

**Sunday,  
Nov 30<sup>th</sup>,  
2025**

**Volga Christian Reformed Church**  
Pastor: Joshua Carpenter - Phone: 269-271-8603  
**Sunday, Nov 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Morning Worship 9:30 AM:** Worship Leader: Pastor Joshua Carpenter  
Organist: Ellie Vandenberg  
Pianist: Geraldine Runia

Prelude

Advent Candle Lighting - **HOPE**  
Preschool/Jr. K & Jane Algood

Welcome & Call to Worship - Isaiah 9:1-7  
Silent Prayer of Preparation  
**Song - PH 624 Hear our Prayer, O Lord**

**\*Song - RB 545 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**

\*God's Greeting  
\*We Greet Each Other

God's Law  
**Song - RB 541 O Little Town of Bethlehem**

Congregational Prayer  
Offering: Building Project & Budget  
Children's Message

**\*Song - Once in Royal David's City**

Scripture Lesson: **Luke 1:5-25; 57-80**  
Text: **Luke 1:5-25; 57-80**  
Message: **A Living Hope**

Prayer  
**\*Song - RB 542 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**  
\*Apostles' Creed  
\*God's Blessing

**\*Doxology: PH 638 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**  
Postlude

\*Please stand if you are able

**WELCOME:** As we enter the Advent season, we are reminded of the hope and spiritual preparation for Christmas. Today symbolizes God's presence and love during difficult times. We are so glad you're here, and we hope you'll join us for coffee and fellowship in the foyer following today's service.

**Ushers for November:** Dan Runia, Gene Volkers; Alternate: Jerry Runia  
**Elevator Attendant for November:** Cyndi Ulvestad

### **Calendar:**

Today: 9:30 AM Morning Worship  
10:45 AM Preschool-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Sing  
11:00 AM Sunday School & Catechism  
Mon: 7:00 PM Worship committee meeting  
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:**

- May we continue to keep in prayer everyone who is still traveling over the course of this Thanksgiving holiday and will be traveling over the Christmas season.
- This past week, **Andrea, Carolyn Hieb's niece**, suffered an aneurysm behind her left eye. Please pray for healing for Andrea and strength for her and the family throughout this time.
- Please keep in prayer **Claudia Tofte's** co-worker, **Taylor**, as she suffered a stroke this past week.

### **Announcements:**

- **High school catechism** will meet today after worship in the parsonage around 11 AM.
- **Worship Committee** will meet **tomorrow, 7 PM**, here at church in the office.
- **Women's Bible Study** meets this week **Wednesday** at 2 PM in the church basement. Pastor Josh will lead the next lesson, Lesson 11: The Feasts of Israel. Come and enjoy spending time in God's Word and food and fellowship afterward. Lunch Provider: Joan Bjorklund.
- **Senior High Youth Group** will meet this week Wednesday at **First Reformed Church** at **7 PM**. Bring a friend!
- **Men's Bible Study** will meet on **Saturday, December 6th**, 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 2: Glory in Our Grief.
- **MIK+ POST HIGH YOUNG ADULTS CAROLING OUTING:** If you are single, post high school, and between 18-30 years of age you are invited to join us on Saturday **December 6** in **Edgerton MN** for a night of "OLD FASHION CAROLING". Meet at 4pm at the **Bethel CRC** on main street. Dress warm...gloves, coats, scarves, blankets, and bring a flashlight! We will be on

an "OPEN SLEIGH" AKA a flatbed with bales of hay. After we carol, we will be warming up at the Bethel CRC over a hot cup of chocolate, chili soup, chicken tortilla soup, and cinnamon rolls. Join us as we kick off the Christmas Season! RSVP to Lee at 712 470 4244 before 6pm on Dec 4th . And as always...BRING A FRIEND!

### **Looking Ahead:**

- **Christmas Caroling** - Next week Sunday, **December 7th**, we'll have a time of going out Christmas Caroling! We'll be out caroling from **4:30-5:30 PM**. Hope to see you there!
- **Church Christmas Program** - On **Sunday, December 14th** at **4:30 PM**, we will have our church Christmas program, followed by a candlelight service and a time of refreshments and fellowship.
- **Christmas Day Service** - On **Thursday, December 25th** at **9:30 AM**, we will gather together to worship our Great God, reflecting on and celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who came in order to forgive, redeem, and reconcile us, the greatest gift we could ever receive!

### **Recent Births in Our Church Family:**

- Nora Jae Wermedal – 11/12/2025

### **Advance:**

- **Dakota Sun Ministry for Dec 7<sup>th</sup>:**
  - In charge: Gene & Brenda Volkens / Joan Bjorklund (Musician)
  - To visit: Algood's, Alden's, Connor Gross

\*If you are unable to attend your assigned day, please find someone to go in your place
- **Ushers for December:** Jacob Post, Jerry Runia; Alternate: Gerald Feikema
- **Elevator Attendant for December:** Brenda Volkens

### **Offering Schedule:**

- Nov 30<sup>th</sup>: Building Project & Budget
- Dec 7<sup>th</sup>: VCS & Budget
- Dec 14<sup>th</sup>: Option 1 & Budget
- Dec 21<sup>st</sup>: Sunshine Bible & Budget

### **Nursery Schedule:**

- Nov 30<sup>th</sup>: Runia Family
- Nov 7<sup>th</sup>: Top Family
- Dec 14<sup>th</sup>: Triebwasser Family
- Dec 21<sup>st</sup>: 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:** volgacrcouncil@gmail.com

**November 30, 2025 | A Living Hope | Luke 1:5-25; 57-80**

**Theme:** \_\_\_\_\_ in light of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ's \_\_\_\_\_.

**Passage Notes:**

**Application Notes:**

**Weekly Reflection: What other ways can we be living in light of the hope of Christ's return?**

## **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

“The question to ask about suffering is not “What have I done to deserve this?” but “How can I glorify God through this?” Elizabeth is the perfect example. She did not wait for a child before her life could begin. She was busy serving the Lord, walking blamelessly in his commandments. For her, what some people considered a tragedy was an opportunity. No matter what suffering we must endure—and everyone suffers—there is still a way for us to live for the glory of God.”

- Philip Ryken

“God was visiting his people. He was entering our situation from the outside, because without his intervention, we could never be saved. Salvation is not a human invention, but a divine visitation. It is not something we achieve by going to God, but something God has done by coming to us in Christ. No one is ever saved except by the grace of God.” - Philip Ryken

“Yet Zechariah disbelieved! This was serious, because in his doubt he implicitly denied the power that would be so central to the gospel—namely, the power of resurrection. If God could not give Zechariah's wife Elizabeth the power to conceive, how could he raise Jesus' body from the tomb? The priest's unbelief was unknowingly subversive to the entire gospel. The coming of “the rising sun ... from heaven” would do no one any good apart from faith. The messianic age demands belief!” - R. Kent Hughes