

**Sunday,  
Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>,  
2026**

**Volga Christian Reformed Church**  
Pastor: Joshua Carpenter - Phone: 269-271-8603  
**Sunday, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**

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

Prelude

Welcome & Call to Worship - Ps. 108:1-5

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

God's Law

**Song - PH 379 What Wondrous Love**

Congregational Prayer - Praises and Prayer Requests

Offering: Building Project & Budget

Children's Message

**\*Song - PH 285 O Jesus, I Have Promised (Verses 1-2 & 4)**

Scripture Lesson: **Proverbs 10:4-5**

Text: **Proverbs 10:4-5 & Other Passages**

Message: **Putting Off Sloth, Putting On Stability**

Prayer

**\*Song - PH 510 I Love Your Church, O Lord**

\*Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 16 (Q & A 40-44) & Apostles' Creed

\*God's Blessing

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

Postlude

\*Please stand if you are able

**WELCOME:** "You have put gladness in my heart.." wrote the Psalmist (Psalm 4:7).  
May God put gladness into our hearts and stir up love for one another. Welcome to all  
who have come to worship today. We invite you to stay after the morning service for  
coffee and fellowship.

**Ushers for February:** Zach Post, Dan Runia; Alternate: Clyde Ulvestad  
**Elevator Attendant for February:** Henrietta Molengraaf

### **Calendar:**

Today: 9:30 AM Morning Worship  
10:45 AM Preschool-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Sing  
11:00 AM Sunday School & Catechism  
6:30 PM Lenten Service at Calvary OPC  
Wed: 5:30 PM Food & Fellowship  
7:00 PM Junior High Youth Group  
Thurs: 3:45 PM GEMS

### **Prayer Concerns:**

1. This past week, **Henry, Keith and Claudia's brother-in-law** began treatment for his leukemia. Please keep him and the rest of the family in your prayers.
2. On **Thursday, March 5th, Classis Minnkota** will be meeting down in Colton for our Spring meeting. Please keep in prayer Pastor Josh, Doug Post, and Connor Gross and the rest of the delegates as they attend and the work that is done.

### **Announcements:**

- **2026 Evening Lenten Services** - Today is the first Sunday of the Lenten season! As we enter this season, we'll join with Calvary OPC and First Reformed Church for evening worship services. This year, we'll be exploring the theme: God's story of redemption, taking a look at the overarching narrative of the Bible, beginning with creation, moving on to the fall, and then our redemption in and through Christ. Worship will begin at **6:30 PM**. The schedule for which church hosts each week and times of fellowship are as follows:
  - **February 22<sup>nd</sup> - Calvary OPC (Fellowship)**
  - **March 1<sup>st</sup> - First Reformed Church**
  - **March 8<sup>th</sup> - Volga CRC (Fellowship)**
  - **March 15<sup>th</sup> - Calvary OPC**
  - **March 22<sup>nd</sup> - Volga CRC**
  - **March 29<sup>th</sup> - First Reformed Church (Fellowship)**
- **Food and Fellowship Wednesdays** - This week **Wednesday** is Food and Fellowship Wednesday! It will run from **5:30-7 PM**. Swing on by for some food and fellowship; bring a friend, a neighbor, someone we can share the light and love of Christ with! Carry-out will also be available. February Menu: Scalloped Ham and Potatoes, and Dessert.
- **Junior High Youth Group** - Junior High Youth Group meets this week, Wednesday at First Reformed Church, starting at **7 PM**. Hope to see you there and bring a friend!
- **Notes from The Volga Christian School:**
  - VCS is **selling fruit** as a fundraiser. The deadline for orders is **February 25<sup>th</sup>**. Please find a VCS student or parent if you're interested in ordering.
  - **Kindergarten Prep Open House** will take place this Thursday, **February 26<sup>th</sup>**, from 4:00-6:00. If you are considering VCS for your child, please

come tour the school and meet the staff! The child must be 4 by Sep. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

- There have been a number of items found in church in recent weeks. Please take the time to check the **Lost & Found Table** by the mailboxes on the table in the church library.

### Looking Ahead:

- **Women's World Day of Prayer** - Volga CRC wants to invite you to this year's Women's World Day of Prayer on **Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**. Come and join for food, fellowship, and spending time in prayer and praise to the Lord together! Refreshments and fellowship will begin at 9:30 AM. Kayla Carpenter is the speaker for this event.
- The **Cadet Snow Derby** will take place on Saturday, **March 7<sup>th</sup>** at the Big Sioux Rec Area.
- **Step Into Spring** - Mark your calendars for **March 20<sup>th</sup>**, the first day of Spring, as we'll be joining together with Calvary OPC and First Reformed Church to get out and enjoy the changing of the seasons with a mile walk, breakfast, devotions, and fellowship! Keep an eye out for further details to come!

### Advance:

- **Dakota Sun Ministry for Mar 1<sup>st</sup>:**
    - In charge: Keith & Claudia Tofte / Joan Bjorklund (Musician)
    - To visit: Porter Family, Carolyn Heib, Gross Family
- \*If you are unable to attend your assigned day, please find someone to go in your place
- **Ushers for March:** Clyde Ulvestad, Gene Volkers; Alternate: Jerry Runia
  - **Elevator Attendant for March:** Cyndi Ulvestad

### Offering Schedule:

- Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>: Building Project & Budget
- Mar 1<sup>st</sup>: VCS & Budget
- Mar 8<sup>th</sup>: Hope Haven & Budget
- Mar 15<sup>th</sup>: Skavdahls' & Budget

### Nursery Schedule:

- Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>: Davis Family
- Mar 1<sup>st</sup>: Knevelbaard Family
- Mar 8<sup>th</sup>: Kauk Family
- Mar 15<sup>th</sup>: Van Norden Family

**Kids Corner Devotions: Faithfulness: Never Give Up** - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Faithfulness: Never Give Up," at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). God is always with us and shows us what true loyalty looks like, no matter what we face. Discover how his never-ending love can help us become faithful, kind, and trustworthy friends to others! Prepare for Easter with all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like Kids Corner's Lent Devotional.

**Groundwork: In the Garden of Gethsemane: Jesus Prays, Judas Betrays, and Jesus is Arrested.** - As Lent begins, let's prepare our hearts in this season by following Jesus to Golgotha and studying the biblical events that comprise the traditional stations of the cross. Join Groundwork as we begin our journey by studying Matthew 26:31-56 to reflect on what happened to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and consider the effects of his prayer, betrayal, and arrest for Jesus and for us. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - Today is the first Sunday of Lent. The forty days of Lent bring to mind the forty years of Israel's sojourn in the wilderness and the forty days of fasting that preceded Jesus' public ministry. During Lent, Christians around the world reflect on the weight of sin, the cost of salvation, and the love that motivated Jesus' earthly sojourn and sacrificial death. This year during Lent, find an object that reminds you of the wilderness (like a small stone or a container of sand) and place it in plain sight. Whenever you see it, pause and remember the depth of Jesus' love and how far he went to rescue you from sin and death. Brought to you by Thrive: [crcna.org/Thrive](http://crcna.org/Thrive)

Theme: \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ God and \_\_\_\_\_.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ must it be \_\_\_\_\_?

2. \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_?

**Weekly Reflection: How have you seen the vice of sloth in your own heart, life, and relationship with God and neighbor? What are some ways you can actively implement stability of place in those areas?**

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

- *Proverbs - Wisdom that Works* by Raymond C. Ortlund Jr.
- *Proverbs: The Tree of Life* by Graeme Goldsworthy
- *Glittering Vices: A New Look at the Seven Deadly Sins and their Remedies* by Rebecca Konyndyk DeYoung

“In a nutshell, to be slothful is to be opposed to the joy we should have over being united with God and committed to him in love. Instead of rejoicing at God’s presence in us, the slothful chafe at it and resent the claims that God’s love makes on them. Rather than being willing to dedicate themselves to developing and deepening the relationship, they resist its demands.”

- Rebecca DeYoung

“Given the human condition and our sinful nature (both our physical frailty and fickleness of will), what we need most against the daily weariness of *acedia* [sloth] is steady commitment and daily discipline, even when we don’t feel like it.” - Rebecca DeYoung

“As the desert fathers knew, the remedy for sloth is staying the course, resisting the temptation to flee - in mind or in body. Likewise for any human friendship or relationship of love - there is a certain stability and endurance that sustains it, a commitment that comes with demands on us. Sloth prefers the easy way out.” - Rebecca DeYoung