

**Sunday,
Aug 9th,
2026**

Volga Christian Reformed Church
Pastor: Joshua Carpenter - Phone: 269-271-8603
Sunday, Aug 9th, 2026

Morning Worship 9:30 AM: Worship Leader: Pastor Joshua Carpenter
Praise Team

Prelude

Welcome & Call to Worship - Psalm 23

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Song - PH 624 Hear our Prayer, O Lord

***Song - Your Grace is Enough (Screen)**

*God's Greeting

*We Greet Each Other

Communion Prep

Song - Mighty to Save (Screen)

Congregational Prayer

Offering: Braunings & Budget

Children's Message

***Song - I Believe (Screen)**

Scripture Lesson: **Psalm 77**

Text: **Psalm 77**

Message: **Facing the Dark Night of the Soul**

Prayer

***Song - Lord, I Need You (Screen)**

*Apostles' Creed

*God's Blessing

***Doxology: My Friends May You Grow In Grace (Screen)**

Postlude

* Please stand if you are able

WELCOME: As brothers and sisters in Christ, let us rejoice together in worship of our God. We extend a warm welcome to all who are worshipping together today. Stay after the morning service for coffee and fellowship.

Ushers for August: Jerry Runia, Brenda Volkers; Alternate: Zachary Post
Elevator Attendant for August: Marla Volkers

Calendar:

Today: 9:30 AM Morning Worship
3:00 PM Summer Lake Day / S'mores Night
Mon: 7:00 PM Worship committee Meeting
Wed: 8:00 PM Council Meeting

This week is preparatory with a view to celebrating the Lord's supper together next Sunday.

Prayer Concerns:

- Please keep in prayer **Donae Van Norden** and the rest of the family, as she had surgery this past week for appendicitis. Please pray for strength and healing as she recovers from that procedure.
- Please continue to keep in your prayers our shut-ins: Betty Vander Zee.
- May we continue to keep in prayer all those affected by various natural disasters.

Announcements:

- **Cadet Camporee & Rocky Mountain High** - Following worship **today**, grab some coffee and come on back to the sanctuary for a presentation on this year's Cadet Camporee and Rocky Mountain High.
- **Summer Lake Day & Final S'mores Night - Today**, weather permitting, we'll be having a summer lake day up at Jerry and Geraldine Runia's place on Lake Poinsett once again this year, along with our final S'mores Night of the Summer. There will be food (please bring a side dish to pass), yard games, and time out on the lake! Come and go as you please, starting at 3 PM. Hope to see you there! Jerry and Geraldine's Address 2145 SE Lake Drive Estelline, SD 57234. **From Volga: 5 W, 15 N (to 196th), 2 W, ¼ N**
- **Worship Committee - Tomorrow evening**, worship committee will meet here in the church office at **7 PM**.
- **Marge Kleinjan** would like to thank everyone for all of the prayers, calls, & visits following her recent accidents and injuries. She greatly appreciates the food brought to her home since she returned. What a blessing it is to be part of a caring church family!

Looking Ahead:

- **New Member's Class** - Have you thought about making profession of faith, or reaffirming your faith and becoming a member of Volga CRC? If so, sometime this fall, Pastor Josh is hoping to have a new members' class where we'll talk about the Christian faith, what it means to be Reformed, and more. If you are interested in either making profession of faith or reaffirming your faith and becoming a member, please reach out to Pastor Josh and let him know.

- **Congregational Meeting** - On **Sunday, August 23rd**, we will be having our annual congregational meeting following morning worship. At this meeting, we will be voting on one new elder and one new deacon.
 - Elder Nominees: Anthony Kauk, and Jerry Runia.
 - Deacon Nominees: Ian Edwards, and Kees Knevelbaard.
- **Please prayerfully consider these nominees, as well as praying for them.
- **Senior High Youth Group** - Next week, **Wednesday, August 19th**, the Senior High Youth Group will meet to kick off the new year with some pizza and water games over at **First Reformed Church** at **7 PM**. Bring a friend, and come prepared to get soaked!

Offering Schedule:

- Aug 9th: Brauning's & Budget
- Aug 16th: Option 1 & Budget
- Aug 23rd: Navigators & Budget
- Aug 30th: Building Project

Nursery Schedule:

- Aug 9th: Top Family
- Aug 16th: Triebwasser Family
- Aug 23rd: Post Family
- Aug 30th: Davis Family

Our Council: Pastor Joshua Carpenter

- Elders: Ashton Fey, Dale Algood, Doug Post, Larry Top
 - Deacons: Connor Gross, Keith Tofte, Ryan Van Norden, Will Davis
 - **e-mail address for council:** volgacrcouncil@gmail.com
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Thrive Faith Formation Tip - God invited his people Israel to model the kind of radical curiosity that recognized the image of God in every human being. For the most part, Israel had little success being curious about others, instead making their own lives their top priority. Their lack of curiosity blocked their ability to see their neighbors in the image of God. Still, the Lord kept his promise to make something out of them for the purpose of being a light of grace and blessing to all other peoples (Gen. 12:2-3). This week reflect on whom God has been asking you to be curious about. Reach out to those people whom God places on your heart, seeking to learn more about them and their life. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

August 9, 2026 | Facing the Dark Night of the Soul | Psalm 77

Theme: _____ out our _____ to the Lord even as we _____ to Him.

1. _____ to the Lord

2. _____ to the Lord

Weekly Reflection: What dark nights of the soul have you faced? Looking back, how can you see the Lord at work and walking with you? May we ever lay our griefs and heartaches at the Lord's feet, looking to and resting in the arms of our Heavenly Father.

Sermon Resources for Further Study:

- *Christ's Psalms Our Psalms Vol. 3: Psalm 77* by Dick Wynia
- *Commentary on the Book of Psalms* by John Calvin
- *Psalms thru Song of Songs* by Tremper Longman III
- *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament* “Chapter 40: The Book of Psalms” by Michael A. Grisanti
- *Psalms-Song of Solomon, ESV Expository Commentary* by John Collins
- *Psalms 73–106, Reformed Expository Commentary* by Richard D. Phillips

“In this way, the Asaph psalms relieve Christians of any obligation to pretend that we always have our thoughts and feelings together.” - Richard Phillips

“Trials have the effect of testing our spiritual condition, and the prayers of Asaph show that he has been born of God. Paul wrote in Romans 8:15 of the spirit of sonship that is the birthright of all believers: ‘you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ’ Paul means that true believers respond to threats and alarm by praying almost instinctively. However poor our emotional state, a true believer’s heart will call out as a child seeking the Father’s protective care.” - Richard Phillips

“In this manner it becomes us to wrestle against despair, in order that our sorrow, although it may seem to be incurable, may not shut our mouths, and keep us from pouring out our prayers before God.” - John Calvin

“This is deserving of our most careful attention. In the time of sorrow, we are always desirous of finding some remedy to mitigate its bitterness; but the only way by which this can be done is, to cast our cares upon God.” - John Calvin