

**Sunday,
Sep 7th,
2025**

Volga Christian Reformed Church
Pastor: Joshua Carpenter - Phone: 269-271-8603
Sunday, Sep 7th, 2025

Morning Worship 9:30 AM: Worship Leader: Pastor Joshua Carpenter
Praise Team

Prelude

Welcome & Call to Worship - Ps. 25:4-5

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Song - PH 624 Hear our Prayer, O Lord

***Song - Not to Us (Screen)**

*God's Greeting

*We Greet Each Other

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

Installation of New Office-bearers (PH Pgs. 1004-1006)

Song - All Glory Be to Christ (Screen)

Congregational Prayer

Offering: Volga Christian School & Budget

Children's Message

***Song - We Believe (Screen)**

Scripture Lesson: **2 Peter 3:14-18**

Text: **2 Peter 3:18**

Message: **Growing in Grace and Knowledge**

Prayer

***Song - My Friends May You Grow in Grace (Screen)**

*Apostles' Creed

*God's Blessing

***Doxology: The Blessing (Screen)**

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 September: Jerry Runia, Jacob Post;
Elevator Attendant for September: Brenda Volkers

Alternate: Marla Volkers

Calendar:

Today: 9:30 AM Morning Worship
11:00 PM Sunday School Kickoff
Wed: 7:00 PM Senior High Youth Group
8:00 PM Council Meeting
Thurs: 3:45 PM GEMS Kickoff

Dakota Sun Ministry today, September 7th:

- In charge: Delores Bothe & Gert Dykhouse / Marge Kleinjan (Musician)
 - To visit: Edwards', Henrietta Molengraaf, Marge Runia, Gerald Feikema
- *If you are unable to attend your assigned day, please find someone to go in your place

Prayer Concerns:

- We want to extend our sincere Christian sympathies to **Darryl Jensen** and his family in the passing of **Melissa Jensen** this past week. May the Lord bless them with His peace that passes all understanding.
- With the start of the Sunday School year, may we ever keep in prayer our kids and Sunday School teachers as they learn about God and His Word together throughout the year.
- May we continue to keep in our prayers all those who are battling various illnesses and dealing with health concerns.

Announcements:

- **Sunday School Kick-Off** - The start of the school year has arrived, and today is our Sunday School Kick-Off! Following morning worship, the kids will gather downstairs for some opening Sunday School activities, after which will follow hamburgers and hot dogs outside with bounce houses, yard games, and another opportunity to dump some water on Pastor Josh with the dunk tower! Come on out for a great time of fun and fellowship as we celebrate the beginning of another year growing in the Lord together!
- **Senior High Youth Group** will meet this week Wednesday at **First Reformed Church** at **7 PM**. Bring a friend!
- **GEMS** will begin their new season with a kick-off meeting on Thursday, Sept. 11, 3:45-5:30. All girls grades 1-8 are invited to join us.
- **Youth Group Meal Sign-Ups** - With youth group starting back up, we usually provide a meal the third Wednesday of each month for the youth group. If you are interested in serving in this way, there's a sign up sheet out on the coffee counter in the church lobby. Thank you for your consideration!
- **Adult Sunday School** - This fall, **Adult Sunday School** will be starting back up again, led by **Doug Wermedal!** While the kids meet for Sunday School and Catechism, this will be an opportunity for adults to gather and spend time digging

into God's Word together, talking about various topics, and helping encourage one another in the faith!

- **Cadet Kickoff** took place last Wednesday. Cadets is a community boys ministry for grades 2-8. They meet the first and third Wednesday of the month from September to April at Volga CRC. All boys are invited. Please invite friends from the community. If you have any questions, please reach out to Steve Van Heerde 690-6316

Looking Ahead:

- **Pumpkin Painting** - On **Sunday, September 28th**, we'll be doing some pumpkin painting here at church to enjoy the fall season together from **3-5 PM**. Snacks will be provided. If you have any pumpkins that you would like to donate for the event, please feel free to drop them off at church.
- **Worship Night - Preston Christian Church** invites us to a worship night at their church on **October 5th, at 6 PM**. The music will be contemporary and geared toward youth groups, but all ages are more than welcome. Snacks/fellowship to follow. All will be done around 8 pm, unless you'd like to visit longer.

Offering Schedule:

- Sept 7th: VCS & Budget
- Sept 14th: Navigators & Budget
- Sept 21st: Benevolence & Budget
- Sept 28th: Building Project & Budget

Nursery Schedule:

- Sept 7th: Davis Family
- Sept 14th: Van Norden Family
- Sept 21st: Kauk Family
- Sept 28th: Fey 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

Kids Corner Devotions: Praying for Our Enemies - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Praying for Our Enemies" at www.kidscorner.net. In Matthew 5, Jesus preaches the Sermon on the Mount. He wanted people to know how to treat one another and show love the way he loves. He even wants us to show love and kindness to those we think of as our enemies because God cares about and provides for everyone. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the classic "Liz and Friends" podcast!

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - A new school season has begun. The rhythms and activities of a new school year can make it challenging to include space for God in your everyday family life. One way you can do that is by reviewing the "highs and lows" of your day, giving thanks for God's many blessings and asking for God's presence in the midst of hard situations. See Everyday Family Faith (FaithAliveResources.org) for more ways to make time for God with your family. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

September 7, 2025 | Growing in Grace and Knowledge | 2 Peter 3:18

Theme: _____ in the _____ and _____ of Jesus our
_____ lives through.

1. Growing in the _____ of Jesus:

2. Growing in the _____ of Jesus:

Weekly Reflection: What are ways you are already growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus? How can we be encouraging one another to do so?

Resources Used For Further Study:

- *An Introduction to the New Testament* by D.A. Carson & Douglas J. Moo
- *1 & 2 Peter and Jude - Sharing Christ's Sufferings* by David R. Helm
- *Commentary on the Catholic Epistles* by John Calvin
- *Hebrews thru Revelation* by Mark L. Strauss
- *Peter and Jude* by Simon J. Kistemaker

“His [Peter’s] aim in writing has been that we would be “established” in the faith. He has been laboring for firmness of faith—sure footing—people planted squarely on solid ground.”

- David Helm

“He also exhorts us to make progress; for it is the only way of persevering, to make continual advances, and not to stand still in the middle of our journey; as though he had said, that they only would be safe who laboured to make progress daily.” - John Calvin