

# Emanuel Lutheran Church

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

**Pianist: Roberta Ryskoski**

**Sunday, December 28, 2025**

## **THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS:**

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the “holy innocents” of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

*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.*

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\text{☩}$  one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

C: Amen.

L: Trusting in God’s steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*



L: Reconciling God,  
C: we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

L: God's grace upon grace flows over you. + Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

C: Amen.

(Remain Standing)

**OPENING HYMN: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” LBW 55**

**APOSTOLIC GREETING:**

L: 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 148:**

Please join me in the responsive reading.

**FIRST READING:** **Isaiah 63:7-9****Wayne Heitmann**

God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God's own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God's gracious deeds. God trusts that God's people will not act falsely.

**Reader says: The Word of the Lord.****Congregation respond: Thanks be to God.****SECOND READING:** **Hebrews 2:10-18****Wayne Heitmann**

Through Jesus' suffering and death, the trail to eternal salvation has been blazed for us. We do not fear death, because he has conquered the power of death. Thus Christ, our merciful and faithful high priest, has the final say over the destiny of our lives.

**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."**

**L:** The gospel reading is from Matthew Chapter 2 verses 13-23.

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

**THE GOSPEL READING:** **Matthew 2:13-23****Wayne Heitmann**

In a dream, Joseph is warned to flee to Egypt to protect the infant Jesus from the jealousy of Herod.

**L:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please Sit)

**MESSAGE:** **"What if Jesus Came To Brandon?"** **Charlotte Rebelein**

**SERMON HYMN:** **"What Child Is This"**

**LBW 40**

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

***APOSTLES' CREED:***

*Green LBW page 85*

**THE PEACE:**

L: 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:**

L: 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:**

L: God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

**CONGREGATIONAL HYMN SELECTIONS**

**THE BENEDICTION:**

L: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, <sup>†</sup> bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

C: Amen.

**DISMISSAL:**

L: Glory to God in the highest!

C: And peace to God's people on earth!

L: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C: Thanks be to God.

**Postlude: Roberta Ryskoski**

**Attendance: Last Sunday: 25**

**Last Sunday Facebook Live: 3**

**Christmas Eve Service: 36**

**Facebook Live for Christmas Eve: 4**

**Facebook Plays:**

**Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> Facebook Plays: 400**

**Today, Service Schedule, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 A.M.**

**Reader:** Wayne Heitmann

**Usher:** Marlene Connell

**Message:** Charlotte Rebelein

**Leader:** Verlyn Rebelein

**Next Week's Schedule, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 A.M.**

**Reader:** Verlyn Rebelein

**Usher:** Wayne Heitmann

**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:**

**THANK YOU** to all who took part in today's Worship.

**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.