

# First & Palisade Lutheran Parish



December 2025



## *Christmas Eve Worship*

**Wednesday, December 24th**  
**5:30pm at First Lutheran**  
**7:30pm at Palisade Lutheran**



**JOINT SERVICE**  
*Sunday, Dec 21st*  
*9:00 AM*  
*at First Lutheran*



**First Lutheran is frying lefse  
as a fundraiser.**

Profits go to the Parsonage Fund.

**Packages with 8 rounds are \$10**  
**There are packages in the freezer  
at both churches!**



**Cookie & Fruit Wrap**  
**at First Lutheran**  
Sunday, Dec. 7th,  
after the 9am worship service.



From  
the  
Pastor

It's hard to believe, but this December is my 5<sup>th</sup> one with you all here at First and Palisade. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> time I will have the honor of celebrating the birth of the Christ child here, and it is the 5<sup>th</sup> time we have waited for that blessed event together.

Many things have changed over the past few years. We have lost many of the saints we have loved, and we miss them greatly, and there have been many children born and as we watch them grow and develop their own personalities we rejoice in the miracle of birth and as we remember those who have died, we grieve the pain of loss.

This year the pain of loss has been more real in my life with the passing of my Father-in-law and a very dear friend of 51 years, and, like many of you, my family will be going through what I call "The Firsts" this coming year. The first Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year, Easter, Anniversary, Birthday... without that loved one, and it is not an easy thing to endure.

And as I contemplate these firsts for me and my family I think about Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem as they try to figure out how to deal with the birth of their first child.

In some ways it is not that different than the experience of any other first-born child. Mom does not know what to expect, Dad is a nervous wreck and has no idea how to help his wife through it, and when the child finally arrives the task of raising the child seems like an impossible task.

But with this birth things are more than a little different. Mary and Joseph know that this child will not be like any other child. They know that this child is destined for something greater than any other child ever born, and that had to be weighing on their mind that day.

Think of the words Mary heard from the angel just nine months earlier, ***"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."***

The whole world had been waiting for this day since the beginning of time and even now, we wait for the coming of the Savior in Bethlehem, knowing full well who he is and what his birth means for us.

I know that for many of us this Christmas will be more difficult than any other in the past, but as we welcome Jesus into our world and into our homes this year I pray that the true meaning of Christmas becomes just a little more real for us and that we can rejoice with Mary and Joseph in the fact that ***"for a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."***

This is what we celebrate at Christmas the birth of Jesus, the first-born son of Mary and Joseph, born to bring us life.

May we all have a blessed Advent and Christmas and may the Christ child reign in our hearts all year.

Peace,  
Pastor Mark

**Palisade Lutheran** will be purchasing poinsettias for the sanctuary this Christmas season. If you would like to give a donation in memory, or in honor, of someone, please contact Candace Reese.



**First Lutheran** will be taking orders for poinsettias to be delivered to the church for the December 14th service. Order forms are on the table in the narthex. Cost is \$8.00 for each plant. Orders need to be made by Sunday, Dec 7th. Call Jerry Kerkhove at (605) 553-4188 with any questions.



**Thrivent Choice  
Dollars**



If you are a Thrivent member, chances are you have “CHOICE DOLLARS” that can be distributed to the congregation or organization of your choosing. Typically, the more product you have, the more dollars you have to distribute. This is real money, and you can choose where it goes. Just log into your Thrivent on-line personal account and go to the 'Generosity' tab, scroll down to 'Direct Choice Dollars' and follow the directions. If you do not have an online account with Thrivent, call your agent. If you need help, call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836. Please consider donating to First or Palisade Lutheran.

## UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETINGS

**Sunday, Jan 18** First Lutheran Annual meeting (service times will be switched)

Please have your reports in by the week of January 4th

**Sunday, Jan 25** Palisade Lutheran Annual meeting (regular service time)

Please have your reports in by the week of January 11th

### **Thank you!**

to everyone who attended and supported the Harvest Fest at Palisade Lutheran last month!

We had a great turnout! This was a fundraiser for Local Community Support & Church on the Street.

Garretson Legion will be serving breakfast  
**on Sunday, December 7th**

at the American Legion Hall  
in Garretson

9:00 am—1:00 pm. Freewill donation.

Menu: Pancakes & Sausage/Biscuits & Gravy



## **First Lutheran Council Meeting**

### **Tuesday, November 18, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by President Don Johnson with 8 members present and the pastor. Pastor Mark opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary's Report: MSC to approve the secretary's report.

Treasurer's Report: MSC to approve the treasure's report.

Pastor's Report: The new Parish copier has been installed and is operating. Confirmation classes have resumed.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Pastor Mark has an opportunity for a Wednesday evening informational meeting from a Muslim about their religion. The council decided this would be a good idea. Pastor Mark to arrange this along with the confirmation class.

Next Council meeting is December 16, 2025. The next meeting in December will be a budget meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Les Hengeveld, Secretary Pro Tem



## **Palisade Lutheran Council Meeting**

### **Thursday, November 13, 2025**

The Palisade Church council was called to order by President Lyle Rollag. Others present were Pastor Mark Eliason, Tylene Jansma, Matt Sorenson, Peter Bakken, Kelvin Edmunson, Rodney Lowe, Dave Swenson and Deb Kruger.

Devotions and Prayer: Pastor opened with Prayer

Secretary's Report: Read, corrections made and placed on file.

Treasure's Report: Reviewed, discussed and placed on file.

Pastors report: The printer has been installed at First Lutheran.

Correspondence: Thank you letter from Judy Jenson and family. Also received correspondence from Shetek Lutheran and Lutheran Outdoors. Discussion on letter from Tuft Village Apartments.

Outreach: The Harvest Festival was November 9<sup>th</sup> with a good turnout. Thank you to everyone who helped make the festival a success.

Old Business: Discussion on community support.

New Business: Discussion on adding an Angel Tree for community support.

Next council meeting: December 11th at 7:00pm

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Deb Kruger, Sec



## Parish Council Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Finck. There were 14 council members present and Pastor Mark. Pastor opened the meeting with prayer. The meeting was called to order at First.

Secretary's Report: MSC the secretary's report.

Treasurer's Report: MSC the treasurer's report. Balance on November 17, 2025, was \$11,706.97.

### Schedule:

Nov 27 No Thanksgiving Services

Nov 30 Advent Season begins (regular service times)

Dec 14 Sunday School Programs at both churches (regular service times)

Dec 21 Cantata Performance. Joint worship at First at 9:00 am.

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Services First at 5:30 pm and Palisade at 7:30 pm

Dec 25 Christmas Day No services

Jan 18 First Annual meeting (service times switched)

Jan 25 Palisade Annual meeting ( regular service times)

Feb 18 Ash Wednesday services at Palisade at 7:00 pm (joint service)

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** The Parish Council on Wednesday October 22<sup>nd</sup> by a majority phone text vote approved the purchase of a used copier (model e 52645dn) for Parish business at a cost of \$2000.00 plus a service tech fee of \$10.00 per month and a service contract of \$30.00 per month (which includes the cost of toner ).

The council decided to renew the bulletin insert subscription.

The budget was discussed, and line items were reviewed.

MSC to approve the Parish budget for 2026.

The next Parish council meeting will be on February 19, 2026, at 7:00 pm at Palisade.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Les Hengeveld, Secretary



Our **Parish email** address is:  
firstpalisade@alliancecom.net

Church **office phone #** is:  
605-757-6662

**Pastor Mark's**  
contact information is:  
Email: meliason@sio.midco.net  
Cell phone: 605-321-5633

#### Palisade Lutheran Online Giving

Go to the Palisade Lutheran website at  
[www.palisadelutheran.org](http://www.palisadelutheran.org) and  
click on the online giving menu.  
Or scan this QR code



#### First Lutheran Online Giving

Go to the First Lutheran  
Facebook page and click  
on the Vanco link. Or scan  
this QR code



Newsletter information  
may be mailed to:

Tylene Jansma  
1019 St Highway 23  
Beaver Creek, MN 56116  
Or emailed to:  
[btjansma@alliancecom.net](mailto:btjansma@alliancecom.net)  
**DEADLINE** for the January  
newsletter is Dec 22nd, 2025

Find us on Facebook:  
[@FirstLutheranValleySprings](https://www.facebook.com/FirstLutheranValleySprings)  
[@PalisadeLC](https://www.facebook.com/PalisadeLC)

Sunday morning worship  
services are livestreamed on  
Facebook every Sunday!



**Join us in worship with Pastor Mark Eliason** *Serving*

**First Lutheran Church**  
300 Maple Street  
Valley Springs, SD 57068

**Palisade Lutheran Church**  
211 121st Street  
Garretson, SD 57030  
[www.palisadelutheran.org](http://www.palisadelutheran.org)

# First & Palisade Lutheran Parish

## December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 8am–10:30 & 11am–2pm Lefse making at First Lutheran	3 6:30pm Confirmation Class at First	4	5	6
7 First Lutheran 9:00am Worship w/Comm 10:00am Sunday School Palisade Lutheran 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/Comm	8	9 8am–10:30 & 11am–2pm Lefse making at First Lutheran	10 6:30pm Confirmation Class at First	11 1:30 pm Palisade WELCA Mtg 7 pm Palisade Council meeting	12	13 Garretson Hometown Christmas
14 First Lutheran 9:00am Worship w/ Christmas program Palisade Lutheran 10:30am Worship w/ Christmas program	15	16 8am–10:30 & 11am–2pm Lefse making at First Lutheran 7 pm First Council meeting	17 6:30pm Confirmation Class at First	18	19	20
21 9:00am JOINT Worship at First Lutheran w/ Christmas Cantata 	22 Deadline for January Newsletter	23 8am–10:30 & 11am–2pm Lefse making at First Lutheran	24 Christmas Eve Worship 5:30pm—First 7:30pm—Palisade	25 	26	27
28 First Lutheran 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School Palisade Lutheran 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	29	30	31			

**FIRST & PALISADE LUTHERAN PARISH  
PO BOX 190  
VALLEY SPRINGS, SD 57068**

