

**Sunday,
Mar 29th,
2026**

Volga Christian Reformed Church
Pastor: Joshua Carpenter - Phone: 269-271-8603
Sunday, Mar 29th, 2026

Morning Worship 9:30 AM: Worship Leader: Pastor Joshua Carpenter
Organist: Ellie Vanden Berg
Pianist: Joan Bjorklund

Prelude

Sunday School Kids Palm Procession & Singing

Welcome & Call to Worship - Zech. 9:9-13, 16-17

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Song - PH 624 Hear our Prayer, O Lord

***Song - *Song - PH 378 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna**

*God's Greeting

*We Greet Each Other

God's Law

Song - PH 255 God, Be Merciful to Me

Congregational Prayer

Offering: Building Project & Budget

Children's Message

***Song - PH 376 All Glory, Laud, and Honor**

Scripture Lesson: **Matthew 26:14-16, Hebrews 13:5-6, Matthew 6:24**

Text: **Matthew 26:14-16, Hebrews 13:5-6, Matthew 6:24**

Message: **Putting Off Avarice, Putting on Generosity & Contentment**

Prayer

***Song - PH 288 Take My Life and Let It Be**

*Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 50-51 & Apostles' Creed

*God's Blessing

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

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able

WELCOME to all who have come to worship us this Palm Sunday! We reflect on Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, but look ahead to the suffering that He endured for us on the cross. We praise God for His grace in our lives. Please stay for coffee and fellowship following the morning service.

Ushers for March: Clyde Ulvestad, Gene Volkers; Alternate: Jerry Runia
Elevator Attendant for March: Cyndi Ulvestad

Calendar:

Today: 9:30 AM Morning Worship
10:45 AM Preschool-5th Grade Sing
11:00 AM Sunday School & Catechism
6:30 PM Lenten Service FRC
Mon: 6:30 PM GEMS Daddy/Daughter Night
Wed: 2:00 PM Women's Bible Study
6:30 PM Cadets
7:00 PM Senior High Youth Group

Prayer Concerns:

1. Please keep **Betty Scott** in your prayers as she has knee surgery this upcoming Tues.
2. Update from Josh's parents: Josh's Dad is continuing to recover well after his heart surgery! He's feeling stronger each day. Sleep has been a bit difficult, but overall, he's doing well. They want to thank everyone so much for all their prayers throughout this!
3. **Marge Kleinjan** wanted to let everyone know how much she appreciates the thoughts and prayers. She's still in the hospital and she enjoys calls & visits. Her phone number is 605-695-8504 if you would like to visit with her.

Announcements:

- **2026 Evening Lenten Services** - This week concludes our combined evening Lenten services. Throughout this season, we've been joining with Calvary OPC and First Reformed Church for evening worship services. This year, we've explored 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**.
 - **March 29th - First Reformed Church (Fellowship)**
- The **Volga Christian School** will be having an open house on **Monday, March 30th** from **4:00-6:00pm**. This event is a great opportunity for families to tour the school, meet the teachers, and learn more about the Christ-centered education they provide for students from K-Prep through 8th grade. They will also be sharing information about scholarships and opportunities for new families who may be considering Christian education.
- **Women's Bible Study** meets this week Wednesday at 2 PM in the church basement. Pastor Josh will lead the next lesson, Lesson 19: Warnings That Call Us to Faithfulness. Come and enjoy spending time in God's Word and food and fellowship afterward. Lunch Provider: Kayla Carpenter.
- **Senior High Youth Group** - Senior High Youth Group meets this week, Wednesday at First Reformed Church, starting at **7 PM**. Hope to see you there and bring a friend!
- **Good Friday Service** will take place this **Friday, April 3rd**, at Volga CRC at **6:30pm**. We will celebrate **The Lord's Supper** during this service.
- **Volga Cadets will host** the East Central Heat Races with the clubs from Hamlin and Colton at the CRC this **Saturday April 4 at 9:00**. All are welcome to attend the pinewood derby car races. Coffee, juice and bars will be available. We look forward to this fellowship with the area clubs and friendly competition.
- **Easter Morning Breakfast** - Next week Sunday, we have the joy and privilege to celebrate our Lord and Savior's triumphant resurrection from the dead that Easter

morning! Before we do, come on down to the fellowship hall to enjoy a hearty breakfast together on Easter morning! Breakfast will start at **8 AM**. Hope to see you there!

- **Denominational Survey** - Have you been heard? Our congregation has a once-in-five-year opportunity to participate in the 2025 CRC denominational survey. This survey helps denominational leadership understand the concerns and needs of local congregations like ours. It is crucial that as many people from our congregation as possible participate. Please visit crcna.org/survey/6684 to answer the survey questions by March 31.
- One of the ministries of **Volunteers in Mercy (VIM)** is to provide transportation for people in the SW MN area who don't have ways to get to appointments. We are in need of a vehicle for that purpose. **If you have a good used vehicle** that you might be in a position to donate or sell at a reasonable price, please contact Dennis Kroll at **507-220-4231**. Thanks for your support for this ministry.

Looking Ahead:

- **Cornerstone Prison Church Council, Board and Congregation** would like to invite you to our **Annual Benefit Banquet on Monday, April 13th, 2026** Trinity Christian Reformed Church, Rock Valley, IA at 6:30 p.m. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. Save your spot by Thursday, April 9 by calling Trinity CRC at 712-476-5292 or go to our website www.cornerstonepcsd.org.
- **The MINNIKOTA YOUTH (& DU STUDENT LEADERS) 16th ANNUAL JR HIGH RETREAT** is April 17-19 at Inspiration Hills. Our theme this year is "TRUTH" from John 8:31-32 'Jesus said, 'If you abide in my word, you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'" Join other local Jr High Students (6th, 7th, and 8th grade) at this retreat designed especially for you. Growing your faith, prayer time, worship through songs, student speakers sharing from their hearts, large group games, community service time, a Leader lead talent show, fun with old friends and new, and small group time will be on the agenda for the weekend! For more information or to register, email Lee at degrootlee@gmail.com or mikyouthnetwork@gmail.com or check us out on our Facebook page Minnikota Youth where you will find a picture of our Leaders for the weekend and the registration form. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE...& as always....INVITE A FRIEND!

Advance:

- **Dakota Sun Ministry for Apr 5th:**
 - In charge & musician: Vonda Bjorklund
- *If you are unable to attend your assigned day, please find someone to go in your place
- **Ushers for April:** Jacob Post, Jerry Runia; Alternate: Preston Top
- **Elevator Attendant for April:** Brenda Volkers

Offering Schedule:

- Mar 29th: Building Project & Budget
- Apr 5th: VCS & Budget
- Apr 12th:
- Apr 19th:

Nursery Schedule:

- Mar 29th: Runia Family
- Apr 5th: Top Family
- Apr 12th: Triebwasser Family
- Apr 19th: Post 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

Theme: Living _____ - _____ as we rest _____ in the Lord.

1. What is _____?

2. _____ is it _____ Deadly?

3. What Should We _____ in its _____?

Weekly Reflection: How might we be tempted towards avarice in our lives? What are ways we can live generously in our day-to-day lives out of gratitude to the Lord for what He's done for us?



Sermon Resources For Further Study:

- *Glittering Vices: A New Look at the Seven Deadly Sins and their Remedies* by Rebecca Konyndyk DeYoung
- *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

“Cassian likewise analyzes Judas’s betrayal of Christ as motivated by avarice: ‘He no longer secretly stole from the purse but sought to sell the Lord himself.’ In the same stealthy way, avarice moves us to betray one another’s humanness. In so doing, we betray our own humanity as well.” - Rebecca DeYoung quoting Cassian

“The hallmark of well-entrenched greed, then, is a willingness to use people to serve our love for money, rather than the use of money to serve our love for people.” - Rebecca DeYoung

“The point is not to live on crusts of bread with bare walls and threadbare clothes. The point is that a fully human life is lived in a way free from being enslaved to our stuff. Our possessions are meant to serve our needs and our humanness, rather than our lives being centered around service to our possessions and our desires for them.” - Rebecca DeYoung