:30pm Bible Study	16	17	18
19 "Abundance" 9am Worship-Communion 10am Fellowship	20	21 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Council Meeting	22 8:30am Card Ministry 6:30pm Bible Study	23	24	25
26 "Beginnings" 9am Worship 10am Annual Congregational Meeting 10am Sunday School	27 1pm Quilting Group	28 10am Bible Study	29 6:30pm Bible Study	30	31	

Words from Pastor Bryant

Dear Disciples,

Every year the experience is the same and yet every year I still manage to be caught off guard by it. We have a *Days to Christmas* countdown in our house. And each day throughout the Advent season one of the kids would remove one of the numbers and swap it out with another. Slowly but surely the countdown went from 25 days to Christmas, to 15, to 5, to 1, and now it sits at 0.

Zero days to Christmas. That's because, as I write this, Christmas was yesterday. So, although the countdown to Christmas is done, that calendar will remain stuck at zero. Zero days remain until the awaited thing has arrived.

So, now what? Now that the Advent songs of waiting and preparation are behind us, now that the silent and holy night has come and gone and been replaced with cloudy and humid days, what are we waiting for now?

It's always the strange part of the season for me, at least. Since early fall, my house has been decorated with something. Pumpkins, leaves, and all things autumn for those months of fall which then slowly gave way to snowmen, snowflakes, and all things Christmas these last few weeks.

But, as the calendar turns to 2025 and the month of January, as Christmas decorations are put back into boxes and your house returns to a more barren state not seen since perhaps Labor Day, as the countdown to Christmas calendars are taken down, what do we look forward to now?

The ordinary and mundane. In the language of the church calendar, we call this *Ordinary Time*. I can't think of a more appropriate word for it. This in between time—this time beyond family dinners, festive decorations, and tasty treats—this time truly is ordinary time.

But, with Jesus now on the scene, even the ordinary becomes extraordinary. This is the beauty of this in between time—this post-Christmas time of the year. It's a time of witnessing how Jesus shows up in our everyday lives. It's a time of recognizing how the Holy Spirit is active in our lives once all the decorations have been taken down.

It's a time of wondering what God will be up to next. Because, I can tell you this: It will be anything but ordinary. During this new year, let's be on the lookout for Jesus' activity—because although things might feel ordinary now, Jesus will soon bring about extraordinary grace and light and love—for the world, and for you.

Peace,

Pastor Bryant

January Theme

Our theme for this month is **Arrival**. Now that Jesus has been born, we await with wonder how his presence will change the world--and change us. Together, we find Jesus out in the world bringing about abundant life, grace, and love. Together, we find his arrival to be quite unexpected--in ways that are incredible and life changing!

Tuesday Bible Study

Bible Study continues every Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. in the Parish Center. All are welcome!

Wednesday Bible Study

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

1/1/25 No Bible Study

1/22/25 Bible Study

1/8/25 Bible Study

1/29/25 Bible Study

1/15/25 Bible Study



Sunday School

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

Schedule

1/5/25 Sunday School

1/19/25 No Sunday School

1/12/25 Sunday School

1/26/25 Sunday School

Year End Committee Reports Deadline

Reminder to all committee chairs that year end committee reports will be due to the church office by **January 2nd** to allow Darcy enough time to assemble the Annual Report.

2025 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. This year we have a volunteer opportunity for two new council members beginning in 2025. Elections will be held at the annual meeting on January 26. Please contact the office or any current council member to add your name to the ballot or if you have questions.

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.

Gathering Thru Fellowship

We will gather on January 4th at 10am in the Parish Center for a Make-N-Take. We will be making terracotta clay pot snowmen. All ages are welcome to visit or create, coffee will be on!



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 8th & 22nd at 8:30am.



Annual Congregational Meeting

Join our East Union Lutheran Church community on **January 26th** after Worship for our Annual Meeting of the Congregation. Lunch will be provided in celebration of all that we have achieved this year.

Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction Donations

We are looking forward to our Spaghetti Dinner on February 8th. 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.



Red Cross Blood Drive

Would you like to save a life? Join us and the Red Cross on **Wednesday, February 12 from 1-7 p.m.** in the Parish Center to do just that by giving blood! More details to follow.

Quilt Retreat

The quilting group is hosting a retreat on February 20th & 21st from 9am-5pm each day. If you are interested in joining, please call the church office, cost is \$15. Bring your own lunch.

Looking Into the Future:

- ◆ February 1st—Gathering Thru Fellowship
- ◆ February 8th—Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction
- ◆ February 20th & 21st—Quilt Retreat
- ◆ Wednesday, March 5th—Ash Wednesday

Offering Envelopes

2025 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.

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

If you had your picture taken for the directory and have not picked it up, please contact the church office.

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. Thank you for your donations!

Thank you—Hats & Mittens

A request for hats and mittens was requested from Carver Elementary School. Once again the East Union members gave joyful to this request. The hats, mittens and scarfs were delivered to the school on December 16th.

Thank you—Toys for Tots

A huge thank you for toys that were donated to make our toy drive a success. The toys were delivered to the Kare 11 site on December 10th.



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**

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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!**

Holiday Events Still Around in January

Winter Lights at the MN Arboretum until January 5.

This is a self-guided one mile walking tour through an illuminated wonderland which includes 15 stops. There is a warming house with snacks and beverages for sale. The Arboretum's café, Rootstock, is open select nights as well as live music on select nights. There's even a New Year's Eve Celebration on Dec. 31. The Winter Lights experience is available until January 5 and you will need to purchase tickets to this event.

Chanhassen Dinner Theater presents Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" until January 25

"White Christmas" is being presented for the first time ever on the Chanhassen main stage featuring the unforgettable song, "White Christmas." Tickets can be purchased through the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre.



Health and Wellness Expo at Chaska Community Center January 11, 2025 | 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Join the South West Metro Chamber of Commerce and the Chaska Community Center for the Health & Wellness Expo! This event will feature wellness vendors and service providers. This includes all types of wellness (physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, financial, etc.) There will be service demos, special discounts, products for purchase, and more. Coinciding with the Expo, the Chaska Community Center is having an open house, During this time all community members can explore and enjoy the Center's amenities. No membership required during the event!



New Year's Word Search

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

AULD LANG SYNE
 CALENDAR
 CELEBRATE
 CHAMPAIGN
 CONFETTI
 COUNTDOWN
 FATHER TIME
 FIREWORKS
 HOLIDAY

MIDNIGHT
 NEW YEARS EVE
 NOISEMAKER
 PARTY
 RESOLUTIONS
 TIMES SQUARE
 TRADITION
 KISS

