

Emmanuel Lutheran Church February/ March 2026 Newsletter

143 Church Street (Mailing Address: Box 386) Prospect, PA 16052

Church Office: 724-865-2325

Pastor Tara Lynn – Pastoral needs- 412-444-8113

Lent 2026

Lent

Ash Wednesday February 18
Service at St. John's
at 7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday April 2
7:00 pm service at Emmanuel

Palm Sunday -March 29, 2026

Easter Sunday- April 5, 2026

Pentecost – Sunday May 24,
2026



Happy Birthday in February

3 Lisa Sten
11 Abigail Graham
14 Amelia Dillman
23 Billy Taylor
23 Nancy Albert
27 Amy Birckbichler

Happy Birthday in March

13 Tyler Pritts
17 Jean Revak

Want to contribute to the Newsletter

Call: 724-996-7340 or

Email: clindey@yahoo.com

MEALS ON WHEELS



This year we will collect donations Sunday February 16, 2025, Items need not be homemade but can be purchased at a grocery store. The Meals on Wheels program welcomes all donations to assist with their efforts. There is a list of items needed in the Narthex.



Tuesday February 17, 2026,
join us at 6:00 pm at the
home of Diane and Jeff Pritts
A variety of breakfast foods
will be served.

Community Prayer Walks

On the second Tuesday of every
month members of our local churches
gather for a community prayer event.

Local churches host the event on a
rotating basis. Watch for details in your
Sunday bulletin.

See Betsy Forrester with questions



On Sunday February 2 at
10:00 am after the church
service, Emmanuel will
continue the annual
tradition of making
Valentines for Veterans. You
may remain after church
and help with the project.
The valentines will be
delivered to veterans at the
Butler PA veterans facility.

Emmanuel Church Council

Alan Vagasky
Pat Wenzel
Linda Pilosi
Rose Szybka
Jeff Pritts

HISTORIC LUTHERAN CHURCHES ACROSS AMERICA



Old Swedes Church, Wilmington

Gloria Dei Church is the oldest standing church in Pennsylvania and the second oldest Lutheran church in the United States. Among the many national and religious groups to arrive in the Philadelphia in the mid-17th century were Lutherans from Sweden, the first Scandinavians to settle in the United States. In 1677 a Lutheran congregation was formally established in the city. The Swedish Lutherans met for many years at a temporary worship facility before they finally built their own church in 1700. The Lutheran community used this church continuously until 1845, when it was acquired for use by an Episcopal congregation.

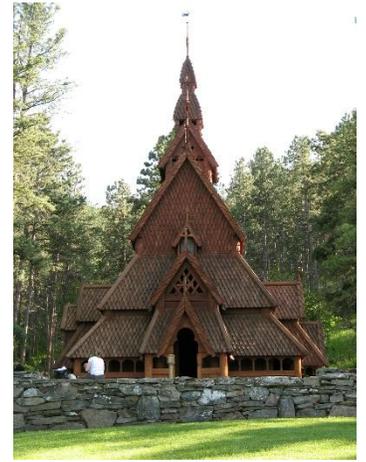
Old Swedes Church is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Philadelphia and possibly its best preserved early 18th century structure. It is home to a small collection of rare early Bibles in Swedish.



Zion Lutheran Church Cleveland, Ohio

Zion Lutheran Church in Cleveland is a stately old church with an interesting claim to holiday fame. It is believed to have been the site of the first Christmas tree erected by a congregation inside of a church. The location and party responsible for America's first Christmas tree is a matter of some conjecture. But the earliest known documented, fully decorated Christmas trees appeared in the area of Cleveland around the mid-19th century. In 1851 a pastor named Heinrich Schwan placed a Christmas tree inside the Zion Lutheran Church. The tree, which initially caused a scandal, kicked off a craze the following holiday season. In 1852, the festive trees appeared all over Cleveland.

Zion Lutheran Church is not only home to one of the oldest Lutheran congregations in the Midwest but also one of its oldest schools. The neighboring Zion Lutheran School is also listed on the National Register of historic Places. The church maintains its annual tradition of raising a Christmas tree to this day. A small monument marks the spot a few blocks away where the original Christmas tree stood.



Chapel In The Hills Rapid City, South Dakota

The Chapel in the Hills is a Norwegian style stave church, something that is extremely rare outside of Scandinavia.

Lutheran settlers arrived in the area of Black Hills in the 1870s. Many were immigrants from Norway who came to South Dakota as prospectors and farmers. In the 1960s, Harry Gergerson, a popular Lutheran minister, decided to make Rapid City the base for his ministry and radio show, Lutheran Vespers. To house his ministry, and to honor the Norwegian heritage of the area, Gergerson oversaw the construction of the Chapel in the Hills, a close replica of the 12th century Borgund stave church in Norway. It served as home to Lutheran Vespers from its completion in 1969 until 1975. Today the chapel is a popular tourist destination in Rapid City and is used to host weddings and other events.

The Chapel in the Hills is a breathtaking four story stave church that seems to have been lifted straight out of Norway's fjord country. The original blueprints, provided by the Norwegian Department of antiquities, were used in its design, and traditional craftsman techniques in its construction. The site is also home to an original 19th century log cabin as well as a visitor's center.