

# Emanuel Lutheran Church

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

**Website: [elbrandon-church.com](http://elbrandon-church.com)**

**Pastor Bob Rosenberg**

**Pianist: Roberta Ryskoski**

**Sunday, December 21, 2025**

## **THE FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT:**

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:**

**Marlene Connell**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son's birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. Amen.

*Light four candles.*

*Marlene Connell*

**"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"**

**LBW 34**

**vs. 4**

(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,  $\dagger$  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.  $\dagger$  You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C: Amen.

**OPENING HYMN: “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”**

**LBW 25**

## **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 80:1-7, 17-19:**

Please join me in the responsive reading.

#### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16**

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

**Reader says: The Word of the Lord.**

**Congregation respond: Thanks be to God.**

#### **SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7**

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

**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 1 verses 18-25.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 1:18-25**

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please sit)*

**SERMON**

**Pastor Bob**

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

*(Please stand for the Nicene Creed)*

**NICENE CREED:**

*Green, LBW page 84*

*(Please sit for The Prayers of the People)*

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

P: God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*(Please Stand)*

## **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.*

**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. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

C: Amen.

*(Remain Standing)*

**The WORDS of INSTITUTION**

**Green, LBW page 90**

*(Please join hands)*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Green, LBW page 91**

When we celebrate Holy Communion, guests and members alike need to know that **All Are Welcome At Our Lord's Table!** We believe Christ is present in the bread and wine. His body and blood are given in the Eucharist for the forgiveness of sins. The Lord invites you and the decision to receive Holy Communion is yours. (We have gluten-free individually packaged sacraments in one unit.)

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION:**

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

**COMMUNION HYMN:**    *“This is the feast”*                    **Green, LBW page 81**

*(Please Sit)*

## **COMMUNION BLESSING:**

P: May the body and the blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you in the one true faith unto life everlasting.

C: Amen

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

P: God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. 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:**                   **“Joy to the World”**                   **LBW 39**

## **DISMISSAL:**

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** Roberta Ryskoski

**OUR GUEST PASTOR THIS MORNING** is Robert Rosenberg. Thank you for leading our Worship, Pastor Bob.

**Emanuel’s Christmas Eve Service** will be held on December 24<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 P.M.

**Attendance:** Last Sunday: 23                   **Last Sunday Facebook Live:** 265

## **Facebook Plays:**

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> Facebook Plays: 265

## **Today, Service Schedule, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:30 A.M.**

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

## **Christmas Eve Service, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 P.M.**

**Lighting of the individual candles:** James Weed

**Lighting of the Wreath and Christ Candle:** Mary Fairbank

**Reader:** Mary Fairbank

**Usher:** James Weed

## **Next Week’s Schedule, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 A.M.**

**Reader:** Charlotte Rebelein                   **Usher:** Marlene Connell

**December 2025 Altar Schedule**

Pat Grams and Charleen Strook

**December 2025 Communion Schedule**

Mary Fairbank

**January 2026 Altar Schedule**

Marlene Connell

**January 2026 Communion Schedule**

Wayne Heitmann

**THIS WEEK AT EMANUEL:**

**THERE WILL BE COFFEE AND GOODIES THIS MORNING FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP** provided by Marlene Connell.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Any offerings intended for the year 2025 must be received at the Church or given to the treasurer, Susie Krohn, no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>. Any offerings received after that date will go into our records for 2026.

**Thank you and proclamation** from City of Mayville for tornado contribution is posted on bulletin board.

**DATE TO REMEMBER:**

**This Christmas Night:** A Christmas Cantata for Six Vocalists, Narrator and Orchestra, with Conductor Dr. Paul Thompson today, Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> 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:** \_\_\_\_\_