

# Emanuel Lutheran Church

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

**Pastor Wendy Ruetten**

**Pianist: Roberta Ryskoski**

**Sunday, March 8, 2026**

**THE THIRD SUNDAY in LENT:**

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please stand for the Confession and Forgiveness)

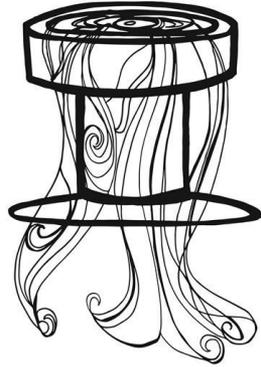
### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

*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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.



*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdainning the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

**C: Amen.**

(Remain Standing)

**OPENING HYMN: "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty" LBW 250**

**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 95:**

Please join me in the responsive reading.

**FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7**

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the Lord among us or not?"—received a very positive answer.

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

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

**SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11**

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

**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 John Chapter 4 verses 5-42.

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

**THE GOSPEL READING: John 4:5-42**

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please Sit)

**SERMON**

**Pastor Wendy Ruetten**

**SERMON HYMN: “O Master, Let Me Walk with You” LBW 492**

(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: Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

(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: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through all the gifts you give us, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**C: Amen.**

**THE BENEDICTION:**

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN: “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” LBW 327**

**DISMISSAL:**

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude: Roberta Ryskoski**

**OUR GUEST PASTOR THIS MORNING** is Wendy Ruetten. Thank you for leading our Worship, Pastor Ruetten.

**Attendance: Last Sunday: 20 Last Sunday Facebook Lives: 4**

Wed., March 4<sup>th</sup> Lenten Service: 11

Wed., March 4<sup>th</sup> Lenten Service Facebook Lives: 6

**Facebook Plays:**

Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>: 231

Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>: 181

**Today, Service Schedule, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 A.M.**

**Reader:** Charlotter Rebelein

**Usher:** Annette Raube

**Mid-Week Lenten Service Schedule, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 P.M.**

**Usher:** Verlyn Rebelein

**Next Week's Schedule, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 A.M.**

**Reader:** Wayne Heitmann

**Usher:** Marlene Connell

**March 2026 Altar Schedule**

Annette Raube and Charleen Strook

**March 2026 Communion Schedule** (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)

Annette Raube

**THIS WEEK AT EMANUEL:**

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

**MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE** is this Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 P.M. We are once again in the season of Lent, the time when we recall how Jesus suffered and died " for the sins of the world." For the sermons Pastor Bob is reading first person stories of some of the people who interacted with Jesus during His last week on earth. This week it will be Peter. COME and WORSHIP!

**THE NEW DEVOTION BOOKS** are here! They are on the rack South of the elevator and in the narthex of the church.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**Council Meeting** is next week Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, at 5:15 P.M.

**Easter Breakfast** will be served on Easter morning starting at 8:00 A.M. Thank you to Renee Mayo.

**Brandon Community Blood Drive** is this Tuesday, March 10, 2026, from 12:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M., at Bethel Church, 305 W. Main St., Brandon, WI.

# EASTER LILIES

You can help beautify Emanuel's Altar on Easter Sunday by purchasing an Easter Lily. Cost per lily is \$15.00. Please complete this form, put it in an envelope marked "LILY" and drop it in the offering plate. **Please include payment.** The deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 22, 2026. Please take your lily home following the 9:30 AM worship service on Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

YOUR  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of lilies: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY  
OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR  
OF: \_\_\_\_\_