

Emanuel Lutheran Church

107 South Prairie Street
Brandon, WI 53919-0433
920-346-2202



Website: elbrandon-church.com

Chaplain Peg Salmela 920-896-2399

Pianist: Roberta Ryskoski

Sunday, December 14, 2025

THE THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT:

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

Please feel free to sit anytime during the service if the need arises.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:

Wayne Heitmann

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. May he give water to all who thirst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. Amen.

Light three candles.

Tom Rivers

"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

**LBW 34
vs. 3**

(Please stand for the Confession and Forgiveness)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Long-expected God,

C: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ☩ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C: Amen.

(Remain Standing)

OPENING HYMN: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" LBW 30

APOSTOLIC GREETING:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

(Please Sit)

PRAYER OF THE DAY: (Located on the Today's Readings Insert)

GOD'S WORD

PSALM 146:5-10:

Please join me in the responsive reading.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

Reader says: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation respond: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

Reader says: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation respond: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation)

Sing: "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

P: The gospel reading is from Matthew Chapter 11 verses 2-11.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please Sit)

SERMON

Chaplain Peg Salmela

SERMON HYMN: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" LBW 29

(Please stand for the Apostles Creed and The Sharing of the Peace)

APOSTLES' CREED:

Green, LBW page 85

THE PEACE:

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Let us share signs of peace with one another.

(Please sit for The Prayers of the People)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

P: God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

(Please stand and join hands)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Green, LBW page 91

The OFFERING is RECEIVED AND WE STAND and SING

"Create in Me" Green, LBW Page 96

OFFERING PRAYER:

P: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. We offer these fruits of our labor to spread your gospel. We praise and glorify you in all we do.

C: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION:

P: May God who comes among us, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: “Soon and Very Soon” WOVS 744

DISMISSAL:

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Roberta Ryskoski

Attendance: Last Sunday: 23 Last Sunday Facebook Live: 7

Today, Service Schedule, December 14th, 9:30 A.M.

Reader: Verlyn Rebelein **Usher:** Annette Raube

Next Week’s Schedule, December 21st, 9:30 A.M.

Reader: Wayne Heitmann **Usher:** Verlyn Rebelein

December 2025 Altar Schedule

Pat Grams and Charleen Strook

December 2025 Communion Schedule

Mary Fairbank

THIS WEEK AT EMANUEL:

THERE WILL BE COFFEE AND GOODIES THIS MORNING FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP provided by Charleen Strook.

If interested in helping with the monthly/weekly duty schedules at Emanuel please see below:

Altar 2026: April is available for a volunteer(s). Communion 2026: April, May, June, July and September months are available for volunteers. Readers and Ushers schedules are available for volunteers. If you feel the calling for any of the above duties, please contact Ann Kastein at emanuel.luthbrandon@gmail.com or 920-960-7142.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Emanuel's Christmas Eve Service will be held on December 24th, at 4:00 P.M.

Sunday, December 14th, 2025, Bethel Church, 305 W. Main St., Brandon, WI, will present the Children's Christmas Program, "Campfire Carols" and the Bethel Choir will present the Cantata, "Christmas Presence." Performance will begin at 3:00 P.M. and there will be refreshments following the program. The cantata, "Christmas Presence" will also be performed on Sunday, December 21, 2025, at the 9:30 a.m. service.

This Christmas Night: A Christmas Cantata for Six Vocalists, Narrator and Orchestra, with Conductor Dr. Paul Thompson on Sunday, December 21st at 2:00 P.M., at Grace Lutheran Church 430 W. Griswald St., Ripon, WI. For further information, please see the poster on the bulletin board in the narthex of the church.

If you would like to donate a poinsettia to beautify our church during the Christmas Season, please bring your poinsettia to church by Sunday, December 21, 2025.

Please provide the following information and place the form in the offering plate or return it to our Church Secretary, Ann Kastein by Sunday, December 21, 2025.

Ann's Contact Information:

Landline: 920-346-5491

Cell: 920-960-7142

Email Address: dan.annkastein@charter.net

Emanuel's Email Address: emanuel.luthbrandon@gmail.com

GIVEN

BY: _____

IN HONOR

OF: _____

IN MEMORY

OF: _____