

**Sunday,
May 31st,
2026**

Volga Christian Reformed Church
Pastor: Joshua Carpenter - Phone: 269-271-8603
Sunday, May 31st, 2026

Morning Worship 9:30 AM: Worship Leader: Pastor Joshua Carpenter
Organist: Ellie Vandenberg
Pianist: Leah VanHeerde

Prelude

Welcome & Call to Worship - Ps. 150

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Song - PH 624 Hear our Prayer, O Lord

***Song - PH 432 For the Beauty of the Earth**

*God's Greeting

*We Greet Each Other

God's Law

Song - PH 482 Man of Sorrows - What a Name

Congregational Prayer

Offering: Building Project & Budget

Children's Message

***Song - PH 530 I Love to Tell the Story**

Scripture Lesson: **Mark 13:32-37**

Text: **Mark 13:32-37**

Message: **"Stay Awake!"**

Prayer

***Song - PH 508 Jesus, with Your Church Abide**

*Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 55 & Apostles' Creed

*God's Blessing

***Doxology: PH 620 By the Sea of Crystal (Verse 3)**

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able

WELCOME: As we open our hearts to God, may we extend our hands in friendship to one another. May all who have come to worship know that they're sincerely welcomed in this house of God. Coffee will be served in the fellowship hall following the morning service.

Ushers for May: Preston Top, Gerald Feikema;
Elevator Attendant for May: Marla Volkers

Alternate: Zack Post

Calendar:

Today: 9:30 AM Morning Worship
Wed: 2:00 PM Women's Bible Study
Sat: 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study

Prayer Concerns:

- Please keep in prayer the delegates, work, and deliberations of **Synod 2026** for the Christian Reformed Church, which will take place **June 11-18**. Please pray that the truth of God's Word will continue to be upheld and that His will ultimately be done through it all.

Announcements:

- **Thank You!** Thank you so much to everyone who made Vacation Bible School this past week possible! Thank you to everyone for using the various gifts that God has blessed them with for His honor and glory!
- **Women's Bible Study** meets this week, Wednesday at 2 PM in the church basement. Pastor Josh will lead the first lesson in our new series on the book of Colossians, Lesson 1: Jesus Christ is Lord. Come and enjoy spending time in God's Word, food and fellowship afterward.
- **Men's Bible Study** will meet on **Saturday, April 11th**, 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 the next lesson, Lesson 6: Living in Two Worlds.

Looking Ahead:

- **Annual Golf Scramble - On Sunday, June 7th**, our annual golf scramble! This event is for all ages and all skill levels. Tee times will start about 3:30. Please reach out to Dan Runia or Vonda Bjorklund if you are interested in playing. There will be hot dogs, s'mores, and a bonfire that evening at the Carpenter's at 6:00. Feel free to bring a dish to pass, but don't feel obligated to.
- **Old Timer's Weekend Praise Night** - To round out Old Timer's Weekend festivities, on **Sunday, June 14**, First Reformed Church is planning to host a praise night where individuals or groups from area churches can play special music. The hope is to have each area church provide at least one special music, so if you are interested, please reach out to Pastor Gary Mulder.
- **Church Cleaning** has been set for Tuesday, **June 23rd at 6:00 pm**. Circle 4 is in charge of the cleaning schedule and the light supper that follows. Please consider joining to help, as many hands make light work!

Advance:

- **Dakota Sun Ministry for June 7th:**

- In charge: Sheldon & Kris Thompson / Marge Kleinjan (Musician)
- To visit: Fey Family, Deb Landegent, Caija Landegent

*If you are unable to attend your assigned day, please find someone to go for you

- **Ushers for June:** Dan Runia, Zack Post; Alternate: Clyde Ulvestad
- **Elevator Attendant for June:** Henrietta Molengraaf

Offering Schedule:

- May 31st: Building Project
- Jun 7th: VCS & Budget
- Jun 14th:
- Jun 21st:

Nursery Schedule:

- May 31st: Runia Family
- Jun 7th: Top Family
- Jun 14th: Triebwasser Family
- Jun 21st: 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

Groundwork: God Makes All Things New - The fourth major theme of the Bible is that of consummation, the time when God will complete his redemptive plan and make all creation new. Join Groundwork as we study Revelation 21:1-5, Matthew 19:28, Romans 8:18-21, and Ephesians 2:19-22 to see a future where God's presence eradicates suffering and evil, and brings justice and eternal joy and to discuss what it means for us now. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Kids Corner Devotions: Paul: God Changes Everything - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Paul: God Changes Everything" at www.kidscorner.net. What if your life suddenly made a huge U-turn and turned you into a God-helper on an exciting new mission? Discover how you can help others, serve God, and be part of an amazing adventure starting today! Check out the KC Summertime Collection with lots of puzzles, games, and fun activities. Good for road trips or quiet time at home.

May 31, 2026 | “Stay Awake!” | Mark 13:32-37

Theme: Stay _____ and _____ the work God has _____ you to.

Passage Notes:

Application Notes:

Weekly Reflection: May the Lord ever help us to stay awake, alert, and about the work He has called us to until Christ returns or the Lord calls us home.

Sermon Resources for Further Study:

- *Commentary on a Harmony of the Evangelists Matthew, Mark, and Luke* by John Calvin
- *Mark - Jesus, Servant and Savior* by R. Kent Hughes
- *Matthew & Mark* by Mark L. Strauss
- *The NIV Application Commentary: Mark* by David E. Garland
- *An Introduction to the New Testament* by D.A. Carson and Douglas J. Moo

“By this sentence, Christ intended to hold the minds of believers in suspense, that they might not, by a false imagination, fix any time for the final redemption. We know how fickle our minds are, and how much we are tickled by a vain curiosity to know more than is proper. Christ likewise perceived that the disciples were pushing forward with excessive haste to enjoy a triumph. He therefore wishes the day of his coming to be the object of such expectation and desire, that none shall dare to inquire when it will happen. In short, he wishes his disciples so to walk in the light of faith, that while they are uncertain as to the time, they may patiently wait for the revelation of him. We ought therefore to be on our guard, lest our anxiety about the time be carried farther than the Lord allows; for the chief part of our wisdom lies in confining ourselves soberly within the limits of God’s word.” - John Calvin

“It ought to be observed, that the uncertainty as to the time of Christ’s coming—which almost all treat as an encouragement to sloth—ought to be felt by us to be an excitement to attention and watchfulness. God intended that it should be hidden from us, for the express purpose that we may keep diligent watch without the relaxation of a single hour. For what would be the trial of faith and patience, if believers, after spending their whole life in ease, and indolence, and pleasure, were to prepare themselves within the space of three days for meeting Christ?”
- John Calvin