

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Winter *December 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 2025



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.



Join together at 5:30 pm on Thursday December 4, 2025 for Emmanuel's annual Christmas dinner outing at the Villa Gande Restaurant in Butler, PA.

Christmas Eve Candlelight

Service

**Wednesday December 24
9:00 pm**



**Christmas Program
Sunday December 21
9:00 am service**



***The youth of the church
will present the
Christmas story through
singing of carols and
creating the Christmas
Nativity***

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*

Happy Birthday in December

4 Vito Pilosi IV
16 Jennifer(Davis) Landau
17 Wyatt Sten
18 Mike Ackelson
19 Evan Schmidhamer
26 Jeff Pritts
27 Michelle (Beaumont) Joy
27 Alan Vagasky

Happy Anniversary in December

2 Jack and Carol Rinker

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.

Foodbank Kid's Christmas

***Emmanuel is providing
Christmas presents for
children of the local food
bank. Details have been
announced in church.***

Emmanuel Church Council

Council President:

Teddy Davis.

Vice President:

Alan Vagasky

Linda Pilosi

Pat Wenzel

Rose Syzbka

Jeff Pritts

Want to contribute to the Newsletter

Call: 724-996-7340 or

Email: 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 Nacimiento 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](#)