

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 2026

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 10am Gathering Thru Fellowship	
4 “Moved into the neighborhood” 9am Worship-Communion 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School	5	6 10am Bible Study	7 8:30am Card Ministry 6:30pm Bible Study	8	9	10
11 “Baptized for mission” 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School	12 1pm Quilting Group 7pm Dahlgren Township Mtg	13 10am Bible Study	14 6:30pm Bible Study	15	16	17
18 “The Lamb of God” 9am Worship-Communion 10am Fellowship	19	20 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Council Meeting	21 8:30am Card Ministry 6:30pm Bible Study	22 9am-5pm Quilt Retreat	23 9am-5pm Quilt Retreat	24
25 “Called for mission” 9am Worship 10am Annual Congregational Meeting 10am Sunday School	26 1pm Quilting Group	27 10am Bible Study	28 6:30pm Bible Study	29	30	31

Words from Pastor Bryant

Dear Disciples,

And just like that, the baking of Christmas cookies has ceased, Christmas decorations are slowly coming down, Christmas music is disappearing from the airwaves, and what was once the holiday season is no more.

There's still snow aplenty, cold weather, starry nights, and short days—but, no holiday season to brighten the dark and quiet days. Together, we head into the new year having gotten our fill of family and friends, food and celebrations—but, now what?

As the ball drops and the calendar turns to 2026, as we put away our nativity scenes and sweep up needles from the tree, as things return to normal, how do we—as followers of Jesus—continue to experience the wonder of the Christ-child? In this ordinary season, how do we continue to witness the extraordinary in the ordinary and mundane of everyday life?

Together, we continue what the angels and shepherds and magi started that very first Christmas. We celebrate the birth of our Savior and then move out into the world. We move out with voices raised in praise of the one who saves us and with actions that point toward Jesus' forgiveness and love for a world in need.

Together, we continue the celebration. For each and every day is yet another opportunity to give thanks to our God for life, to Jesus for salvation, and to the Holy Spirit for equipping us as disciples sent for mission.

Together, we make the ordinary, extraordinary for our families, friends, and neighbors by embracing the wonder of the Christ-child and recognizing the Word made flesh in all we do. For Christmas hasn't ended—it's only just begun!

Peace,

Pastor Bryant

January Theme

Our theme for this month is **Called**. Jesus and his disciples hear words of affirmation and direct calls from God. Callings that send them out into a world in need of peace and hope, healing and love. Together, we follow in their footsteps as we change the world in the name of Jesus Christ!

Tuesday Bible Study

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



Wednesday Bible Study

Bible Study meets at 6:30pm on Wednesday evenings. We are studying the book of Genesis



Sunday School

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

Schedule

1/4/26 Sunday School

1/18/26 No Sunday School

1/11/26 Sunday School

1/25/26 Sunday School

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 Kleenexes to Carver Elementary and the toilet paper to Bountiful Baskets.

Gathering Thru Fellowship

We are looking forward to our next gathering on January 3rd at 10am in the Parish Center. We will be playing BINGO. All are welcome to participate or visit!

Year End Committee Reports Deadline

Reminder to all committee chairs that year end committee reports are due to the church office by **January 6th** to allow enough time to assemble the Annual Report. Thank you.



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 7th & 21st at 8:30am.

Quilt Retreat

The quilting group is hosting a retreat on January 22nd & 23rd from 9am-5pm each day. If you are interested in joining, please call the church office, cost is \$10 per day. Bring your own lunch.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Join our East Union Lutheran Church community on **January 25th** after Worship for our Annual Meeting of the Congregation. Lunch will be provided in celebration of all that we have achieved this year.

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!



Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction Donations

We are looking forward to our Spaghetti Dinner on February 7th. We'd love your help to start thinking of donation items or have a business contact for the Silent Auction.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Would you like to save a life? Join us and the Red Cross on **Wednesday, February 11th from 1-7 p.m.** in the Parish Center More details to follow.

Looking Into the Future:

- ♦ February 7—Gathering Thru Fellowship
- ♦ February 7, 2026—Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction
- ♦ February 11, 2026—Blood Drive
- ♦ February 18, 2026—Ash Wednesday



Offering Envelopes

The 2026 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 Barb Steers.

Thank you—Toys for Tots

A huge thank you for all the toys that were donated to make our toy drive a success. The toys were delivered on December 9th.



Thank you—Carolers

We had a great time Caroling in Carver. Thanks to all who joined us!

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.

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://tithe.ly/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 - December 2025

• Cereal	• Mayonnaise
• Hearty Soup	• Flour, Sugar & Cooking Oil
• Crackers	• Baking mixes
• Spaghetti Sauce & Pasta	• Diapers
• Canned Chicken, Tuna & Salmon	• Toilet Paper
• Canned Pineapple & Mandarin Oranges	• Laundry Detergent
• White & Brown Rice	• Dish Soap
• Healthy Kid Snacks	• Shampoo
	• Feminine Hygiene Products

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

BOUNTIFUL BASKET
FOOD SHELF

Quote of the Month

“Be Yourself. Everyone Else Is Taken.”

~ Oscar Wilde

New Year Traditions from Around the World

Russia: Instead of resolutions, Russians concentrate on wishes. One tradition is to write your wish on the smallest piece of paper you can at midnight, set it on fire, and drop the smoldering remains into your drink. For the wish to come true, you must drink all the contents of your drink, ashes and all, before the clock strikes 12:01 a.m!



Spain: “Las Duce Uvas de la Suerte” or “The Twelve Grapes of Luck.” You must eat one grape for each strike of the clock tower at midnight. This tradition is to bring good luck in the new year and to drive away evil spirits.

Italy: People dress up in festive underwear on the New Year. Red undies are thought to bring good luck and yellow ones are thought to bring money in the new year.



Germany: People swap “Glucksschwein” or “Lucky Pigs” made of marzipan. This is thought to bring good luck in the new year.

Philippines: Circles are thought to bring prosperity so people dress in outfits with polka-dots or other circular patterns.

Scotland: Scots celebrate Hogmanay (their word for the last day of the year) with the practice of first-footing. You must be the first person to cross the threshold of a friend or neighbor’s house and give a symbolic gift. The gift can be a coin for prosperity, bread for food, salt for flavor, coal for warmth, or a drink for cheer.

Some Latin American Countries: It’s believed that carrying a suitcase in a circle will increase your chances of taking a trip.



Mark your calendars—Spaghetti Dinner

Hosted by East Union Lutheran Church

Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, February 7, 2026

4:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Pricing

Adults \$15

Children (Ages 4-10) \$8

Ages 3 and under Free



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

***Take-out available**

Vegetarian option 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!**