

**Sunday,
Sep 21st,
2025**

Volga Christian Reformed Church
Pastor: Joshua Carpenter - Phone: 269-271-8603
Sunday, Sep 21st, 2025

Morning Worship 9:30 AM: Worship Leader: Pastor Joshua Carpenter
Organist: Marge Kleinjan
Pianist: Joan Bjorklund

Prelude

Welcome & Call to Worship - John 10:7-11; 14-16

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Song - PH 624 Hear our Prayer, O Lord

***Song - RB 7 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (Verses 1-3)**

*God's Greeting

*We Greet Each Other

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

Song - PH 482 Man of Sorrows - What a Name

Congregational Prayer

Offering: Benevolence & Budget

Children's Message

***Song - LUYH 759 Your Word Sheds Light upon My Path (Verse 1)**

Scripture Lesson: **1 John 4:1-6**

Text: **1 John 4:1-6**

Message: **Spiritual Gifts: Discernment**

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Passing of the Bread - LUYH 840 Behold the Lamb (Verses 1-2)

Passing of the Juice - LUYH 840 Behold the Lamb (Verse 3)

***Song - LUYH 840 Behold the Lamb (Verse 4)**

*God's Blessing

***Doxology: PH 473 To God Be the Glory (Verse 1)**

Postlude

* Please stand if you are able

WELCOME: Psalm 13:6 I will sing to the Lord, for He has been good to me. We welcome you as we, too, sing to the Lord because of His goodness. Everyone is invited to stay for coffee after 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
10:45 AM Preschool-5th Grade Sing
11:00 AM Sunday School & Catechism
Wed: 5:30 PM Food & Fellowship
7:00 PM Junior High Youth Group
Thurs: 3:45 PM GEMS

This morning, we are privileged to celebrate the Lord's Supper together. All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desire to live in obedience to him as Lord, are invited to come with gladness to the table of their Lord. There is a small dish of gluten free bread in the center of each tray.

Prayer Concerns:

- As summer turns to fall, may we keep in prayer our farmers as the harvest season will soon be upon us. May we pray for strength and for safety amidst this busy time of the year.

Announcements:

- **High school Catechism** will meet today after worship over in the parsonage around 11 AM.
- **Evening of Music** - The community is invited to an evening of music with Darwin Husby **tonight** beginning at 7 p.m. at the **First Reformed Church**, 601 E. 1st Street in Volga. Darwin will sing some of his favorite hymn selections. A short hymn sing will be included in the evening of music. A time of fellowship will follow.
- **Newsletter Info Deadline** - The deadline for information for the **October** edition of our church newsletter will be **Wednesday, September 24th, at 12 PM**. Please send your information to Pastor Josh, Brenda Volkers, or Marge Kleinjan.
- **Food and Fellowship Wednesdays** - This week **Wednesday** is Food and Fellowship Wednesday! It will run from **5:30-7 PM**. Swing on by for some food and fellowship; bring a friend, a neighbor, someone we can share the light and love of Christ with! Carry-out will also be available. September Menu: Spaghetti, Garlic Sticks, and Ice Cream.
- **Junior High Youth Group** will meet this week Wednesday at **First Reformed Church** at **7 PM**. Bring a friend!

- The **Volga GEMS** will be selling greeting cards for their annual fund raiser. We appreciate your support for the GEMS ministry.

Looking Ahead:

- **Pumpkin Painting** - Next week **Sunday, September 28th**, we'll be having 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.

Advance:

- **Dakota Sun Ministry for Oct 5th:**
 - In charge: Darryl Clapp / Ellie Vanden Berg (Musician)
 - To visit: Knevelbaard's, Betty Scott, Fannie Janssen
*If you are unable to attend your assigned day, please find someone to go in your place
- **Ushers for October:** Gerald Feikeman, Zachary Post; Alternate: Gene Volkers
- **Elevator Attendant for October:** Henrietta Molengraaf

Offering Schedule:

- Sept 21st: Benevolence & Budget
- Sept 28th: Building Project & Budget
- Oct 5th: VCS & Budget
- Oct 12th: Brauning's & Budget

Nursery Schedule:

- Sept 21st: Kauk Family
- Sept 28th: Fey Family
- Oct 5th: Top Family
- Oct 12th: Runia Family

Offerings received in August:

General Fund.....	\$8,628.13	Building Project.....	\$1,359.74
Local Missions.....	\$438.00	Option 1.....	\$334.00
Volga Christian School.....	\$1,110.00	Brauning's.....	\$499.00

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:** volgaccouncil@gmail.com

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - What do you think of when you hear the word “peace”? Let's try this: Think of a person that you wouldn't want to spend time with, and now try to think about them as an imagebearer of God rather than simply as someone who hurt you, is different from you, or whose perspective is different from yours. Pray for that person this week, and commit to sending them an encouraging message (see Rom. 12:14–21). This habit reflects the heart of God and makes you a peacemaker! Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

September 21, 2025 | Spiritual Gifts: Discernment | 1 John 4:1-6

Theme: Being good stewards of the spiritual gifts God has graciously given us.

1. The _____ of Discerning _____ from _____:

2. The _____ _____ to Discerning Truth from False:

3. Being Good _____ of this Spiritual _____:

Weekly Reflection: What things in our daily lives do we need to be spiritually discerning of? What are some false teachings that you hear on a day-to-day basis?

Sermon Resources Used For Further Study:

- *1-3 John* by Douglas Sean O'Donnell
- *1-3 John - Fellowship in God's Family* by David L. Allen
- *Hebrews thru Revelation* by Mark L. Strauss
- *Commentaries on the Catholic Epistles* by John Calvin
- *Letters of John* by Gary M. Burge
- *An Introduction to the New Testament* by D.A. Carson & Douglas J. Moo
- "Spiritual Gifts" Article from Ligonier

"If false teachers look and sound genuine (cf. Matt. 7:15) and often introduce their "destructive heresies" shrewdly and "secretly" (2 Peter 2:1), how does one tell the sheep from the wolves in sheep's clothing? John's test is straightforward. We just listen carefully for their Christology"

- Douglas Sean O'Donnell

"The coming antichrist who will arrive near the very conclusion of the age (2:18; 2 John 7) has an already/not yet presence that is a spiritual influence over every false teacher in every era. This culminating spiritual force and figure is always at work in those who seek to negate, divide, or destroy Jesus." - Douglas Sean O'Donnell

"Beyond Christological heresies, we can expand this second application to include other colossal errors. While we must apply the care and skill of a surgeon to any Christological or soteriological cancers that threaten the body of Christ, we must commit ourselves to cutting out any teachers and teachings that cut at the vitals of the faith." - Douglas Sean O'Donnell

"But we must observe the reason which is immediately added, because greater, or stronger, is he who is in you than he who is in the world. For such is our infirmity, that we succumb before we engage with an enemy, for we are so immersed in ignorance that we are open to all kinds of fallacies, and Satan is wonderfully artful in deceiving. Were we to hold out for one day, yet a doubt may creep into our minds as to what would be the case to-morrow; we should thus be in a state of perpetual anxiety. Therefore the Apostle reminds us that we become strong, not by our own power, but by that of God. He hence concludes, that we can no more be conquered than God himself, who has armed us with his own power to the end of the world. But in this whole spiritual warfare this thought ought to dwell in our hearts, that it would be all over with us immediately were we to fight in our own strength; but that as God repels our enemies while we are reposing, victory is certain." - John Calvin