

# Emanuel Lutheran Church

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

**Eric Lammers**

**Pianist: Roberta Ryskoski**

**Sunday, January 4, 2026**

## **THE SECOND SUNDAY of CHRISTMAS:**

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Please stand for the Confession and Forgiveness)

## **CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS:**

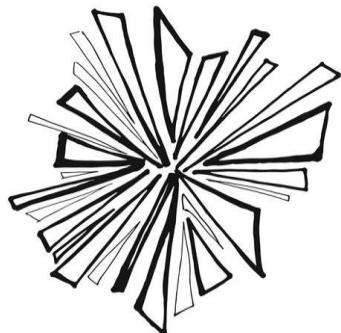
*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

C: Amen.

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*



P: 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.

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

C: Amen.

(Remain Standing)

**OPENING HYMN:        “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”        LBW 45**

**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:**

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## GOD'S WORD

Please join me in the responsive reading.

### PSALM 139:1-14:

P: O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

C: **2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**

P: **3 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.**

C: **4 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.**

P: **5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.**

C: **6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.**

P: **7 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?**

C: **8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!**

P: **9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

C: **10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.**

P: **11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,"**

C: **12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.**

P: **13 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.**

C: **14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.**

P: Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

## **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 9:23-24**

<sup>23</sup> Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, <sup>24</sup> but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.”

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

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

## **SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 4:1-5**

<sup>4</sup> Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, <sup>2</sup> through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, <sup>3</sup> who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. <sup>4</sup> For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, <sup>5</sup> for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

**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 7 verses 15-23.

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

## **THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 7:15-23**

<sup>15</sup>“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup>You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup>So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup>A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup>Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup>Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

<sup>21</sup>“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup>On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ <sup>23</sup>And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please Sit)

**MESSAGE: Jude: 3-4      “The Enemy Within”      Eric Lammers**

**SERMON HYMN:      “O Word of God Incarnate”      LBW 231**

(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: 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.

## **THE BENEDICTION:**

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

C: Amen.

## **SENDING HYMN: “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”**

**LBW 50**

## **DISMISSAL:**

P: Glory to God in the highest!

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

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

C: Thanks be to God.

**Postlude: Roberta Ryskoski**

Attendance: Last Sunday: 20

Last Sunday Facebook Live: 7

**Facebook Plays:**

Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> Facebook Plays: 237

**Today, Service Schedule, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 A.M.**

Reader: Verlyn Rebelein

Usher: Wayne Heitmann

**Next Week's Schedule, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 A.M.**

Reader: Wayne Heitmann

Usher: Darrell Rahn

**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 Charleen Strook.

**WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY** to Charles (Chuck) Haase's family. Chuck passed away on Sunday, December 28, 2025. Funeral services for Chuck will take place on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. at Werner-Harmsen Funeral Home in Waupun. Friends and relatives of Chuck may call on the family on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, from 3:00 P.M. until 6:00 P.M. time of service.

**POINSETTIAS:** Please feel free to take your poinsettia with you today.

**PLEASE HELP** take down the Christmas decorations today after the service.

**COUNCIL MEETING** is tomorrow, Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 P.M.