

**Sunday,
Dec 28th,
2025**

Volga Christian Reformed Church
Pastor: Joshua Carpenter - Phone: 269-271-8603
Sunday, Dec 28th, 2025

Morning Worship 9:30 AM: Worship Leader: Pastor Joshua Carpenter
Organist: Ellie Vandenberg
Pianist: Geraldine Runia

Prelude

Welcome & Call to Worship - Phil. 2:1-11

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Song - PH 624 Hear our Prayer, O Lord

***Song - RB 1 O Worship the King**

*God's Greeting

*We Greet Each Other

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

Song - PH 462 Amazing Grace - How Sweet the Sound

Congregational Prayer

Offering: Building Project & Budget

Children's Message

***Song - RB 330 He Leadeth Me**

Scripture Lesson: **Matthew 2:13-23**

Text: **Matthew 2:13-23**

Message: **A Persecuted Path**

Prayer

***Song - RB 322 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

*Apostles' Creed

*God's Blessing

***Doxology: LUYH 543 Now Thank We All Our God (Verse 3)**

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able

On this last Sunday of 2025 we welcome one and all as we worship in the name of Jesus who came to earth to redeem us so that we might be born again and made children of God. May our adoration of Him today be just as sincere as the shepherds and the wisemen at His crib. Please join us after the morning worship for a time of fellowship and coffee.

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

Alternate: Gerald Feikema

Calendar:

Today: 9:30 AM Morning Worship
Thurs: 10:30 AM New Year's Day Worship
Sat: 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study

Prayer Concerns:

- **Carla's** surgery went well this past week, but she has been experiencing quite a bit of pain on and off. Please continue to keep her in your prayers.

Announcements:

- **Adult Sunday School** will be taking a break for a couple of weeks over the new year.
- **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.
- **Men's Bible Study** will meet on **Saturday, January 3rd**, 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 the next lesson, Lesson 2: Glory in Our Grief.
- **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.

Looking Ahead:

- **Note from the Algooods:** 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!
- **The annual Circle Meeting** will take place on **Saturday, January 10th at 9:00 AM** in the church basement. This is for all circles chair & co-chairman. If you have questions please reach out to Jenn Volkers.

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 Volkers

Offering Schedule:

- Dec 28th: Building Project & Budget
- Jan 4th: VCS & Budget
- Jan 11th: Navigators & Budget
- Jan 18th:

Nursery Schedule:

- Dec 28th: Davis Family
- Jan 4th: Kauk Family
- Jan 11th: Van Norden Family
- Jan 18th: Fey 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

Sermon Resources Used for Further Study:

- *An Introduction to the New Testament* by D.A. Carson & Douglas J. Moo
- *Commentary on a Harmony of the Evangelists Matthew, Mark, and Luke* by John Calvin
- *Matthew & Mark* by Mark L. Strauss
- *Matthew - All Authority in Heaven and on Earth* by Douglas Sean O' Donnell
- *Matthew Vol. 1 & 2* by Daniel Doriani
- *The NIV Application Commentary: Matthew* by Michael J. Wilkins

“Matthew makes our decision rather easy, doesn't he? Do you want a madman or the Messiah? Do you want a man who would order the massacre of innocent children (v. 16) or a man who would open his arms to children and lay down his life for the less-than-innocent of the world? Do you want a ruler who rules by force, aggression, and cruelty or a ruler who rules by love, compassion, and the cross of his own sufferings? Do you want a man who slaughtered the last remnants of the dynasty that ruled before him, put to death half of the Sanhedrin, killed 300 court officers, executed his wife and mother-in-law and three sons, and as he lay dying arranged for all the notable men of Jerusalem to be assembled in the Hippodrome and killed as soon as his own death was announced, so the people might weep instead of rejoice on the day of his death? Do you want him for king? Or do you want the One who when reviled did not revile in return, who when he suffered did not threaten but rather bore our sins in his body on the tree (see 1 Peter 2:21–25)? Whom do you want? Do you want the Big Bad Wolf or the Good Shepherd—a “shepherd king” like David, one who would finally and perfectly, as verse 6b puts it, “shepherd my people Israel” (cf. 2 Samuel. 5:2; Ezekiel 34)?” - Douglas O'Donnell

“When Jesus returned from Egypt, Matthew saw it as a fulfillment of Hosea 11:1, “Out of Egypt I called my son” (2:15). Hosea spoke of Israel's exodus from Egypt, but since Jesus is the true Israel (see exposition of Matthew 4:1–12 below), what is true of Israel often applies to Jesus. At any event, Jesus is the climax of biblical history, so that all God did to deliver his people points to the deliverance wrought by God's Son.” - Daniel Doriani

December 28, 2025 | A Persecuted Path | Matthew 2:13-23

Theme: _____ our _____ Lord.

Passage Notes:

Application Notes:

Weekly Reflection: In what ways have you faced persecution in life? When you do, may you look to our Lord and Savior, resting in Him, knowing that He has overcome!



READ THE BIBLE IN 2026

Join our congregation reading daily passages at a pace you can absorb. We'll start in Genesis and work through till Revelation. Read or listen each weekday.

SIGN UP FOR A DAILY READING
 REMINDER (TEXT OR EMAIL)

Unfading**Truth**.com



STARTS JANUARY 5