

**Sunday,
Dec 7th,
2025**

Volga Christian Reformed Church
Pastor: Joshua Carpenter - Phone: 269-271-8603
Sunday, Dec 7th, 2025

Morning Worship 9:30 AM: Worship Leader: Pastor Joshua Carpenter
Organist: Ellie Vandenberg
Praise Band

Prelude

Advent Candle Lighting - **PEACE**
Kind. / 1st Grade & Jenn Volkers

Welcome & Call to Worship - Ps. 98:1-3
Silent Prayer of Preparation
Song - PH 624 Hear our Prayer, O Lord

***Song - Do You Hear What I Hear? (Screen)**

*God's Greeting
*We Greet Each Other

God's Law
Song - All Glory Be to Christ (Screen)

Congregational Prayer
Offering: Volga Christian School & Budget
Children's Message

***Song - RB 546 Angels, from the Realms of Glory**

Scripture Lesson: **Luke 2:22-38**
Text: **Luke 2:22-38**
Message: **Praising God for Peace!**

Prayer
***Song - RB 543 Good Christian Men, Rejoice**
*Apostles' Creed
*God's Blessing

***Doxology: RB 584 God Be with You (Verse 1)**
Postlude

*Please stand if you are able

WELCOME: On this second Sunday of Advent, we thank God for the 'peace on earth' that was proclaimed at Christ's birth. Today reminds us that God provides peace in our hearts and in our lives. Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the foyer following this morning's service.

Ushers for December: Jacob Post, Jerry Runia; Alternate: Gerald Feikema
Elevator Attendant for December: Brenda Volkers

Calendar:

Today: 9:30 AM Morning Worship
10:45 AM Pre K - 12th Grade Program Prep
11:00 AM Dakota Sun Ministry
4:30 PM Christmas Caroling
Wed: 7:00 PM Junior High Youth Group
8:00 PM Council Meeting
Thurs: 3:45 PM GEMS Christmas Party
Fri: 7:00 PM VCS Christmas Program

Dakota Sun Ministry today, December 7th:

- In charge: Gene & Brenda Volkers / Joan Bjorklund (Musician)
 - To visit: Algood's, Alden's, Connor Gross
- *If you are unable to attend your assigned day, please find someone to go in your place

Prayer Concerns:

- May we keep **Claudia's sister, Carla** in your prayers as she'll be heading back to Mayo Clinic due to some health concerns and may be looking at surgery before the end of the year.
- Please continue to keep **Andrea, Carolyn Hieb's niece**, in your prayers as she continues recovering from the aneurysm.

Announcements:

- **Sunday School classes (Pre K – 12th grade)** will be spending their class time preparing for the Christmas program today after the worship service.
- **Christmas Caroling - Today**, we'll have a time of going out Christmas Caroling! We'll be out caroling from **4:30-5:30 PM**. Hope to see you there!
- **Junior High Youth Group** will meet this week Wednesday at **First Reformed Church** at **7 PM**. Bring a friend!
- **GEMS Christmas party** will be held this Thursday, **Dec. 11th from 3:45 – 6:00 PM**. Please **note the extended time**.
- **Volga Christian School** invites us to their Christmas Program on **December 12th**. This will take place at the **First Reformed Church** in Volga at **7:00** in the evening.

Looking Ahead:

- **Church Christmas Program** - On **Sunday, December 14th at 4:00 PM**, we will have our church Christmas program, followed by a candlelight service and a time of refreshments and fellowship.
- **Christmas Day Service** - On **Thursday, December 25th at 9:30 AM**, we will gather together to worship our Great God, reflecting on and celebrating the birth of our

Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who came in order to forgive, redeem, and reconcile us, the greatest gift we could ever receive!

- **Note from the Algoods:** we are hosting a **baby shower** for Nathaniel and Lydia in anticipation of Baby Girl Algood. We invite you to join us in celebrating the upcoming birth at **Innovation Village** Community Room on **Saturday, January 3rd, at 11:00 AM**. We hope you are able to join us!

Offering Schedule:

- Dec 7th: VCS & Budget
- Dec 14th: Option 1 & Budget
- Dec 21st: Sunshine Bible & Budget
- Dec 28th: Building Project & Budget

Nursery Schedule:

- Dec 7th: Top Family
- Dec 14th: Triebwasser Family
- Dec 21st: Post Family
- Dec 21st: 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:** volgacrccouncil@gmail.com

Kids Corner Devotions: Advent at Home: Silent Night - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Advent at Home: Silent Night" at www.kidscorner.net. Do your worries ever feel really loud? You can tell them, "Shhhhhh! Jesus is here," and remember that He loves you and gives you peace. Explore all the great content at kidscorner.net, including the Kids Corner Christmas Collection of devotions, Bible stories, crafts, and activities.

Groundwork: Preparing for the Light of the World - Jesus Christ is the ultimate light of the world. During Advent, we celebrate his birth and anticipate his second coming. Join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 40:1-5, Matthew 3:1-3, John 1:1-14, and Matthew 25:35-40 to learn what it means to live in the light of Christ with expectation and to explore what it means to prepare our souls for the hope and illumination that Jesus brings. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Advent is a season of waiting for Jesus. This week bring awareness to moments in your daily life when you are waiting. Instead of pulling out your phone or passing time with another distraction, use that time to connect with God in prayer. For example, if you're in a doctor's office waiting room, try praying with your eyes open, talking to God about the people who work there and those who come for care. If you have children, invite them to point out things you can pray for as you are waiting and then pray for them together. Whether you are in the school pick-up line, sitting in traffic, or waiting for vegetables to roast, embrace the opportunity to spend time with God. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

December 7, 2025 | Praising God for Peace! | Luke 2:22-38

Theme: _____ **God for our** _____ **with** _____
Christ.

Passage Notes:

Application Notes:

Weekly Reflection: What about the peace we've received from God especially makes you want to praise the Lord?

Sermon Resources Used For Further Study:

- *Reformed Expository Commentary: Luke Vol. 1 & 2* by Philip G. Ryken
- *Calvin's Commentary* by John Calvin
- *Preaching the Word Commentary: Luke Vol. 2* by Kent R. Hughes
- *Luke & John* by Robert Deffinbaugh & Stephen Leston
- *NIV Application Commentary: Luke* by Darrell L. Bock
- *An Introduction to the New Testament* by D.A. Carson & Douglas J. Moo

“In his circumcision, Jesus received the lawful sign of the covenant. In his presentation, Jesus was consecrated to God, as the law required. Then all through the rest of his life, he lived in perfect obedience to the whole will of God. He did this for our salvation. We are saved by Christ’s death on the cross, but we are also saved by his life on earth, in which he fulfilled all the righteousness that we owe to God.” - Philip Ryken

“Simeon’s prophecy shows that from the beginning, God had a mission for Jesus that required him to suffer and die for sinners. The crucifixion was not some surprising and unexpected development, but the fulfillment of a preordained plan.” - Philip Ryken

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