

**Sunday,
Mar 30th
2025**

Volga Christian Reformed Church
Pastor: Joshua Carpenter - Phone: 269-271-8603
Sunday, March 30th, 2025

Morning Worship 9:30 AM: Worship Leader: Pastor Joshua Carpenter
Organist: Marge Kleinjan
Pianist: Ellie Vanden Berg

Prelude

Welcome & Call to Worship - Ps. 40

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Song - PH 624 Hear our Prayer, O Lord

***Song - PH 231 How Great Is the Love of the Father**

*God's Greeting

*We Greet Each Other

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

Song - RB 137 Rock of Ages

Congregational Prayer

Offering: Building Project & Budget

Children's Message

***Song - PH 486 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

Scripture Lesson: **Luke 15:11-32**

Text: **Luke 15:11-32**

Message: **The Parable of the Lost Son**

Prayer

***Song - PH 528 Lord Speak to Me That I May Speak**

*Apostles' Creed

*God's Blessing

***Doxology: PH 320 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing (Verse 1)**

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able

WELCOME: Remembering that we are brothers and sisters in the Lord, we welcome each of you. May this worship service fill us all with confidence and hope as we prepare for the week ahead. Everyone is invited to stay after the morning service for coffee and fellowship.

Ushers for March: Gene Volkers, Conner Gross;
Elevator Attendant for March: Henrietta Molengraaf

Alternate: Zach Post

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 (CRC)
Mon: 6:30 PM GEMS Daddy/Daughter Supper
Wed: 2:00 PM Women's Bible Study
6:30 PM Cadets
7:00 PM Senior High Youth Group
Sat: 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study

Prayer Concerns:

- **Gerald Feikema** wants to extend thanks to everyone for all the cards, calls, and check-ins throughout his time in the hospital and recovering. May we praise the Lord for the healing he has blessed our brother in Christ with!
- Please continue to keep **Betty Scott** in your prayers as she continues recovering from her recent surgery.

Announcements:

- **High school catechism** will meet today after worship over in the parsonage around 11 AM..
- **GEMS Daddy/Daughter Supper is Monday, March 31st.**
- **Women's Bible Study** meets this week **Wednesday** at 2 PM in the church basement. Pastor Josh will lead the next lesson, Lesson 8: Knowing God as Father. Come and enjoy spending time in God's Word and food and fellowship afterward. Lunch Provider: Gert Dykhouse.
- **Senior High Youth Group** will meet this week Wednesday at **First Reformed Church** at **7 PM**. Bring a friend!
- **2025 Lenten Services:** Our combined Lenten services with **Calvary OPC** and **First Reformed Church** continue tonight! This year we're exploring the **Seven "I Am's" of Jesus** together throughout the Lenten season. The services will begin at **6:30 PM**. Please see the following schedule for service locations as well as times of coffee and cookie fellowship following some of the services:
 - **March 30** - Volga CRC
 - **April 6** - First Reformed Church
 - **April 13** - Calvary OPC (Fellowship)
- **Volga Christian School** is hosting a **Spring Showcase on Friday, April 4th** at **1:30pm**. Refreshments will be served after Music, Wax Museum, and Art Show.
- **Men's Bible Study** will meet on **Saturday, April 5th**, 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 Lesson 6: The Sustainer.

Looking Ahead:

- **Youth Group Fundraising Dinner** - On **Wednesday, April 9th** the Youth Group will be putting on a fundraising taco supper from **5:30-7:30 PM** over at **First Reformed Church**. Come on out for a delicious meal and an opportunity to support the Youth Group!

- **Easter Walk-Up Choir** - On **Easter Sunday morning**, as a part of our worship service, we'll have a walk-up choir singing **Christ the Lord is Risen Today (RB 563)**. If you are interested, please come up when invited on Easter Sunday.
- **GEMS Sunday** - On **Sunday, May 4th**, we will celebrate GEMS Sunday as a congregation.
- **Power Connection** - This July, the Junior High Youth Group has an opportunity to go to Power Connection once again! If you are interested, please reach out to Pastor Josh or Pastor Gary. The cost for students will be **\$100**.
- **MIK+ Young Adult Ministry** (19-30 year old singles). We would like to invite you to the April gatherings:
 - **Saturday April 5 at 6pm** in Rock Valley Iowa Calvin Christian Reformed Church we will be getting together for PIZZA & TRIVIA NIGHT. (Enter the WEST door of church because a fundraiser pick up will be happening in their fellowship hall during these same hours). Please RSVP by April 2nd to Lee De Groot at 712 470 4244. Bring a friend!
 - **Saturday April 19 at 6pm** in Sioux Center Iowa Bridge of Hope Youth Building (43 2nd Street NE). We will be eating a meal together and studying the book of Numbers. Please RSVP by April 16 to Lee De Groot at 712 470 4244. Invite a friend.
- **The 15TH Annual Minnikota Youth Jr. High Retreat** (6th-8th grade) is fast approaching. It will be held at **Inspiration Hills** on **April 25, 26, and 27**. The deadline for registering is the first week of April. If you or your Jr Higher have not had a chance to fill out a registration form, contact Lee at 712-470-4244 or degrootlee@gmail.com to get a form or print it off the Minnikota Youth Facebook page.

Advance:

- **Dakota Sun Ministry for April 6th:**
 - In charge: Sunday School / Christy Van Heerde (Musician)
 - To visit: Doug & Ginger Post, Larry & Jackie Top

*If you are unable to attend your assigned day, please find someone to go in your place
- **Ushers for April:** Zach Post, Clyde Ulvestad; Alternate: Jerry Runia
- **Elevator Attendant for April:** Marla Volkers

Offering Schedule:

- Mar 30th: Building Project & Budget
- Apr 6th: VCS & Budget
- Apr 13th: Local Missions & Budget
- Apr 20th: Option 1 & Budget

Nursery Schedule:

- Mar 30th: Kauk Family
- Apr 6th: Van Norden Family
- Apr 13th: Runia Family
- Apr 20th: Fey Family

Our Council: Pastor Joshua Carpenter

- Elders: Ron Gross, Ashton Fey, Doug Post, Dale Algood
- Deacons: Will Davis, Logan Triebwasser, Dan Runia, Keith Tofte
- **e-mail address for council:** volgacrccouncil@gmail.com

This Week's Unfading Truth: This week we'll dive into one of the Bible's biggest mysteries as we read it together each weekday: Why does God save some, but pass over others. Read along at UnfadingTruth.com. Text JOIN to 833-273-2136 for a daily reminder.

March 30, 2025 | The Parable of the Lost Son | Luke 15:11-32

Theme: Praising God for _____ as we _____ the _____ who've been _____.

1. The _____ of a _____:

2. The _____ of a _____:

3. The _____ of a _____:

Weekly Reflection: What are some ways we can love the lost who have been found in our own lives? As a congregation? As the Church?

Sermon Resources Used For Further Study:

- *Reformed Expository Commentary: Luke Vol. 1 & 2* by Philip G. Ryken
- *Calvin's Commentary* by John Calvin
- *Preaching the Word Commentary: Luke Vol. 2* by Kent R. Hughes
- *Luke & John* by Robert Deffinbaugh & Stephen Leston
- *NIV Application Commentary: Luke* by Darrell L. Bock
- *An Introduction to the New Testament* by D.A. Carson & Douglas J. Moo

“This is the love that God has for lost sinners. It is a love that is running to receive you even before you have a full chance to repent, a love that wraps its arms around you even when you have been wallowing in the pig-sty of sin.” - Philip Ryken

“This suggests an excellent standard for evaluating our own heart for the lost. Are we running to meet the wandering sinners? When we find them, are they drawn to us the way sinners and tax collectors were drawn to Jesus?” - Philip Ryken

“The Parable of the Prodigal Father”

“If ever there was a father who loved a son, it was the prodigal father. Usually the son is the one they call the prodigal, and with good reason. In the dictionary, the first definition for the word “prodigal” is “recklessly wasteful.” That was the prodigal son—so recklessly wasteful that he squandered everything he had: his money, his reputation, his dignity, his family, and his community. But there is another definition for the word “prodigal.” It also means “lavish,” and since the story is really about the love a father lavishes on his undeserving son, we can also call it the parable of the prodigal father.” - Philip Ryken

The parable could be called “The Parable of the Prodigal God” because the word prodigal means “extremely generous or lavish,” and the story is primarily about the lavishness of God’s love—that it is “an incomprehensibly vast, bottomless, shoreless sea.” - Kent Hughes