



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 21, 2025** Number 51

Prelude by Bob Mohler and Rick Umble

Opening Song led by Lisa Zimmerman

"Joy to the World" (Red Hymnal #125)

Welcome and Call to Worship by Brian Snader

Offering for Program Fund

Affirmation for Pastor Krista Snader'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 Fourth Candle of Advent: Love

Written by Elyse Zimmerman

Worship songs led by Lisa

"Glory (Let There Be Peace)"

"O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem"

Scripture Reading: Luke 2: 1-16; Psalms 24: 7-10

Sermon by Pastor Tom Eshleman

"Don't Be Afraid, I Bring You Good News!"

Advent Series: "Open Wide Your Gates"

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

Janessa Eshleman: Saturday, December 27

Lily Zimmerman: Sunday, December 28

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Mark and Kathy Wenger: Monday, December 29



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:

Pray for our college students during this time home with their families during Christmas break. Pray for Timothy Wenger at Cedarville, Caeley Zimmerman at Lebanon Valley College, Tanner Eshleman and Janessa Eshleman at Messiah.

Give thanks to God for the meaningful prayer day at church on Wednesday December 17.

Pray for Jeff Martin as he recovers from surgery on December 15. Pray for Jeff and Connie during this time of Jeff's recovery.

Pray for our Christmas Eve Service at 6:30 and the many people from our community, family and friends who join us. Pray that all would be encouraged by the message of "God with us."

Pray for Pastor Tom, Jennifer and their family as they travel to Michigan to be with Jennifer's family after Christmas.

Pray for Kayley Eshleman as she travels to Jordan (Middle East) to visit her friend Elizabeth Martin who serves with EMM.

Pray for James and Melani during their time with family and friends in the US.

Pray for Andres and Angelica as they serve and minister in Morocco. Pray for Angelica's mother during her time in Morocco.

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.

Carylon Wyble no longer has a landline. Her cell number is 717-926-6295.

Sharon Eberly would like to thank the Sewing Circle for the plate of delicious cookies.

Copies of the winter issue of the Everence "Toolkit" are on the front and back tables.

Christmas Eve Service at 6:30 PM

Everyone is invited to our Christmas Eve Service on December 24 at 6:30 pm here at Groffdale. We look forward to Christmas carols, scriptures, special music and candle lighting. Refreshments will be served and we encourage you to invite your friends, family and neighbors. Fliers are available here at church for you to give out as invitations.

During our Christmas Eve service we will provide an opportunity to give an offering to **Chestnut Housing**. They connect people and communities of faith with tangible ways to create more affordable homes in Lancaster by providing affordable rental housing to people experiencing homelessness.

Morning Prayer Group will not be meeting the next two Wednesdays—December 24 and December 31.



As a way to share worship music between the generations, the Groffdale youth invite you to listen to the song “Prince of Peace ” by Celtic Worship.

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: Elvin and Lois Martin
Projectionist: Becki Day
Sound Tech: Dale Weaver
Live Stream: Levi Hoover
Camera Operator: Harold Mohler

Serving next Sunday, December 28

Prelude: Lily Zimmerman	Projectionist : Chris Martin
Hymns Leader: Henry Youndt	Livestream: Keith Stoltzfus
Worship Leader: Pastor Krista Snader	Ushers: Charles and Fern Bauman
Sound: Brian Snader	Offering: Leadership Support

The Admin Team is grateful for the strong affirmation for the proposed painting and carpet replacement project. We have agreed that the project will begin once we have received 80% of the estimated cost of \$61,125 (which is \$48,900). We currently have \$29,000 designated for the project which means we need to receive an additional \$19,900 before beginning the project. We invite you to contribute as you are able to the "Renovation Fund" of Groffdale Mennonite Church. Contributions may be made through Sunday morning offerings by designating a portion of your offering for the Renovation Fund on your offering envelope beginning Sunday, December 28.



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

168 North Groffdale Road, Leola, PA 17540

717-656-6388 | www.groffdale.com

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