

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 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						3 10am Gathering Thru Fellowship
4 "Sustenance" 9am Worship-Communion New Member Sunday 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School	5	6 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Property/Cemetery/ Parsonage Meeting	7	8	9	10 8am-Noon Plant, Bake & Craft Sale
11 "Sheep" 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School 10am Outreach Meeting	12 1pm Quilting Group 7pm Dahlgren Township Mtg	13 10am Bible Study	14	15	16	17
18 "Love" 9am Worship-Communion 10am Fellowship w/Mayor 10am Sunday School 10am Roadside Cleanup	19	20 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Council Meeting	21 8:30am Card Ministry	22	23	24
25 "Helper" 9am Worship 10am Fellowship	6 7:30am Honor Guard Service & Breakfast	27 10am Bible Study	28	29	30	31

Words from Pastor Bryant

Dear Disciples,

It appears spring has sprung. Temperatures are warmer. Rain has fallen. The grass is greener. And the plants and trees are budding. In this season of Easter, new life is truly in the air! Trudging out of the doldrums of winter, this is always a welcome relief. No more snow! No more cold! No more long nights!

Something else is afoot, though. While sitting outside the other night enjoying one of the first warmer days of the year, I noticed something flying out of the corner of my eye. It didn't take long to figure out what it was: a mosquito. And not just one—a whole fleet of them invaded the backyard and made sure to keep me company.

And so, I got up to walk around and keep them at bay. And while walking around, enjoying the greening grass, I noticed yet another thing: thistles and dandelions. Growing happily and quickly, perhaps they were the things I noticed turning green and not the yard itself.

It's the paradox of spring: new life is here! And not only new life for the things I want to see growing—trees, fields, and flowers—but also new life for the things I don't appreciate as much—weeds and bugs and humidity.

When the women found the tomb empty that first Easter morning, it meant that everything was changing. It meant that life had conquered death. That God's love for the world had won. That grace and mercy and hope were on the loose.

But, much like springtime, there are other aspects to new life bursting forth from the tomb. Because this new life not only uplifts and sustains us, but it is a gift offered for the whole world, too. A gift offered and given to folks we like and appreciate and folks we don't think can or should receive it.

Like the waters that fall on the earth, the resurrection promise is a gift of grace and love and life for all people. For when people put their faith, their trust, and their hope in Jesus, then everything changes.

Together, let's rejoice at how the empty tomb changes lives in ways that at times are unexpected. Let's celebrate the new life we have received *and* the new life that is given to folks in surprising and merciful ways. It's the surprise of this Easter season: abundant life and love surround and sustain all of God's creation—for God so loved the world... God so loves *you*.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Peace,

Pastor Bryant

May Theme

Our theme for this month is **Footsteps**. With Jesus risen from the dead, all things have changed! And before the celebration of Easter has hardly finished, Jesus already has big plans for us--for you! He promises us the gift of the Holy Spirit to enrich and sustain our faith and to give us every gift and talent we need to be his hands and feet out in the world. It is an incredible promise and gift as we are sent out into the world: we are not only in proclaiming the good news--we have one another and the Spirit by our side!

Tuesday Bible Study

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



Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday Bible Study will start up again in the Fall.

Sunday School

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

Schedule

5/4/25 Sunday School

5/18/25 Last day of Sunday School

5/11/25 Sunday School (Mother's Day Craft)

Vacation Bible School



East Union VBS will be held 7/28—7/31 from 9am-3pm. Grades K-5th grade are eligible. Volunteers are needed, watch for signup sheet in May. Theme is Epic Australian Adventure. Space is limited, please bring your registration forms to the office as soon as possible.

Gathering Thru Fellowship

We will gather on May 3rd at 10am in the Parish Center and we will be making terracotta solar pots to take home. All are welcome to participate or visit, coffee will be on!



New Members

We will be welcoming our new members during worship on May 4th. If you would like to volunteer to be a mentor to a new member, please email the church office.



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 May 7th & 21st at 8:30am.

Spring Plant Sale

Mark your calendars for our Annual Spring Plant Sale Plus Homemade Bake & Craft Sale on May 10th from 8am – Noon. There will be hanging baskets, vegetables, herbs, flowering annuals, fertilizer and potting soil. Plus, crafts and lots of baked goodies.

Plant, Bake, & Craft Sale Donations

Plant donations—We greatly appreciate donations of plants, flowerpots and gardening tools that are in good shape. Please have your plants potted and marked with the name and color.

Baked good donations—Please drop off your baked good donations on **Friday May 9th** from 9am-6pm at the Parish Center. Homemade baked goods only. Please package 6 to a plate, no prices on them (we will take care of it).

Craft donations—Please put prices on your hand made sewing or craft donations and bring them in on **Friday, May 9th** between 9am-1pm.

Thank you!

Roadside Cleanup

It's that time of year again! Roadside cleanup is scheduled for Sunday, **May 18th** right after worship. In case of inclement weather we will reserve May 25th. We need lots of volunteers, email the church office if you can help. Wear sturdy shoes and bright colors.



East Union Speaker Series

As part of our speaker series, Carver Mayor Courtney Johnson will be here on May 18th at 10:15 during Fellowship. She will be talking about our community and it will be open for discussion. All are welcome! Watch for future speakers each month.

Memorial Day Service

The Honor Guard will be here promptly at 7:30am for a brief service held in our cemetery on May 26th. There will be a Free Will Offering Breakfast after the service in the Parish Center.

Graduation Sunday

Join us on Sunday, June 1st as we celebrate with our 2025 High School Graduates. Please email your graduation photo and future plans to the church office by May 15th.

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 18th.



Quilt Retreat

The quilting group is hosting a retreat on June 12th & 13th 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.

Looking Into the Future:

- ♦ July 8th—Blood Drive
- ♦ July 28th-July 31—Vacation Bible School
- ♦ August 10th—Classic & Unique Car Show (and unique people)
- ♦ September 14th—Rally Sunday
- ♦ October 25th—Trunk or Treat

Tithely

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.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone that supported the pancake breakfast! We especially thank those who helped in the kitchen. We made over \$1,000 and it will go towards the parsonage renovation.

Parsonage Renovation

If you would like to make a specific donation to the expense of **renovating the parsonage**, you may either send a check designating "parsonage renovation" in the memo line or submit an offering through Tithe.ly and select "parsonage renovation" as the fund.

Large Print Hymnals

If you would like a large print hymnal to use during worship on Sundays, please talk to the ushers.

Share Campaign

When viewing East Union Facebook notices or worship services, please press the share button. This is an easy way to share our events with friends and neighbors.

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. There is also a need for brown paper grocery bags. If you have extra, please put them in the grocery cart. Thank you for your donations!

Great News for Carver County Residents

For all of you like me missing the local newspaper, Carver County now has a new, free, online newspaper! It's called "**Carver County Local News.**" The paper is a non-profit, non-partisan media organization covering news, events, stories, etc. from Chaska, Carver, Chanhassen, Victoria and Carver County in general. To find the newspaper, go to this link: cclocalnews.org and subscribe for free!

Info from ELCA website submitted by Kathy Schallberg,
Care for Creation Committee

Black Plastic Is BAD News

IT'S RARELY RECYCLED & CAN CONTAIN TOXIC CHEMICALS

- Although black plastic makes up 15% of all plastic recyclables (largely single-use food containers), the vast majority is not recycled because the infrared technology used by recycling facilities cannot "see" black.
- As a result, most black plastic items end up in our landfills, incinerators, oceans and rivers after just a single use.
- Due to the lack of recycled black plastic, the demand is often met with e-waste (discarded electronics like old computers, phones, TVs, monitors and appliances) that contains toxic chemicals such as phthalates, flame retardants, and heavy metals such as cadmium, lead, nickel, chromium, and mercury.
- These chemical-laced plastics are melted down, mixed with other plastics and used to make recycled black plastic used in toys, utensils, coffee stirrers, mugs, jewelry, and holiday decorations.
- Although safety regulations limit the amounts of these chemicals in electronics, there are currently NO government regulations covering the safety of recycled black plastic items. A dangerous concentration of toxic chemicals that is prohibited in a laptop is perfectly acceptable in a black plastic fork, spatula, slotted spoon, or hot cup lid.
- A 2018 study found toxic chemicals present at up to 30 times the levels considered safe in a shocking 40% of the black plastic toys, thermoses, cocktail stirrers, and utensils tested.
- Even at very low levels, these toxic chemicals can cause serious reproductive and developmental problems, poisoning the brain and kidneys, disrupting human thyroid function, affecting development, and causing long-term neurological damage.
- Items of the greatest concern include black plastic cooking utensils, stirrers, food containers, and hot cup lids, as exposure to heat increases the likelihood of toxic chemicals leaching into food and drink.

Mother's Day Fun Facts



In the United States, Mother's Day falls on the second Sunday of May. This year, in 2025, **Mother's Day is May 11.**

Celebrating mothers and motherhood dates back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, according to the History Channel. During that period, festivals were held for Rhea and Cybele, the mother goddesses.

The origins of Mother's Day also derive from the religious roots of Mothering Sunday. Originally on Mothering Sunday, it was tradition to return to the "mother church" for a special service.

Mother's Day celebrations in the U.S. began around the 20th century, thanks to Anna Jarvis. Jarvis was the daughter of Ann Reeves Jarvis, who was responsible for creating the Mothers' Day Work Clubs. These clubs provided aid to mothers, teaching them childcare strategies.

When Ann Reeves Jarvis died in 1905, her daughter sought to create a holiday that honored the "sacrifices mothers made for their children." Three years later, in May 1908, Anna Jarvis organized the first official Mother's Day celebration at a church in West Virginia. In the years following, she participated in a letter-writing campaign to push for Mother's Day to be adopted across the nation. By 1914, President Woodrow Wilson designated it a national holiday.

The date of Mother's Day can vary depending on where you live. Across the globe, many countries have their own version of the holiday. For example, the United Kingdom celebrates Mother's Day on "Mothering Sunday," which is the fourth Sunday of Lent. In Thailand, Mother's Day is celebrated on Aug. 12, which is the birthday of former Queen Sirikit.

Other countries, such as Japan, Italy and Brazil also observe Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May. There are more than 100 countries around the world that celebrate Mother's Day.

More phone calls are made on Mother's Day than on any other day of the year, with approximately 122 million phone calls being made. American's also buy \$1.1 billion worth of cards for Mother's Day. Although flowers are also a very popular gift. The traditional flower for Mother's Day is a carnation: a red carnation means your mother is living and a white carnation means that she has died. In the U.S., Mother's Day is one of the most popular days for both church services and dining in restaurants.

East Union History

Don Olson was born on a farm located on County Road 50 and Joyce Road just west of Bevens Creek. The Olson family is one of the oldest at East Union Church starting with Anders and Christina Olson. They are buried next to the walkway on the right side about 1/3 of the way going towards the church. They had 10 children. The second generation was John A. Olson and Maria who had 11 children. John and most of his family are buried at West Union. The third generation was August Olson and Anna. His brother was George Olson and his wife was Ellen and his sister was Anna Emelia who became a Carlson along with 2 more siblings. The fourth generation was Ben and Evelyn, and the fifth is Don and brother Rich Olson. Don and Marjorie's 4 children are the sixth generation, their grandchildren are the seventh generation and last but not least are the 5 great grandchildren who make up the eighth generation. Many of this family spent their growing up years in the East Union area and got their religious training at East Union Church, and many of them have returned and are in our cemetery.

Growing up on a farm in the 1930's, meant pitching in and helping with the chores such as taking care of the chickens, pigs, and milking 20 cows along with the field work. On a 210 acre farm and there was a lot of work, so much so that a hired man was a constant fixture to help out. During the war years with all the young men being drafted, help was hard to find. The first tractor was a W. C. Allis Chalmers when the horses were retired.

Don attended District 64 school that was located on Joyce Road just past the farm so it was easy to get there. The total number of students in his class was 14 which he has a picture taken of that class. One of the students was Corrine Olander, Vernis Strom's sister. The class size got so small in the next couple years they bused the kids to another classroom about 3 miles down the road in a Model A Ford.



East Union History—cont'd

Don attended East Union Church where he went to Sunday school and also his confirmation classes. Pastor Linder was in charge at this time and although he was a nice friendly person, when it came to his views on what was tolerated in class or church, he was very strict. If he noticed someone not paying attention during his sermons he would stop talking and stare at the person until they did. He didn't approve of movies or the dance hall in Chaska and thought you should be properly attired in church. The thing Don remembers about confirmation, it was on Saturday and so was duck season opener which he missed.....twice, thanks mom.

Between church and school and farming, there wasn't much time for Don to pursue the things he liked to do, which was fishing in the creek or going to Slyvia Lake. He also enjoyed hunting, especially duck hunting. Lake Maria near West Union and Washington Lake near Green Isle were two of his favorites. Once while on Washington Lake with 2 friends and a limit of 24 ducks, a wind came up and started to swamp the boat, luckily some other hunters showed up and each friend got into a different boat and collected the ducks and Don was able to get their boat safely to shore.

Don attended Waconia high school and then started his farming career. Grandfather August sold the farm on County Road 50 and bought another at the end of Halsey avenue near the Minnesota River where Don and new wife Majorie lived after they were married 59 years ago. Don farmed and also ran a corn sheller machine for many years which he still has and also worked in construction jobs and at the sugar beet factory in Chaska. Don and Marjorie have 4 children, Steven, Joan, Robert, and Barb, 8 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

PLUS
SPRING PLANT SALE
HOMEMADE BAKE & CRAFT SALE
SATURDAY, MAY 10TH
8AM-NOON

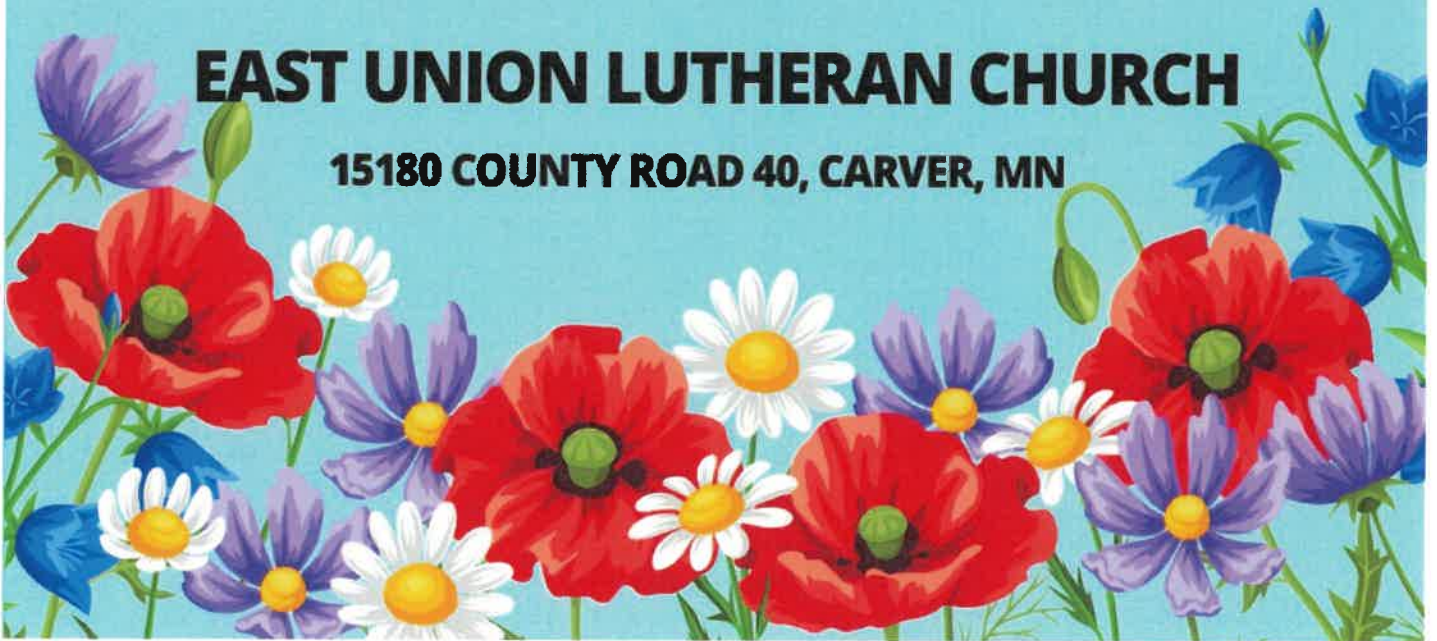
HUNDREDS OF HANGING
BASKETS, VEGETABLES &
HERBS

FLOWERING ANNUALS,
FERTILIZER & POTTING
SOIL

GET YOUR MOTHER'S DAY GIFT HERE!

EAST UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH

15180 COUNTY ROAD 40, CARVER, MN





Join us for Vacation Bible School!!
July 28th—July 31st
9am-3pm

Grades K-5th grade are eligible, no registration fee.
Email registration forms to the church office
by July 1st (eastunionlc@gmail.com)

Please bring a bag lunch M-W, lunch will be
provided on Thursday

Space is limited, please register soon!



East Union Lutheran Church
15180 County Road 40, Carver

VBS Registration Form



East Union Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School Registration 2025

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven” Matthew 19:14

East Union VBS will be held from July 28th thru July 31st, Mon-Thurs from 9am-3pm. Grades K-5th grade are eligible, no registration fee. Please have students bring a bag lunch M-W, lunch will be provided on Thursday.

Space is limited - please sign up soon. Volunteers are needed, call the church office if you would like to help.

Please bring the registration form to East Union Lutheran Church by July 1st. You may also email the completed form to eastunionlc@gmail.com or mail it to:

East Union Lutheran Church
15180 County Road 40
PO Box 283
Carver, MN 55315

Please contact the Youth & Education Committee if you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer. Thank you!

God bless you and your family!



VBS Registration Form—cont'd

Are you members of East Union Lutheran Church? _____

Are you interested in learning more about becoming members? Y or N

Child's name: _____
Birthdate: _____ Age & grade: _____
Baptized? (Y or N) _____
Please list any allergies, dietary or special needs: _____

Child's name: _____
Birthdate: _____ Age & grade: _____
Baptized? (Y or N) _____
Please list any allergies, dietary or special needs: _____

Child's name: _____
Birthdate: _____ Age & grade: _____
Baptized? (Y or N) _____
Please list any allergies, dietary or special needs: _____

Child's name: _____
Birthdate: _____ Age & grade: _____
Baptized? (Y or N) _____
Please list any allergies, dietary or special needs: _____

Name of parent(s) or adult contact: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Name of parent(s) or adult contact: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Volunteers/helpers needed

Would you like to volunteer? ___yes ___no

Consent to use photos or video for VBS/church purpose ___yes ___no

Signature: _____

