

**Sunday,
Dec 21st,
2025**

Volga Christian Reformed Church
Pastor: Joshua Carpenter - Phone: 269-271-8603
Sunday, Dec 21st, 2025

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

Prelude

Advent Candle Lighting - **LOVE**
4th/5th Grade & Kacey Fey

Welcome & Call to Worship - John 3:16-21 & 1 John 3:1a
Silent Prayer of Preparation
Song - PH 624 Hear our Prayer, O Lord

***Song - RB 536 Angels We Have Heard on High (Verses 1-3)**

*God's Greeting
*We Greet Each Other

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

Song - RB 531 I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Congregational Prayer
Offering: Sunshine Bible Academy & Budget
Children's Message

***Song - RB 540 What Child is This? (Verses 1 & 3)**

Scripture Lesson: **John 1:1-18**
Text: **John 1:1-18**
Message: "**Jesus Loves Me, This I Know!**"

Prayer
***Song - RB 544 God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen (Verses 1-2)**

Lord's Supper (PH Pgs. 978-982)
***Song - PH 482 Man of Sorrows - What a Name**
*God's Blessing

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

Postlude
* Please stand if you are able

WELCOME: 1 John 4:9: “This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him”. Today, on this fourth Sunday of Advent, we reflect on the love that God has for us. Please stay for coffee and fellowship 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
Thurs: 9:30 AM Christmas Day Worship

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:

- Please keep **Carla** in your prayers as, Lord willing, tomorrow she has a stint put in. Please pray for strength and peace for the family, and wisdom and guidance for the doctors.

Announcements:

- **Thank You!** - We want to extend a big thank you to all who made this year’s Sunday School Christmas program possible! Thank you, Sunday School teachers and students, Christy Van Heerde, Circle 3, and everyone, for all your hard work on this year’s Christmas program! It was a great reminder of the birth of our Lord and Savior and how He is the reason for the season!
- The Arlington community invites you to their **live nativity pageant today, Sunday Dec. 21st**. This will take place at the **Kneip Building in Arlington**. Performances at **2:00, 3:00, & 4:00**. Live animals, free will donation, and refreshments following.
- **Christmas Day Service** - This week **Thursday, 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!
- **Unfading Truth Daily Bible Reading 2026:** Read the Bible with our congregation in 2026! Read or listen at a pace you can absorb each weekday, and dig deeper into what it all means with pastors you know and trust! The 2026 season begins on January 5. Sign up now for your daily reading reminder at UnfadingTruth.com.

Looking Ahead:

- **New Year's Day Service** - To ring in the new year, we'll join together on **New Year's Day at 10:30 AM** to worship the Lord, praying for His grace and strength for the year ahead, and being refreshed in His Word.
- **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!

Advance:

- **Dakota Sun Ministry for January 4th:**
 - In charge: Dan & Tiffany Runia / Vonda Bjorklund (Musician)
 - To visit: Samantha Algood, Jane Algood, Van Norden's
*If you are unable to attend your assigned day, please find someone to go in your place
- **Ushers for January:** Preston Top, Gerald Feikema; Alternate: Zach Post
- **Elevator Attendant for January:** Marla Volkens

Offering Schedule:

- Dec 21st: Sunshine Bible & Budget
- Dec 28th: Building Project & Budget
- Jan 4th: VCS & Budget
- Jan 11th: Navigators & Budget

Nursery Schedule:

- Dec 21st: Post Family
- Dec 28th: Davis Family
- Jan 4th: Kauk Family
- Jan 11th: Van Norden Family

Offerings received in November:

General Fund.....	\$14,021.98	Building Project.....	\$14,171.00
Skavdahls'.....	\$448.00	Navigators.....	\$366.00
Volga Christian School.....	\$1,097.00	Hope Haven.....	\$313.00

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

This Week's Unfading Truth: Learn to chew your spiritual cud (yes, you read that correctly) as we read the Bible this week at UnfadingTruth.com.

Theme: _____ God for His _____ shown to us in Jesus.

1. _____ Work:

2. _____ Among Us:

3. _____ Work:

Weekly Reflection: As you prepare for Christmas this week, may you thank the Lord for His amazing love shown to you in Jesus Christ all those years ago, and the ways He continues to show you His love day by day!

Sermon Resources Used for Further Study:

- *An Introduction to the New Testament* by D.A. Carson & Douglas J. Moo
- *Commentary on the Gospel according to John* by John Calvin
- *John - That You May Believe* by R. Kent Hughes
- *John, Volumes 1 & 2* by Richard D. Phillips
- *Luke & John* by Robert Deffinbaugh & Stephen Leston
- *NIV Application Commentary: John* by Gary M. Burge

“The Greek is *Logos*, one of the most significant terms in Greek philosophy. By using this word, John built a bridge from the Greek philosophical world to the Jewish thought-world of the Bible.” - Richard Phillips

“If that is true, if Jesus is the living Word who reveals God to us, then his coming is the most important thing ever to happen in this world” - Richard Phillips

“We should think of eternal life not merely in terms of its quantity, but also in terms of its quality. It is the life that God has, lived in us now. It is not the prolonging of our earthly kind of life, but the heavenly life that begins in us the moment we believe on Jesus, and it never ends.” - Richard Phillips

“People think that turning to Jesus will take all the fun out of life. But when you come to Jesus, your capacity for joy is vastly increased. Sin only deadens us and saps our life, whereas Christ fills us with wonder and purpose” - Richard Phillips