

## May 2025

Most congregations hold Confirmation sometime in the spring. With the blossoming of the trees and the flowers comes our younger ones blossoming into maturity in the faith. They will receive the Lord's Supper for the first time. They will vow to remain faithful to the one true faith until they die. These are big things and are not only a reason to celebrate but also a reason to pray for these younger ones. To receive the Lord's Supper is to receive the body and blood of Jesus which is a powerful medicine. The body and blood of Jesus received at the altar is so powerful that it removes sin and grants salvation to all who believe it and have faith in these words, "given and shed for you" (Small Catechism). The Lord's giving of Himself at the altar is so powerful that if received wrongly it can even have detrimental effects on a person - like someone taking a prescription drug incorrectly. St. Paul says, "Anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died" (1 Corinthians 11:29-30). Whoa! Indeed, this must be serious business and to be approached with prayers of support.

This serious business is why our confirmands learn the words of Jesus by heart, "This is my body; this is my blood," and confess that what our heavenly Physician has prescribed is really there - His actual body and blood in, with, and under the bread and the wine. We are making sure they are receiving the medicine correctly and to their benefit. What a glorious thing to witness and reason to give thanks to God!

There are some veins of Christianity that don't believe Jesus is really giving out His body and blood in the Lord's Supper. While we aren't making a judgement on their faith in Christ, we do have the responsibility if they visit us to keep them from harm by receiving the medicine apart from how it is prescribed. This is the loving thing to do. We're not being mean when we tell someone they have to wait to commune at our altar, we're actually caring enough to say the hard thing - "We believe what Jesus says, so let's wait, talk, and see if you agree with what He says concerning what He gives at the altar." It would be uncaring to simply let people come into potential harm as St. Paul warns.

And so we teach our children (or adults) the Lord's words and hear their public confession of the faith. This is beautiful and binds us together in one body, in unity, around the words and gifts of Jesus. We all agree on what our Lord is giving and so eat in unity at the same altar. God be praised when the Lord's Word has free course and brings more into fellowship at the altar. Pray for our young ones who are being brought to the altar to be fed with the Bread of Life Himself - our Lord Jesus!

In Christ,  
Pastor Suggitt

## LIFE QUOTE

As Christians, we know that God's commitment to upholding life started long ago—before photos—before the beginning of time even. From His ordered creation of the world to His ordered creation of you in your mother's womb, God's work has always been life-affirming. Grafted into His family through Baptism, we have become children of God and inheritors of eternal life.

*A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

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