



Welcome! We are glad you are here today!

Our Vision: A growing community of disciples of Jesus, expressing Christ's redeeming love and reconciliation.

Volume 70 **December 14, 2025** Number 50

Prelude by Linda Myers

Opening Song led by Lisa Zimmerman

“Joy to the World” (Red Hymnal #125)

Welcome and Call to Worship by Richard Buckwalter

Offering for Leadership Support

Affirmation for Pastor Krista's ordination

Children and Youth Time led by Pastor Krista Snader

Advent song led by Lisa Zimmerman and Jen Eshleman

“Light of the World”

Lighting the Third Candle of Advent: Joy

Written by Henry Youndt

Worship songs led by Lisa

“Glory (Let There Be Peace)”

“O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem”

Scripture Reading: Luke 1: 26-56; Psalms 24: 7-10

Sermon by Pastor Tom Eshleman

“Do Not Be Afraid; Make Way For the King”

Closing Song

“Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming” (Red Hymnal #160)

Sharing Time and Prayer

Benediction



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

HAPPY 82nd BIRTHDAY TO MIM MARTIN: Monday, December 22

Henry Youndt: Monday, December 22



Our theme this year comes from Psalm 24: 7 (NIRV)

Open wide, you gates.

Open up, you ancient doors.

Then the King of glory will come in.

God calls each of us to open wide the gates of our hearts to the transforming renewal of Jesus.
God calls us to open wide our gates to a world that needs to experience the love and compassion of Jesus.

During Advent you are invited to bring **hygiene kit items** (list of items is on the back table) and new or gently used **children's books**. The children and youth will be collecting these during the service on Sunday mornings. The items will be donated to CVSEEDS who serve families in the areas of housing, education and health. Thank you!

Bring to the Lord in prayer:

Give thanks to God for Pastor Krista's meaningful and affirming interview with the LMC Credentialing Commission on December 10.

Pray for our Advent day of prayer this Wednesday December 17 from 6:30am to 8:00pm.

Pray for Jeff Martin (husband of Connie) as he has surgery tomorrow.

Pray healing and restored health for Roy Reiff.

Pray for the many people in our church and community for whom the Christmas season is difficult as they miss loved ones.

Pray that our worship experiences during Advent and Christmas would be a blessing and encouragement to our congregation and to the community.

Pray for James and Melani as they travel to PA next week to be with family.

Pastor Krista's ordination

We are grateful to announce that Pastor Krista Snader met with the LMC Credentialing Commission on December 10 for her ordination interview and she received strong affirmation. The commission shared words of encouragement and blessing with Pastor Krista as they commend her to Groffdale for ordination. This Sunday morning, we as a congregation will have the opportunity to add our affirmation for Pastor Krista by standing. With our congregational affirmation, we will then work at setting a date for Pastor Krista's ordination.

LMC is offering classes on the **Gospel of Mark chapters 14-16**. Classes are Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm or Thursday mornings at 10:30am. Both days classes are offered at LMC offices at 450 N. Prince St. and over Zoom. Classes begin the week of January 13 and will run for 7 weeks, each class meets for 90 minutes. Register by contacting William Higgins at whiggins@lmcchurches.org or 717 293-5246

See the posting on the bulletin board in back of the church with the CV SEEDS "English as a Second Language" (ESL) gatherings being held this winter.

You will see handouts in your mailboxes today to invite friends and neighbors to our Christmas services. Feel free to take more from the front and back tables.

Elma Diem no longer has a landline; her cell number is (717) 475-7682.

Advent Prayer Day on December 17

We invite you to mark your calendar for our Advent day of prayer on Wednesday December 17. Our Groffdale church building will be open from 6:30am until 8:00pm for you to stop by for any amount of time that you would like to spend in prayer. Stations for prayer will be set up around the church with leaders present in the building throughout the day. You are welcome to pray by yourself but there will also be several times scheduled for group prayer. We are planning a sunrise group prayer time from 7:00-7:15am and an evening worship and prayer time at 7:00pm. We also will be preparing an hour by hour prayer guide for people to join in prayer from home. More information will be coming via email and also to be distributed on Sunday morning. (today) We eagerly anticipate this time of prayer for our church, our community and our world.

Morning Prayer Group meets every Wednesday at 8:30am in the Conference Room. Everyone is invited to join this group for a meaningful time of prayer and fellowship.



As a way to share worship music between the generations, the Groffdale youth invite you to listen to the song "Away in a Manger (Then to Calvary)" by Sarah Sparks.

There will be no Sunday School on December 28. Refreshments will be served in the All-Purpose Room at 9am.

Thank you to those serving in our worship service today!

Ushers: Glenn Hershey and Charles Bauman

Projectionist: Diane Weaver

Sound Tech: Dale Weaver

Live Stream: Jim Evans

Camera Operator: Dawn Moore

Serving next Sunday, December 21

Prelude: Bob Mohler and
Rick Umble

Hymns Leader: Glenn Hershey

Sermon: Pastor Tom Eshleman

Sound: Dale Weaver

Projectionist : Becki Day

Livestream: Keith Stoltzfus

Camera: Harold Mohler

Ushers: Elvin and Lois Martin

Offering: Program Fund

OFFERING

Listed below are the totals for last week's offerings and deposits. Thank you for your giving!

Missions	\$3,781.00
Leadership Support	\$1,365.00
Program Fund	\$ 75.00
Sewing Circle	\$ 50.00



WELCOME GUESTS AND VISITORS!

We are so glad you are joining us for worship this morning and we hope you come again. We invite you to fill out one of the guest cards found on the back of the church benches and place the completed card in the offering basket.

Pastor: Tom Eshleman, tome@groffdale.com

717-669-4578 (cell); 717-656-6388 (office)

Associate Pastor: Krista Snader, kristas@groffdale.com

717-466-8930

Treasurer: Mark Wenger, pastormarkwenger@gmail.com

Bookkeeper: Jeff Martin, finance@groffdale.com

jlmartin1213@yahoo.com

Administrative Assistant: Diane Weaver, churchoffice@groffdale.com

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Dial-in LIVE Sunday AM Worship: 717-690-0477