

**Sunday,
Jan 11th,
2026**

Volga Christian Reformed Church
Pastor: Joshua Carpenter - Phone: 269-271-8603
Sunday, Jan 11th, 2026

Morning Worship 9:30 AM: Worship Leader: Pastor Joshua Carpenter
Praise Team

Prelude

Welcome & Call to Worship - Ps. 96

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Song - PH 624 Hear our Prayer, O Lord

***Song - All Creatures of our God and King (Screen)**

*God's Greeting

*We Greet Each Other

Communion Prep

Song - How Deep the Father's Love for Us (Screen)

Congregational Prayer

Offering: Navigators & Budget

Children's Message

***Song - Be Thou My Vision (Screen)**

Scripture Lesson: **2 Corinthians 5:11-21**

Text: **2 Corinthians 5:20-21**

Message: **Ambassadors for Christ**

Prayer

***Song - Living for Jesus (Screen)**

*Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 29, 31, 33-4 & Apostles' Creed

*God's Blessing

***Doxology: The Blessing (Screen)**

Postlude

* Please stand if you are able

WELCOME: We want all who come to this worship service to know that they're sincerely welcomed. May all of our wounds fade away as we glorify the God of love and mercy. Coffee will be served in the fellowship hall following the morning service, and we hope you stay to join us in a time of fellowship.

Ushers for January: Preston Top, Gerald Feikema; Alternate: Zach Post
Elevator Attendant for January: Marla Volkers

Calendar:

Today: 9:30 AM Morning Worship
10:45 AM Preschool-5th Grade Sing
11:00 AM Sunday School & Catechism
Wed: 7:00 PM Senior High Youth Group
8:00 PM Council Meeting

This week is preparatory with a view to celebrating the Lord's supper together next Sunday.

Prayer Concerns:

- May we keep in prayer all the expecting mothers and their little ones on the way in our congregation.
- **Bob Hoogwerf's** ear surgery went well this past week! May we thank and praise the Lord for this answer to prayer, while we also continue to pray for strength and relief from pain as he recovers..

Announcements:

- **Adult Sunday School** picks back up again this week! Come on down to the council room during the Sunday School hour to enjoy some time of fellowship and digging into God's Word together!
- **Senior High Youth Group** - Senior High Youth Group will meet this week Wednesday at First Reformed Church, starting at **7 PM**. Hope to see you there and bring a friend!
- **Classis Minnkota is hiring!** We're seeking a creative, energetic leader to help strengthen churches, develop new leaders, and explore new church planting opportunities. If you're eager to see Reformed churches grow in faithfulness and impact right here in the upper Midwest, we'd like to hear from you! Learn more: wgtncrc.org/classis-advancement-director

Looking Ahead:

- **Indoor Scavenger Hunt** - On **Sunday, January 18th**, we'll be having an indoor scavenger hunt here at church. Come, find a partner, and look around the church for different items based on clues given! The scavenger hunt will run from **4:30-6 PM**.

Offering Schedule:

- Jan 11th: Navigators & Budget
- Jan 18th: Brauning's & Budget
- Jan 25th: Building Project
- Feb 1st: VCS & Budget

Nursery Schedule:

- Jan 11th: Van Norden Family
- Jan 18th: Fey Family
- Jan 25th: Runia Family
- Feb 1st: Top 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: Joy is Better Than Happiness - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Joy is Better than Happiness" at www.kidscorner.net. Discover how choosing joy can make every day brighter, even when things don't go your way! Learn how God helps us find real joy that lasts longer than just being happy. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's The Bible in One Year Plan.

This Week's Unfading Truth: Our God is both fully just and fully merciful. See this on display this coming week as we read Genesis 6 - 15 together at UnfadingTruth.com. It's not too late to sign up for a daily reminder!

January 11, 2026 | Ambassadors for Christ | 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

Theme: _____ for Christ.

1. _____ (vv. 17-21):

2. How We _____ (vv. 11-16):

Weekly Reflection: How can we be living as ambassadors for Christ in our individual day-to-day lives? As a congregation?

Sermon Resources Used for Further Study:

- *2 Corinthians* by Trent Casto
- *2 Corinthians - Power in Weakness* by R. Kent Hughes
- *Acts thru Corinthians* by Peter Barnes
- *An Introduction to the New Testament* by D.A. Carson & Douglas J. Moo
- *Commentaries on the Epistles of Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians, vol. 2* by John Calvin

“Here the Apostle Paul (having been entrusted with the ministry and message of reconciliation) employs a bold analogy to describe his ministry, that of the ancient ambassador, an imperial legate in the Roman Empire, a man of immense authority. As such, he did not speak in his own name or act on his own authority. Nor did his message originate in him, but from above. He stood in his Sovereign’s stead and authority. So the actual truth was that as Paul spoke, God spoke. The ambassador analogy was not chosen because it approximated Paul’s authority, but because it was reality. God really did make his appeal through him.” - R. Kent Hughes

“We do not regard anyone according to the flesh because if a person is in Christ, he or she is a new creation. And so are we. The old of what we used to be—what we used to care about, how we used to measure ourselves, how we used to evaluate ourselves—has passed away, and something new is in its place. The old is a reference to the person we were by virtue of our relationship to the first Adam. Every human is joined to Adam by birth, and what Adam did counts as our having done it. What Adam deserves, we deserve. He is our representative by birth. Unfortunately, what Adam did was sin, and what Adam deserved was death. Therefore, sin and death are our inheritance by birth. But if anyone is “in Christ,” that person is no longer “in Adam.” To be in Adam means that Adam is our representative, but to be in Christ means that Christ is our representative. By birth we were in Adam, but by new birth we are in Christ!”

- Trent Casto

“But here is what the gospel says: when we were not lovely or lovable at all, we were loved with an everlasting love. We were loved with a sacrificial love. Our worth is not tied up in what we can do, what we can accomplish, or what our kids become. Our worth is defined instead by the price paid to set us free: the blood of Christ. Now we no longer have to live to prove our worth to ourselves or to anyone else. We are freed from that to live for an entirely different reason. We who died are to live no longer for ourselves, but for Christ.” - Trent Casto

“Everyone who has put his or her trust in Christ has been crucified with Christ, has been set free from enslavement to sin, and is alive to God in Christ Jesus. Someone may object and say, “Well, if Christ’s death actually accomplishes salvation for all his people, then why share the gospel with anyone?” The answer is that proclaiming and hearing the gospel is the means by which faith is given and the salvation Christ has purchased is received.” - Trent Casto