



**Christmas Eve  
Wednesday, December 24, 2025  
4:00 P.M.**

# **Emanuel Lutheran Church**

107 South Prairie Street

Brandon, WI 53919-0433

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**Website: elbrandon-church.com**

**Deacon Pam Werth**

**Pianist: Roberta Ryskoski**

**Wednesday, December 24, 2025**

**Christmas Eve Service**



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

On Christmas Eve we light the white candle.

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

**Mary Fairbank**

P: It is called the “Christ Candle” in remembrance of Christ arriving in our world and in our lives as a baby in Bethlehem to bring God’s light to us. This candle represents God’s Son, Jesus the Christ. As we gather around this wreath of hope, love, joy, and peace, we light the four outer candles and the central Christ candle... Jesus is here!

**C: Lord of hope, let your light shine!**

P: Lord of love, let your light shine!

**C: Lord of joy, let your light shine!**

P: Lord of peace, let your light shine!

**C: O Come, let us adore Him... Christ the Lord!**

### **ADVENT CANDLE HYMN: “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”**

**LBW 34**

### **THE 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.**

### **OPENING HYMN:**

**“Joy to the World”**

**LBW 39**

*(You may be seated)*

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY:**  
**(Located on the Today's Readings Insert)**

**GOD'S WORD**

*Let's read the Psalm responsively together.*

**PSALM 96:**

**P:** Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**C: Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

**P:** Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

**C: For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

**P:** As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

**C: Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

**P:** Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

**C: Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

**P:** Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

**C: Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."**

**P:** Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**C: Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.**

**P:** You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7**

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

P: The Word of the Lord.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14**

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

P: The Word of the Lord.      **C: 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 Luke chapter 2 verses 1-20.

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

## **THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20**

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.      **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(You may be seated)*

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**Deacon Pam Werth**

**SERMON**

**Deacon Pam Werth**

**SERMON HYMN: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

**LBW 41**

*(Please Stand)*

**THE PEACE:**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

*Let's share the peace of Christ with one another.*

*(You may be seated)*

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

*Let us join together in the prayer that Christ has taught us. Please Stand.*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

Green, LBW page 91

*Please remain standing for the offering song and prayer.*

**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.

*(Usher: Please dim the lights and then come forward to begin lighting the congregants' candles)*

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES** (Light the unlit candle into the lit one) When all the candles are lighted we will sing “Silent Night”.

**HYMN:**

**“Silent Night, Holy Night!”**

**LBW 65**

**Reading from John 1:1-14**

**Deacon Pam Werth**

**(AT THIS TIME, PLEASE BLOW OUT YOUR CANDLE.)**

*(Usher turn lights on)*

*(You may be seated)*

**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 We Have Heard on High”**

**LBW 71**

**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.**

**OUR GUEST DEACON THIS EVENING** is Pam Werth. Thank you for leading our Worship, Deacon Pam Werth.

**Christmas Eve Schedule, Wednesday, 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

**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.

## **2025 CHRISTMAS PLANT DONATIONS**

One plant given by Mary Fairbank in honor of our service men and women and in memory of all deceased family members.

One plant given by Janice Ott in memory of loved ones.

One plant given by Lois Lawson in memory of Charlie Lawson.

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### **Today's Readings** **Christmas Eve** **December 24, 2025**

#### **Prayer of the Day:**

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### **First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

## Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup> The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

## Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

<sup>8</sup> Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” <sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, <sup>19</sup> and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.