

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

May 2023

East Union Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pastor Bryant's Office Hours: Monday—Wednesday 8:30am-4:30pm Darcy's Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9am-2pm	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 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 6:30pm Youth Faith Formation at WU	11	12 9am-6pm Plant/Bake Sale Drop Off	13 8am-Noon Plant & Bake Sale
14 Confirmation 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 9am Worship-Communion 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School 10am Roadside Cleanup	22 1pm Quilting Group	23 10am Bible Study	24 8:30am Card Ministry	25	26	27
28 9am Worship 10am Fellowship	29 7:30am Honor Guard Service	30 10am Bible Study	31			

Words from Pastor Bryant

Dear Disciples,

Spring has sprung! *Finally*. As it stands now, my grass is green and slowly inching its way toward the sky which makes me realize I'll soon need to swap out the snow blower for the lawn mower — and quite possibly use the latter while wearing gloves and a coat.

Trees are slowly budding and tulips are popping out of the ground. Warmer weather is slowly but surely inching its way here. Birds are singing their songs and I can't help but notice the sun rising earlier and setting later with each passing day.

Hallelujah! And with spring entering our lives, I've been able to venture outside — outside where my backyard is framed in on all sides with a fence. A fence that keeps dogs (and children) within the bounds of my yard so they don't venture too far off on their own.

That fence reminds me of the Gospel reading we heard recently: That Jesus is the gate. It's an odd image to be sure, but Jesus as the gate provides us with a unique theological understanding of salvation.

Because gates are usually part of a larger fence system which itself is typically used for two purposes: To keep things in and to keep things out. Typically animals, but no matter the use, a fence provides a barrier between the inside and the outside.

And then a fenced-in enclosure usually has a gate. A gate that when closed provides protection and safety. But, a gate can also be opened. Opened so that passage between the inside and outside is possible.

Jesus as the gate provides protection and safety. Jesus as the closed gate saves us from the powers of death and sin. But, Jesus as the *open* gate allows us to venture out into the world. Jesus as the open gate is not salvation from something, but rather salvation *for* something.

Salvation to be freed and to free others. Salvation for the sake of our neighbors — so that with our shepherd leading the way, we are able to venture out and proclaim Jesus' light and love and life to all people.

New life is here! Together, let's venture out into God's creation with our Shepherd, Jesus, leading the way. Because when we venture through the gate we will find we've been saved from sin and saved for the good of our neighbors!

Peace,
Pastor Bryant

Sunday School

May Schedule

5/07/23 Sunday School
5/14/23 Sunday School
5/21/23 Sunday School (Last Day)

Youth Faith Formation

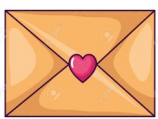
May Schedule

5/3/23 YFF—Tour Mosque in Prior Lake
5/10/23 YFF @ West Union (last class)
5/17/23 Rite of Passage @ West Union
5/18/23 Rite of Passage @ West Union

Youth Faith Formation will be visiting a Mosque in Prior Lake on May 3rd. This is a continuation of our learning about how to be Christian in a world of other religions. We'll have an opportunity to tour their place of worship and meet with young Muslims and ask questions. We need to be there by 6:45 pm and will have about an hour. We will meet and drive together.

Bible Study

Join Pastor Bryant each Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the Parish Center as we gather around a cup of coffee and grow together in faith through conversation and scripture. All are welcome!



Card Ministry Team

The Card Ministry Team is here for anyone in need of Christ's love through a card. The Card Ministry will meet on May 10th & 24th at 8:30am.

Plant Sale

Our Annual Plant & Bake Sale is Saturday, May 13th from 8am-noon!! We will have hundreds of hanging baskets, herbs, potting soil, flowering annuals and vegetable plants! Back by popular demand: coffee truck and quilt raffle! We are looking for baked good donations. **Please drop your items off on Friday May 12th** from 9am-6pm at the Parish Center. Homemade baked goods only. Please package 6 to a plate, no prices on them.



Confirmation Sunday

We will celebrate with the families of Emery Wieland and Victoria Wirtz on May 14th as they make their Affirmation of Baptism. After the service, we will continue our celebration with fellowship.

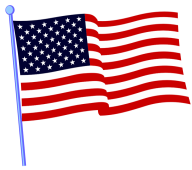
Rite of Passage

West Union will host a Rite of Passage Ceremony for the Confirmation families on May 17th & 18th at 6:30pm. Feel free to attend the day that works best with your schedule.



Roadside Cleanup

It's that time of year again! Roadside cleanup is Sunday, **May 21st** after worship. We need lots of volunteers, call the church office if you can help. Wear sturdy shoes and bright colors. Lunch will be provided after cleanup.



Memorial Day Service

The Honor Guard will be here promptly at 7:30 am for a brief service held in our cemetery on May 29th.

Graduation Sunday

Join us on Sunday, June 4th as we celebrate with our 2023 High School Graduates.

Youth Mission Trip

Our Youth will be heading to Chicago for their Mission Trip from June 11th—16th. Join us for a blessing send off during worship on June 11th .

Vacation Bible School

We are working on getting this organized so please watch for updates.



Gathering Thru Fellowship

We are taking a break for summer. We will resume again on October 7th.

Looking Into the Future:

- ◆ Sunday, June 18th—Ice Cream Social
- ◆ Sunday, September 17th—Rally Sunday
- ◆ Sunday, October 29th—Trunk or Treat
- ◆ Sunday, November 5th—Fall Dinner

Cemetery Cleanup

We are looking for a couple of individuals to rake up the pinecones in the cemetery. It will be lawn mowing season soon, and it would be nice to have the grass clean beforehand.

Plant Sale News

Did you know the rusty patched bumblebee is the Minnesota state bumblebee? It is also on the Federal list of endangered bees. Pollinators (think bees) are critical to the world's food supply chain. Their population and habitat are declining rapidly. What can we do to help improve this situation?

NEW THIS YEAR AT THE PLANT SALE, an expert will be available during the plant sale hours to discuss what it takes to help create a pollinator garden on your property. She will give you tips on what native plants are beneficial and even help you apply for a \$350 grant from the Lawns to Legumes Program to jump start your garden. It is a great opportunity to help save one of God's most industrious workers.



Heritage Scholarship

If you are an EULC graduating high school senior with plans to continue your education next fall, don't miss out on the opportunity to gain a \$1000 scholarship towards your fees. Please contact the church office as soon as possible to get the application, which will be **due by May 21st**.



Prayer List

Reminder if you would like someone added to the prayer list, please contact the church office. Also, please let the office know if someone can be taken off the list.

Facebook Prayers & Devotions

Join Pastor on Facebook each Monday for Prayers and Wednesdays for Devotions – <https://www.facebook.com/eastunionlc/>

Electronic Newsletter

Reminder newsletters will be emailed out. If you would still like to receive a copy in the mail or have changed your email, please let the office know.

Supporting your church

Did you know we offer an online giving option? Find out more at this link <http://www.eulc.org/Giving>, or on our website.



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!

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. Thank you for your donations!

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.



Spring Plant Sale

Homemade Bake Sale

Saturday, May 13th 2023 8am-12pm

Hundreds of hanging baskets, herbs,
potting soil, flowering annuals &
vegetable plants

Get your Mother's Day gifts here!

East Union Lutheran Church

15180 County Rd 40 Carver MN 55315



Back by popular demand:
Coffee truck and quilt raffle



New this year, learn how to plant a
pollinator garden. Apply for a
\$350 grant onsite.