

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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Website: elbrandon-church.com
Pastor Karen Jewell-Van Buskirk
Pianist: Roberta Ryskoski
Sunday, March 29, 2026



PALM SUNDAY:

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

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)

(Wave your Palm during the opening hymn)

OPENING HYMN: “Prepare the Royal Highway” **LBW 26**

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 31:9-16:

Please join me in the responsive reading.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church’s understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Reader says: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation respond: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus’ obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.

Reader says: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation respond: Thanks be to God.

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

P: The gospel reading is from Matthew Chapter 26 verses 14—27:66.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 26:14—27:66

In fulfillment of scripture and obedience to God’s will, Jesus goes to the cross so that a new covenant in his blood may bring forgiveness of sins. Even the soldiers who crucify him recognize him to be the Son of God.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Karen Jewell-Van Buskirk

SERMON HYMN: “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” LBW 108

(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 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: “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” LBW 107

DISMISSAL:

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Roberta Ryskoski

OUR GUEST PASTOR THIS MORNING is Karen Jewell-Van Buskirk.
Thank you for leading our Worship, Pastor Jewell-Van Buskirk.

Attendance: Last Sunday: 20

Last Sunday Facebook Lives: 3

Lenten Service: 14

Lenten Facebook Live: 2

Facebook Plays:

Sunday, March 15th: Inclement Weather

Wednesday, March 18th: 156

Today, Service Schedule, March 29th, 9:30 A.M. (Palm Sunday)

Reader: Verlyn Rebelein

Usher: Verlyn Rebelein

Maundy Thursday Schedule, April 2nd, at 6:00 P.M.

Usher: Marlene Connell

Good Friday Schedule, April 3rd, at 6:00 P.M.

Altar: Mary Fairbank

Readers: Mary Fairbank, Annette Raube, Charlotte and Verlyn Rebelein

Usher: Wayne Heitmann

Next Week's Schedule, April 5th, 9:30 A.M. (Easter Day)

Reader: Wayne Heitmann

Usher: Darrell Rahn

March 2026 Altar Schedule

Annette Raube and Charleen Strook

March 2026 Communion Schedule (1st and 3rd Sunday)

Annette Raube

April 2026 Altar Schedule

Mary Fairbank

April 2026 Communion Schedule (1st and 3rd Sunday)

Wayne Heitmann

THIS WEEK AT EMANUEL:

There Will Be Coffee This Morning Following The Worship.

Maundy Thursday Service will be held on April 2, 2026, at 6:00 P.M.

Good Friday Service will be held on April 3, 2026, at 6:00 P.M.

Easter Breakfast will be served on Easter morning starting at 8:00 A.M. Thank you to Renee Mayo. **Easter Day** service at 9:30 A.M.

Please consider joining your church council. We are in need of at least one more member.

DATE TO REMEMBER:

Randolph Community Choir presents Echoes of Easter, The Hope of the Cross. Join us for music and narration celebrating Jesus' work on Sunday, March 29th at 6:00 P.M. at Randolph First Reformed Church, 406 S. High Street, Randolph. A free-will offering will support local food pantries, and refreshments will be served after. A second performance is scheduled for Sunday, April 5th at 7:00 P.M. at Bethel Christian Reformed Church in Waupun.