

# First & Palisade Lutheran Parish



February 2026

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

As we enter the season of Lent some questions have been asked regarding Lent and why we do what we do.

As you may know, Lent is the 6 weeks before Easter and falls at a different time each year. Lent is never mentioned in Scripture, it is a season of the church that has been developed over the years by the church, mostly the Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches and is used to examine ourselves as to our sin and to take time to wait for the resurrection we celebrate on Easter Sunday.

Ash Wednesday, which falls on February 18<sup>th</sup>, and the beginning of Lent is 46 days before Easter which is the first Sunday after the full moon of springtime. So, the earliest Easter can be is March 22 and the latest date is April 25. This year Easter falls on April 5.

Easter celebrates Jesus Christ's resurrection from the grave, which is the main tenet of the Christian Church.

However, Easter also has roots in pagan spring festival. The Easter Bunny comes from German origins and colored eggs come from Ukrainian origins. Both represent fertility and new life.

The color of the Lenten season is purple. You can see that on the church paraments and the stole I wear every Sunday during Lent.

Purple represents both the royalty and suffering of Jesus as well as representing penance, mourning, and preparation for Easter. This comes from its historical association with royalty or emperors, and the soldiers who mocked Jesus by putting a purple robe on him during the illegal trial on Good Friday. When they did this, they also made purple a symbol of his Passion, pain, and humiliation.

The use of purple by the soldiers during Jesus' trial underscores the paradox of his divine kingship being mocked by the worldly powers, a truth acknowledged by early Christians.

This rich symbolism connects the earthly suffering of Jesus with his ultimate glory, making purple a fitting visual cue for the Lenten seasons themes of sacrifice and resurrection.

So now you know some facts about Easter that you may not have known about and hopefully it will help you understand some of the traditions of Lent and why we do what we do as we all wait for the resurrection celebration on Easter.

God bless you all and have a blessed Lent,

Pastor Mark Eliason



## **Palisade Lutheran Council Meeting No January Meeting**



## **First Lutheran Council Meeting Tuesday, January 20, 2026**

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: During Lent Pastor will be leading information for some of the things we do what we do.

Old Business: MSC: Hired someone to paint the three stairwell hallways in the church.

New Business:

Jerry presented the property management report on the Parsonage and discussion was had. At this point in time we will leave the rent as is.

Next Council meeting is February 17.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Hengeveld, Secretary

**Thrivent Choice  
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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.



## **First Lutheran Church Annual Meeting January 18, 2026**

President Don Johnson called the meeting to order.

Pastor Mark led the meeting in prayer.

President Don Johnson presented a summary of 2025 activities, including the Parsonage upgrade.

Secretary's report was read and approved.

Treasurer's report, included the Parsonage report, was read and approved.

Old Business: Nothing

New Business:

MSC Parish budget was approved for 2026.

MSC First Lutheran budget was approved for 2026.

Nominations for council members are as follows:

President: Don Johnson

Vice President: Dennis Roozenboom

Secretary: Linda Hengeveld

Treasurer: Jerry Kerkhove

Board of Deacons: Eric Jacobs

Board of Trustees: David Artz

Board of Education: Gabby Verkus (3-yr term)

Lynn Nielsen (2 yr term)

MSC: to accept the slate of officers as presented.

Delegates Elected: Tuff Home: Dennis Boeve & Jerry Kerhove  
Synod Assembly: Mary Finck & Lynn Nielson

MSC: to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Hengeveld, Secretary



Our **Parish email** address is:  
[firstpalisade@alliancecom.net](mailto:firstpalisade@alliancecom.net)

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

**Pastor Mark's**  
 contact information is:  
 Email: [meliason@sio.midco.net](mailto: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 March  
 newsletter is Feb 20th, 2026

Find us on Facebook:  
 @FirstLutheranValleySprings  
 @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)



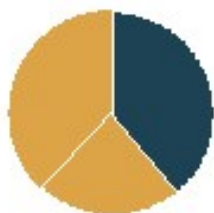
# MISSION SUPPORT: WHAT DOES MY OFFERING DO?

## South Dakota Synod

Every week, Lutherans across the country gather to worship. Many of us give to our congregation as part of this experience. ELCA members give about \$1.6 billion annually as regular offerings to ELCA congregations and worshipping communities. When you give your offering, most of it stays with your congregation to fund its vital work. A portion — about 5%, on average — becomes Mission Support, given by your congregation to your synod. In FY2024 the South Dakota Synod shared \$698,143 in Mission Support for ELCA churchwide ministries. Because of Mission Support, our hands can do God's work in more places than any one person or congregation could alone. Together we experience the way of Jesus; discover community, justice and love; and help more people experience the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation.



Your **MISSION SUPPORT** funds a variety of churchwide ministries.



**38% BUILDS CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES** in the United States by enabling us to:

Thank you for \$265,294 from the South Dakota Synod for these ministries!

- Plant and support hundreds of worshipping communities.
- Revitalize congregational ministries and reach out to their surrounding communities.
- Promote leadership opportunities, discernment and education through leadership initiatives.
- Support the work of seven ELCA seminaries and 27 ELCA colleges and universities.
- Host events and leadership opportunities for youth and young adults.
- Support regional work through directors for evangelical mission as well as candidacy and leadership managers.
- Prepare and implement a system for recruiting and assigning rostered ministers.

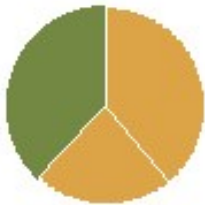




Another **23% GROWS THE GLOBAL LUTHERAN CHURCH** and addresses issues around the world, enabling us to:

Thank you for \$160,573 from the South Dakota Synod for these ministries!

- Accompany new Lutheran churches, expand ministries and train leaders and evangelists.
- Send missionaries to accompany communities around the world.
- Address social inequities and work for justice.
- Cultivate and maintain relationships with 149 other churches through the Lutheran World Federation to strengthen the church and its global work.
- Foster relationships between ELCA synods and 65 companion churches, for a total of 127 official relationships.
- Work with leaders and members of our African-descent, American Indian, Alaska Native, Arab, Middle Eastern, Asian, Pacific Islander and Latiné communities.



Finally, **39% STRENGTHENS AND SUSTAINS THE MINISTRY and MISSION** of the whole church, enabling us to:

Thank you for \$272,276 from the South Dakota Synod for these ministries!

- Offer ministry resources and opportunities to lay leaders for networking.
- Develop social messages of the ELCA as topical documents to focus attention and action on timely, pressing matters of concern to church and society.
- Sustain ecumenical and interfaith relations.
- Partner with congregations and ministries across the church as they explore new, innovative ways of being church in a constantly changing world.
- Invest in technology and communications.
- Engage in research and strategic planning.
- Create and share resources for faith, discipleship, prayer, stewardship and worship.






Thank you for your ongoing support and faithful partnership! For stories of your impact, visit [LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA](http://LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA). To find additional Mission Support resources, visit [ELCA.org/SOFIA](http://ELCA.org/SOFIA). Scan the QR code to view the new Mission Support video "What Does My Offering Do?"



# First & Palisade Lutheran Parish



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p><b>First Lutheran</b> 9:00am Worship w/Comm 10:00am Sunday School</p> <p><b>Palisade Lutheran</b> 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/Comm</p>	2	3	<p>4</p> <p><b>6:30pm</b> Confirmation Class at First</p>	5	6	7
<p>8</p> <p><b>First Lutheran</b> 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School</p> <p><b>Palisade Lutheran</b> 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship</p>	9	10	<p>11</p> <p><b>6:30pm</b> Confirmation Class at First</p>	<p>12</p> <p><b>1:30 pm</b> Palisade WELCA Mtg <b>7 pm</b> Palisade Council</p>	13	<p>14</p> <p> Valentine's Day</p>
<p>15</p> <p><b>First Lutheran</b> 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School</p> <p><b>Palisade Lutheran</b> 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship </p>	<p>16</p> <p></p>	<p>17</p> <p><b>7 pm</b> First Council meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p><b>7 pm</b> Ash Wednesday Service at Palisade</p>	<p>19</p> <p><b>7 pm</b> Parish Council Meeting at Palisade</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Deadline for March Newsletter</p>	21
<p>22</p> <p><b>First Lutheran</b> 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School</p> <p><b>Palisade Lutheran</b> 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship</p>	23	24	<p>25</p> <p><b>7 pm</b> Lenten Service at First</p>	26	27	28

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

