

# First & Palisade Lutheran Parish



January 2026

## Annual Meetings

**Sunday, Jan. 18th, at 11:30 am**

First Lutheran Annual Meeting  
after the 10:30 am worship service

**Sunday, Jan. 25th, at 11:30 am**

Palisade Lutheran Annual Meeting  
after the 10:30 am worship service  
**(switch service times)**

**Year-End**

**Reports Due:**

Send reports for First Lutheran

by January 8th

to [lesr@alliancecom.net](mailto:lesr@alliancecom.net)

Send reports for Palisade Lutheran

by January 10th

to [btjansma@alliancecom.net](mailto:btjansma@alliancecom.net)



Confirmation

Confirmation classes  
will RESUME  
on Wednesday evenings for  
all students in 7th & 8th  
grades. Classes will be held  
in the lower level  
at First Lutheran at **6:30 pm.**

# From the Pastor's Desk

## !!!HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

First/Palisade parish has been thriving for more than 70 years together and it will continue to move forward for many years to come.

It is good to look to the past and remember all that God has done for you and remember all that you have done for God. It is uplifting and encouraging to know that the work of the people of First/Palisade Lutheran parish has not been in vain and that for all these years the people of these congregations have responded to the call of God in Christ and have done the often hard, but always rewarding, work of the Kingdom of God. For all you have accomplished, I applaud you.

And now, as we begin another year of service to God, we pray that God will continue to use us to do that work and we look forward to the joys and struggles of being the people of God.

As I have done since the day I first sat down in my office and began the journey of faith with you all, I continue to heed and follow the words of Saint Paul in 1 Thessalonians 1, ***“[I] always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in [my] prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”***

The work of the church is not done only by the pastor and other leadership. No, the real work of the church is done by the people of God in their everyday work and play, and each and every word you speak as well as every action you do is a reflection of your faith in God.

As we begin another year of service to our God and all of humanity I pray we remember the words of Saint Paul to the Colossians when he said, ***“whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”***

I am looking forward to serving God with you all in word and deed for as long as God calls me to this place, and I am grateful for your prayers on my behalf, as well as your prayers for all those in need this past year.

May 2026 be the beginning of new and exciting work here and may we all put aside the things of the past and start anew, serving God together for as many years God allows.

Peace to all,  
Pastor Mark Eliason

## December 2025 Poinsettias – First Lutheran Church



Dave and Heather Artz Family	<b>In memory of Norman Vanden Hoek and Mary Lee Podhradsky</b>
Lexia Bosch	<b>In memory of Robert Brunson</b>
The Choir	<b>In memory of Jane Nettetstad</b>
Mark Eliason and Sharon Fix	<b>In memory of Arnold and Lucille Eliason, Al Fix In honor of Bev Fix</b>
Dave and Mary Finck	<b>In memory of our parents</b>
Les and Linda Hengeveld	<b>In memory of Bill and Bertha Bosch, Dick and Laura Hengeveld, Don Hengeveld, Virgil Bosch, Wendy Bosch</b>
Sue Hughes	<b>In memory of parents and grandparents</b>
Don Johnson	<b>In Honor of Nancy Herrin In memory of all the others I have lost</b>
Jerry Kerkhove	<b>In memory of Frank and Mildred Kerkhove</b>
Dean Nettetstad	<b>In memory of Jane Nettetstad</b>
Dennis and Lynn Nielsen	<b>In memory of Richard and Betty Banghart, Everett and Martha Nielsen</b>
Dennis and Jolene Roozenboom	<b>In memory of Dora Steffen, Henry Roozenboom, Lyle Steffen, Henry and Etoyle Aljets, Kurt Roozenboom, Angie Roozenboom</b>
Jack, Lesley and Ella Schoolcraft	<b>In memory of Mike Hengeveld, Eric Suchomel, Janet Miller, Pam Bosch, Grant Bosch</b>
Keith and Brenda Staeffler	<b>In memory of Loved Ones</b>

December 2025 Poinsettias  
Palisade Lutheran Church



Deb Sundem **in memory of Harlowe, LaVane and Wayne Sundem**

Tim & JoEllen Benson **in memory of family and friends**

Richard & Linda Bakken **in memory of Obed & Martha Bakken,  
Lucille Harden, and Carrie Bakken**

LeMoyne Edmundson family **in memory of loved ones**

Deb & AJ Johnson **in memory of loved ones**

Ellen Aadland **in honor of Doreen Rollag and in memory of Rosalie Solheim**

Chuck & Dottie Matus **in memory of loved ones**

Russ & Kristi Sandstede **in memory of Wilma Sandstede**

Peter and Anne Marie Bakken **in memory of Carrie Bakken, Daryl Ward  
and Mary Edmundson**

Lori and Matt Sorenson **in memory of Carson Ehde and Patti Swenson**

Candace & Alyssa Reese **in memory of Carrole Horn and Deanna Green**



## **First Lutheran Council Meeting**

### **Tuesday, December 16, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Dennis Roozenboom with seven 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 treasurer's report.

Pastor's Report: Confirmation is going well and he is having several hospital visits.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Mary will get a bid for painting the two entrances to the basement. MSC to allow Jerry, if funds are available, to contribute an extra \$1,000 to the Synod. Dennis R. will replace three old light fixtures going to the basement. The Council discussed the 2026 budget. MSC to approve the budget.

Next Council meeting is January 20, 2026. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Hengeveld,

Secretary

**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.



## Palisade Lutheran Council Meeting

**Thursday, December 11, 2025**

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

Devotions and Prayer: Pastor opened with Prayer.

Secretary's Report: Read and placed on file.

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

Pastors report: Confirmation is going well. Discussion on the cancellation of Church. Pastor Mark will have it on Facebook, KELO, and KDLT. He may also send out text messages.

Correspondence: reviewed requests received. Most were donations that are approved in the 2025 annual budget

Old Business: Discussion on community support.

New Business: Budget:

Palisade Church budget was reviewed. Motion made and seconded to approve proposed budget. Budget is ready for presentation at the Church annual meeting.

Sunday school Christmas program will be on December 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:30

Next council meeting: January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00

Annual Meeting: January 25<sup>th</sup> after 10:30 Church service.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Deb Kruger, Sec

### **Many thanks for remembering me on my 100th birthday!**

I received 103 birthday cards!! My journey was

A busy farmers' wife,  
A mother of three,  
Taking care of the music at Palisade Church for 72 years,  
Singing with the Sioux Falls Sweet Adelines (a charter member),  
Singing in a quartet for 27 years,  
Singing with the SD Symphony Chorus for 6 years,  
Employed at the MN Rest Area for 14 years.

I am playing for the church services here at Bethany Meadows. May God bless my family and friends for all the kindness shown to me. Thanks again!

*Love, Doreen Rollag*





# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## **Bishop Constanze Hagmaier's 2025 Christmas Message**

Dear South Dakota Synod,

Most years, I stand at the edge of Christmas like a skeptic. Not because I doubt God; it's more that I wrestle with what this season has become.

Decorative religion and a perfectly staged nativity feel hollow to me. I sense the sighs, too deep for word, of people white-knuckling through their lives, holding on by a thread.

And all I want for Christmas then is a God who looks at the world and says, "I'm going in."

That's precisely what John offers us, no manger, no angels, no pageantry, just the frank announcement that God steps into the world as it is, not as we pretend it to be.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." John names the darkness. It's real.

But God refuses to let the darkness overcome life and sends the one God loved into the creation he loves even more so that the light outshines the darkness.

Martin Luther, in one of his Christmas sermons, put it this way: "Christ enters into our darkness, not to terrify but to enlighten, to comfort, to save."

Christ becomes flesh in the wounded places, in the complicated places, in the spaces where the hymnals go quiet, and honesty has room to breathe.

He doesn't come to decorate our faith.

He comes to disrupt it, to move us from comfort to courage, from polite distance to embodied mercy, from sentiment to the kind of compassion that costs something.

So, if this season feels heavy to you, you're not behind. You're not doing Christmas wrong. You may be closer to the truth than you realize.

God did not choose the perfect silent night; quite the contrary, God chose our discombobulated complex darknesses.

This Christmas, I pray that you find the Christ child's light piercing through your darkest of times to illuminate you with hope and good courage.

Merry Christmas

The Word became flesh, right here, in the world we actually live in.

# CANCELLATION POLICY

If church services are cancelled for any reason, notice will be posted on our Facebook pages, KELO TV and KDLT TV. Text messages and emails may also be sent out.

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 February  
newsletter is Jan 22nd, 2026

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

## January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY!</b>	2	3
4  <b>First Lutheran</b> 9:00am Worship w/Comm 10:00am Sunday School <b>Palisade Lutheran</b> 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/Comm	5	6	7  <b>6:30pm</b> Confirmation Class at First	8  <b>1:30 pm</b> Palisade WELCA Mtg <b>7 pm</b> Palisade Council meeting	9	10
11  <b>First Lutheran</b> 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School <b>Palisade Lutheran</b> 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	12	13	14  <b>6:30pm</b> Confirmation Class at First	15	16	17
18  <b>Palisade Lutheran</b> 9 am Worship  10am Sunday School <b>First Lutheran</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am <b>Annual Mtg</b>	19	20  <b>7 pm</b> First Council meeting	21  <b>6:30pm</b> Confirmation Class at First	22  Deadline for February Newsletter	23	24
25  <b>First Lutheran</b> 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School <b>Palisade Lutheran</b> 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30am <b>Annual Mtg</b>	26	27	28  <b>6:30pm</b> Confirmation Class at First	29	30	31

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

