

**Sunday,
Jan 18th,
2026**

Volga Christian Reformed Church
Pastor: Joshua Carpenter - Phone: 269-271-8603
Sunday, Jan 18th, 2026

Morning Worship 9:30 AM: Worship Leader: Pastor Joshua Carpenter
Organist: Marge Kleinjan
Pianist: Joan Bjorklund

Prelude

Welcome & Call to Worship - Ps. 145:1-9, 21

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Song - PH 624 Hear our Prayer, O Lord

***Song - PH 239 Amid the Thronging Worshipers**

*God's Greeting

*We Greet Each Other

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

Song - RB 24 My Jesus, I Love Thee

Congregational Prayer

Offering: Braunings & Budget

Children's Message

***Song - PH 279 O Word of God Incarnate (Verse 1)**

Scripture Lesson: **2 Samuel 9**

Text: **2 Samuel 9**

Message: **Giving Grace Over Getting Even**

Prayer of Application

***Song - LUYH 840 Behold the Lamb (Verses 1-3)**

Lord's Supper (PH Pgs. 978-982)

***Song - LUYH 840 Behold the Lamb (Verse 4)**

*God's Blessing

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

Postlude

* Please stand if you are able

WELCOME: We want all who have 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.

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
4:30 PM Scavenger Hunt
Wed: 2:00 PM Women's Bible Study
6:30 PM Cadets
7:00 PM Senior High Youth Group
Thurs: 3:45 PM GEMS

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:

- We want to extend our sincere Christian sympathies to **Ian and Alyssa Edwards** in the passing of Ian's grandfather this past week. The funeral will be held tomorrow. May the Lord bless their family with His comfort and peace that passes all understanding.
- We want to rejoice with **Will and Erica Davis** in the birth of their daughter, Adella JoAnn, this past week!

Announcements:

- **Newsletter Info Deadline** - The deadline for information for the **February** edition of our church newsletter will be **Wednesday, January 21st, at 12 PM**. Please send your information to Pastor Josh, Brenda Volkers, or Marge Kleinjan.
- **Women's Bible Study** meets this week **Wednesday** at 2 PM in the church basement. Pastor Josh will lead the next lesson, Lesson 14: Laws about Loving Your Neighbor. Come and enjoy spending time in God's Word and food and fellowship afterward. This week's lunch provider: Katie Hoogwerf.
- **Senior High Youth Group** - Senior High Youth Group picks back up again this week, Wednesday at First Reformed Church, starting at **7 PM**. Hope to see you there and bring a friend!
- **Indoor Scavenger Hunt - Later today**, 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**. A meal will be provided as well.

- **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

Advance:

- **Dakota Sun Ministry for Feb 1st:**
 - In charge: Logan & Ashley Triebwasser / Geraldine Runia (Musician)
 - To visit: Jodie Deen, Lyndsay Deen, Jerry Runia
- *If you are unable to attend your assigned day, please find someone to go in your place
- **Ushers for February:** Zach Post, Dan Runia; Alternate: Clyde Ulvestad
- **Elevator Attendant for February:** Henrietta Molengraaf

Offering Schedule:

- Jan 18th: Brauning's & Budget
- Jan 25th: Building Project
- Feb 1st: VCS & Budget
- Feb 8th: & Budget

Nursery Schedule:

- Jan 18th: Fey Family
- Jan 25th: Runia Family
- Feb 1st: Top Family
- Feb 8th: Triebwasser 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:** volgacrcouncil@gmail.com

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Because we are called to honor and uphold the sanctity of every human life—from the womb to the tomb—we invite you on this Sanctity of Human Life Sunday to put this calling into action. Consider volunteering your time at a local pregnancy center or elder care home as a tangible expression of your commitment to life. As you serve, reflect on how the experience deepens your understanding and strengthens your role as an advocate for the dignity and value of every human life. Take time to write down how this experience has shaped your heart and perspective. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

This Week's Unfading Truth: God sinlessly uses our sin to accomplish His purposes. Find out how as we read Genesis 16-27 together this week at UnfadingTruth.com.

January 18, 2026 | Giving Grace Over Getting Even | 2 Samuel 9

Theme: _____ with the _____ and _____ of Christ.

Passage Notes:

Application Notes:

Weekly Reflection: When and with whom have you been tempted to get even? How can you respond with the grace and mercy of Christ instead?

Sermon Resources Used for Further Study:

- *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament* “Chapter 18: The Books of 1 and 2 Samuel” by Eugene H. Merrill
- *2 Samuel* by Richard D. Phillips
- *1 Samuel thru 2 Kings* by Tremper Longman III
- *2 Samuel - Your Kingdom Come* by John Woodhouse

“It was customary for ancient kings to put potential rivals to death, a fact that probably explains why Mephibosheth was lying low in Lo-debar. It also explains why he responded in fear when summoned into David’s presence. Falling on his face, he stammered, “What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?” (2 Sam. 9:6, 8).” - Richard Phillips

“In the same way that David showed mercy to Mephibosheth, God has mercy for sinners because of his covenant promises in Christ.” - Richard Phillips

“Not only does David’s merciful treatment of Mephibosheth show the covenant grace with which God saves us, but the blessings that David bestowed also correspond to the Christian’s adoption through union with Christ. Speaking in theological terms, David’s grace for Mephibosheth was not exhausted in his justification; David did more than pardon Jonathan’s son and accept him into his fellowship. David also granted Mephibosheth a status otherwise reserved for David’s own sons. This is the same blessing that God offers us through faith in Jesus. John 1:12 proclaims that ‘to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.’” - Richard Phillips

“As we have seen, the reason for this promised kindness had to do with a commitment David had made before Mephibosheth had been born. Mephibosheth did nothing to deserve this kindness. The promise had a basis and purpose that did not depend on Mephibosheth.” - John Woodhouse