

# Emmanuel Lutheran Church Winter 2024/2025 Newsletter

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

Church Office: 724-865-2325

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

## Advent 2024



Advent is the first season in the church year, comprising the four weeks before Christmas. The word “Advent” comes from the Latin, “to come,” and the church has observed Advent as weeks of preparation since the fifth century with themes of watchfulness, preparation, and hope infusing this season.

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday December 24

9:00 pm



## December Christmas Dinner Outing



***Join Us on Tuesday  
December 3 at the  
Log Cabin Inn in  
Harmony, PA 5:30pm***

## Christmas Program Sunday December 15 9:00 am service



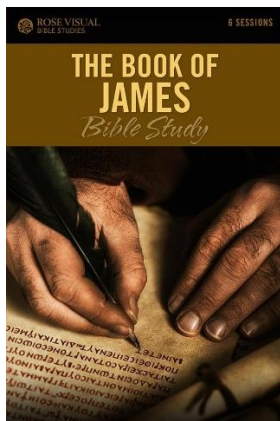
***Members of the church,  
both youth and adult will  
present the Christmas  
story through singing of  
carols and creating the  
Christmas Nativity***

## Foodbank Kid's Christmas

***Emmanuel is providing  
Christmas presents for  
children of the local food  
bank. Plan to give your  
donation to Pat Vagasky so  
that she can coordinate with  
the foodbank to provide gifts  
for children of the families.***

## Presents for Patients

Each year we celebrate Christmas with Presents for Patients. It is time again to remember our friends at Passavant Health center. Teddy Davis will have a list of patients along with their individual Christmas wishes. See Teddy with questions.



**Where:** Emmanuel, Prospect

**When:** 1-2 pm on Tuesdays  
October 15  
November 19  
**December 3**

A conversation- based bible study on the book of James using study guides from the ELCA Book of Faith initiative. Copies of the Learner's Guide will be provided.

***Come to one session or come to all!***

**QUESTIONS:**

Contact Pastor Tara  
[@revtaralyn@gmail.com](mailto:@revtaralyn@gmail.com)  
412-444-8113 (Call-Text)

**Hurricane Relief:** Donations may be placed in your weekly envelope if you choose. Write the amount in the 'Special'Box.

### ***Emmanuel Church Council***

**Council President:**

**Teddy Davis.**

**Vice President: Alan Vagaskey**

**Gordon Phetteplace**

**Gus Gunther**

**Ruth Fisher**

**Jeff Pritts**

### ***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**



***Epiphany is January 6, 2025, and the time after Epiphany is January 7– March 4, 2025. The season of Epiphany commemorates the visit of the Magi to the Christ child.***

**Want to contribute to the Newsletter**

**Call: 724-996-7340 or**

**Email: [clindey@yahoo.com](mailto:clindey@yahoo.com)**

## Christmas Trees around the world



### Celebrating the Birth of Jesus

It is a widely held belief that [Martin Luther](#), the 16th-century Protestant reformer, first added lighted candles to a tree. According to a common version of the story, walking home one winter evening, Luther was awed by the stars twinkling amidst evergreens. To recapture the scene for his family, he erected a tree in the main room and wired its branches with lighted candles.

Most 19th-century Americans found Christmas trees an oddity. The first records of Christmas trees being cut for display comes from the 1820s in Pennsylvania's German community, although trees may have been a tradition there even earlier. As early as 1747, Moravian Germans in Pennsylvania had a community tree in the form of a wooden pyramid decorated with candles. But, as late as the 1840s, Christmas trees were seen as pagan symbols and not accepted by most Americans.

**Christmas Trees in Great Britain** The Norway spruce is the traditional species used to decorate homes in Britain. The Norway spruce was a native species in the British Isles before the last [Ice Age](#), and was reintroduced here before the 1500s.

## Christmas Trees in Greenland

Since icy Greenland lacks large native forests, most Christmas trees are imported, mostly from Denmark. They are decorated with candles and bright ornaments.

### Christmas Trees in Guatemala

The Christmas tree has joined the Nacimientito as a popular ornament because of the large German population in Guatemala.

## Christmas Trees in Brazil

Although Christmas falls during the summer in most of Brazil, sometimes pine trees are decorated with little pieces of cotton that represent falling snow.

## Christmas Trees in Ireland

Christmas trees are bought anytime in December and decorated with colored lights, tinsel, and baubles. Some people favor the angel on top of the tree, others the star.

## Christmas Trees in Sweden

Most people buy Christmas trees well before Christmas Eve. Evergreen trees are decorated with stars, sunbursts and snowflakes made from straw. Other decorations include colorful wooden animals and straw centerpieces.

## Christmas Trees in South Africa

Christmas is a summer holiday in South Africa. Although Christmas trees are not common, windows are often draped with sparkling cotton wool and tinsel.

**Christmas Trees in Saudi Arabia** Christian Americans, Europeans, Indians, Filipinos, and others living in Saudi Arabia have to celebrate Christmas privately in their homes. Christmas lights are generally not tolerated. Most families place their Christmas trees somewhere inconspicuous.

## Christmas Trees in Philippines

Fresh pine trees are too expensive for many Filipinos, so handmade trees in an array of colors and sizes are often used. Star lanterns, or parol, appear everywhere in December.

## Christmas Trees in China

A small portion of Chinese people celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday. Those who do often put up artificial trees—"trees of light" decorated with paper chains and lanterns.

## Christmas Trees in Japan

For most in Japan, it's purely a secular holiday devoted to the love of their children. Christmas trees are decorated with small toys, dolls, paper ornaments, gold paper fans and lanterns, and wind chimes. One of the most popular ornaments is the origami crane. Japanese children have exchanged thousands of folded paper "birds of peace" with young people all over the world as a pledge that war must not happen again.

[Information from History Channel/History.com](#)