

**Sunday,
Aug 31st,
2025**

Volga Christian Reformed Church
Pastor: Joshua Carpenter - Phone: 269-271-8603
Sunday, Aug 31st, 2025

Morning Worship 9:30 AM: Worship Leader: Pastor Joshua Carpenter
Organist: Marge Kleinjan
Pianist: Geraldine Runia

Prelude

Welcome & Call to Worship - Ps. 98

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Song - PH 624 Hear our Prayer, O Lord

***Song - PH 499 My God, How Wonderful You Are (Verses 1-4 & 6)**

*God's Greeting

*We Greet Each Other

Responsive Reading of God's Law - Words of Jesus from the Gospels (PH pg. 1013)

Song - RB 114 Jesus Paid It All (Verses 1, 3 & 4)

Congregational Prayer

Offering: Building Project & Budget

Children's Message

***Song - RB 303 Open My Eyes That I May See (Verse 1)**

Scripture Lesson: **Genesis 50**

Text: **Genesis 50:15-21**

Message: **Genuine Reconciliation**

Prayer

***Song - RB 270 And Can It Be (Verses 1 & 3-5)**

*Apostles' Creed

*God's Blessing

***Doxology: PH 630 Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God**

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able

WELCOME: We are so glad you have chosen to join us today as we worship the Lord together. We pray you feel inclined to share your joys and struggles with those around you. Please stay for coffee and fellowship downstairs following the service.

Ushers for August: Gene Volkers, Zachary Post;
Elevator Attendant for August: Cyndi Ulvestad

Alternate: Cade Gross

Calendar:

Today: 9:30 AM Morning Worship
Wed: 2:00 PM Women's Bible Study
6:30 PM Cadet Kickoff
7:00 PM Senior High Youth Group
Sat: 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study

Prayer Concerns:

- With the new school year underway, may we keep in prayer all the **students, teachers, and staff** as they go through this school year.
- Ashton & Kacey Fey's friend was recently diagnosed with Stage 4 brain cancer with an expected number of months left on this earth. Please pray for her, her husband, and all of their family members as they navigate the road that lies ahead.

Announcements:

- **Keith and Claudia Tofte** will be celebrating their **40th anniversary** following the church service in the basement, please join them for a time of celebration with cake and coffee.
- **Women's Bible Study** meets this week **Wednesday** at 2 PM in the church basement. Pastor Josh will lead the next lesson, Lesson 5: Blessed above All Peoples. Come and enjoy spending time in God's Word and food and fellowship afterward.
- **Cadet Kickoff** will be Wednesday Sept 3 at 6:30. Cadets is a community boys ministry for grades 2-8. We meet the first and third Wednesday of the month from September to April at Volga CRC. All boys are invited. Please invite friends from the community. If you have any questions, please reach out to Steve Van Heerde 690-6316
- **Senior High Youth Group** will meet this week Wednesday at **First Reformed Church** at **7 PM**. Bring a friend!
- **Men's Bible Study** will meet on **Saturday, September 6th**, in the church basement. A time of breakfast and fellowship will start at **8:30 AM** with the lesson beginning at **9 AM**. Pastor Josh will lead Lesson 11: The Inward Groan.
- **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.
- **Congregational Meeting Election Results** - At our annual congregational meeting, one new elder and two new deacons were voted in. Larry Top was elected as our new elder, and Conner Gross and Ryan Van Norden were elected as our new deacons. A huge thank you to each nominee, and may we pray for these men as they serve in these capacities.

Looking Ahead:

- **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 next week **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!

- **Adult Sunday School** - This fall, **Adult Sunday School** will be starting back up again, led by **Doug Wermedal!** While the kids meet for Sunday School and Catechism, this will be an opportunity for adults to gather and spend time digging into God's Word together, talking about various topics, and helping encourage one another in the faith!
- **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.
- **Movie Night** - For September's monthly fellowship event, we'll be hosting a **church movie night!** Come on out for some yummy food and snacks, some fellowship, and a film to enjoy together as we close out the summer and ring in the new school year!
- **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

Advance:

- **Dakota Sun Ministry for Sep 7th:**
 - In charge: Delores Bothe & 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
- **Ushers for September:** Jerry Runia, Jacob Post; Alternate: Marla Volkens
- **Elevator Attendant for September:** Brenda Volkens

Offering Schedule:

- Aug 31st: Building Project & Budget
- Sept 7th: VCS & Budget
- Sept 14th: Navigators & Budget
- Sept 21st: Benevolence & Budget

Nursery Schedule:

- Aug 31st: Post Family
- Sept 7th: Davis Family
- Sept 14th: Van Norden Family
- Sept 21st: Kauk Family

Our Council: Pastor Joshua Carpenter

- Elders: Ashton Fey, Dale Algood, Doug Post, Larry Top
- Deacons: Conner Gross, Keith Tofte, Ryan Van Norden, Will Davis
- **e-mail address for council:** volgacrccouncil@gmail.com

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - When asked about the greatest commandment, Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (Matt. 22:37-39, NIV). How can you show love to God through loving your neighbors this week? Whether it be in helping someone in your building carry groceries, bringing flowers to someone on your street, or buying a special treat for someone in your broader community, find a way to extend an act of love to one of your neighbors. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

August 31, 2025 | Genuine Reconciliation | Genesis 50:15-21

Theme: _____ with _____ as _____ reconciled us to God.

Passage Notes:

Application Notes:

Weekly Reflection: How does your reconciliation with God through Christ impact your reconciliation with others?

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
- “The Necessity of Reconciliation” by Rod Mays
- “Peacemaking Principles: Responding to Conflict Biblically” by Peacemaker Ministries

“Joseph had absolved his brethren from the crime they had committed against him; but they are so agitated by guilty compunctions, that they voluntarily become their own tormentors”

- John Calvin

“It was a token of a solid and not a feigned reconciliation, not only to abstain from malice and injury, but also to “overcome evil with good,” as Paul teaches, (Rom. 12:21:) and truly, he who fails in his duty, when he possesses the power of giving help, and when the occasion demands his assistance, shows, by this very course, that he is not forgetful of injury. This requires to be the more diligently observed, because, commonly, the greater part weakly conclude that they forgive offences if they do not retaliate them; as if indeed we were not taking revenge when we withdraw our hands from giving help.” - John Calvin

“From this we understand that God can have no evil thoughts toward his own—no thoughts of calamity. He never has had an evil thought toward a child of his, and he never will”

- R. Kent Hughes