

**Sunday,  
Aug 17<sup>th</sup>,  
2025**

**Volga Christian Reformed Church**  
Pastor: Joshua Carpenter - Phone: 269-271-8603  
**Sunday, Aug 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Morning Worship 9:30 AM:** Worship Leader: Pastor Joshua Carpenter  
Organist: Marge Kleinjan  
Pianist: Joan Bjorklund

Prelude

Welcome & Call to Worship - Ps. 46

Silent Prayer of Preparation

**Song - PH 624 Hear our Prayer, O Lord**

**\*Song - RB 264 Crown Him with Many Crowns (Verses 1, 3 & 4)**

\*God's Greeting

\*We Greet Each Other

Summary of God's Law by Jesus (Matthew 22:37-40)

**Song - RB 104 Nothing But the Blood (Verses 1, 3 & 4)**

Congregational Prayer - Elder Ron Gross

Offering: Braunings & Budget

Children's Message

**\*Song - PH 282 Break Now the Bread of Life (Verse 1)**

Scripture Lesson: **Genesis 45**

Text: **Genesis 45:4-8a**

Message: **Our Sovereign God**

Prayer

**\*Song - PH 434 God Moves in a Mysterious Way**

Lord's Supper

**\*Song - PH 383 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded**

\*God's Blessing

**\*Doxology: PH 473 To God Be the Glory (Verse 1)**

Postlude

\* Please stand if you are able

**WELCOME:** It is a genuine privilege to gather as God's people to open ourselves to the presence of God and to praise Him with loving hearts. Stay after the morning service for coffee and fellowship.

**Ushers for August:** Gene Volkers, Zachary Post;

Alternate: Cade Gross

**Elevator Attendant for August:** Cyndi Ulvestad

### **Calendar:**

Today: 9:30 AM Morning Worship

11:00 AM Congregational Meeting

Wed: 7:00 PM Senior High Youth Group

**This morning, we are privileged to celebrate the Lord's Supper together.** All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desire to live in obedience to him as Lord, are invited to come with gladness to the table of their Lord. There is a small dish of gluten free bread in the center of each tray.

### **Prayer Concerns:**

1. May we continue to keep in prayer **Steve and Sandra Brauning** in their work and ministry.
2. Please continue to keep in your prayers our shut-ins: Lawrence De Groot, Melissa Jensen, and Betty Vander Zee

### **Announcements:**

- **Congregational Meeting - Today**, we will be having our annual congregational meeting following morning worship. At this meeting, we will be voting on one new elder and two new deacons. Weather permitting, kids can go over the parsonage to hang out and play outside.
- **Senior High Youth Group Kick-Off** – This week Wednesday, Senior High Youth Group starts back up! Come on out for some food and fun water events. Bring a friend, and we hope to see you there! This will take place at the **First Reformed Church starting at 7 PM.**
- **Sunday School Teacher** - We want to thank Clyde Ulvestad for his years of faithfully instructing our little ones in the faith as a Sunday School teacher, as he will be stepping back from that this year. In light of that, we are looking for someone who would be willing to step into that role and serve as a Sunday School teacher. If you are interested, please reach out to someone on council.
- **Women's Bible Study** will not be meeting this week as we normally do. We will meet next week Wednesday instead, same time, same place.

### **Looking Ahead:**

- **Newsletter Info Deadline** - The deadline for information for the **September** edition of our church newsletter will be **Wednesday, August 27th, at 12 PM.** Please send your information to Pastor Josh, Brenda Volkers, or Marge Kleinjan.
- **Sunday School Kick-Off** - The start of the school year has arrived, and right around the corner is the start of our Sunday School Year! Our kick-off will be **Sunday, September 7th.** Following morning worship, the kids will gather downstairs for some opening Sunday School activities, after which will follow hamburgers and hot

dogs outside with bounce houses, yard games, and another opportunity to dump some water on Pastor Josh with the dunk tower! Come on out for a great time of fun and fellowship as we celebrate the beginning of another year growing in the Lord together!

- **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.
- **Mid-America CME Conference** - You're invited to **Mid-America Reformed Seminary's** annual Center for Missions and Evangelism Conference on **October 3-4, 2025!** This year's theme is Gossiping the Gospel: Everyday Evangelism, featuring pastors, church planters, and faculty from the Seminary. Come be encouraged and equipped, and register today at: [midamerica.edu/cme/conference](http://midamerica.edu/cme/conference)

**Advance:**

- **Dakota Sun Ministry for Sep 7<sup>th</sup>:**
  - In charge: Delores Bothun & Gert Dykhouse / Marge Kleinjan (Musician)
  - To visit: Edwards', Henrietta Molengraaf, Marge Runia, Gerald Feikema

\*If you are unable to attend your assigned day, please find someone to go in your place

**Offerings received in July:**

General Fund.....	\$13,975.66	Building Project.....	\$16,612.00
Navigators.....	\$349.00	Skavdahl's.....	\$391.00
Volga Christian School.....	\$686.00		

**Offering Schedule:**

- Aug 17<sup>th</sup>: Brauning's & Budget
- Aug 24<sup>th</sup>: Local Missions & Budget
- Aug 31<sup>st</sup>: Building Project & Budget
- Sept 7<sup>th</sup>: VCS & Budget

**Nursery Schedule:**

- Aug 17<sup>th</sup>: Top Family
- Aug 24<sup>th</sup>: Triebwasser Family
- Aug 31<sup>st</sup>: Post Family
- Sept 7<sup>th</sup>: Davis Family

**Our Council: Pastor Joshua Carpenter**

- Elders: Ron Gross, Ashton Fey, Doug Post, Dale Algood
- Deacons: Will Davis, Logan Triebwasser, Dan Runia, Keith Tofte
- **e-mail address for council:** [volgacrccouncil@gmail.com](mailto:volgacrccouncil@gmail.com)

**This Week's Unfading Truth:** The Holy Spirit penetrates & softens hard hearts, infuses new qualities in the will, making the dead will alive, the evil one good, the unwilling willing and the stubborn one compliant. Discover how much stronger God's grace is than you are as we read the Bible together this week at [UnfadingTruth.com](http://UnfadingTruth.com). Text JOIN to 833-273-2136 for a daily notification.

**August 17, 2025 | Our Sovereign God | Genesis 45**

**Theme:** \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in God's \_\_\_\_\_ plan.

**Passage Notes:**

**Application Notes:**

**Weekly Reflection:** In what ways has God's sovereignty provided you comfort in the past? How can it provide you comfort in the future?

## **Sermon Resources Used For Further Study:**

- *Commentary on the First Book of Moses Called Genesis* by John Calvin
- *Genesis thru Numbers* by Tremper Longman III
- *Genesis - Beginning and Blessing* by R. Kent Hughes
- *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament*  
“Chapter 10: The Book of Genesis” by Michael A. Grisanti
- *NIV Application Commentary: Genesis* by John H. Walton

“We see, therefore, that witnesses were removed, for no other reason than that he might more freely comfort his brethren; for he not only spared them, by not exposing their crime; but when shut up alone with them, he abstained from all bitterness of language, and gladly administered to them friendly consolation.” - John Calvin

“When, however, he sees them overcome with fear, he utters no reproach, but only labours to calm their perturbation. Nay, he continues gently to soothe them, until he has rendered them composed and cheerful. By this example we are taught to take heed lest sadness should overwhelm those who are truly and seriously humbled under a sense of shame. So long as the offender is deaf to reproofs, or securely flatters himself, or wickedly and obstinately repels admonitions, or excuses himself by hypocrisy, greater severity is to be used towards him. But rigour should have its bounds, and as soon as the offender lies prostrate, and trembles under the sense of his sin, let that moderation immediately follow which may raise him who is cast down, by the hope of pardon.” - John Calvin

“This is a remarkable passage, in which we are taught that the right course of events is never so disturbed by the depravity and wickedness of men, but that God can direct them to a good end.”  
- John Calvin