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Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings as we await the very special season of Lent.

Trinity uses confirmation as a process to build a firm foundation in the Christian faith for children in our church and community. This process starts with First Communion. Open to those who are in fifth through eighth grade, First Communion prepares children to receive the Lord's Supper.

At one time, many Lutheran churches preferred to wait until the end of the confirmation process before allowing children to partake of Holy Communion. Trinity has moved First Communion to an earlier age for two reasons.

1. We will not withhold a sacrament from anyone who, through faith in Jesus Christ, can receive the sacrament to the benefit of their relationship with God. Children by fifth grade can be prepared to receive the Lord's Supper in a way beneficial for their faith.
2. We have confirmation classes in sixth, seventh and eighth grades. In these classes, we can review and deepen the students' understanding of the Lord's Supper. This was very difficult when students were communed in eighth grade.

It is our responsibility to determine whether a child has successfully completed First Communion training. Whether a child starts to receive the Lord's Supper after First Communion is decided by parents or guardians. So, if you would like to simply "test the waters" of First Communion this year, it is safe to do so.

Because of the important role parents or guardians will fulfill in First Communion, at least one parent or guardian is required to attend class with the student. If work or some related issue will prevent this from happening, please speak with Pastor Snyder or Denise Sprengeler before class begins.

First Communion class will meet from **2:30 to 3:30 PM** on Sundays from **February 16th to March 29th with no class on March 15th** in the Fellowship Hall or East Room. There will be a final meeting with the family and a staff member to review the class and answer questions on Palm Sunday beginning at Noon. First Communion will be celebrated on Maundy Thursday, 7:00 PM on Thursday, **April 9th**. If you have any questions now, please contact either of us at church or home: Pastor Snyder (240-1436), Denise Sprengeler (250-0397). **Please contact the church office to let us know if you are planning to attend the classes.**

In Christ, *Pastor Damian Snyder*